

*I must reach people
with a message, an
exigent message.*

JANUARY 1971

Communicating God's Son in '71

I am compelled to communicate Christ.

I am thus obligated because I have looked at life and asked myself its purpose... and the reason for my own existence. I have found that to believe in evolution requires more faith than to believe in Creation; the universe points to a Supreme Creator! When the evidence is stacked I cannot reason away an omniscient, omnipotent God. I cannot squelch Him with history, science or philosophy. I cannot squirm into a corner, squeeze my eyes tight-shut and holler, "I can't see you, God!" because He is even there between my eyes and their lids. *There is no way I can deny God.*

In recognizing a Supreme Being I must acknowledge that He holds the purpose of all human existence in His hand. And who am I to quibble about being there? "God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. You must take it. The only choice is how."* Seeing that there is a Divine Blueprint, it seems absurd for me to insist upon a plan of my own concoction! Therefore, by faith in the wisdom of God, I accept His plan: the concept of Christianity.

But even if I possessed extraordinary wisdom and were free to choose my own path, I wonder if I could choose any other but His. A man of any depth soon grows weary of living for himself alone, of searching for insatiable self-satisfaction. Too many, finding nothing more to life and never attaining happiness, settle for suicide. A man must live for something greater than himself.

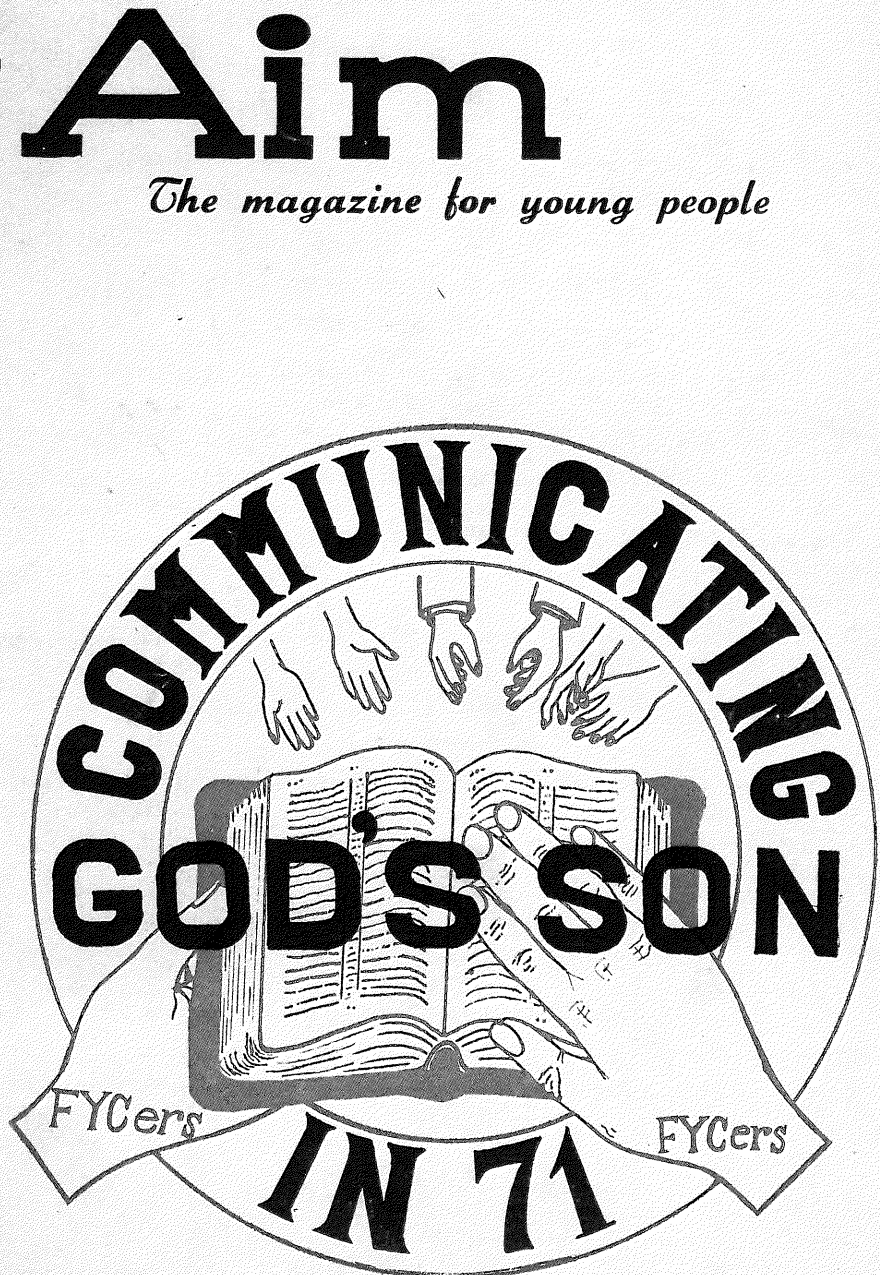
If not for self, then it must be that we find fulfillment and purpose in seeking to make this world—seeing that we are stuck with it—a better place for others. And if our business is serving others, what greater service can we do them than to introduce them to their Creator and help them harmonize their lives in Him? Apart from Him what hope have we of a better world? Only God can make calm out of chaos.

The wisest man who ever lived said, in Ecclesiastes 12:13, that the whole duty of man, the ultimate purpose in life, is to respect God, the Creator, and keep His commandments, which are summarized in *love: love for God and love for others.*

Christianity is love; it is a way of life. Christianity is communicating Christ: by actions, reactions and words.

To love is to serve. To serve is to share the Gospel. Communicate God's Son in '71!—*Carolyn Clements*

*Henry Ward Beecher



Aim The magazine for young people

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Hope E. Dais, Editor

Our cover this month features our motto for 1971. Our thanks to Paul Linville for putting his artistic abilities to work to design this motto emblem

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BRADEN ACRES
GRADE SCHOOL

Do You Know Him??

by Helen St. Clair

DO YOU KNOW JESUS? We hear this question asked over and over on the radio and by laymen of various churches. But it is a question we each need to ask our own hearts—and find the true answer. It's a question I had to ask my heart, and I have never regretted finding the answer.

If you came home from school and told your parents that you had met someone new today and decided he was your best friend, they would probably question your judgment and say, "But how could he be your best friend when you don't even know him?"

Perhaps your mind will wander to those who attend church for one hour on the weekend and don't even think about God for the rest of the week. But sometimes it is good to take a good long look inside our own hearts! How well do we know Him?!

Do you find yourself stumbling around with these answers: "Well, I, ah... I've been baptized, and I do believe in Him"? "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Too often we don't even tremble!!! (James 2: 19).

Have you thought many times, "I think I'm a Christian," but you find an uneasy feeling lingering with you? Maybe you have even considered being re-

baptized to make your salvation sure. Did you know you could say the words, "Father, forgive me of my sins, and let Jesus come into my heart," be baptized, and still have your same old nature? And you probably wonder what is wrong with you anyway that you don't have a strong, positive faith. And maybe you bury these doubts deep within you, feeling ashamed to confide in anyone.

Perhaps you have never done anything that you consider real bad, and it is hard for you to think of yourself as a sinner. It is sad, but too often we don't recognize our own selfish nature until we have been tested with hardship and trials. Because we are born with a carnal nature, it is hard to see ourselves as we really are. We need God's help—God's conviction—in our lives.

IF SOMEONE GENTLY TAPPED at your door and was gone before you could get there you would conclude that he didn't want to see you anyway. This is what is wrong with most prayers. You may kneel for a few minutes, mumble a sentence or two, and not even wait for an answer! Prayer isn't just words! It is having real communication with A REAL, LIVE GOD!

You know how dear your family and friends are to you? How they are ever on your mind and you often speak of them? When you are with your friends, do you find yourself bubbling over with love for Jesus, man's best Friend—or do

you find it hard to even talk about Him at all? I remember how I used to stumble over a verse in my heart: Mark 12:30, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." And I wondered how we could love God whom we have not seen more than our family and closest friends whom we know so well.

