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Aim

The magazine for young people

JANUARY 1975

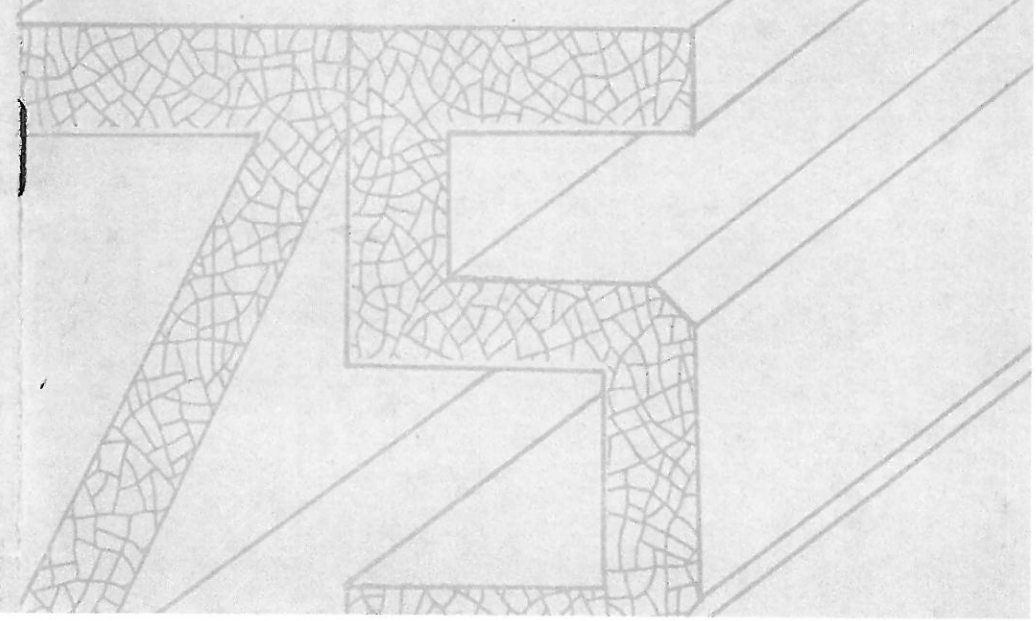
Look inside,
you will see ...

What's in it
for you and me?

Something's wrong,
a shadow cast ...

New Year here—
Old year past;

Dorm
MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE
LIBRARY



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

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Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXIX, No. 1

*The future is purchased
by the present.*

—Samuel Johnson

EDITORIAL ETCHES

His chubby little fingers clumsily clutched the crayola as he tried so hard to "stay inside the lines" of the picture he was coloring. The very expression on his face told how difficult the task was. Again and again his hand slipped and the crayola marked outside the lines of the picture. Disappointment registered across his face, and turning to the next page in his new book, he emphatically declared, "There! I got that other page all messy, but here's a nice clean one for me to make all pretty." Once again he began the laborious task of keeping the crayola inside the lines so that he could color a pretty picture.

Watching our young son who tried so hard to stay inside the lines of the coloring book picture reminded me of how difficult it is sometimes to really "stay inside the lines" of the beautiful picture God has drawn for our lives. It's so easy to slip and make a little mark or two outside those lines—maybe we succumb to worries, doubts or fears... perhaps we "forget" to exercise longsuffering, meekness, love, joy, or some other portion of the Christian fruit... or maybe it's just that we give in to some silly little temptation. And when we do mark outside those lines, the beautiful picture we're coloring is marred, and how very sad and disappointed we feel. What a mess we've made. But how refreshing and encouraging to know that just as our little boy eagerly turned to an un-

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REFLECTIONS

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—
Where will there be room?

Kissinger flying round
Peace cannot be found...

Turmoil in the land,
Seldom find a helping hand.

Tap 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?

