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Aim

The magazine for young people

FEBRUARY 1974



*If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word,
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of the Lord.*

—Faber.

Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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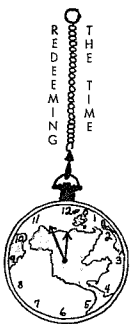
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Gail Rincker, Editor

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EDITORIAL ETCHES

Just as i approached the intersection the light changed from green to amber, so i stopped. The driver of the car behind behind me beeped his horn. "He must have wanted me to hurry on through the yellow light," i thought. Glancing into my rear-view mirror i saw the driver's scowling face, and once again i heard, "Beep, Beep." "What is he honking at now?" i wondered. "The light is still red, what does he expect me to do?"

The light turned green so i moved along another two or three blocks before stopping for another red light. "Beep, Beep, Beeeeep!" "Well, he's still behind me. i wonder why he keeps honking? Maybe he's trying to tell me i have a low tire or something like that." i studied the disgruntled looking man and decided he wasn't trying to convey a warning message by his horn beeping. "Beep-Beep-Beeeeep!" Again he sounded his horn. Looking up at the traffic light i noticed it had turned amber on the other side, so i concluded he must just be honking to tell the cars in front of him to get ready to go because the light would soon be green.

The horn-honking man whizzed around me and moved on along with the flow of the traffic. Soon he was caught at a red light and now i was behind him. "Beep-Beep-Beeeeep!" "Surely i must be hearing things... this man can't just be sitting there honking his horn at nothing! Maybe he thinks the light will change quicker if he honks at it." i had to laugh at this thought. The light turned green

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GRADE SCHOOL



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of a Sinner

by Kathy Crisp

We were new in town and I didn't know many of the kids from school yet. I became particularly interested in one girl, but I don't know why... I had never before had any wild friends. Cheryl Jensen was the most popular girl in the senior class, and most of the kids really looked up to her. I thought of how great it would be for Cheryl to become a Christian and how maybe all the other kids would be influenced by her change.

One day I was given the opportunity I had hoped for. Cheryl asked me if I'd like a ride home from school with her. It was then I became bold enough to ask, "Cheryl, why do you take dope?" At first she just looked at me like I was really out of it, but then she slowly answered, "I don't know. It's just a habit, I guess. Besides, it solves my problems like nothing else can." I asked if she thought it fun to turn on, and the way she looked and said, "sometimes" convinced me she was pretty miserable. After a few minutes of thought and a whispered prayer, I found enough courage to tell Cheryl about Christ. "Cheryl, I don't know if you go to church or if you've ever met Jesus, but it's a great feeling to have Him. He can

give you love like you've never known before, and you don't have to depend on drugs when you have Him." I hesitated and she snickered, but I bravely continued, "In fact, Cheryl, there's no running involved. Just open your heart to Jesus and He will fill all of your needs. He will make you truly happy."

There wasn't time for me to say anything more because Cheryl had stopped in front of my house. "You're a pretty good kid," she said as she drove off, but I could see that she was laughing. Suddenly I felt embarrassed and became more so when I thought about Cheryl telling her friends what I had said.

My fears were justified. For days after my talk with Cheryl kids at school called me "preacher." The teasing proved to be worthwhile, though. Cheryl began seriously thinking about what I told her. Soon she quit taking drugs completely. One night Cheryl even prayed, and the next day she confessed to me, "I'm beginning to feel a touch of happiness."

While Cheryl was making almost unbelievable progress, I found myself falling back. The other kids were still making fun of me and hounding me with the nickname "preacher." I wanted so much to win these kids' approval that I accepted a party invitation which had been extended only as a joke. I never learned Cheryl's reason for coming to the party that night. When she walked in her eyes searched the room and then rested on me and the reefer in my hand. Disappointment registered on her face, and she began to cry. "If having Jesus and living straight ain't worth it to the preacher, it sure ain't worth it to me!" All kinds of thoughts flooded my mind as Cheryl ran from the room, but the only thing that lingered was my prayer of forgiveness.

Day after day I prayed, but my prayers were short and meaningless. I thought I could bring Cheryl back on my own, but I had lost her confidence and her friendship forever. Then one morning the newspaper headlines screamed out, "LOCAL YOUTH DIES OF OVERDOSE," and I cried when I read the name CHERYL JENSON.

My heart cries out for Cheryl, and the memory of her haunts me day and night. I threw away her only chance in life, but God has given me another chance. Now I have dedicated my life to serving God and
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Kathy Crisp, a 1973 graduate from Spring Vale Academy, lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she is employed as a secretary. Kathy is the leader of the San Antonio FYC.



A Letter from Eddie

Eddie James 23228

Box 7 2-D, 610

Moberly, Missouri 65370

Dear AIM Readers,

I don't know how or where to begin telling you about my ex-drug habit, but I feel it is necessary for me to tell you my experiences so you will think twice before taking anything at all. Drugs can be harmful to you in many ways—more ways than you would ever expect.

When I was 15 years old I was attending junior high school and had a good-paying, part-time job after school. I was introduced to Orange Sunshine—a very strong drug with a high content of LSD 25. It caused incredible hallucinations and trips that lasted about 5 hours at a time. I was on this drug for 6 or 7 months. Then I started smoking pot. I quit the LSD and soon got tired of smoking pot. Wanting to find something different than this, I stumbled across a little white pill called Diludid, which is a synthetic heroin. I began injecting this drug and really loved it.

I was 16 when my supply of Diludid ran out. A friend and I were desperate for the drug and would do anything to get it. We wanted to get a big quantity of hard narcotics without paying, so we decided to hit a large drug store. We got away with about \$10,000 worth of drugs, street price. We didn't sell any of the stuff. We used every bit of it for ourselves. I was really high for several months. I'm surprised that I didn't overdose and die. We ran out of this supply in about 5 months so we kept on hitting drug stores. This went on for about a year and a half until they busted me for selling barbiturates to support my habit.