A few years ago I read Matthew 5 and marvelled at the type of life we were asked to live. Such a challenge! And I thought: HOW COULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO LIVE LIKE THAT?! But I put troublesome thoughts aside and went on trying to convince myself that everything was all right.

THE YEARS WENT BY, and I had to face many problems bigger than I... problems which revealed to me over and over that I needed a change in my life. I kept pledging to obey God, to overcome, and asking Him to help me. And in His mercy He did help me many times. But in reading His Word and praying, I became more and more aware of the fact that I had a contrary, carnal nature that had never been subdued. The Kingdom had seemed like a vague dream. Jesus had seemed a character enclosed in a book. This life with its daily tasks, family life, the TV set, seemed to make anything else rather remote.

I am thankful that God spoke

I could not let go of my church because I didn't want to be lost, but it didn't have the ideal meaning in my life that it should.

to my heart through conversations, sermons, daily Bible reading. And I awoke to the realization that I was in a rut. I could not let go of my church because I didn't want to be lost, but it didn't have the ideal meaning in my life that it should.

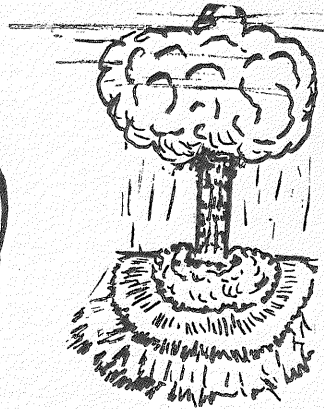
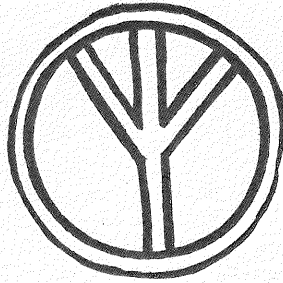
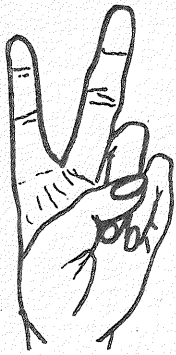
My mother-in-law told me one time of how the ladies in her church had discussed bringing Jesus into conversations with our children, asking them, "What would Jesus do?" And I had the thought, "I don't want to go around talking about Jesus" and the thought was such a shock to me and brought the response, "Why Not?!" Brother Nathan Straub in his sermons spoke of the wonderful reality of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and addressing the youth he said, "Jesus is really real," and though I was older, the message touched my heart, too. And when a visiting pastor at a revival based his sermon on Matthew 9:16, 17 of the futility of putting new cloth into an old garment or new wine into old bottles, I could see that this was what I had been trying to do for years!

ONE MORNING I STARTED PRAYING earnestly to God. I prayed that as surely as Jacob wrestled

for a blessing, that I was wrestling for one, too. I prayed of how I longed for Jesus to be a reality to me, that as Thomas who had to thrust his hand in His Saviour's side that I had to feel His presence. I prayed that God would let me lose my whole self in Him, letting go of all my ways and accepting His ways... of how powerless I was to change my own life and how I needed Him to change it. I felt Him so close to me that I felt hot from the warmth of His love. I experienced love and joy as I had never known before, and I cried and sang with thanksgiving.

And I questioned, "Is this real?!" It seemed too good to be true! But I began changing after that. It really was like starting all over in so many ways. Before I had been a chronic nag and complained so easily. Now I felt joyful, thankful, and so full of life—the abundant life that we find in Him. His deep, penetrating love began enriching my life.

You don't have to be a doubting Thomas either. You can become a believing Thomas. Seek Him earnestly and you, too, can know Him as your dearest friend! (Isaiah 55:6-9).



Peace, Peace . . . and there is no Peace . . .

by Cecyl Fischer

The whole world seems to be spouting peace these days—political leaders as an occupation and the “under thirty” group as a preoccupation. Every newspaper, every news broadcast, mentions overtures of peace—peace in the Middle East, peace in Vietnam, internal peace, world peace.

On a more individual level, young people are caught up in a cry of “Peace!” A dozen times a day we encounter the sign of the broken cross on bumpers, on windows, on jackets, or drawn in the dust; or we see the two-finger peace symbol used so freely as a casual salutation. And yet the world has never been farther from peace. No wonder we

are reminded of the words in Jeremiah 8:11, saying, “. . . Peace, peace; when there is no peace.”

In fairness we must recognize that there are those who are sincere and organized in their pursuit of peace (or what they see as peace), but for every one who is sincere, there must be a dozen to whom it is a craze and a byword. As Christian young people let's not be numbered among them. Psalm 28:3 mentions “workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts.”

What sort of peace is sought by those who throw rocks and who riot in the streets? What peace is sought in drugs that kill

and cripple? What curious brand of peace will come through poor hygiene and free sex? Such “peace” is merely peace from restraint and brings with whatever shallow comfort it may afford the destruction which is its own natural consequence. “Peace” from parental discipline results in a disrupted home life and a miserable and insecure child. “Peace” from moral restraints brings the miseries of guilt and venereal disease. “Peace” through the world of hallucinatory or tranquilizing drugs brings destruction of mind, soul and body. Peace, indeed! “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked” (Isa. 48:22).

As for world peace, the scriptures are plain that this will never happen until God's kingdom. Rather, turmoil will increase and “there shall be wars and rumors of wars.” “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them” (I Thess. 5:3). Clearly then, whatever peace we find will be on an individual, not an international, level.

The fact is, every person alive spends a great portion of his existence in pursuit of peace, and few find it. Few find it because few know where or how to look—or even what they are looking for. God has made us for His own pleasure and therefore He built into us a desire to worship and a conscience toward His laws. When we speak of being true to ourselves or at peace with ourselves, we really

mean at peace with the conscience God built into us. Because of the way God created us, there is only one way to peace—His way. We may say “this” or “that” is not important, but our belief or unbelief does not change God's plan; it only affects our relationship to it. “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself” (II Tim. 2:12, 13).

Perhaps it has been true of every age, but certainly today's people seek for peace in the strangest places. It has long been realized that our peace is disturbed when we violate a moral or civil law. Violation of a moral law brings the disdain of society; and violation of civil law brings legal punishment. The traditional and obvious solution is to simply comply with the existing legal and moral codes. The new and strange approach is to instead remove the law, thus removing the violation, thus giving peace of mind. The only problem is: It doesn't work! Man cannot remove a law that God has made any more than he can repeal the law of gravity.

Some feel knowledge will bring peace and yet a survey has shown a greater-than-average measure of marital unhappiness among our space flight personnel. Many have the technical knowledge to land on the moon, but they can't go home to their wives. How great is their peace?

Some think they will find peace in financial security and

possessions, but instead find that their wealth breeds a lust for more wealth—and peace is far from them. The man in Luke 12 built greater barns for his goods and sat back, saying, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease." Read the account and see how great peace his goods brought him, "Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them..." (Jer. 7:19).

Then there is the hippie philosophy which creeps throughout all "youthdom." Their lips speak of love, peace and brotherhood, but what are they doing toward these lofty goals? Their "love" means "love me," their "peace" means "Don't bug me," and their "brotherhood" means "tolerate me" and "extend to me the benefits of the establishment I despise." Many try to deny another of the needs God built into us—the need to work. The God who told us to rest on the Seventh Day said also, "Six days shalt thou labor." There is no way around it that affords peace.

We have examined some of the "no-nos." What then is the way to peace? It is stated so simply in Proverbs 3:2—"Keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee." God knows how we are made. Only He knows what things will bring us peace and He has written them in His commandments. There is no other way. He tells us this over and over again. "Great peace have they that

love thy law" (Psa. 119:165). "Righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psa. 85:10).

But how can man, born with a carnal nature, keep a perfect law? God has provided for this through the influence of the Holy Spirit. And even when this is bypassed and sin does occur, He has provided reconciliation through His Son. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the angels sang, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men," for through this child would man who had sinned become at peace with God once more.