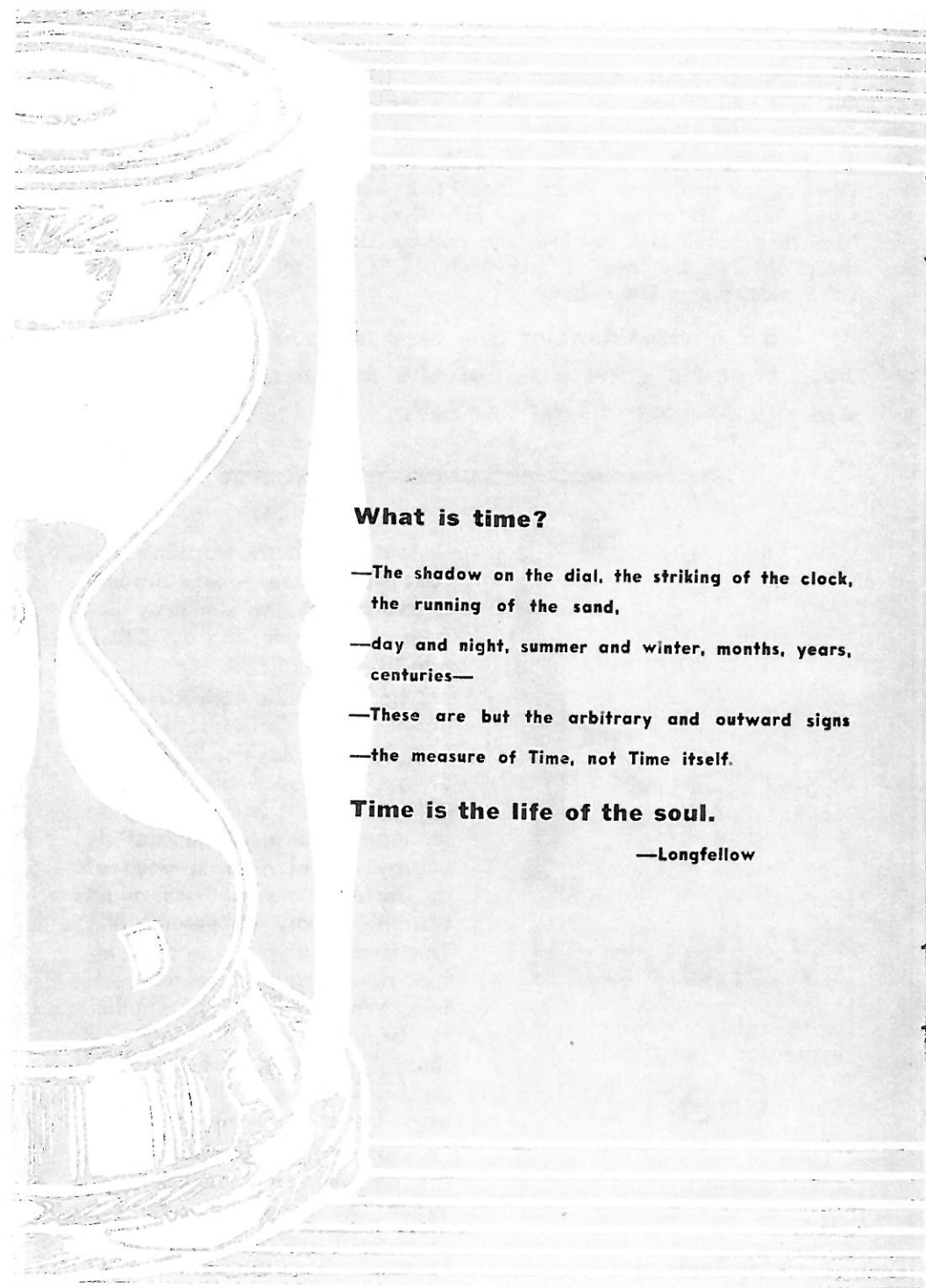
DEPRESSING, isn't it?

But with Christ, we know the future has promise!

If YOU can write a couplet expressing a spiritual answer to this poem, (so that the National FYC can choose its 1975 FYC motto) you will be given a one-year FREE SUBSCRIPTION to AIM magazine!

Send several couplets and ask your friends to participate—the AIM would like to run a special feature to print the 10 most inspirational mottos we receive.

We know that there are MANY answers for God's children in this tough world today... Send us YOURS by February 10, 1975!



What is time?

—The shadow on the dial, the striking of the clock,
the running of the sand,

—day and night, summer and winter, months, years,
centuries—

—These are but the arbitrary and outward signs

—the measure of Time, not Time itself.