After I got out of St. Charles County jail I signed myself into a hospital drug program to get help in breaking my habit. By this time I had experimented with many different narcotics—morphine, opium, demeral, codeine, cocaine, and heroin—and I was hooked. Finally

I realized I was in danger of killing myself with drugs. I tried to help myself, but it didn't work. The day I got out of the hospital my buddy picked me up. His first question was, "Hey, I got some good speed, want to try some?" I made a big mistake when I said "Yes." I shot it into my arm and thought that I was really pretty cool. I broke my craving for hard narcotics with speed, and soon I became a speed freak. I hit about five drug stores just for speed. I got busted in January of 1973 for armed robbery on a drug store, and I have been locked up ever since then.

My buddy was in the St. Louis City jail when a man walked up behind him and hit him on the head. Now he is in a wheel chair and will remain there for the rest of his life. He wouldn't have had this permanent damage if he hadn't been on drugs. Thinking about this really makes me feel bad. He is only 23 years old.

I had a girlfriend that I really loved, but when I was with her I was always thinking about drugs and how I could get my next fix. I've lost this one I loved . . . she is with somebody else now, and I am glad for her. She didn't have any future with a junkie like me.

It is no fun being a junkie and it is no fun to be an ex-junkie. It has taken me nine months to kick the craving for speed. I am 19 years old now and don't have even an 8th grade education. I am trying to get that now. Please don't forget what drugs will do to you . . . Stay far away from drugs if you want to have a happy life.

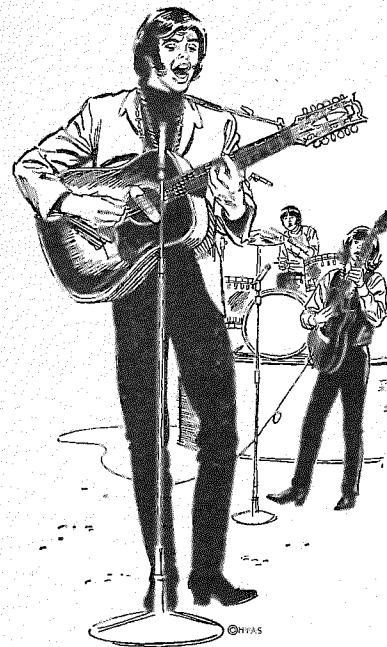
*I will walk the halls of silence
maybe mumbling our song.
Thinking of what I've done,
and where I went wrong.*

Your friend,
Eddie

Besides the practical knowledge which defeat offers, there are important personality profits to be taken. Defeat strips away false values and makes you realize what you really want. It stops you from chasing butterflies and puts you to work digging gold.—WILLIAM MARSTON

SPEAKING OUT

A new monthly feature designed to give AIM readers an opportunity to "speak out" expressing their ideas and opinions on topics of interest to today's youth . . .



Is There Strange Fire in Our Music?

by Jessie Truman

As the record player sent forth some "new sounds" from a popular gospel singing group, my teen-age companion, a non-Christian girl, let out a squeal and laughed. "Man, that's rock music. I mean hard rock. Man!" Her laugh told me something I had not been aware of. In her unconverted mind, true gospel music has nothing to do with rock music.

Some time later our church hosted a young singing group. The stage was a network of electric cords leading to microphones, amplifiers, and electric instruments. Needless to say, the music was loud. The songs were unfamiliar and I had difficulty understanding the words through the din. But I told myself that this was music for the younger generation. A cou-

ple of days later I asked another teenager how she had enjoyed the program. She was a new convert and I thought she'd be happy to know that Christians could be loud and gay, too. Her reply left me unsettled and disturbed.

"Oh, I don't know," she shrugged. "I'm not too fond of country gospel."

"Was it hard to follow the words above the sound of the music?" I asked.

"Yes, and when you do hear the words they're usually dirty," she replied.

Of course there had been no dirty words in the songs sung at the church. But my young friend had unconsciously associated that type of music with the worldly kind she'd turned her back on. It

was obvious that she had not been blessed nor strengthened by the program.

Recently a talented young Christian musician asked my opinion about some new versions of the old familiar hymns that we've heard. I admitted that I'm not fond of music in the minor keys as one song had ended. Our conversation touched on various aspects of modern music. Finally I asked him if he'd ever been to a public dance and heard a dance band. He admitted that he had attended a street dance once. I then inquired if he heard the same beat in the new gospel music that he had heard in the dance music. He was silent for a moment, then replied, "I don't know what to say."

How can we distinguish between acceptable gospel music and non-acceptable? Is it all acceptable if it mentions Jesus and the fact that He died for our sins? Does our acceptance of certain types of music necessarily mean that they are acceptable to God? My questions have taken me to the scriptures in search for an answer.

Musical instruments are first mentioned in Genesis 4:21. Jubal, son of Lamech, was "the father of all such as handle the harp and organ (or pipe)." The soothing

music of David's harp quieted the restless spirit of King Saul and left him refreshed. Joyful music preceded the ark as it was returned from captivity. Harps are mentioned in the book of Revelation as being played in heaven.

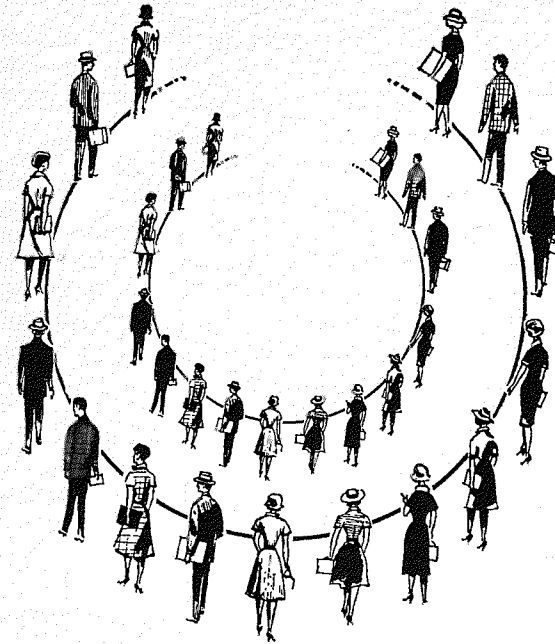
Music was also used for a signal to fall down and worship the golden image in Babylon. Those who refused to heed the signal laid their lives on the line for their living God. So, even in Bible times music was used to serve both good and bad purposes.