Isaiah knew there was only one way of peace when he wrote these words of worship—"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3).

Young person, you are beginning a lifelong quest for peace within yourself. A psychiatrist who headed a mental institution was asked what was the most common factor among his inmates. The majority, he said, were there for one of two reasons: they were not appreciated, or they were trying to live by two sets of standards at once. It cannot be done. The decision for God or the world must be made and only the right decision will bring peace. We are at God's mercy, for He has made us; He has the victory; He cannot deny Himself.

The next time someone casually flashes you the "peace sign," remind yourself that there is only one way. "Acquaint thyself with him and be at peace" (Job 22:21).

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION:

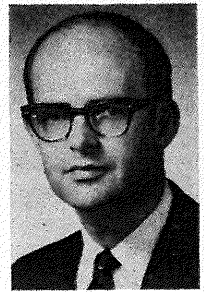
I am dating a girl who does not attend our church. We have the problem of not knowing what to do on a date or where to go. Our church is against so many things, and my girl friend doesn't particularly like to go to our church meetings.

ANSWER:

This question arouses my deep sympathies, because it *does* present a problem. Some might suggest that our young people should not date those outside the church circles, but I don't consider this to be a realistic attitude. Remember, I'm talking about dating, *not marriage*.

Many of our church groups are still quite small. In some cases there are not enough young people in the local church for dating purposes. In other groups, our young people grow up together (often closely related), and are so closely acquainted that there is little desirability to date each other. Because one finds himself belonging to a small church group, he

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



should not be denied the pleasure of dating.

The question suggests one serious difficulty. The girl friend does not appreciate church services, which I suppose would include youth meetings. What kind of girl is this? If she belonged to a religious persuasion which denied her the right to frequent meetings of other denominations, there would be less reason for concern.

If your girl friend just doesn't care about attending religious services, I would suggest that you thank her for her frank opinion and consider dating someone else. You feel you can get her interested in church? Perhaps so, but you had better find that out quickly. She is probably hoping that she can get you away from church.

You will need more activity for dates than going to church. Our church is against doing a lot of things, but for this you can be thankful! This factor has saved many young people from ruining their lives years before they have had a good chance to build them.

You have been taught right from wrong because people have been concerned about you. By this time you are old enough to recognize that this has been good for you, even though it restricts your dating plans. It is too late for you to throw this over. You cannot have a good time while your conscience is hurting you. If you want an enjoyable date, be sure to select activities that will not force you to hide—from yourself and God.

There are worth-while places to go that are of cultural value. When dating, keep your tastes high. It will give greater respectability to your relationship and will add to your own broadening. Good sense used here will cause you to become increasingly more thankful as the months and years pass.

There are undoubtedly school activities which are both allowable and enjoyable. Usually, when one takes his attention from the activities which his religion does not allow, he can find other events that are quite wholesome for young people.

Not too many youthful daters seem to realize that the places they attend largely gov-

ern their behavior after the date. This is why such activities as dancing and frequenting movies can be explosively dangerous to young people dating. Base appetites and desires are so intensely aroused that propriety is disregarded.

On the other hand, time spent in more cultural, wholesome recreation or religious activity will more likely lead to cleanliness, maturity and respectability.

It is important that you counsel with your pastor about this matter. Activities which are allowable vary from place to place, and it would be impossible for me to say what might be offensive in another locality. Your pastor understands your problem, and he will help you solve it.

If I may be of further help, drop me a line.

From April '64 AIM

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

POWER WITHIN

Life for God in public is a mere sounding brass and tinkling cymbal unless it is balanced by life with God in SECRET. It makes a great difference whether we are going out, in a kind of social knight errantry, to live for humanity on our own motion, or whether we have met with Jesus Christ in secret, and we go forth with His commission and promise at our backs, and with His love and inspiration in our souls.—*Grace and Truth*

Seven Thousand "Have - Nots"

By Dorothy Nimchuk

"Hi, Bart, come on along," called Rod. "All the gang's going over to Gene's after school. He's promised us a real cool surprise."

Bart looked genuinely sorry as he shook his head in the negative. "Sorry, Rod," he said. "I told Mom I'd pick up a few things from the store for her. She's feeling so miserable these days that she is unable to get out. I can't let her down."

In spite of Rod's continued urging, Bart held his ground and right after the last bell rang dismissing classes for the day, he headed in the direction of Shop-Well's Discount Store. Maybe if he hurried, there would still be time to take the groceries home and run over to Gene's for a few minutes.

But when Bart arrived home, his mother was worse and he stayed home and straightened the house. By the time he finished, it was nearly supper time. He peeled some potatoes and sliced cold beef from a leftover roast. His mother came out to the kitchen and set the table. She looked pale and drawn.

"You are so good to me, Son," she smiled. "What a comfort to know you are here."

Sadness filled Bart's eyes as he thought of his father. The home seemed rather empty since the funeral just a few short months before.

The ringing of the phone sharply brought Bart back to the present.

"I'll get it," he said, pushing his mother gently back into her chair. "It's likely Rod."

"... Boy, you sure missed a good time," Rod's voice was excited. "Can't tell you about it on the phone though. Meet me at the Drug Store at eight."

"I'll try." Bart was thoughtful as he replaced the receiver on the hook and made his way back to the kitchen. What could be so secretive?

Supper over and homework out of the way, Bart left the house and made his way to the corner store. Rod was there ahead of him, and there was a stranger with him. Bart had a sudden feeling that he should turn

and run. Silly, he thought, why should I be so jittery and I don't even know what's up?

"Sit down, Bart," urged Rod. "This here's Mr. Smith. He's new in town. He was over at Gene's tonight."

"How do you do," greeted Bart formally, not heeding the invitation to sit down.

"Hello there, young man," said Mr. Smith, smiling warmly. "Have a cigarette."

Bart took a step back, his hand up refusing the proffered cigarette. "No thanks, I don't smoke." He turned on Rod. "What gives here anyhow? And make it quick, 'cause I have to get back home."

"Oh, come on now, Bart," said Rod soothingly, "don't tell me you're still holding to the strange ideas your old man had. One cigarette won't hurt you." His voice lowered and he looked around before he continued, "These are very special cigarettes." In answer to the question in Bart's eyes, he explained, "Marijuana. All the guys tried it. Cool, man! Really puts you up on cloud nine. Gene can get all we want of it."

Bart felt sick to his stomach. "Count me out, Rod. See you 'round," he turned on his heel and marched out.

Mr. Smith watched him go through narrowed eyes. "Rod, he's all yours. See he gets hooked. Then we go to something stronger."

Rod stopped Bart between classes the next day. "How come you went off in a huff last night, pal? You don't know what you're missing."

"I think I can manage," drawled Bart. Then, seriously, "Rod, you'd better quit while you're ahead. You're on a one-way street and heading for trouble."

"Sissy!" Rod spat the word out,

then turned and walked away.

Over the week which followed, Rod tried every devious means he could think of to get Bart interested in smoking, but to no avail.

Bart meanwhile was concerned for his friend. He also had a feeling that the boys were using harder drugs. What should he do?

"Rod," he said one day, at lunch time, "when are you going to quit the drug scene? It will ruin you."

"Bart, my friend," Rod's eyes were a little hazy and he had eaten very little, "listen to your old buddy. I couldn't quit now if I wanted to. I've been shooting heroin and I'm hooked hard. Can you loan me a fiver? I need a shot."

"I'm broke right now," answered Bart, "and I wouldn't loan you money for drugs anyhow. You need to get help to quit."

"Oh, cut it out," replied Rod irritably. "What do you know about anything? Regular little Mama's boy since Daddy died. Do you know you're the only kid in the school who's not using pot?"

Bart packed up the rest of his lunch and walked out of the room. He felt sick... sick to his stomach and sick at heart.

That night he phoned Pastor Wilkins and asked if he could come over. His mother was out to the Ladies Aid meeting and he would not have to explain anything to her.