Time is the life of the soul.

—Longfellow

How to Make New Year's Resolutions...



and Keep Them

by Paul F. Henson

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-14).

Now for an exciting translation of those verses into modern English, read this: "How changed are my ambitions! Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by his Resurrection: now I long to share his sufferings, even to die as he died, so that I may perhaps attain, as he did, the resurrection from the dead. Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have 'arrived,' spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping even more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I

go straight for the goal — my reward the honor of being called by God in Christ” (Philippians 3:10-14, Phillips).

A young man said to me, “I am not going to make any New Year’s resolutions this year. I have been making them every year, and I never keep them.”

Now that must be a disappointing and frustrating experience for a young person. But really, it does not have to be like that at all. You not only should make some good New Year’s resolutions, but you also should know that you can keep them.

It is not likely that it was on New Year’s day that Paul did it; but in the verses that you have just read from the Bible, Paul made some excellent resolutions. He also gave some marvelous insight into how he went about keeping them. I suggest that in these verses he has shared with us a plan that will still work in the life of a modern-day young person.

Drawing from his plan I would like to make some suggestions as to how you should make your New Year’s resolutions, and also as to how you can keep them.

First, be specific in your resolutions.

In other words, become a specialist in your Christian living. Now that sounds 1975 up-to-date, but that is exactly what Paul did with his life in the far-gone past.

The emphasis in our society is upon the specialist — in medicine, in education, in economics, etc. I suppose it was the same in Paul’s day for he said, “This one thing I do.” He did not say, “These half-dozen things I do.”

What Paul was saying was that in his Christian life, he sought to be a specialist. He was a great preacher, but preaching was not his speciality. He was a marvelous missionary but mission work was not his speciality. These works were simply a result of his speciality.

Here is where Paul specialized:
“**But I keep going on, grasping even more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me.**” Paul only wanted to make sure that he fulfilled God’s will for his life. I would urge you to the same kind of specific commitment. Give Christ first place in your life, and resolve to be willing to move in whatever direction that commitment takes you.

Second, practice the art of forgetting.

I can almost hear you say, “I don’t have to practice for that.” But actually the ability to forget something is very important. Paul said: “[**I keep/ forgetting those things which are behind.**” Now I don’t think Paul meant that he literally cleared his mind of everything in his past. I just think he refused to keep things around that hindered and haunted him.

1975 can very well be the most exciting and fulfilling year in your life!

I certainly would not urge you to forget everything as you enter this new year. There are some things that you would do well to keep with you. If you made a debt last year, please do not forget that. If someone did you a favor, don’t forget that. If you made a spiritual commitment, don’t forget that.

But, if you made a spiritual failure, don’t allow the memory of it to hang around to haunt and threaten your future efforts. If someone hurt you last year, or yesterday for that matter, forget it! It will only make you sore and sour to remember. As you enter this new year, make good use of your mental wastebasket. Throw away those things not worth keeping. Paul did!

Third, keep reaching out to the future.

In other words, keep moving on — even when it is difficult to do so. That was Paul’s plan. He said that he was “**reaching forth unto those things which are before.**” Again he said: “**I press toward the mark.**” He seemed to indicate that his spiritual progress was made with much difficulty. He did not say, “I walk toward the mark.” He said, “**I press [or push] toward the mark.**” He moved forward, but it was under great opposition.

And I assure you it will not be any different in 1975. If you move forward in your spiritual life, you will do so against the opposing forces of Satan. Too often the practice today is just to drift along with the stream, because it is easy to do that and it is very difficult and strenuous to paddle upstream against the current. But I have found, as Paul did, that most spiritual victories are upstream. They are worth “pressing” toward.

Fourth, keep your eyes on the goal.

Someone from the past has said that like archers, we can best hit the target if we can see it. In other words, we can reach the goal much more surely if we keep our eyes on it. Paul said, “**I do not consider myself to have ‘arrived,’ spiritually . . . But I do concentrate on this . . . and with hands outstretched . . . I go straight for the goal.**”

When the running back on the football team takes the ball from the quarterback, he has one thing in mind. He does not concern himself about the photographers along the sidelines. He is not worried about how he will look on the instant replay. He does not stop to flirt with the pretty cheerleaders. He heads toward the goal. He knows that points go up on the board only when he has carried the ball across the goal line.