Rock music was not originally intended for worship. It is employed by the world to entertain worldly people. Do we have any reason to think God accepts it as suitable for worshipping Him? He destroyed Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, who put strange fire on His altar. Lev. 10:1, 2. Verse 3 reads, "Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people. I will be glorified."

Are we trying to "hook" young people for Christ by using worldly type music as the bait? If we are, then we are failing according to the comments of the three teen-
(Continued on page 21)



Sister Jessie Truman, originally from the state of Washington, now lives in Owosso, Michigan, where she serves as cook for Spring Vale Academy.



A Deadly Game

by Harris Kinzler

To venture out on a highway or city sidewalk is indeed dangerous. If you don't get a bent fender, you're sure to have your toes stepped on. If you don't develop an ulcer you are sure to have a headache. Hannibal's army couldn't compare in endurance!

The street light changes—motors roar and tires squeal. The department store opens—pray they don't have a sale rack in your path ahead as the herds charge in from behind. Go! Go! Go! That's all you're likely to see. It might be for any number of reasons—football stadium, fire sale special, TV program, new date, 11:00 o'clock class or midnight job, and per chance a neighborhood Bible class. The purpose is immaterial, it's the goal we're after. Have you fallen victim, too?

Few people know where they are going and still fewer know why. It might appear humorous, but don't get me wrong—it is a deadly game. Society is sick, and the disease is becoming more acute by the minute. What is society running after? What is it looking for? The great chase is on!

In Columbus' day the European countries were trying to out-manuever each other in the pursuit of material riches and land acquisition. Some won—some lost. At present we are still on the same crash course, and again, some will—some won't. It's called competition. We must compete against time, fate, fellowman and anything else that might arise in between. Reworded it means human nature—our problem at its core. Human nature does not satisfy, therefore man seeks to enlist the

help om some external force. A need is apparent.

"GOD'S PRESENCE— MAN'S NEED"

Many years ago a prominent businessman, after having lost his entire estate, made a statement which is still being made by millions today: "Oh, that I knew where I might find him (God)" (Job 23:3, RSV). This man believed in God with all his heart and had served Him faithfully, but now he had lost everything, and as he tried to communicate with God in his anguish his efforts seemed futile. No matter what Job tried it all seemed in vain. *Where or how can a man, any human being, find God?*

The atheist would readily scoff by saying, "there is no God." But such shallow mindedness is easily disproved by mere common sense (which appears in some to have been lost while undergoing the "evolutionary process"). All nature and life gives proof of a Higher Power, a Supreme Being if you please, and the following quotation from one enlightened man, the apostle Paul, sums it up quite well; "It is not that they (natural man) do not know the truth about God; indeed he has made it quite plain to them. For since the beginning of the world the invisible attributes of God, e.g., his eternal power and deity, have been plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known, thus leaving these men without a rag of excuse." (Rom. 1:19, 20, Phillips).

God's presence is all around us;

therefore it shouldn't be very difficult to find Him—and it isn't! Paul stated, "he is not far from any one of us" (Acts 17:27, Phillips). Another inspired man adds his testimony to Paul's in this manner, "I (God) love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently FIND me" (Prov. 8:7, RSV). You and I need God, we need to have an intimate relationship with Him, and the sooner we recognize this fact the sooner we can be relieved of our stress.

Job needed God and found Him by simply seeking for Him. We need God and might be trying to find Him, but this simple formula has been overlooked. He can't be found by sitting under a tree, achieving success, undergoing poverty and self-deprivation, or any other human tactic we can think of—only by faith. "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ" (Rom. 10:17, RSV). Therefore through faith, channeled by the gospel, we can find God. Have you found Him?

DOING YOUR THING

In the 1960's when youth were revolting against the establishment, the exit labeled "Do your own thing" provided a ready means of escape for many. But not for long. The disillusionment soon wore off, for inconsistency in others does not give license for the same.

Identification begins in early childhood and continues throughout life—with mother or father, brother or sister, classmates, club members and business associates. We want to pattern our lives after

This age is soon to pass away. Don't you think it best to start doing your thing for God, and letting Him do His thing through you?

others whose attributes we admire, and there is nothing wrong with this desire, but you and I are not monkeys in a tree. We don't follow necessarily because someone is leading, nor do we perform because they do. *You are a person with some special abilities and purposes which no one else can match. Ask yourself: "Who am I? What am I doing? Where am I going?"*

God is the only unchangeable and dependable in this universe, "for I am God, and there is none else" "For I, Jehovah, change not" (Isa. 45:22 and Mal. 3.6). God within is a prerequisite for inner security, the result of a former relationship. Upon identification with God, one becomes a part of His spiritual body in this world—the Church of God—with a particular role to fill. "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not have the same function, we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them" (Rom. 12:4-6, RSV).



Elder Harris Kinzler, a Midwest Bible College graduate, is presently pastoring the church in Conroe, Texas.