"...and that's how it is, Pastor. Rod says I'm the only one not using the stuff. I feel the other guys are all looking down on me. I feel so all alone. Still, I don't want to get into something like this. Dad used to say. ..." He stopped, looking up with appeal in his eyes at the minister.

Dad would have had the right answer for him now.

"It's hard to stand alone, Bart. Remember when Elijah had this same feeling that he was the only one left who had not bowed the knee to evil influences? God told him there were 7,000 others besides himself. Let's pray together that God will give you the strength to withstand temptation. You are never really alone, Bart, when you recognize that Christ is with you."

Bart felt much better when he rose from his knees. He bid the pastor goodnight at the door and went to bed. The same feeling went along with him to school the next day and the taunts of the other boys did not seem to bother him.

As Bart walked out of chemistry class he was halted by a timid tug at his sleeve. Looking up he saw Fred and Freda Stubbs. They lived near his home but were members of the freshmen class and he, as a senior, saw very little of them. One would never take them for twins for Fred peered solemnly out from behind horn-rimmed glasses while Freda's pretty face was always smiling. She smiled shyly up at Bart as Fred began to speak.

"Excuse me, Bart," said Fred meekly, "but Freda and I just wanted you to know we think you're swell for not getting involved with the drug traffic. There's a bunch of us 'freshies' they have been trying to get started smoking pot..."

"But we said we wouldn't..." interrupted Freda, "...not as long as you held out anyhow. They told us everyone was doing it, but we knew you weren't."

"Seven thousand who have not bowed..." murmured Bart to him-

self. Then he smiled—a wide, joyous smile that spread over his entire face and lighted his eyes. "Bless you both," he said, "for making my day complete." He shifted all his books to one arm and threw the free one around Fred's shoulder. "Come on along, you two," he said, "it's lunch time and the treat's on me. We'll duck out to that little cafe across the street and skip the lunchroom bit."

A shadow crossed their path as the principal's door opened and Rod stepped out. He looked haggard and nervous, mute evidence to the fact that he was having a hard time keeping up with his expensive habit. The principal's voice followed him, "... and don't come back to school until you change. I'm sorry Rod, you've been a good student till now..."

Rod shut the door on the principal, on education, on his own chances to make something of himself. Expelled! He glanced up and saw Bart, then quickly turned and walked down the hall and out the front door.

Bart stopped, looking after his old friend. A sob welled up inside him. *I've lost you for now, Rod,* raced his thoughts. *But I'll not give up. I'm going to pray for you every day—twice a day—three times; whatever it takes. Somehow I'll see you get the help you need and encourage you every step of the way back... just as soon as I can convince you of your need.*

Bart shook himself as though to bring back reality. He smiled at Fred and Freda, and said gaily, "Come on, kids, we might be just a bunch of 'have-nots'; but I think we'll get along."

The front door opened willingly to their touch and the three friends marched out into the sunshine.

Dear Teenager

Dear Teenager,

One of your demands today is that everyone will "tell it like it is." That is not a new demand for teenagers. Every generation has wanted this same thing. Only because of the proficiency of the news media of today are we bombarded with this demand by the younger generation.

When asked what you are searching for, your answer is "truth and security." Those are good and essential goals in life. But the majority of youth are going about the search in the wrong way.

Rebellion is not a new thing. Eve rebelled—the children of Israel rebelled over and over—the present generation of teenagers are rebelling against anything they think their parents want them to do. Why?

Sympathy should be extended to children growing up in homes where only material possessions are important. You claim you are tired of the old values parents offer. You claim you want a better world. Then WHY are you rejecting spiritual truths? It is good to rebel against things that are not true, but rebellion for rebellion's sake is not good.

Man can change the physical aspects of his environment. He can use the forces of nature to his advantage or disadvantage. Man can make and keep laws contrary to the laws of God. God gave man the privilege of being a free moral agent. God does not force man to obey him. But what price does he pay for his disobedience? God gave man life, with a complete formula for his happiness in this life, and the promise of eternal life if obedient to His will. The majority refuse to live by these rules, and consequently they find unhappiness, instead of the peace and serenity of a good life.

You want to hear it like it is? The truth is: unless you live by the rules God gives, you have no future.

Perhaps you will live to be 70-plus in this life if the Lord does not pronounce "it is finished" before that time; but unless you live by the rules of the Creator, you will have *only* THOSE YEARS. And in comparison to eternal life, those years are nothing—not even a breath.

It matters not in the least how many MORTALS try to change God's laws, or twist them to appear to mean other than they REALLY mean. God does not change His "Thou shalt" and "Shalt not." They are just as binding today as they were when He established them. It is only because the ministers of Satan brainwash people into believing they can flout God's laws and not pay for it, that they keep on disobeying Him. But in the words of our youth, "They will not get away with it." You can listen to, and believe, the teachings of liberals and theologians with their smooth, glib explanations of why we should not follow the old-fashioned way of obedience, but God "tells it like it is." He is the One Who made the rules; He says we MUST OBEY THEM—He has the power of life and of death.

Are you rebelling because your prayers have not been answered as you think they should be? God knows if the things we want are the best for us. Sometimes He wants us to learn we can do a little better than we are now doing. Are you failing in your effort to make friends? Just remember it is YOUR ACTIONS that draw others to you... or repel them... and they are not responsible for your actions. Take a good look at yourself. Do you have some of the traits you despise in others? Are you always thinking of yourself instead of them? You can improve, with God's help, you know.

Are you failing in school and blaming God because He doesn't help you? Just STOP AND BE HONEST! Are you REALLY giving all your spare time to study? God will not help you until YOU DO ALL YOU CAN to help yourself. Remember when Peter was in prison and the angel opened the doors and gates for him? He told Peter to "... Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals..." (Acts 12:8). Peter had to do WHAT HE COULD.

If you are a teenager, you are responsible for your own thoughts and actions. Perhaps your parents failed to give you discipline and guidance when you needed it—or gave you too much discipline. You are OLD ENOUGH NOW to use the intelligence with which you are endowed to think things through for yourself. You are old enough to choose the GOOD THINGS in life—the

things God wants you to **CHOOSE**. He will not force you to choose Him. He loves you, and wants you to choose Him because you **LOVE HIM**. He could **COMPEL** you to love and obey Him—you belong to Him—but He wants only the obedience of a *willing* heart and mind, **BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM**.

This is "telling it like it is": You **CHOOSE**; the good or the bad. There is no in-between. YOU will have to live with your choice. Remember! If you choose the wrong way, you will have to live with it, and pay the cost. Your parents and friends cannot pay for you. Your parents cannot shield you from the consequences of your choice. And you will have no one to blame. If you are a teenager, you are old enough to assume responsibility for your own actions and choices.

Your parents, siblings and friends did not make the laws of God. When you rebel against parental control, you are not rebelling against parents alone. God has given parents special duties of love and discipline for their children. If they are slack in discipline they are disobeying God. You rebel against God's wishes when you rebel against your parents' efforts to teach you God's moral laws. Parents are not the rebels—You are. God **LETS** you rebel, but you, and you alone, will pay for that rebellion.

You want it "like it is"? The love of God has endured through the centuries—it will stand forever. It is your one hope—don't turn your back on it. You may not realize it, but it is what **YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR** so desperately. Why not become really acquainted with Him? It is easy, if you really wish it. You have everything to win, and nothing to lose, **EXCEPT LONELINESS**. Be sure what you are searching for is the **BEST**—not just something different.

In Christian love,
Ruth Scherle

QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

A little truth is as genuine as much truth; a little goodness is as real as goodness accumulated in sainthood; a little right action is of the same quality as that which energizes a great campaign or crusade.

Thus it is with faith, hope, and love. One may have the tiniest essence of these qualities, but, if put into action, they expand in influence and importance. We are prone to give too much attention to the quantity of what we have rather than the quality.

Things I Wish I Had Known

Having passed the first twoscore and ten years of my life, and realizing that the more sand that has escaped from the hourglass of life the clearer we should see through it, I find myself more prone to meditate and philosophize.