And I would urge you to be just as determined to reach the spir-

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My New Year's Resolution

by Sharon Meier

"Hey, come on, get in the Christmas Spirit!"

"Yeah, help us decorate the tree!"

"We can uset another caroller."

As I sat at my desk observing the laughter, excitement, and apparent joy of my friends, I noticed how quickly this mood was passed on to others.

I couldn't help but think about myself and what kind of influence, if any, I have on my friends. As a Christian I know I've got something very important to pass on to others, but why don't I become as enthusiastic about my good tidings as the world does about its? What greater news is there than the love God has shown us and His plan of salvation?

Just why don't I pass this wonderful message on, anyway? Am I ashamed of my faith? Am I afraid of having friends think of me as odd? Or is it just a matter of, "Nobody will listen, so why waste my breath?"

As I continued to ponder this question, several of my favorite verses came to mind.

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."
(II Timothy 1:1).

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." (Romans 1:16).

"...and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

"In all labour there is profit..." (Proverbs 14:23).

"...forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

I guess I really don't have any reason or even an excuse for *not* passing this message of love and salvation on to my friends, for God tells me not to be ashamed of the gospel. I should count it a great privilege to be among the "peculiar people" that He has purified unto Himself and since all labor is profitable, I have no right to sit back and twiddle my thumbs.

Yes, come to think of it, I've got a great deal to be excited about and much more work to do. By the time the first week in January, 1975, is past, all my friends will have completely lost their Christmas spirit and will be in dire need of God's love and saving grace so that they may obtain that true peace, joy, and happiness that God's children experience every day of the year.

I resolve that this year, 1975, I am going to "pass it on!" As the song goes, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going," and I'm going to let those sparks fly far and near to brighten up my world a bit!

Life's Radiant Sunset

Winter Marvel

by Cecyl Fischer

*There is a scene which, when I close my eyes,
Unfolds before me, as 'twere mine to keep
In Mem'ry 'tis so fervidly engraved
As it would glad subdue the deepest deep.*

*I recall 'twas when I was in rabid haste,
Effecting some obsession in my flight,
When this most heavenly heaven bade me halt
And, powerless, I yielded to the sight.*

*'Twas the season in between the sun and frost
When summer wars to stay, yet slowly succumbs
To wintry chill of air which, plagued by thaw,
Prepares the land for freeze and gale to come.*

*The sun lay fiery bright behind the clouds
Like the last rose of summer ling'ring still,
Pinking with its rays the ice-blue clouds
And the feather-coat of snow upon a hill.*

*How could this radiance, this phantom sky,
So closely precede the dismal of the night,
But yea, within a fraction of an hour
Gloom will descend to curtain glowing light.*

*As I turned back to the blue snow all around me
And the silhouette of trees, spread like a fan
I marvelled that the God who paints the heavens
Takes time to love and care for little man.*

When I was going through some of my old things at my childhood home I came across this poem which I wrote when I was 15 or 16 years of age. I remember the night and the scene clearly, but as I read the poem over I got a new lesson from it. It surprises me that it didn't come to me at the time. It occurred to me that this glorious burst of sunset so well represents that time in each person's life when he has reached the very peak of his success — that time when his goals, whether they be great or small, are more nearly recognized than any time before or any time to come in his life.

For some it is a time of fame, for others merely a time of personal satisfaction, but for all it is the most active, most useful era of their life span. Sometimes it may come late in life; occasionally it comes very early, say in the twenties or even (though seldom) in the teens; but most often it is in those middle years when maturity and experience have done their blessing, but age has not yet sapped one's energy and slowed his responses and ambitions.

But whether it comes early or late, whether it lasts a few years or many, whether the success is great or moderate, there is that time in every life when one makes his greatest contri-

bution to his society. He has passed the "dawn" of childhood and the "high moon" of training and experience and now his success and accomplishments flame brightly as a radiant sunset across the skyline of his life. People are aware of him now more than ever before; they admire his accomplishments, as one turns to enjoy the gold and crimson flames of a beautiful sunset.

