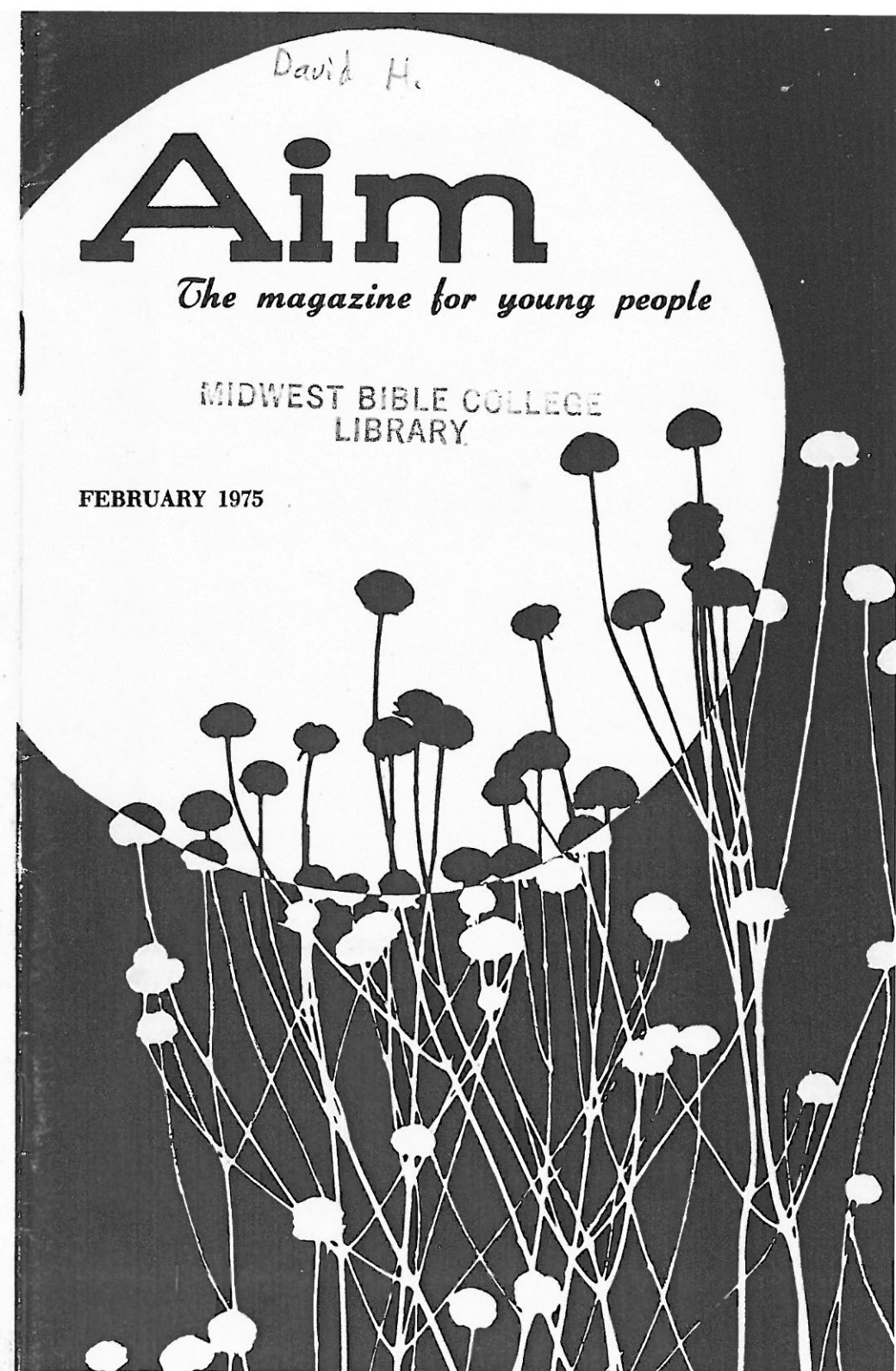


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## Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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. XXXIX, No. 2

With malice toward none,  
with charity for all, with  
firmness in the right as  
God gives us to see the  
right, let us finish the work  
we are in.

—Abraham Lincoln

### EDITORIAL ETCHES

Ernie, Big Bird, Cookie Monster, Maria, and all the rest of the Sesame Street gang gathered on that famous brick street and sang in almost mournful tones:

*"There is more love somewhere, There  
is more love somewhere,  
I'm going to find more love somewhere.*

*There is more truth somewhere, There is  
more truth somewhere,  
I'm going to find more truth somewhere.*

*There is more hope somewhere, There is  
more hope somewhere,  
I'm going to find more hope somewhere.*

*There is more peace somewhere, There is  
more peace somewhere,  
I'm going to find more peace somewhere."*

For days after hearing this little song on his favorite television program, our young son went about his play singing it over and over again. Everytime i heard his soft voice chanting these words in the same sad tone in which he had heard them sung, an overwhelming, soul-touching realization came upon me:

ALL PEOPLE, whether they be the poor, starving millions in the deprived countries of the world, or the soldiers on the world's current battlefields, or the worried, fearful inflation-depression conscious citizens of the more prosperous nations, whoever... wherever, in these ominous days of fear, uncertainty and unrest ALL people in

(Continued on page 7)

## Life Is for Sharing



by Harvey D. Fischer

Several days ago as I was walking past the nurse's office at the school where I work, I was summoned by the vice-principal, "Mr. Fischer, come here. We may need you."