My life has been rich. But there have been regrets, regrets which you, too, will experience in time. These regrets can largely be grouped as "Things I wish I had known before I was twenty-one:"

I wish I had known what I was going to do for a living, and what my life work would likely be.

I wish I had known that my health after thirty was largely dependent on what I had put into my stomach before I was 21.

I wish I had known how to take care of my money.

I wish I had known that a man's habits are mighty hard to change after 21.

I wish I had known that the harvest depends so much upon the seeds sown.

In spite of the philosophy of today, I wish I had known you cannot get something for nothing.

I wish I had known the world would give me just what I deserved.

I wish I had known the folly of *not* taking the advice of older and wiser people.

I wish I had known that Dad *wasn't* such an old fogey after all.

I wish I had known that everything Mother wanted me to do *was* right.

I wish I had known what it meant to Mother and Father to raise a son.

I wish I had known more of the helpful and inspiring parts of the Bible.

I wish I had known the tremendous value of the opportunity and the joy of serving a fellowman.

I wish I had known that there is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and helping people up.

I wish I had known that the "sweat of my brow" would earn my bread.

I wish I had known that a thorough Christian education brings the best of everything else.

I wish I had known that honesty is the only policy, not only in dealing with my neighbors, but also in dealing with myself and with God.

I wish I had known the value of truthfulness in everything.

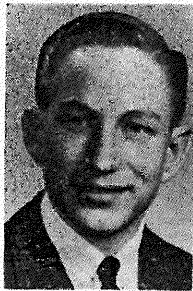
And today I wish I knew the formula for impressing you and other young people that life is a mirror which will reflect back to you just what you think into it.

—Selected

Leadership Committee for YOUTH!

The Leadership Committee consists of twenty-one dedicated young people who have great desire to serve God by serving the young people of His Church. Under the direction of the National FYC Committee and departmental Chairman, each committeeman is assigned several local FYC groups which he is to assist and encourage in active service for our Lord. He is to keep the FYC groups informed and interested in National FYC programs and projects. He is your personal contact with the National FYC programs and projects.

This committee has been instrumental in the successful work of the Young People's Department at both local and national levels. Please work with YOUR Committeeman for the growth and development of God's Church among young people.



**JERRY
MOLDENHAUER**

Brooklyn, N. Y.
Manhattan, N. Y.
Washington, D. C.
Bronx, N. Y.



CAROLYN CLEMENTS

Stanberry, Mo.
Kansas City, Mo.
St. Joseph, Mo.
Fort Smith, Ark.



DOROTHY NIMCHUK

Calgary, Alberta
Acme, Alberta
Mission City, B. C.
Nipawin, Sask.



JEWELL LINVILLE

Bono, Ark.
Central City, Neb.



JIM FISCHER

Alfred, N. D.
Eureka, S. D.
Aberdeen, S. D.



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Tulsa, Okla.



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Saginaw, Mich.
Detroit, Mich.
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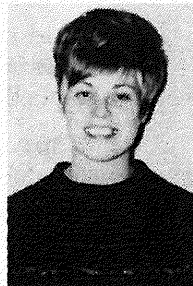
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MARTHA LING

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Moundsville, W. Va.



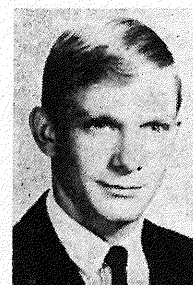
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San Fernando, Calif.
Ontario, Calif.
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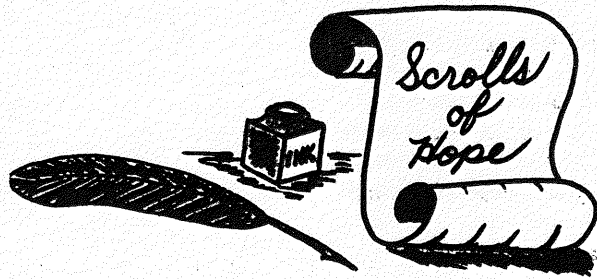
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San Antonio, Tex. -E.
Austin, Tex.
Artesia Wells, Tex.
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GLADYS McCOY

Conroe, Tex.
Houston, Tex. (Eng.)
Houston, Tex. (Sp.)
Corpus Christi, Tex.



What is the next big event in your life—in the year of '71? It sometimes seems that life is a series of scurrying around and preparing for the next thing that's going to happen. When some outstanding event is imminent—a wedding, a banquet, a youth camp, or camp meeting, we are particularly engrossed in preparations. Often at such times, we push aside all else that can be ignored, and concentrate—and hurry—and prepare—for the big event.

The other day I was impressed as never before when I read the familiar verse found in 2 Peter 3:12—"looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. . . ."

Is that really what we're doing?? "... Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God?" This describes so well the type of life we live—that is, the "looking for and hasting unto"—but I wonder if we're looking for and hasting unto the most important matters.

There is no room for a passive role, any more than we assume a passive role in these earthly events for which we prepare, and plan, and look forward to—that graduation day, that wedding day, that first day to begin a new business. Yet, how much of OUR *looking for and hasting unto* is directly concerned with preparing for the day of God? Too often we find, in a frank analysis of our activities, that we have so much earthly *looking for and hasting unto* that our Master's portion goes begging. Provision for it comes last.

A fresh look at our priorities—periodically—is needed, in order to keep our perspective where it needs to be. The cares of this life—and our daily duties—are always about us *demanding* our attention. God does not *demand*. He stands in the shadows and waits for us to turn to Him with our due portion of praise, of witness, of planning for such an effective life for Him that we can look forward to a place in His kingdom.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat . . . Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. . . ."

Youth Doctrine Corner

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).



STATE OF THE DEAD

Official Church of God Doctrine—Article No. 31

. . . **"There is no consciousness in death. Both the body and the soul sleep in the grave until they are resurrected."**

Death Is As Sleep

- . . . **Lazarus was asleep** (John 11:11-14).
- . . . **Saints sleep, awaiting the resurrection** (I Thess. 4:13-17).
- . . . **The dead sleep and are to be raised from the grave** (I Cor. 15:51, 52).
- . . . **The dead will awake at resurrection; some to life—some to destruction** (Dan. 12:2).

Dead Know Not Anything (The soul is not in heaven praising God nor in hell suffering torment)

- . . . **Emotions (Inner-man or soul) perish (sleep)** (Eccl. 9:5, 6).
- . . . **Thoughts perish** (Psalm 146:4).
- . . . **Praise not the Lord** (Psalm 115:17; 6:5).
- . . . **David is not in heaven** (Acts 2:27-31; John 3:13).
- . . . **Righteous are not rewarded at death** (Heb. 11:39, 40; Job 14:12-14; I Cor. 15:22, 23; I Thess. 4:16, 17).

Spirit is breath in Ecclesiastes 12:7

- . . . **Strong's Concordance**
- . . . **Gen. 3:19 and Eccl. 12:7.**

From MBC BIBLE DOCTRINES CLASS

Book Review Corner

THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE

by David Wilkerson. A Spire book, paper, 160 pages . . . 75¢
Movie Edition, containing 16 pages of pictures from movie by
same title, 95¢

Dave was only a young, green, country preacher when God called him to a seemingly impossible mission. In his book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, David Wilkerson relates the exciting story of how God is using him to bring the way of freedom—God's Holy Gospel—to the gang kids of New York's slums who are shackled by sin in its most hideous forms. From the beginning Dave was laughed at, sneered at, or simply ignored. But then one day a tough, sin-hardened gang leader knelt in front of his gang members and accepted Christ as his Redeemer. That was the needed break-through.

It was only a small beginning, though. "Preacher Davey" (as he was known among the gang kids) soon learned that after Salvation the boys and girls needed intensive follow-up work to keep them from falling back into the old life of drugs, fighting, prostitution, etc. Teen Challenge Center was opened in the heart of the slums, available for anyone honestly seeking help.