But the thing that strikes me about this time in life is its poignant brevity. So soon the dusk of old age and the black night of death overcome it and all the brightness, all the radiance, is snuffed out. It reminds me of the words in Psalm 39:5; "... verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." No matter how wide his fame, no matter how monumental his success, he takes with him in death no more than he brought in birth — UNLESS —

Unless? Oh, yes, that catches the ear, doesn't it? Unless what? UNLESS his goals were God-given, UNLESS his endeavors were God-guided and UNLESS his successes were God-credited! Then, and only then, does he take with him in death more than he brought in birth. For he takes with him a promise so great man should

(Continued on page 15)

What About Drinking?



The subject of drinking has long been an issue with many people. Just exactly when it becomes an issue depends greatly on our attitude and behavior. If you "sneak drink" or drink "moderately" it is probably an issue with you! How is it that drinking has become such a point with many individuals?

If you drink or ever have in the past then you've most likely heard the arguments against it . . . DRINK LEADS TO RUIN . . . DRINK IS THE TOOL OF THE DEVIL . . . DRINKING, EVEN MODERATELY, IS NOT "FITTING BEHAVIOR" FOR A CHRISTIAN! There are probably others that you have heard, but these are arguments most commonly heard by all of us.

It is true, drink CAN lead to ruin! It is true also that drink CAN be a tool of the devil. It is also true that EXCESS drinking is not "fitting behavior" for a Christian. Many of us have been faced with this issue of drinking and we are not satisfied with the answers . . . why? Because many times the answers we receive are not in harmony with the real teachings of scripture! That's right, drinking is automatically made a religious issue without adequate backing from the scripture. It is true that there is strong admonition against excessive drinking. ". . . Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor DRUNKARDS,

nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:10). On the other hand, the first miracle of Jesus was turning the water into WINE (John 2:7-11).

Many texts point out the dangers of EXCESS drink . . . Proverbs 23:29-32: "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that TARRY LONG at the wine; they that go to mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." This is an example, but we do not find that TOTAL ABSTINENCE is commanded either! The Bible condemns EXCESS and DRUNKENNESS, but does not teach that "moderate" drinking is a sin.

There, isn't that what some of you wanted to hear? Just enough to ease your conscience. Even though there is no text that labels "moderate drinking" as sin, there IS a Biblical case that can be established against it . . . that is, IF you are a born-again creature and you are concerned with the salvation of others.

The reason we shouldn't drink is not because the Bible says we can't, but because we care enough about others to present ourselves a living sacrifice and example for the cause of Christ.

Consider these statistics and use your common and Christian sense. "According to the best and latest estimate possible, susceptibility to alcohol is such that ONE IN EIGHT PERSONS who begin to drink occasionally or moderately becomes a heavy drinker or alcoholic." (What Everyone Should Know About Alcoholic Beverages by Dr. Andrew C. Ivey). There is absolutely no way for you or anyone else to determine before hand who is and who is not susceptible to becoming an alcoholic! The only way to avoid this is to PRACTICE TOTAL ABSTINENCE! Our bodies, according to 1 Cor. 3:16, 17, are the temples of the Holy Spirit . . . why take the chance of becoming the ONE IN EIGHT and chance the destruction promised at God's hand?

Let us go a step farther and notice Romans 14:21, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to DRINK WINE, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." It isn't good to do anything that would cause a brother to fall . . . including drinking! Even if YOU can "hold your stuff," what about the "other guy"? Why tempt a weaker (ONE IN EIGHT) brother? Why chance ruining his life? If you should drink in his presence, your "moderate" drinking is a contributing factor to his alcoholism! Why, then, chance possible judgment for the loss of his soul?

Alcoholism is a disease just like the disease of tuberculosis; if the germ never gets inside, you never contract the disease. If alcohol never gets into you, the disease of alcoholism doesn't stand a chance of being contracted! Again, why take the chance? Certainly playing games of chance that can cause injury to the temple of God is a very serious matter.

Just like many other drugs used today, alcohol is addicting! We have no verse that tells us to abstain from harmful addicting drugs, do we? But we are told "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7, 8). The very same applies to the use of alcohol. It is a fleshly desire . . . What is spiritual about a couple of beers?!