As I walked into one of the resting rooms in the nurse's complex, I noticed one of our senior students stretched out, seemingly lifeless, on a cot. Minutes before he had been discovered on the floor in a rest room nearby. The ambulance was on its way.

In those minutes while waiting for the ambulance (it seemed like hours), the vice-principal and I merely gazed at each other. We looked at the empty Sominex bottle and studied the note we found in the student's pocket.

"Dear Debbie... I am sorry to have to do this, but you just don't seem to understand. I love you..." the suicide note went on for more than three pages.

Before us was the quiet, seemingly cold, body of a young man whom we had seen full of energy just a couple of days ago when he romped up and down the football field as an important member of the undefeated high school football team—the first in the short history of Kennedy High School. It seemed like just hours before that he had run back an interception for a touch-down in a blaze of glory. He was so much a part of life.

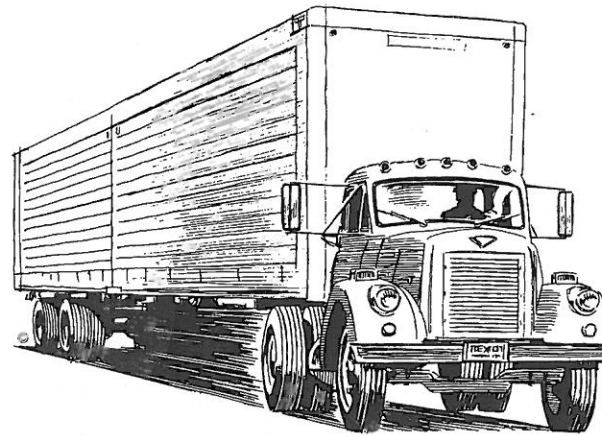
While I sat there, I wondered if and when this young man comes back to school what we will say to him. Will he live? "Lord, You must let him live," I kept saying to myself. This young man had so much to give and had come to the conclusion that life wasn't worth having.

What would we say to his parents? His father enjoys a successful medical practice and donated his services to the school as the football team's attending doctor for he was interested in the success of his son who was so much a part of that team.

What approach does one take? We needed to talk to the parents, but what should be said? During those few moments, it seemed simple to talk to the parents of two young students who had been killed in a car accident just several nights before. They had given so much, wanted to give so much more, but their lives were terminated. It seems easy now to say, "They gave so much in so little time." But, what would we say to parents whose son chose not to give anymore? That would be difficult. Most certainly, they would want to know, "What could we have done?" "Where do we go from here?"

As I sit and think of those few moments that left such a lasting impression on me, I can't help but ask myself, "How can I as one individual influence the lives of others so they may see value, seek opportunities to give, to contribute, to share?" How can I assist others to identify lasting values, to see things in proper perspective? Those tangible things that seem to mean so much amount to so little when placed in proper perspective.

While these are days which suggest depression, days when one's values are challenged, with God speaking to those who know Him in very certain terms, we must seek opportunities to share with those around us values that are lasting, values that are beyond tangibles. We have been provided with the opportunity to share God's goodness so that others would see life as an opportunity to give, to share, and to love. Countless opportunities are presented to us daily to display such attitudes. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to assist those with whom we come in contact to say "yes" to life!



by L. L'Roy

## Al's Philosophy

At last the first semester of his first year in college ended, and Mike was home for a 10-day vacation. He was eager to look up all of his old high school friends, and to his surprise, he ran across an old-time buddy the first place he stopped—at a gas station!

"Hi, Al! Where have you been hiding yourself? I haven't seen you since graduation!"

"Well, Well," Al responded with a big grin. "Good to see you again, Mike. I've been trucking for months. See my rig over there," Al proudly pointed to the long, shiny diesel truck parked across the road. "Come on, take the front seat with me . . . we have a lot to catch up on."

"Thanks, Al," Mike climbed into the cab of the big truck. "I'm never too busy for a chat with an old friend like you. Say, are you still going with Cathy?"

Al hesitated and then answered with a note of disappointment, "Nah, we broke it off a couple months ago. She's so fine, but she's so darned religious. She just kept trying to get me to go to church with her. . . ."

"Al, you always went to church before! Why you hardly ever missed a service, and you always led out in the youth rallies, and . . ."

Al interrupted Mike, "Yah, I did, but I've outgrown all that stuff, see? I figure that religion and church are just for shy, weak people who can't face the world and the problems of life. They have to have a crutch, so that's what religion is. A crutch! I'm getting along fine without it, and besides, I have a lot more freedom and fun, and I can just be me, know what I mean?"

***You've tried to reason God out of your life, but that in no way reasons Him out of existence.***

Mike was surprised, yet Al's philosophy wasn't new to him. Most of the kids at college thought exactly the same way. "Well, Al, I think I enjoy life as much as you do, and I have all the freedom I want. There's a whole lot more to this thing. I dare say you just aren't thinking this thing through."