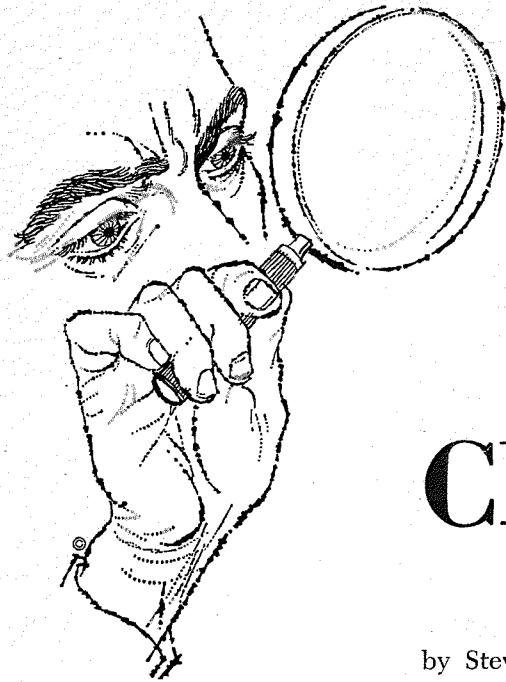
This age is soon to pass away. Don't you think it best to start doing YOUR thing FOR God, and, letting Him do HIS thing through you?

RULE OF FAITH

Each religion has its house rules. The secular "religion" says pleasure and indulgence, as long as it satisfies, should be the rule. The eastern religions maintain the eight noble truths and/or law of Karma should be followed for only through fleshly works can enlightenment be achieved. And the Judeo-Christian religion, too, has its rule of faith as found in the Bible—with slight variations of course.

If the Bible is to be the authority used for the establishment of fact or fiction, then why are there so many different churches, each teaching differently? Does the Bible set forth different standards for various peoples or nationalities? Does the standard of God's Word change with the feeling of society or isn't there a definite standard contained in the Bible? To clarify

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Seeing Clearly

by Steve Kurtright

The man Jesus was many things; was He not? If we would take the time to list His achievements and attributes, they would more than fill this entire magazine! Yet, if you are like most people, the one thing that will be vivid in your mind is the miracles performed by Christ. These events truly give witness to the power this Man had. Which one is the greatest? Have any idea? What about the raising of Lazarus from the grave? Maybe your favorite is Christ turning the water into wine. Even the fact that He rose from the dead is hard to beat. But the GREATEST miracle of Christ today is His ability to touch and create a new life in an individual—the miracle of conversion! Why the greatest? Because it is this miracle that allows us to share in the hope of the Kingdom. This miracle of conversion is the outstanding personal miracle of Christ.

In conclusion, I would like to direct your thoughts to Matthew 18:3... "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of heaven." The facts are plain and the result is definite and positive!

That, my friend, is the conclusion to the message! But we know

this! How many times have we heard a message telling us to be converted or read an article telling us we NEED to be converted? What is it? How does it happen? That's what we all need to know. We need to know the beginning and not just the conclusion.

Many feel that the message of

conversion is over-worked and boring—it is just like a study on the Sabbath—we already know the answers. With that I disagree! *Conversion is underplayed; perhaps not in the pulpit, but in our lives.* Many of us don't know what conversion is or what it is supposed to do. It is just something we have heard a lot about. *Conversion certainly isn't boring.* Matthew 7:13, 14 tells us that the way to LIFE is *straight and narrow.* Isn't that way bound to be more challenging and exciting than the other way of life? Meandering along, having full reign—*how boring it must be!* It is like a guy riding a bike... what challenge is there in riding around in a huge, empty K-mart parking lot? Take the same person and let him ride down a path that has curves and dips, even some obstacles, and it becomes a challenge and the ride is exciting.

Conversion is a message that is personal, and it must be *FELT!* *No amount of preaching can express the electrifying joy of conversion. It has to be experienced!!* So many times conversion is expressed simply and sweetly as a "change." To my way of thinking it goes beyond this...way beyond! Conversion IS salvation! Am I judging by saying we must be

converted to be saved? Decide for yourself *after* you have looked at these... Acts 3:19—"be converted." Why? So your sins may be blotted out! Will a sinner ever see the Kingdom? John 3:3—a man must be born again! Without a rebirth or change we can't see the Kingdom! *This thing of conversion isn't just a matter of change for the better—it's SALVATION!!*

Study—sounds like old stuff, huh? Well, this too is part of conversion—a desire for truth and study. A *hungering* to know more! How about you—do you STUDY to show yourself approved? Matthew 6:33 says to seek the Kingdom of God first!! This text is not written for the unconverted! It is for the converted. It indicates a desire and a hunger for the ways of God above all. It is *impossible* for an unconverted person to do this! The Bereans had the right idea—they didn't just accept what Paul told them, but they *searched* the scriptures DAILY to see *whether* the teachings were correct! (Acts 17:11). *Study IS conversion, too.*

Witnessing... oh, brother not again! Yep, again. Conversion doesn't stop with study and truth, but it has even more meaning. Quick!! Where is the "Great Commission" found? "Go teach all na-

Steve Kurtright, a 1973 graduate of Midwest Bible College, is currently serving as intern at the Denver, Colorado church.



Many times we need the **SECOND** touch from Jesus to help us clear up our dim eyesight concerning our Christian way of life.

tions"? Reach out and give the world something? What? Well, number one—Jesus! Give your testimony of His working in your life. Anything else? How about giving them God's Church via an invitation to visit the Church. "Now, wait a minute," you may be thinking—isn't that a little too strong? Consider these, then answer! Ephesians 4:4—one body. Acts 20:28—feed the *Church of God*. Acts 2:47—added souls to the *Church daily*. Christ has a body—a church, and part of our witness includes this message. Maybe you feel God can save outside the body. Well, that assumption isn't fair! Perhaps He can, but will He? Think of Christ on the cross. Didn't men taunt Him by asking why He didn't save Himself? Was it impossible for Christ to save Himself? Certainly not! But just the same, He did not save His life. There is the will of God, and then there is the human logic. These two don't always agree. Witnessing isn't easy, but then what is? *Witnessing IS conversion!* It takes a certain kind of person to carry the real true witness of Christ—a *converted one!*

Conversion is not...

1. Attending services "when we want and when we feel like it."
2. Relying on dad and mom or the pastor to tell us what we believe and why!
3. Having our name in the Church membership file.
4. A relaxed state of mind and actions (I Peter 4:18—the righteous

are **SCARCELY** saved. Remember, it is a *narrow and straight* way.)