An awareness of the problems presented in this book is vital to each and every one of us today. There probably isn't one of us who won't be exposed, at least in some small way, to someone who is taking drugs or living immorally. We need to know the problems involved and have some knowledge of how to cope with such a situation. Anyone who is concerned should read *The Cross and the Switchblade* to see how God is working on these problems. Anyone who is not concerned definitely should read the book in order to become concerned. We can't afford to play ostrich. I feel safe in saying that no one can read this moving book without being affected to some extent.

If any of you readers wish to suggest a good book to be reviewed, Marilyn will welcome suggestions. Send her the title and author's name. —Or, better yet, write up the review yourself and send it, with your name attached, to: Mrs. Marilyn Current, Rt. 3, Box 563, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112.

Teen Guidelines

Just an Afternoon Drive??

By Dale Lawson

As Allen's Malibu swept around the curves of the beautiful mountain road, the noise of laughter from the lips of the five young people inside, along with the blaring of the radio, escaped through the open windows and blended with the sounds of the roaring stream that had just joined the road and was racing along beside them. It was a lovely Sabbath afternoon!

Pain from Al's "spinning conscience" finally drove him to action and he reached over and turned the radio off. "Ah! *The fellows were so engrossed in their own fun-making that they didn't even notice.*"

The car rounded a bend and approached a straight stretch of road that rimmed a pleasant little meadow on the upper side of the road while the roaring stream bent away from the road

and cascaded down the mountain to the bottom of the canyon.

A chorus of voices clamored for a game of "500" and the meadow did seem quite inviting. So who was Al to stem the tide? A ball, bat and gloves were taken from their place under the front seat (where they were always kept except when in use). The fellows headed for the flattest area of the meadow.

"I want to listen to the baseball game," one fellow remarked. "Hand me the transistor and I'll find it."

"No! I'm going to listen to the top ten tunes of 1970," was the ready reply.

"Okay, I'm going back to the car and listen to the ballgame there. Al, may I have the car keys?"

Al dropped his head as his already-present feelings of mis-

ery, though hidden up to this point, seemed to burst to the surface. Slowly he reached into his pocket and withdrew the keys, giving them up with obvious reluctance. "Fellows, I think I want to walk over to the stream on the other side of the road and watch its descent down the mountain."

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day . . . and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure. . . ." These words filled Al's mind as he turned toward the place where the stream disappeared over a rocky ledge. Al seated himself on a large rock overlooking the cascading brook. Somehow the beauty of it all, the stream, the trees, the mountains and the clear sky seemed to draw him into the presence of God. "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness" (Psalm 143:10).

Al and his friends had decided to go for a drive on this Sabbath afternoon. Nothing wrong with that! But somehow things just hadn't gone as planned and Al realized their activities had become obvious violation of principles found in God's Word.

Have you been confronted with a problem like Al's? Just what does God expect of young people on His Holy Sabbath? What does the Bible say concerning the keeping of the Sabbath? These questions ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

Proper Sabbath keeping can only be determined by using the Bible as our guide. Personal opinion is not really important but Biblical principle is ALL IMPORTANT. One important rule to remember concerning Bible guidance is that when God gives a principle for our observance, we have no right to discredit or reverse that principle. Of course we understand that any Law-of-Moses attachments to the fourth commandment were nullified in Christ and any Jewish tradition is not binding anyway; but principles of Sabbath-keeping given by God are ours to obey.

Purposes of the Sabbath

In His Word, God gives some purposes for His sanctifying or setting apart of the Sabbath day. Those purposes for the establishment of the Sabbath are just as beneficial for Christian young people as they are for Christian adults.

A primary purpose is to give man a day of rest. God understood the needs of man whom He created, and God rested on the first Sabbath as an example for man and then God commanded that man should rest on that day (Gen. 2:2, 3; Exod. 20:8-11; Heb. 4:4, 5 and 9, 10).

Another purpose for the giving of the Sabbath is "worship of God." Isaiah 58:13 says that on the Sabbath we should "honor him." This command does not restrict itself to a congregational gathering and worship, but in fact it seems to indicate

a personal honor, devotion, or worship of God.

A third purpose of having the Sabbath is for the church's meeting together in worship of God. Leviticus 23:3 says the Sabbath is "an holy convocation"; a convocation is an assembly or a group of people meeting together.

Finally, the Sabbath is given as a memorial to creation. God made a beautiful creation in six days and then rested on the seventh day, establishing that day as a remembrance to creation. In fact, the fourth commandment carries a command of God that we are to abstain from work on the basis that the commandment is a memorial to creation.

Biblical Principles of Sabbathkeeping

With these purposes for the establishment of the Sabbath well in mind, we have a good basis for consideration of several God-given principles that must guide us as we seek to know how to conduct ourselves on His holy day.

"Bake That Ye Will Bake" (Exodus 16:23-30)

The first principle of the Bible giving instructions on what God expects in Sabbath keeping is found in Exodus 16:23. He says "Tomorrow is the rest of the sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake today and seethe that ye will seethe. . . ." "Yes, but today it is so much easier to cook with our modern kitchen facilities," one

might say. Does that change God's principle? His Word instructs us to prepare foodstuffs before the Sabbath arrives and never has He changed that law. To truly keep the Sabbath as God desires, one must let this verse be one of his guiding principles.

"Buying and Selling" (Neh. 13:15-21)

In Nehemiah's time Israel became lax in its Sabbathkeeping by harvesting, and by buying and selling. When the merchants came and did business with the Israelites, Nehemiah made it clear that God was not pleased with such goings on. Nehemiah 13:18 says, "Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath." Nehemiah stood up for God's law and stopped the abuses of the Sabbath.

If we are not careful we will find ourselves going against this principle of God and we will be breaking His commandment. IT IS WRONG TO BUY OR SELL ON THE SABBATH. Some buy little things such as bread, pop, candies, etc., if the "need" arises, or they may go to a restaurant and buy a meal, or fill the car with gas; but God has spoken against these things and in no case should one excuse himself from God's principle. To do so is a violation of His law. He has not changed or revoked this principle of Sabbathkeeping. Can you afford to?

His principle is that one may do good deeds on the Sabbath. But we must not employ laxity by calling everything a "thirsty cow" or an "ox in the ditch."

"Work (Bearing Burdens)"
(Jeremiah 17:21-27)

God makes an obvious proclamation against working on the Sabbath in the commandment itself (Exodus 20:8-11). In many places throughout the Scriptures He gives emphasis to the non-work principle of Sabbathkeeping. Jeremiah 17 is especially positive about this matter but the most striking verse showing the importance of the principle is found in Exod. 34:21, where God says, "Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest." God has commanded us not to work on His Sabbath, even in planting time and harvest time, and we cannot alter that law for our own convenience. "O ye of little faith;" God will take care of the crops over the Sabbath.

"Corn Pickers" (Matt. 12:1-8)

Jesus and His disciples walked through a field and they picked some wheat and ate it, causing the Pharisees to quickly condemn. However, the disciples had not broken a command of God. They were not gathering (harvesting) the wheat. They were only eating at a time when they were hungry. They were

simply having a meager, uncooked meal. Never read more into this text than what is there. It does not allow for work or harvest on God's Sabbath.

"A Thirsty Cow, A Sheep In the Ditch, And a Withered Hand" (Luke 13:1-16; Matt. 12:10-13)

Jesus taught that "it is lawful to do well on the sabbath." However, He did not in any case give permission to carry on one's regular employment in complete violation of His holy law. He pointed out that thirsty cattle are loosed for watering (Luke 13:11-16), a sheep in a ditch is lifted out (Matt. 12:10-13), and since "man is better than a sheep" (Matt. 12:12) it is lawful to heal those who are ill. His principle is that one may do good deeds on the Sabbath. But, we must not employ laxity by calling everything a "thirsty cow" or an "ox in the ditch." If we "buy or sell," or work, and say the ox was in the ditch when in reality we have just satisfied our own desires, then we have broken God's law.