"I think ahead and make plans," Al defended. "I know what life offers and how to get it. I'm making good money, and I'm on the lookout for all the fun I can get. Why not? My job lets me see new places, new things, and lots of pretty little faces. I meet new girls all the time. You know the old saying, 'A bird in the hand is worth two in a bush.' To me life isn't worth living if I can't have the freedom to do what I want and if I can't make the best of every opportunity. Know what I mean? This is the way I like it. Come on now Mike, you can't tell me that you don't envy me a bit! Just look at this roll of greenbacks!" Al pulled a thick bundle of money from his pocket, flashed it in front of Mike's face, and then tucked it away again.

"I see," Mike slowly spoke, "It's handy to have money, and it's fun to go places, too. You know, I've been around a little myself. I've met a lot of new people—nice people—people I'm proud to know. And I know a lot of young people, including pretty girls! These kids enjoy life, but not your way. And they also have freedom, but their freedom comes with a clear conscience."

Al chuckled a bit light-heartedly. "Well, there are many ways of viewing life. I have my way, and you have yours. I figure it this way—get while the getting's good."

"Well, Al, I don't know when I'll see you again, so I've got to tell you now how I feel. If you feel adequate in yourself to face the world so boldly, then you can't back away from what I have to say. It really makes me sad to see you throwing your life down the drain. And you know what? You'll probably take other lives down with you! Al, there's still great potential in you, and it can be sparked into action and can be used to make you happier than you can imagine. You think you are having fun by living it up and doing as you please, but this isn't going to give you any real, lasting happiness. Just living for self—why Al! You're broader minded than that! Just remember your folks and what they taught you—they weren't dumb either! Seems like you've tried to reason God out of your life, Al, but that in no way reasons Him out of existence. You are trying to run away from Him and put Him out of your life by your fast living, but I tell you, it just won't work. Both the Bible and history positively prove, time after time, over and over again, that when people forsake the Bible—God's rules for life—and live for money and worldly ambitions, they sooner or later come to ruin. There's just no getting around it.

Al lit a cigarette, took one drag,

and flipped it out the window.

Not waiting for Al to speak, Mike continued, "Talk about a crutch! Al, I hope you'll flip all yours away that easily." Mike pointed at the burning cigarette lying on the ground beneath Al's window. "Al, you know there's a God as well as I do. No one can keep running from God and get away with it. That's like running around in circles."

Al was busy trimming his fingernails with his penknife and had very little to say. His carefree attitude had faded, and a troubled expression showed on his face. "Well, Mike, I'd better be moving along."

"Okay, Al, I'll be talking to you some more while I'm home. Oh, yes, I'll see you in church Sabbath!"

Al didn't look up but nodded, "Yah, Yah, Mike! And thanks!"



***Plan now to attend***  
**General Conference**  
**July 14--19, 1975**

**at**  
**William Woods College,**  
**Fulton, Missouri**

For details, see a recent *Harvest Field Messenger* or your District Reporter.

**EDITORIAL ETCHES**

*(Continued from page 2)*

ALL places know deep within that there IS more love, more truth, more hope, and more peace... SOMEWHERE. The human heart and soul longs for that love, truth, hope and peace.

PRAISE GOD! He fills our hearts, minds and souls with that sought-after, longed-for love, truth, hope and peace, and He assures us of a never-ending life of love, truth, hope, and

peace beyond human comprehension! Christians, let's sing a joyful song:

*"There IS more love, somewhere...  
I HAVE found that love!  
There IS more truth, somewhere...  
I HAVE found that truth!*

*There IS more hope somewhere...  
I HAVE found that hope!  
There IS more peace somewhere...  
I HAVE found that peace!*

Let's take God's love, hope, truth, and peace to the hungry, searching lonely, lost millions.

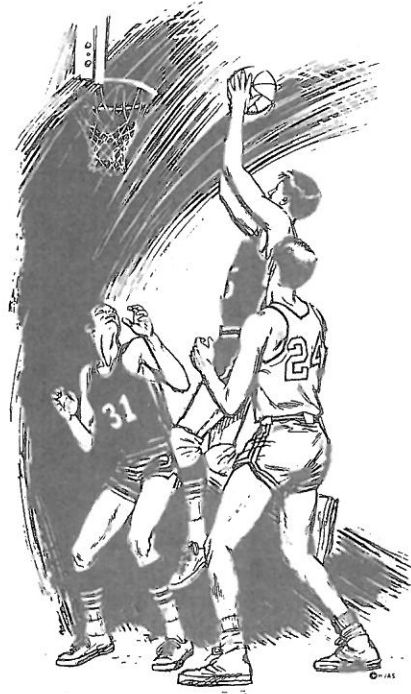


# Soul Power

*With a little bit of soul  
You can do so well!*

So begins the popular cheer we are hearing a lot at this season's basketball games. The average teenager gets excited at a basketball game. Yelling until we're unable to utter an understandable word, we really get in there and root for our team. Just think what we can do for our own lives and the lives of others if we get as excited about our walk with Christ as we do our favorite basketball team!

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Col. 3:17). Christ was not a hum drum man! He was active, enthusiastic, and excited about His mission in life. If the things we are doing in our routines of daily living are in His name, I wonder if Christ is happy to have us as His representatives? Our actions and activities are a reflection of what we truly are. Does Christ like what He sees in us?