For my opening text I want to refer to Mark 8:22. There was a blind man who wanted to be healed. Christ, being the type of person that He was, agreed to heal this man. When Christ touched the man's eyes, He asked him what he saw. The man's reply was that he saw men as trees walking around. The guy was healed, right? He had been blind since birth and now he could see. Perhaps not clearly, but he was seeing. He had experienced the touch of Jesus. But notice—he *wasn't what he could have been*. Christ wasn't satisfied. Christ touched this man the **SECOND** time, and then he was completely healed and saw clearly. Can we see any comparison in this man's life and our conversion experience? Maybe at one time we did feel the touch of Jesus, but through the years we have started to go blind. Maybe now we don't tell about our experiences or study—so does this mean we are doomed? No, we sometimes are like the man who could not see clearly even after one touch from Jesus. Many times we need the **SECOND** touch from Jesus to help us clear up our dim eyesight concerning our Christian way of life.

This is the very beginning of the story—to feel and to experience the touch of Jesus, maybe even the second time.

The Devil Is

No Joke

by Mary Holbert

"The devil made me do it!" A Flip Wilson comedy-act special phrase! People do laugh! Considered lightly it appeals because the blame for one's misdeeds is placed elsewhere. Seriously, the devil is no joke! According to Christ, Satan is the greatest liar of all times and is the father of all lies. John 8:44.

Have you looked in a book store lately at the shelf on Satanic and occult themes? Amazing! Worship Satan? Yes, some do! The amazing revival of Satanism and the occult is evidence that the force of evil is rampant in the land.

It is reported that the paperback "Satanic Bible" by Anton La Vey is a best seller. It is estimated that Satan worship and all forms of the occult involve at least one hundred million Americans.

It is well to be forewarned about an undue interest in this satanic revival and its accompanying partner the occult. Occult means "*secret art, unexplainable phenomena, hidden knowledge.*" If you toy with these workings of Satan, you limit your resistance to his power for he can move in on you like a flash flood. God warns that rejecting the love of the truth is cause enough to send you strong delusion, that you should believe a lie. See II Thessalonians 2:11.

Your attitude is very important! Don't be swamped by "...the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (II Thessalonians 2:11). Be wary! Be forewarned! You don't want to be influenced by Satan so you are spiritually blind to God's will.

Satan is an enemy of God and

your adversary. Satan is a force. Remember Job? Satan was a real force in his life. In the first chapter in the Book of Job is recorded a conversation between God and Satan. God asked Satan where he came from and if he had consid-

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What in the World Is Happening?

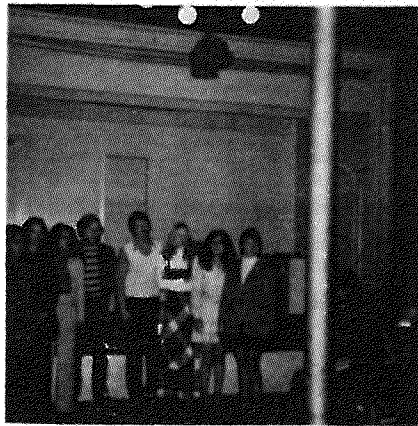
by Tom Orr

"See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" These were the words spoken by the eunuch before his baptism at the hand of Philip. Can you imagine the way that both Philip and the eunuch felt? God had pressed upon the heart of the eunuch so greatly that he could not wait a moment longer for baptism. A similar scene was witnessed at the recent Texas Youth Retreat where 15 young people stepped into the water for baptism.

God's Spirit began piercing and knocking upon the hearts of many the very first night of our retreat. We eagerly gathered around a campfire near the river's edge to be fed spiritual food. Brother Jerry Camero, one of the featured guest speakers, brought to us a new and deeper realization of the true meaning of Christianity. From that time on a real awakening was felt in many young hearts. Truly our theme, "What In The World Is Happening?" was most timely, and we realized it was indeed time for all of us to take a good look at ourselves and the world around us.

Sabbath morning came with a discomforting chill, but soon the sun was shining and the day was filled with many warm blessings from God. Keeping in line with our theme,

Elder Kenneth Lawson, another guest speaker for the retreat, presented several workshops on Bible Prophecy and a very interesting analysis of the best-seller *The Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey. We all became more aware of the marvelous age we are living in and how Bible prophecy is actually being fulfilled before our own eyes. Elder Lawson painted a vivid picture of the Lord's return and caused us to realize how close it might be.



"The Houston Eight," eight young people from the two Houston churches, blended their voices together adding special inspiration in song to the retreat programs.

Time passed all too swiftly and soon that wonderful Sabbath day was but a memory for the nearly 150

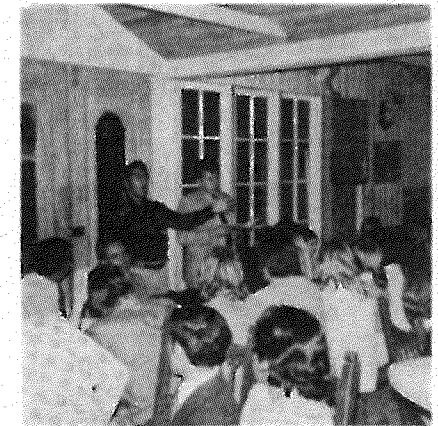
young people attending the retreat. What an experience to hear the messages from God first in English and then hear them interpreted into Spanish! Many young people from Mexico were at the retreat, and although a language barrier existed, there was love and unity that couldn't be surpassed. Real brotherly love—oneness in Christ!! What a tremendous feeling!



The sunny Texas winter weather was perfect for the recreational activities we enjoyed between our Sunday workshops and devotions. Many enjoyed the river water as they waded, canoed and rode on innertubes. The Rocky River Ranch, the site of our retreat, provided all kinds of recreational facilities. The ranch was designed like an old western town, and many of our meetings were held in the scenic hall of the "saloon"!