"In A Crisis" (Matt. 24:20)

God is so earnest about the keeping of His Sabbath that through His Son, He asked the

people of Jerusalem to be careful not to flee on the Sabbath from the Roman soldiers who were coming against Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (after Moses' Law was abolished). If any laxity would be permissible it would seem that a time of crisis such as one's fleeing for his very life would be the time, but Jesus said no. Isn't it sad that we make allowances because we want to see a football game on TV, are afraid the crops will get away from us, or maybe just have a craving for a 7-up?

"And That Baseball Game"
(Isa. 58:13)

Why did God inspire the prophet to pen the words of Isaiah 58:13? You know! It is because that is one of His guiding principles for our Sabbathkeeping. "But He didn't mean a measly little ballgame or a Friday night party or activity?" Yes, but He did! His Word is clear; do you want to change it to "suit your fancy"?

Your own sincere conscience and the Bible will have to be your guide in this principle. Your own pleasure-seeking is not pleasing to God for the Sabbath is for His honor and glory. The Bible says so and violation of this principle is "breaking God's law." How about the Sabbath afternoon drive up to the meadow? That could have been a tremendous time of meditation, prayer and joy in memorial to God's creation, but Satan used it to cause sin in the lives of young people.

Principles Not Grievous

The principles discussed above are not grievous, but to the contrary, they make the Sabbath a blessing. They are what make it different from six busy, ordinary, work- and perhaps worry-filled days. Let the Sabbath be the kind of blessing God wants it to be for you.

Al felt like a great weight had lifted from his shoulders. He slipped off his perch and walked back to the car. The fellows were soon on their way back around the curves, past the streams and heading toward home. "Fellows, I'm afraid we weren't very pleasing to God this afternoon. I don't want to sound preachy but I can't get Isaiah 58:13 off my mind. 'If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day... and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure....' I just didn't feel right!"

"Well, I guess I wouldn't have said anything but I feel pretty awful too."

"And me too!"

"Don't leave me out!" Silence settled over the fellows until one of them starting singing, "Only to be what He wants me to be, every moment of every day..." The rich harmony drifted through the open windows and winged its way through the tall trees—united prayer of submission and dedication to God and His principles.

EVANGELISTS
SEVEN
STEPPING
STONES
TO
GREATER
SERVICE

Each morning we stagger to the mirror and try to improve on what fate has dealt us—our face. We cleanse it, powder it, shave it, scrutinize each new eruption, whiten its ivory, sweeten its fowl breath and rearrange its mane. And then as our eyes continue to gaze into the mirror we still find we really haven't made much improvement. There it is—the same unlucky combination; protruding chin, that one long black eyebrow, that orangish, bumped, blemished complexion—and, of course, that unforgettable square, rubbery nose.

"Horror of horrors!

"What a sight," we wail.

Vainly we wish for a transformation, a handsome Jack, a cute Judy—and vainly we spend minutes and money trying to capture that coveted "beauty."

Personal Achievement
(Standard II)

"Mirror,
Mirror . . ."

by Sheryl Youngs

True, rare beauty can be yours! You can become a bubbling beauty, radiating qualities of that perfect personality, Christ. Ugly features dominating your life, carnal characteristics, imperfections such as hatred, foolishness, lying, a quarrelsome spirit, or an unruly tongue can be torn from your life. Love, soberness, honesty, wisdom and the fruits of righteousness can replace works of the flesh, beautifying your life! What it takes is daily looking into the mirror of man's inner life—God's Word (James 1:23-26)—seeing your homeliness, praying for a transformation, and then striving, seeking, for that ultimate goal of beauty and perfection.

My life was changed in this way—not overnight—but as I arose daily and opened my Bi-

(Continued on page 34)

2T₄G - Take Time for God



By Martha Ling

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

In these short letters from Paul, we find a lot of advice crammed into short verses. One chapter alone can give you very much to think about and ponder. One verse in particular struck me not too long ago. It was Ephesians 5:12. "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

The word, "them," here refers back to verse 11—the unfruitful works of darkness. In other words, it is speaking of the evil done secretly by sinners.

I have heard Christians express the opinion that they see nothing wrong in reading a book or watching a TV program that is either evil or based on evil things. "After all," they say, "we are Christians, and as long as we know that what we are seeing is wrong, it isn't going to hurt us." But, according to this verse, it's wrong to even speak of these things, so surely it must be wrong to read about, think about, or watch evil.

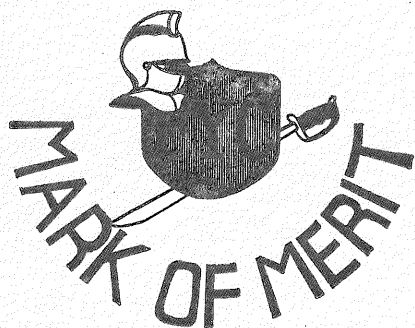
Further, it is wrong to enjoy books, movies (or whatever), and to make jokes about them; for Romans 1:32 condemns not only the doers, but also those who "... have pleasure in them that do them." My marginal reference uses "consents with" as alternative for "have pleasure in." So this is quite a serious matter—to enjoy (or consent to) something that is totally wrong.

From now on, let's watch our conduct as Christians, and keep our minds and actions out of the reach of temptations as much as possible.

(Please turn to next page)

We have two new 2T4Gers this time. Jayne Kuryluk and Brenda Hamilton have completed a little over 9 months. Martha Espinosa has started her second year by completing one quarter in it, and Jan Henderson has finished five months of her second year. Marilyn Current has only three months left before she will finish three years of continuous "2T4Ging."

We are thankful for all of these reports, and would like to commend all 2T4Gers on their work for God.



by Nathan Lawson

1971! No, it couldn't be yet!

I suppose that this cry is ringing out from the lips of people around the world. Yes, it seems impossible that another year has slipped by.

What have you accomplished in the past 365 days?

We each need to consider this question. How well have I lived up to being a FAITHFUL YOUTH CHALLENGER? How active have I been as an FYC'er? Has our Youth Group accomplished anything for Christ and His Church?

What about the MARK OF MERIT PROGRAM? Did we start last year? Did we start and then roll over dead and give up? Did we join the many other groups who finished with an active year for Christ?

GET ON THE TRAIN this year. Become active! Do something for God. Mark of Merit offers your FYC an outline of activities that can enthuse your FYCers and give you a SPIRITUALLY-ENLIGHTENING program in 1971. Be sure you get involved. This is your Church. This is your Mark of Merit Program.

BONUS POINT PROGRAM REVISED . . .

The November AIM carried a complete copy of the new, revised BONUS POINT PROGRAM. A sample REPORT BLANK for 1971 has been sent to all FYC Groups for which we have addresses. We

hope you will take time to familiarize yourself with the changes in the Bonus Points and the way they will be counted in 1971.

Points will be awarded for the percentage of FYCers that your group has participating in the following programs—S. S. LESSON STUDY, 2T4G, MINUTEMAN, and AIM READERSHIP.

This will allow large and small groups to compete quite equally for the LIGHTHOUSE—"FYC OF THE YEAR" award. We hope that this will encourage us to REACH OUT to do more and more for our God.

Percentage is easy to figure. Just divide the number of FYC members who are participating in the program by the total number of FYCers you have registered. You will come out with a percentage. Then list the proper amount of points on your report blank.

LET'S GET BUSY . . .

Let's get busy for our God as we begin this new year. Time is wasting away. There is much to do and so little time left.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH . . . February, 1971

Gym Social. Before spring comes, be sure to have a Gym Activity Social for your youth and church. Volley ball and Basketball are usually enjoyed by all. Be sure and have a devotional service along with other activities you plan.

An Hour a Day

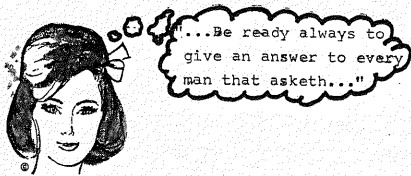
A wise man named Franklin Field once wrote, "The great dividing line between success and failure can be expressed in five words: 'I did not have time.'"