As a cheerleader, it is my job to get people enthusiastic enough to yell for our team. If our squad just sat on the bench and did nothing at all during an entire basketball game, there surely wouldn't be much "spirit." Both the spectators and the team would be disappointed in us, and the basketball season might just be one, big, silent flop... all because no one cared enough to be enthusiastic about the games.

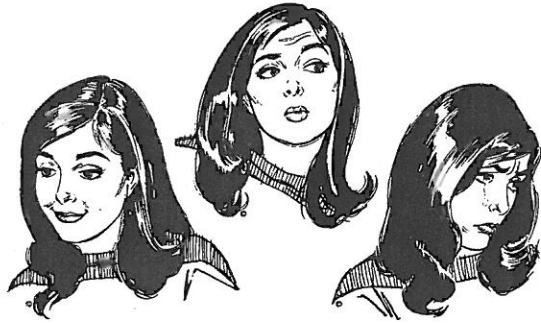
Perhaps this is the reason there is a shortage of active, happy Christians... We just don't want to get involved. We don't want to expend the energy it takes to be enthusiastic and vibrantly alive in Christ. If we Christians let up on practicing the basics of Christianity—Bible reading and prayer—we will fall. We'll become discouraged and just quit trying. An active, enthusiastic, "alive" Christian stays high on Christ and everyone this Christian comes in contact with knows it.

When we carefully examine our own likes and dislikes, most of us find ourselves naturally drawn to a happy person who is excited about living. In Matthew 28 we are told to tell the world about the great things that can happen to us when we live in Christ. Our lives should be like an open Bible. Our lives should be a stimulating factor that lead others to Christ.

Don't you think it's time we live like we enjoy Christianity, and be genuine about it? If we will follow these five easy steps, we'll be on the road to becoming a vibrant, active, happy Christian:

1. **Get off your ego trip! One who cares about other people more than himself is one who is truly happy.**
2. **Be active in your church. Christ gave good advice when He told us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together...**
3. **Read your Bible! Without God's Special Guidebook on how to live from day to day, we might fall away.**
4. **Pray! How would your friends feel if you never talked to them? Remember, Jesus is the Best Friend in all the world, so talk to Him every day!**
5. **Set goals for yourself. Have something to live for. Keep a project underway every month, and make it a project that will help someone else along the way.**

*With a little bit of "soul"  
(enthusiasm)  
We can do so well!*



## Attitude Makes the Difference

by Benny Pitman

Have you ever watched young people arriving for a youth service? You can almost tell, before the service begins, who is going to enjoy the service or the program.

You don't believe me? Try it next time and see! Some will arrive with such an eagerness and an enthusiasm about them that you just can tell right off that they are ready for an encounter with Christ. Others? Well, they look like they are living down on "Barely Get Along Street," next to "Grumble Alley!" Which one is going to really enjoy that youth service and get something from the Lord? You guessed it!

Your attitude is important! If your attitude is positive, you will find yourself living in victory—spiritually and otherwise. Learn to live positively in Christ Jesus, and you will find yourself living *victoriously!* In writing to the Christians at Rome, Paul said: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within" (Romans 12:2, *Phillips*). Do you see what I mean? Before you ever arrive at the youth service, you determine by your attitude many times whether or not you are going to receive anything. If you come with the "It'll-be-the-same-old-thing" attitude, you will probably leave wondering why you never enjoy the services. Come with an attitude of doubt or disinterest, expecting nothing, and you will get exactly what you are expecting—nothing!

Can you imagine what would happen, if everyone came to the youth service with a positive attitude, willing to do

whatever is needed to help the service? *Wow!* Talk about a youth service?

Why? It's simple! A positive attitude is contagious. When one person is positive and really expecting something to happen, soon others begin to catch that same expectancy and begin to look for something good to take place.

A positive attitude is demonstrated. It sparkles and shines so that everyone else in the youth group is aware of its presence.

A positive attitude is stimulating. It urges its possessor and the others on to greater things in the Lord.

A positive attitude is influential for good. It causes others also to want to have a positive attitude and helps them to receive from the Lord. That is why the services are better and that is why you will enjoy them more if you go with a positive attitude. Who knows, you may be the key to the service.

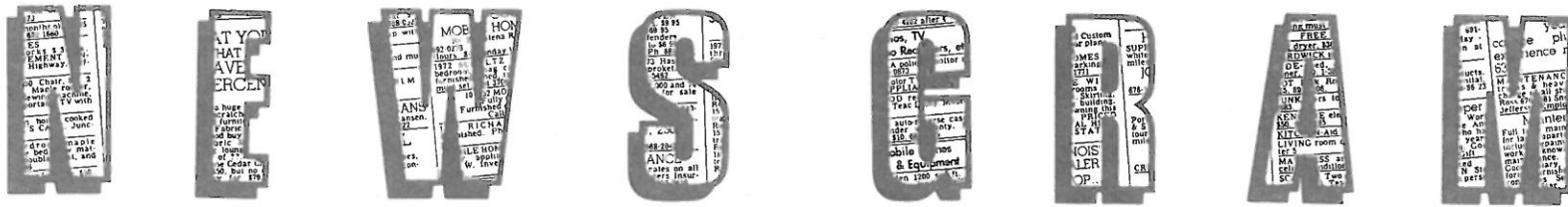
Paul was speaking to all of us when he said, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." It is a mold of negatives, defeat, and lost battles. It is a mold of problems, heartache, and despair. But your life is to be a life of victory. You are to live so that the presence of your Lord and Saviour is very real to you.