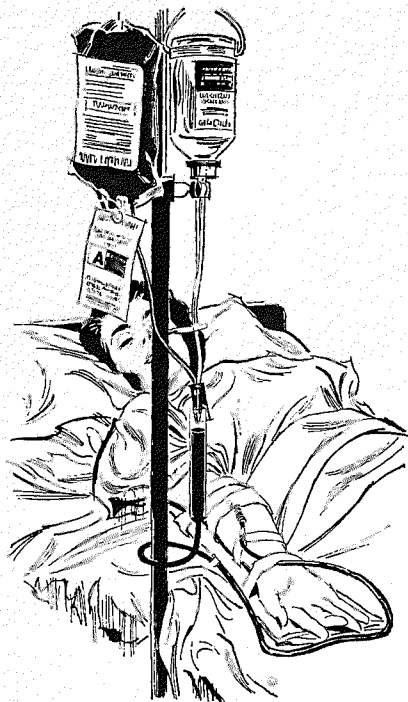
It was on that warm Sunday afternoon that seven young people met by the riverside for a class on baptism. By the time the class was over, each of the seven had decided he didn't want to leave the riverside without taking the necessary step

for salvation—baptism. All the retreaters were called to the river and we witnessed the glorious addition of seven souls to God's church.



Sunday night we were treated to a delicious Mexican food dinner at our banquet. The Vega family from San Antonio presented the special music and Brother Jerry Camero was the spokesman for the evening. Following this delightful experience, we once again gathered for an evening service where Elder Lawson presented the message (but the Lord was the guest speaker!). Hearts were touched and the knees of many fell to the floor in prayer for the very first time. Eight young people found the Lord as Saviour and were so moved by the Spirit that they wanted to experience baptism immediately. So, once again, there was a procession to the river's edge, and we witnessed the glorious scene of new birth. My how we praised God that night!

Monday morning marked the ending of a beautiful retreat experience. The retreat had been a success—not because of any one person's work, but because God's presence was there.



A Matter of Life and Death

by Janice Carlin

The head nurse in the intensive care unit rolled her eyes when I asked to study Mrs. Craig's chart. "Will you ever have fun tomorrow!" she warned. That comment prompted me to look over to bed No. 1 where this patient lay. I noticed that throughout the entire time I studied her history, physical, lab reports, nursing notes, medications, etc., one nurse stayed close by the patient.

The chaplain came by and filled me in on more details about Mrs. Craig's condition and her social history. Students have to know these things. She is married, has three children—a daughter still at home, a married son, and a son who is a Jesuit priest. The priest had flown in from Kansas, so now all her family is here.

Tomorrow this patient would be my responsibility.

So many wires and tubes...
*God, help me keep them all intact
and functioning. It only takes one
mistake...*

Four days ago this woman was healthy and enjoying life. Today she is critically ill having had a super-sized blood clot removed from each lung. Already her heart

had given up several times and the "paddles" gave the shock necessary to keep it going a while longer. (It works in real life, too, just like it has for Dr.'s Welby and Gannon). Now there is swelling in the brain which inhibits its activity, her kidneys are not pro-

ducing urine so the waste and fluid remain in her body, and her heart is kept contracting by a pace-maker.

The young daughter visits during the allotted 5 minutes per hour... "Isn't there something I can say to give her comfort or hope? God, please..."

"No time for emotions to interfere, work to be done." Suddenly we realize the heart isn't responding to all the pacemaker's electrical impulses. The heart rate slows. Blood pressure down. I remember the night nurse's comment, "...so many problems. God have mercy!"

Two ampules Isuprel? IV, doctor's orders. Effective. The blood pressure drops again slowly. Thirty over twenty. Modern medicine begins last minute heroics. Emergency IV medications and cardiac massage. I record each effort and the exact minute it was begun and ended. We must say we tried and keep a record in case of lawsuit.

The surgeon recognizes the futility since the heart doesn't re-

spond, and the respirator is taken away. "Is this death? Who said something about life or breath returning to God who gave it?"

As a student nurse, this was my first experience with death. How can life be so uncertain, so cruel sometimes? All day today I've wondered how to view death—as a physiologic happening? An emotional experience? A spiritual experience? It hurts—even when the dying person is a patient to be kept alive, someone who never even responded to me. How do people stand it when the dying person is a member of their family or dearest friend?

Why is death such a taboo subject? Because it brings back painful memories? Because we don't like to think it could happen to us?

My mind is forced to revolve around death and to try to picture every aspect. So far, the questions remain unanswered. Yet I thank God for the understanding He has given of life—its beauty, its value, its purpose—and how it relates to death.



Janice Carlin is completing her senior year in the nursing program of Union College at Lincoln, Nebraska. Janice is presently living in Denver, Colorado, where she is studying and working at Porter Memorial Hospital.

Life is not lost by dying; life is lost minute by minute, day by dragging day, in all the thousand small uncaring ways.

—Stephen Vincent Benet.

A DEADLY GAME

(Continued from page 11)

my point I wish to cite an example from the Greek language.

When taking an examination on the grammatical rules of Greek this past week, I discovered the professor believed there was a right way and a wrong way—my mark proved it. You cannot use the nominative case in place of the accusative when doing a translation. To translate a given sentence which is in the present mood to that of passive would be a mistranslation. There is a definite rule (truth). So likewise, there is only one standard and truth for God's people. "God could have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:4, RSV). God's truth is contained in the Bible, given under His inspiration, and is the *only* authority to be used in the enactment of doctrines. Writings of "Church Fathers," confessions or creeds are only the workings of men which do God's Word grave injustice. Proclamations set forth as "law for all" by church leaders should not be upheld if they oppose the general and specific teachings of the Bible.

False doctrines do not arise because God's Word is inconsistent, but rather, because of zealous misinterpretation. You are responsible to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good." But you might ask, "How can anyone be sure of what the Bible teaches; it is such a large book, having many authors, written in different settings over a vast period of time?" While all the fore-

going is true, there is a simple answer—commitment or dedication.