In this frenetic age it often seems that there are not enough hours in the day to accomplish the things to which we aspire. So we abandon ideas. Yet the world is full of people who, through sheer determination, have found ways of setting aside at least an hour a day for creative self-development. Often, the busier the individual, the more likely he is to be one of those who create a daily hour of privacy for themselves.

If you devote but one hour a day to an engrossing project, you will give it 365 hours a year, or the equivalent of more than 45 full working days of eight hours each. This is like adding one and a half months of productive living to every year of life! Yet when we talk about an hour a day of privacy for self-development, the reply is apt to be: "I'm too busy. I work all day. When I come home I'm exhausted. I want some time with the children."

Admittedly it is not easy. It requires resolution. The trick is to create the hour, then use it wisely.

SUNSHINE



by Michael D. Vlad

MINUTEMAN

Leviticus 27:30

"...For many be called, but few chosen."

Malachi 3:8, 9

When Jesus spoke these words He tried to emphasize the point that there are many called to have part in the work of God, but only few are chosen to actually do the work. If only few are called, what is the responsibility of the many?

1 Corinthians 13:14

Malachi 3:10

Matthew 23:23

2 Corinthians 9:7

God set forth a pattern that He intended for us to follow in order for the work of the church to grow. Not everyone is called to be a minister or to be a missionary, but we are all called to serve God as best we can.

Luke 21:3, 4

Galatians 6:9

We can all take part in this service by supporting the work with our tithes and offerings.

Have you ever heard the complaint, "Why is the Church so small?" I have heard it many times and have pondered the question myself. It is not because of the doctrine of our Church, the organization is fine—, maybe it is because we cannot afford to carry on the work of the Church as we should!

God wants us to set apart the tenth part of our increase and give it to Him. If we think that we don't have to give our tithe to Him, we are WRONG! Malachi 3:8-9 says that when we don't give offerings when we can afford it, we rob God. We are literally STEALING! The 10 Commandment law specifically states that we are not to steal—but if we don't pay tithes and give offerings to God, we are thieves.

When we realize the importance of giving of our tithes and offerings to God, it becomes a pleasure to give and see the work of the church grow. Do you want the Church to grow and grow that the spreading of the gospel may prosper? Then...

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse..." (Malachi 3:10).

Local FYC File For National Materials

All FYC groups should (if they have not already done so) organize a file for National FYC materials and correspondence. The booklets and materials could be valuable to your local FYC in years to come. Please consider this matter to be important. The benefits will be yours.

New Mark of Merit Booklet

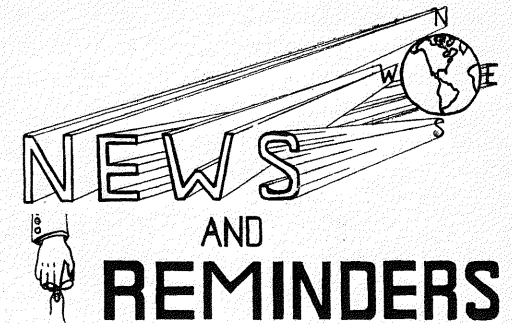
A new Mark of Merit booklet will soon be off the press and in the hands of the FYC leaders. You do not have to wait for the new booklet before you join the Mark of Merit Program because the booklet is basically the same except for the "bonus" aspect of the program. The Bonus Point System revisions are made clear in the November 1970 issue of AIM Magazine.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ALL ORGANIZED FYC GROUPS TO BE IN THE MARK OF MERIT PROGRAM IN 1971. We need every FYC group in the Merit Program for blessings to the local FYC, the local church, and the National FYC.

Motto Selected for 1971

"COMMUNICATING GOD'S SON IN '71" is the National FYC motto for this year. Its message is one of great importance reminding us again of our need to communicate with others concerning Jesus Christ and His Truth.

Let us make this a year that we really tell others of God's plan of



salvation. Once you begin to communicate you will really enjoy it. Remember that it is God's Spirit—that "communicating power."

New "Evangelette" Program and Booklet

A new and appealing booklet has been printed and mailed to all FYC leaders for a new and exciting Evangelette Program. Presently we have near 100 new enrollees in the program and we are looking for many more. The FYC leaders all have Evangelette enrollment forms and we urge you to see your FYC leader to sign up for Evangelette.

This program is one that can be a tremendous boost to your spiritual life. It involves "SEVEN STEPPING STONES TO GREATER SERVICE" and we urge you to join the many others who want to take those steps.

You may join the program at the beginning of any month through the year. Start as soon as you possibly can after you get your new booklet.

Peppermint Oil

The Young People's Department is now sponsoring the sale of peppermint oil by local FYC groups. Any

FYC group may order the oil from the National FYC Office in Stanberry, Missouri. The oil sells for \$1.00 per bottle; it lasts a mighty long time. The National FYC will share the profits with any group on a fifty-fifty basis.

- I. Flavoring Tips
 - a. Iced tea
 - b. Cakes, Icings, Candies, Toppings
 - c. Dip a toothpick in the oil and then in your batter.
- II. Medicinal uses
 - a. Vaporizer
 - b. Inhalant
 - c. Mint tea
 - d. Relief of colic
- III. Novelty
 - a. The American family annually consumes more peppermint oil than one bottle contains.
 - b. Most of the oil is consumed in the form of flavoring in gum, candy, toothpaste, mouthwash, medicine, etc.
- IV. Pure PEPPERMINT OIL WILL NOT EVAPORATE AS OTHER EXTRACTS DO.

The Stanberry FYC recently started selling peppermint oil for a fund-raising project and has found that it sells quite well.

Order your peppermint oil today, from the National FYC, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

AIM Subscriptions

The National FYC reminds you FYCers to renew your AIM subscriptions. Please don't delay or neglect this. Remember that this little magazine keeps you "in the know" in Na-

tional FYC activities. All FYC leaders, please make sure your FYCers keep receiving AIM.

Laverne, California

The place you will want to be August 6-14 is Laverne, California. Some outstanding activities and surprises await those who make it there.

National Youth Week

The 1971 National Youth Week is being planned for late April. The theme will be the same as the 1971 motto, "Communicating God's Son in '71."

EVANGELETTE . . .

(Continued from page 28)

ble there'd be a verse that showed me a fault, a need in my life, or maybe just gave me a needed word of encouragement. Just when I needed them most, God gave Scriptures that spoke directly to me. Once when I'd been a little two-faced—(nice, Christian testimony at church and a little smart-mouthed at home)—James 3:10 hit me right between the eyes: "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be." Another time when I'd been rather timid in my witnessing I ran across Hebrews 13:6, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." A fire of enthusiasm

burst into me and my desire to witness sprouted into startling courage.

Leaving outward adorning (vain beauty), leaving sin and self, "... let us go on into perfection" (Heb. 6:1). Set a goal of personal achievement for the month ahead and as you daily

make effort to pursue beauty, make it a habit to gaze into God's mirror. Then ponder this thought: "The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me."

Pray for power. Pray with fierce determination. FIGHT for that need in your life. ... And then pray again.

CHRISTIANS MARRYING SINNERS

by Walter E. Isenhour

Don't wed a man who lives in sin
And think his life to God you'll win,
For out in future days and years
He'll bring you heartaches, sighs and tears,
And maybe blight your life and soul
Far down below your aim and goal.

If you're a blessed Christian man
With purpose great and noble plan,
Don't court and wed a sinful girl
Who's bent to travel with the world,
For she may all your graces sell
And send your precious soul to hell.

It's never wise, I'm frank to say,
For those who love the Lord and pray,
To marry those who turn from God
And go the way the sinful trod,
And hope somehow, by saying grace,
You'll see them change their downward race.

Don't marry out of God's good will
And think you'll climb up Zion's hill,
With victory as a pilgrim saint
Whose soul the devil cannot taint,
For in the long run, chances are,
You'll lose at God's great judgment bar.