Let's use an example. You are going to a youth service, and Jesus has promised to be there. Can you then go with doubt or defeat? No! Paul would say, "Hey, Teen. Slow down a minute. Just wait before the Lord, and let Him renew your mind from the inside." As a matter of fact, in writing to the Christians at Philippi, Paul said, "Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be" (Philippians 2:5, *Phillips*). Did Jesus ever think negatively? Did Jesus ever carry an attitude of defeat or unconcern? No way, man! His way of thinking is the height of being positive!

I happened to be in the office of an Army colonel a few days ago. On his desk was a little prayer that caught my eye: "Lord, help me to remember, that nothing will cross this desk today, that you and I together can't take care of."

*How true that is! When you and I can get so wrapped up in Jesus that we realize that there is nothing too big for Him and that He is living through us, there will be no room for anything but positive thoughts. Try it; you'll like it!*

—Lighted Pathway



by Daniel Davila, Foreign Correspondent

## A Look at the Church in Latin America

### Latin America in 1946

In the year 1946 a Russian named Nicolas Mazur planned to travel from Uruguay to the United States, but his travels took him only as far as Mexico, for there he discovered the doctrine of the Church of God (Seventh Day). After devoting himself to studying God's Word, Nicolas Mazur became well-grounded in the Scriptural truths and returned to Uruguay where he began preaching and teaching these new-found truths.

During 1948 and 1949 Brother Mazur traveled through Central America preaching and teaching the doctrines of the Church. A group was formed in Guatemala and another in Honduras.

In 1955 a young bachelor, Antonio Vega Serafin, went to Guatemala from Mexico and continued the work Brother Mazur had begun there. Elder Vega is now the General Overseer of the Churches of God of the Central American Republics.

The Church of God in Central America has been involved in missionary work for some time. Elder Andres Leiva, missionary in Ecuador, is from Guatemala. Elder Vega has visited Uruguay and Argentina establishing good contacts in those countries.

Brother Nicolas Mazur returned to Uruguay in 1950, and he has remained active in the Gospel work there ever since. Through the years he has requested missionaries to help him in the work there. Maybe some day one of you reading this report will go to help!



Nicolas and Sonia Mazur

### Latin America in 1975

**MEXICO**—►The FJC (Fraternidad Juvenil Cristinia) plans to meet in Oaxtepec for a national convention this year. Youth groups from all over Mexico will be represented at this youth congress. The Mexican Youth Department has invited Elder Knoll, our National FYC Chairman, and other FYCers to attend this congress.

►Elders Robert Coulter and Trinidad Padilla will be visiting several churches in Mexico this month.

**GUATEMALA**—►Elders Coulter and Padilla will visit Guatemala after their tour through Mexico.

►The Central American Ministerial Council will meet on March 27th of this year in Guatemala City.

**ECUADOR**—►Elder Andres Leiva, Quito, Ecuador, is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the American delegation, Elders Coulter and Padilla.

►Guayaquil, a port in Ecuador, was the meeting place for a conference of reorganization, and plans for a future conference with the American delegation have been made.

**URUGUAY**—►The man instrumental in the spreading of the doctrine of the Church of God throughout Latin America, Nicolas Mazur, resides in Uruguay.



Baptism service in Misiones, Argentina



Misiones, Argentina Church Band

# Dear FYCer,



PER



Quarter-per-Quarter, based on average attendance of the local church, is a financial assistance method for local FYCs to support the National FYC. Some have asked, "Who decided that this was the proper approach?" "What do we (the local FYC) receive in return for our support?" "Is it worth the investment, or could the funds be better used locally?"

## WHO DECIDED ON QUARTER-PER-QUARTER?

The young people who were present at General Conference, 1971, made the decision. In business session, the FYC'ers amended the National Constitution to promote this method of support, determining that the National FYC could better help the local FYC's if it had more finances to work with. This was an FYC Conference decision—not a committee decision.

"Okay, I understand that we made the decision, but what I want to know is what we receive in return for our local support?"

The first major project following the adoption of **Quarter-per-Quarter** was the establishing of a National FYC Office in the new General Conference Office Building. At this time, we hired a National FYC Secretary at part-time salary to represent the National FYC, and to serve the local FYCs.

The National FYC provides these services:

## CORRESPONDENCE

The National FYC office strives to keep you **INFORMED** of all FYC projects and programs so you are always up-to-date and in-the-know.

When questions arise, someone is there to respond to your inquiry with a personal touch. [NOTE: **Quarter-per-Quarter** receipts cover less than half the National FYC Secretary's salary.]

## PROGRAMS

The National FYC prepares programs to encourage and to inspire spiritual growth and involvement. **DESIGN III** and **SHAPE** are two such programs designed to help you and your group to share in the total church program.

## MATERIALS

Programs are of little value unless they can filter down to local level. Materials and explanations of programs as well as helpful hints are passed on from the National FYC to you.