You can know and understand the Word of God if you will apply yourself. Even then it won't be easy or sudden, but neither is anything else. No one has ever understood the rules of mathematics or physics in a day, week, month or year—it's a life's profession. But since it contains the *ONLY* hope for humanity we should put it at the top of our agenda each day, for "the opening (entrance) of thy words giveth light; It giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psa. 119:130). "I have treasured up the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" is what Job declared.

To apply yourself means more than a casual reading every morning and evening while you're still not quite awake or can hardly keep your eyes open—it means a diligent, systematic investigation of subjects and topics with all pertinent scriptures studied. For how else can one determine whether a text should be interpreted in a spiritual (symbolic) or literal manner, with a past, present or future setting? You must know how to handle the Word correctly. Paul said, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15, RSV). However lest some would get the wrong impression, I feel it needful to further clarify my foregoing statements. It is understood the individual studying the Word is a child of God; born from above through the operation of the Holy Spirit,

fervent in prayer and faithful to truth known but at the same time seeking for more, for truth is a progressive word. The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and can only be discerned by a spiritual person.

The answer to society's dilemma lies outside its ability to attain. In a world gone mad, man needs God's help. For YOUTH confronted by dire predictions; world famine because of over population, nuclear warfare, the pollution and energy crises, the disintegration of society, there is but one answer—return to God. If we want to find God we can—reach out. If we want to fulfill His purpose for our lives we can—do it. If we want to discern His truth from falsehood we can—prove it. Praise the Lord! He that seeks shall find.

IS THERE STRANGE FIRE IN OUR MUSIC?

(Continued from page 8)

agers that are quoted above. We have failed to sanctify (set apart) the Lord. Instead, we have attempted to lower Him to the same level where we seek to gratify ourselves. Jesus promised, "And I, if I be lift-

THE RISE AND FALL OF A SINNER (Continued from page 4)

bringing others to Him. I know that my salvation or the salvation of thousands cannot make up for that one soul I led away, but I want to do all I can to keep others from Cheryl's fate. Through dedication, faith and prayer I know God and His Holy Spirit will help me.

Although the preceding is a fictional account, it could easily be a real-life happening. Let's beware and be strong, Christian friends, and let us always live a life of good example.

ed up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Let us be careful to lift Him up with our music.

An old saying reminds us that "music hath power to calm the savage beast." It has power to change our moods, as most of us have experienced. Should we not use it, then, to melt the stony heart, stir the soul, and inspire lives to higher, holier living? We *must* be careful not to offer strange fire on the altar of God.

EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

and this impatient driver disappeared in the morning traffic.

Often when i become impatient and frustrated with the little inconveniences in life or when i get in a hurry or am needlessly harsh with someone i think of the scowling disgruntled horn-honking man. How easy it is for us to go through life "beeping our horns" at others! And how fruitless! Life is so much sweeter and more enjoyable when we resist the temptation to sound our horns of intolerance, impatience, rudeness and display longsuffering and patience! Let us remember, as Ben Franklin said, "Patience is the virtue of the saints!"

(Continued from page 15)

ered His servant Job. Satan said he came from going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it. In paraphrase, Satan commented about Job, "Job is perfect and upright because You have built a hedge about him and blessed the work of his hands. If You take that away, Job will curse Thee to Thy face."

God knew better. But He allowed Satan certain permissive powers saying, "all Job has is in your power, but upon Job put not forth thine hand." Satan kept on dogging Job with all kinds of disasters but Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Satan came again before God (By now Job's possessions are gone but Job is still faithful). "Yea, said Satan, "all that a man hath will he give for his life, but you touch his bone and flesh and he will curse You." God answered, "Behold, Job is in thine hand; but save his life." Satan tried again to sway Job but Job remained true to God.

If you are ever in doubt that Satan has power to use against you, read the book of Job. SATAN IS NOT A MYTH. He is a reality of great power and malice. Satan is clever and is intent on deceiving us and causing us to fall into sin. He "walketh about seeking whom he may devour." See I Peter 5:8. If your power to resist becomes weak, Satan will use that weakness to influence you to compromise with your knowledge of right.

Life is made up of selection. The selection you make reveals your inner self, therefore your attitude is important. If you half-way select, and want to follow the ways of the world which are contrary to God, you have ceased to "be sober and vigilant." You will have given Satan a bid for you—the opening he needs to lead you astray.

On the other hand, if you resist Satan's wiles, he cannot claim you. "...your adversary the devil... whom you resist stedfast in the faith." You can resist the best if you have on the Spiritual armour of God. Ephesians 6:11-18. Verse 11 says "Put on the whole armour of God, that YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL."

There is armour for complete defense, even an offensive weapon—the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. As many have noted, there is no armour for the back! You face your foe; you resist him; you stand firm against him. If you turn your back in a non-resisting attitude, you will certainly receive those fiery darts of Satan.

Select that shield of FAITH to hold before you and resist steadfastly this deadly foe, Satan. Fight an offensive battle with the Word of God. Stand up for God! Don't let Satan get an advantage of you, for you are not ignorant of his devices. See II Corinthians 2:11.

Don't put a "For Sale" sign on your Spiritual armour! Shine it with use and stand as God wants you to—as the light of the world. "Let your light so shine before
(Continued on page 25)

Envy Breeds Malice

Envy: 1. a feeling of discontent or mortification, usually with ill will, at seeing another's superiority, advantages, or success.
2. desire for some advantage by another.

Malice: 1. desire to inflict injury or suffering on another.
2. ill will.

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life; jealousy rots it away" (Proverbs 14:30, Living Bible).

Many times in the Psalms David warns us of the danger of envying those around us. When we envy, we spoil for ourselves what we do have. We forget the blessings we have and worry about what we don't have.

Envy often leads to malice. When we are envious, it is easy to become hateful toward those we are envious of. Obviously, it is then impossible to win the one we envy as a friend for ourselves or for Christ. Let us prayerfully consider the words of the Bible concerning envy and malice. Read the following chapters paying particular attention to the verses listed:

READ YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY EVERY DAY.						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAB.
					1	2
					Job 5:2	Ps. 37:1, 7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Prov. 24:1, 19	Ps. 73:3, 17-20	Prov. 3:31	Prov. 14:30	Prov. 23:17	Prov. 27:4	Ecc. 4:4
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Solomon 8:6	Isa. 26:11	Ezek. 35:11	Rom. 1:29	Rom. 13:13	I Cor. 3:3	I Cor. 13:4
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
II Cor. 12:20	Gal. 5:19, 21	I Tim. 6:4	Tit. 3:3	James 3:14	James 4:5	James 5:9
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
I Pet. 2:1 31 Eph. 4:3	Prov. 6:34	Eph. 5:3, 5	Col. 3:5, 8	Lev. 19:14	Job 31:29, 30	I Cor. 14:20



How Important Is a Name?

Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hussites, Mennonites, Seventh-day Adventists, Church of God in Prophecy, Presbyterian—how important is a name? How should a name be determined for God's chosen people?

Some churches have felt that a descriptive name best suits their church, such as, Unitarian, Christian Scientist, Latter Day Saints. Others have chosen the names of their leaders—for example, Lutherans, Hussites, Campbellites, and Calvinists. We, of the Church of God (Seventh Day) actually fall into two categories. Basically we are of a third group which derives their name from Biblical example. Others of this group include the Church of Christ, Assembly of God and Presbyterians (See Rom. 16:16, Heb. 12:23, and I Tim. 4:14). However, when we add the words "seventh day" to our name, we also fit the category of descriptive names.

Does it really matter which name is chosen? Isn't it just how the people are inside that counts? Just being of a certain church won't save you, will it? Of course not! No one will

be saved or rejected simply because he is a member of a particular denomination. However, names in the Bible are definitely important as we can plainly see in the Old Testament where names had a specific meaning and purpose. For example, through study we see that Eve means *living or life*, Cain means *gotten or acquired*, Abel means *vanity and emptiness*, and Noah means *rest and comfort*. The real importance of names in God's sight is implied in the way that He changed the names of various people as a result of a certain incident. Two examples that all of us are aware of are Abram and Sarai. Abram means *a high father* but was changed to Abraham which means *father of great multitudes*. His wife Sarai had a name which meant *contentious* but was changed to Sarah which means *princess*.

The importance of God's people being called by His name is found in such texts as II Chronicles 7:14, Deut. 28:10, John 17:11, Eph. 3:14, 15 and Rev. 14:1. It seems only natural that God's children would take His name just as children today take the name of their father.

It is true that the church is called by other names in the Bible such as the three already mentioned and others such as Jehovah's Witnesses (Acts 1:8), Church of the Living God (I Tim. 3:15), and the Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:23). But none of these other names are found so often or emphasized as much as is the Church of God. It was this

name that Paul referred to when he said that he persecuted the true people of God.

II Chronicles 7:14 emphasizes that God hears the cries of those who are called by His name, not the name of His Son, not the name Presbyterian or Jehovah's Witnesses — but by His Name.

Acts 20:28
I Cor. 10:32
II Chron. 7:14
Deut. 28:10
John 17:11
Eph. 3:14, 15
Rev. 14:1
I Cor. 15:9

THE DEVIL IS NO JOKE

(Continued from page 22)

men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

If you have submitted yourself to God, successful resistance against Satan is possible. "...*Re-*

sist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Never forget, Satan is a defeated foe. He has a little time left, but his doom is coming. Choose Satan and your destruction is certain too! Choose God, do His will steadfastly in faith; and you will live eternally with Him!

Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice.

In short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and young, the rich and poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes, tongues, colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

—Abraham Lincoln.

1974 NATIONAL
YOUTH WEEK

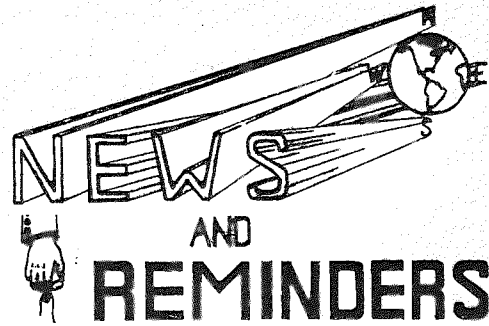
April 24-28 is the date for our National Youth Week. Every local youth group is urged to plan for special spiritual activities during that time. Next month's AIM will contain the suggested National Youth Week program, so watch for all the details!

START PLANNING NOW!

The National Youth Committee is pleased to announce that a 1974 Leadership Retreat will be held June 28-July 2 at North Platte, Nebraska. Each local FYC group should begin planning now to sponsor their leader or a representative to the beneficial retreat.

YOURS FOR THE ASKING

Attractive billfold-size FYC membership cards are still available from the National FYC. To receive such a personalized card signed by a member of the National F.Y.C. Committee (you need not be a member of the Church of God (7th Day) as long as you participate in a local FYC group), just write to us and request one. Please include your name, address, age and the local church you attend when you write. Send your request for a



membership card to: National FYC, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

LAST CALL!

Any Mark of Merit reports for the last quarter of 1973 should be sent immediately to the National FYC, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

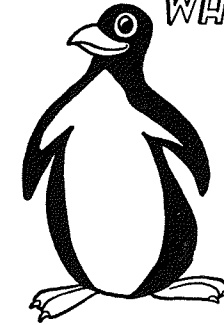
Announcements of the Outstanding FYC of the year (the Lighthouse Award Winner) plus all the gold and silver award winners for 1973 will be made in next month's AIM.

The following items are available from the National FYC office:

- FAITH TRIO RECORDS—\$3
- F.Y.C. Stationery—\$1.25
- F.Y.C. Sweatshirts—\$3.00
- F.Y.C. Plaques—\$1.00
- Challengers Bible Baseball—\$3.95

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

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