**"Is it worth our investment, or could the funds be used better locally?"**

Take away the programs of the FYC—**DESIGN III** and **SHAPE**. Take away the correspondence of the secretary, take away **ALL** the programs and materials of the FYC and what do you have?

Some local churches could plan a youth program to meet the needs of their youth . . . but there is always the majority who benefits from the services we provide in giving direction and purpose. We believe that the total picture is enlarged **BECAUSE** of the services you receive through the FYC Agency. Because **YOU** receive services and you can help be of service to other groups in instituting better youth outreach, it **IS WORTH THE INVESTMENT!**

The United Missions Board is concerned about all of its agencies and their programs. Because the UMB believes in the FYC, it is **willing** to assist us in funding our programs. In turn, the FYC is **expected** to share in supporting these programs through **Quarter-per-Quarter**. This is cooperation at its best.

**FOCAL POINT:** In your yearly plan, include a week or week-end to be designated as "Youth Week." Although the National FYC is no longer planning a National Youth Week Program, if your local group wishes to have one, we do encourage you to plan a local version of youth week as it relates to your local needs.

And remember—**Quarter-per-Quarter** is serving **YOUth!**

For Christ,

Kenneth Knoll  
National FYC Committee Chairman





# GLASS

by Mary Helen Jordan

*"Pas Avos!" became the standard greeting among the 150 young people (including several from Mexico!) who attended the 1974 Texas Winter Retreat, held at Rock River Ranch near Austin, Texas, December 26-30.*

*The retreat's much-advertised mystery guest speaker turned out to be Mike Vlad, boys' dean at Spring Vale Academy. Elder Harris Kinzler from Conroe, Texas, served as the retreat director, and Elder Banda, pastor of the Houston Spanish church, helped with the weekend activities.*

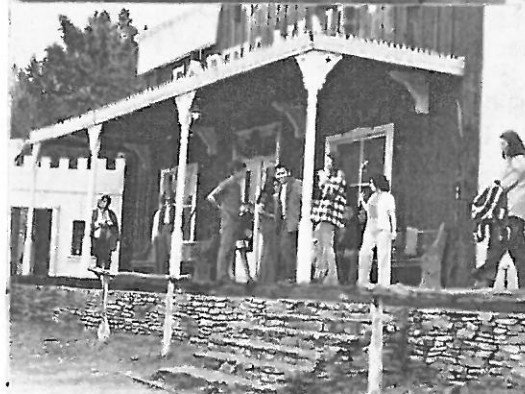
*The theme of the retreat, "Glass Men," proved to be very thought-provoking and beneficial to the retreaters. Through the retreat workshops, informal discussions, and sermons, each retreator was encouraged to take a look at himself as he really is. We all make excuses for not being as mature as we should be at times, and Brother Vlad pointed out that people tend to make the most excuses concerning their spiritual lives either for not being as close to God as they should be or for not being a Christian at all. Being like GLASS MEN, each of us must remove our clothing of excuses, discard bad attitudes, and look at what we are deep down inside. Spiritual growth can then begin as we allow God to guide our thoughts and actions.*

*"Laughing with Mike" was a fun-time highlight enjoyed by all. This included such events as a banana eating contest which featured only one blindfolded unsuspecting contestant, the introduction of the "ugliest man in the world," and several impromptu skits about excuses.*

*Basketball, canoeing and ping pong dominated the recreational scene. Other memorable highlights of the retreat include the tasty Mexican Banquet, an impressive play, "This WAS our Life," presented by the San Antonio FYC, and "Yonuko," a movie about a young Japanese girl who found God and a reason for living after a near-successful suicide attempt.*

*This weekend retreat was a truly inspirational and uplifting experience, and those of us privileged to attend left with a great awareness of the GLASS PEOPLE Christians must be!*

# MEN



# The Business Meeting

One of the most dreaded of all FYC activities is the business meeting. Usually, they are boring, frustrating, agonizing, long—and frequently anarchy reigns. It causes one to wonder how any business is *ever* transacted. Too often only very little is accomplished and what is accomplished often gets cancelled because of insufficient planning.

No longer does the business meeting need to be a fearful, failing activity. The SHAPE program offers a very efficient, practical approach to the business meeting. This approach includes an officers' meeting where the pre-planning for the business meeting is done and an agenda is drawn up. Also, there needs to be only one business meeting a quarter (the middle month of each quarter) because of the use of a yearly theme and a quarterly sub-theme. Committees are appointed to plan activities for one full quarter.

Every business meeting should be preceded by a short devotional—one that relates to the quarterly sub-theme and one that can be applied to the group's purpose for meeting. The quarter's devotional committee can take care of this

part of the program.

Following the devotional, the Individual Business Meeting forms are distributed and the president calls the meeting to order. First comes the reading and approval of the minutes of the group. After the treasurer's report, the president calls for the reading of any correspondence. This may be referred to committee, taken up under new business or it may require no action at all.

Just prior to the main part of the meeting, the president should, if he feels it necessary, announce that disruptive activity by the membership will not be tolerated. If a person doesn't seem to abstain from disrupting the proceedings, he will be disqualified from discussion and voting on the motion under discussion and if that person still causes a problem, he will be dismissed from the meeting. Hopefully, everyone who has a tendency to create a problem will catch on.

Following the agenda, any business that is still pending from previous meetings (tabled business, committee reports, etc.) should be discussed and decided upon. The new business should begin with the discussion and approval, month by month, of the up-coming quarter's program calendar. Following

that, any other proposals can be considered and then committees need to be appointed to plan the various activities. At this point, the Vice-president should complete the Committee Form for all the newly formed committees.

The President is now ready to close the meeting. It is good to encourage participation in Design III and Sabbath School. A closing prayer is always appropriate.

**That's it! The business has been discussed in an orderly, efficient**

way, and everyone knows what has been decided, when events are scheduled to occur, and how they fit into the program. It should have been a good, inspiring and encouraging experience for all who attended.

*If you have any helpful ideas or suggestions you feel would benefit the business meeting or if your group is using some methods which prove successful, please share them with others by sending them to the editor of AIM.*

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## Getting Into Shape

*SHAPE is the organizational guide for local FYC groups. Questions and suggestions concerning this program are dealt with in this feature. Please send all questions and suggestions to the editor.*

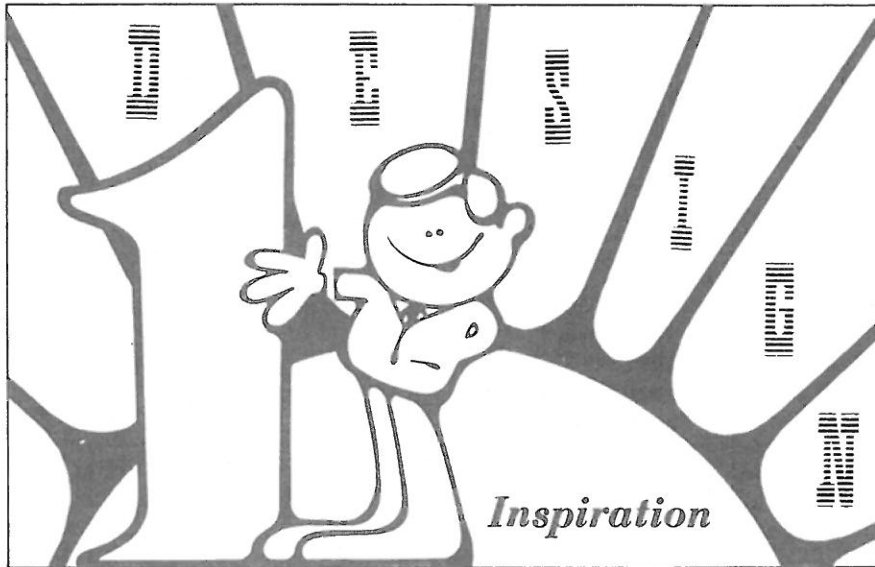
**QUESTION:** "I'm not sure I understand the planning set-up of the SHAPE program. Your help in my understanding of this would be appreciated."

**ANSWER:** You must be referring to the quarterly planning system and use of themes, quarterly officers' meetings and quarterly business meetings and committees.

First, a theme should be selected by your group at the beginning of the year. Then a four-point outline of that theme can be used to serve as quarterly sub-themes, and these sub-themes should be developed each quarter, by your activities.

At the beginning of the middle month of each quarter (February, May, August and November) the officers, sponsors and pastor should meet as a planning committee to develop the next quarter's program calendar. Shortly following the quarterly officers' meeting, the quarterly business meeting should take place to make a final decision of the next quarter's program. For each type of activity a committee should be appointed for the duration of the quarter.

The use of forms in their respective places is necessary for the well-being of this program. Be sure to use them. If you do not have them they may be ordered from the National FYC Office.



## JAMES

### Date:

Two views are commonly held as to when the epistle of James was written: 1) in the early 60's A.D. shortly before James' death and 2) in the middle 40's A.D. before the Jerusalem Council. Evidence within the epistle favors the early date. The intended Jewish readership and overall Jewish tone, the congregating of believers in the synagogues, the simple approach to church organization and discipline, and the lack of reference to Gentile believers all seem to indicate that James was written around 45 A.D. prior to the Jerusalem council and subsequent rise of Gentile prominence in the Church. If the 45 A.D. date is accurate, James has the distinction of being the first book written of the entire New Testament.

### Author:

The author of this epistle simply refers to himself as "*James, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Since there are four different men in the New Testament with the name of James, the author's true identification has long been disputed. The four are: (1) James, the father of Judas Thaddaeus (2) James, the son of Alphaeus (3) James, the son of Zebedee (4) James, the Lord's brother. (For a detailed investigation of the identity of the author see *Clark's Commentary*, "Preface to the General Epistle of St. James.") In spite of the controversy, modern scholars generally agree with early Christian

tradition and attribute the epistle's authorship to James, the younger half brother of Jesus and natural son of Mary and Joseph (Matt. 13:55; Gal. 1:19).

James, along with his other brothers, did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah during His ministry (John 7:5). However, after His resurrection, Jesus made a special appearance to James which evidently changed his mind (I Cor. 15:7). James was among the initial 120 believers who were present with the apostles at the election of Matthias and at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14-15).

As an earthly brother of the risen Saviour, James became a prominent figure in the New Testament Church. Certain facts even suggest that James was the leading elder and head of the "mother church" at Jerusalem. Peter requested that the news of his miraculous release from prison be reported to James (Acts 12:17). Even the great apostle Paul recognized James' position of authority by reporting to him on several occasions (Gal. 1:19, 2:9; Acts 21:18). The Jerusalem Council of 50 A.D. concerning the Gentiles and the Law of Moses was evidently presided over by James. After all others had spoken, including Peter, Barnabas and Paul, James summarized the discussion and proposed his judgment which the council adopted (Acts 15:13-21).

According to the Jewish historian Josephus (see *Antiquities of the Jews* XX 8, 1), James was stoned to death in 62 A.D. by the order of Ananias, the High Priest, for refusing to publicly denounce Jesus as the Messiah. It is ironic that James was martyred for refusing to deny the faith he, himself, once had doubted.

### Purpose:

Addressed to "*the twelve tribes scattered abroad,*" this general letter was written primarily to Jewish Christians. James is the most Jewish book of the New Testament because of its threefold purpose. (1) to help Jewish believers make the transition from Judaism to Christianity (2) to correct certain faults which were characteristic of the Jews (3) to deal with practical aspects of everyday conduct. James accomplishes his purpose by using a series of exhortations, instructions and maxims which resemble the Sermon on the Mount and the wisdom literature of the Old Testament.

The epistle's most noted theme concerns "faith and works." James 2: 14-26 compliments, instead of contradicts as some have falsely claimed, Paul's teaching on justification by faith. James points out that the Christian should put into action what he claims to believe. As you read this fundamental and practical letter of the Christian faith, heed the words of James, "*Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only.*"

### OUTLINE OF JAMES

- A. Salutation (1:1)
- B. True Faith and Trials
  - 1. Trials and Temptations (1:2-18)
  - 2. Doers of the Word (1:19-25)
  - 3. True Religion (1:26-27)
- C. True Faith and Works
  - 1. Favoritism Forbidden (2:1-13)

2. Actions Speak Louder than Words (2:14-26)
- D. True Faith and Conduct
1. Taming the Tongue (3:1-12)
  2. True Wisdom (3:13-18)
  3. Submission to God (4:1-12)
  4. Boastful Attitude (4:13-17)
  5. Warning to Rich (5:1-6)
  6. Patience in Suffering (5:7-12)
  7. Prayer of Faith (5:13-20)

**SIGN UP AND  
BE COUNTED!**

The National FYC Secretary needs your 1975 FYC Registrations *right now* for proper mailing addresses and a proper count of FYC-ers in 1975. Please, local FYC secretaries, see that your local FYC is registered!

**IF DUPLICATING IS A PROBLEM FOR YOUR FYC—**

order supplements A, C, F, and even E and G and R (if you need them) for the SHAPE program, from the National FYC Office, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

**WE ONLY CHARGE 1/2¢ PER SHEET—**

which means that if your FYC could use 100 sheets, we charge you 50¢, or if your FYC needs 75 sheets, we charge you 38¢.

**BUT REMEMBER, SOME THINGS COME FREE OF CHARGE—**

such as SHAPE supplements B, H, I, J, and K, and DESIGN III Response Forms, which will be available from your local FYCs very soon! Why?

**BECAUSE THE NATIONAL FYC LOVES YOU!**

Don't Miss It!!

**JINGO YOUTH RETREAT — March 28-30**

Camp Allendale (2 miles east of Jingo, Kansas on Hwy 69). For reservations: Send \$1.00 with name, age and expected arrival time to: Richard Sanford, Rt. 2, Iola, KS 66749.

Inflation running on,  
Clean air almost gone;  
Murder in the street,  
Not enough to eat . . .  
There is threat of war;  
Some rich, many poor.  
Boss and teachers shout,  
Leaders sell-us-out!  
Population boom—  
Will there be room?  
Kissinger flying 'round  
Peace cannot be found . . .  
Turmoil in the land,  
Seldom find a helping hand.  
Top men lie and cheat,  
Week-ends, I'm just beat!  
Folks are going to pot,  
Food sure costs a lot.  
Crime rate up some more—  
Better lock your door!  
Running to and fro,  
Polluting as we go . . .  
U.N. is dying quick;  
Me, I'm worried sick;  
And now there's one more fear—  
What's ahead of us THIS YEAR?

**DEPRESSING, isn't it?**

But with Christ, we KNOW the future has promise.

The National FYC is still looking for a couplet to express a spiritual answer to this poem and this answer will be used as our 1975 motto.

The deadline for submitting your couplet to answer this poem has been extended to March, 15. Send several couplets, and ask your friends to participate, too. AIM would like to run a special item featuring the 10 most inspirational mottos we receive.

We're waiting to hear from you!

**ADDRESS CHANGE?**

Has your address changed recently? Or will it change within the next eight weeks? If you have an address change, please fill in the lines on the right, then cut off the lower portion of this cover, making sure that you include the old address label on the back side, and mail it to: Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado 80201.

**New Address (Please Print)**

Name .....

Address .....

city state zip code

If any other Bible Advocate Press publications come to your home addressed to other persons, please list their names here:

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