According to Dr. Ivey, "One beer or cocktail is enough to impair a person who weighs 90-190 pounds. Two beers or cocktails will impair a person who weighs 190-210 pounds." (That pretty well takes in all of us, huh?) So, according to this man, even "moderate" drinking is harmful to the body, thus defiling to the temple of God!

Reference against all drinking doesn't come from one Biblical text or isolated incident, but drinking is a subject that must be viewed from all aspects of the issue. I don't totally abstain from drinking because of any one text, but because I feel inclined to watch out for the "other guy" . . . anyway . . . why should I chance it?

The Bible doesn't condemn "moderate" drinking, but will "moderate" drinking condemn you!?

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-13).

HOW TO MAKE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS . . . AND KEEP THEM (Continued from page 7)

itual goal that Jesus has set for you. That goal is complete commitment to the Word and to the will of God. If this goal is continually kept in view, everything else in your life will fall into its proper place.

Fifth, and finally, remember the reward.

When you make the right resolutions, and keep them there are wonderful rewards. Paul looked forward to this. He said: "My reward [is] the honor of being called by God in Christ." To him the greatest thrill and privilege in life was to know that he had found his place in God's plan.

And I believe that 1975 can very well be the most exciting and fulfilling year in your life. It can be the time when you really discover that God does have a plan for your life in fulfilling it.

The beginning of this new year would be an excellent time to begin following Paul's plan to successful Christian living. Let me take just a moment to reiterate that plan and to urge you to accept it for your own life.

1. **Be specific in what you resolve to be and do by God's help.**
2. **Forget past failures and have faith for future victories.**
3. **Keep pressing forward, even though you are opposed.**
4. **Keep your eyes on your spiritual goal in order to avoid being side-tracked.**
5. **Remember the reward of knowing that you are fulfilling God's plan for your life.**

And, oh, yes, one other thing—Happy New Year!

EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

touched page in his coloring book and began again to color a pretty picture, we can turn to God and say, "Lord, I've failed. I'm weak and I need your strength. Please forgive me." Then once again we can go about "coloring" the picture God designed for our lives, and our hearts will be joyful and glad.

LIFE'S RADIANT SUNSET

(Continued from page 11)

hardly even be allowed to think about it—so great man can hardly comprehend it—so great that many doubt it—the promise of eternal life.

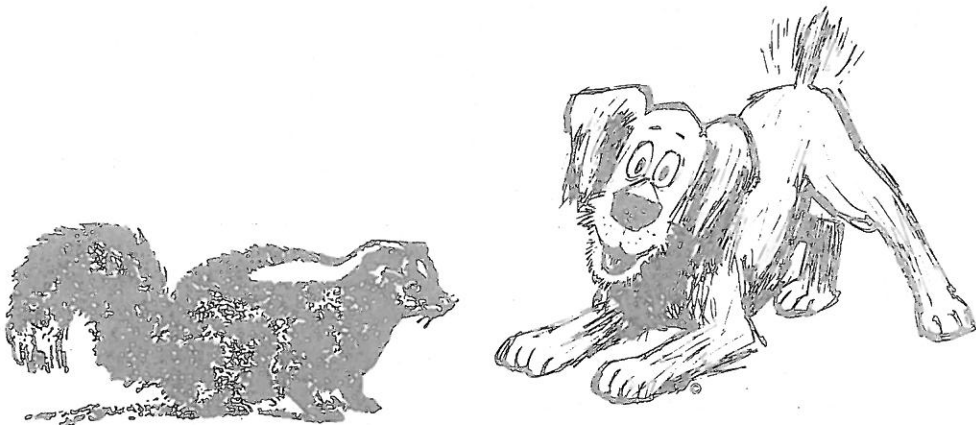
Teenagers, these are the years when you are making important decisions, forming important philosophies and developing important habits and ways

of life. Make sure they are God-oriented, God-guided, and God-centered and the glorious sunset time in your life will not be gone forever when the darkness comes, but will shine again, more brilliant, more gold, more crimson and more gloriously radiant than before, when our Saviour comes again to make all things new. The next time you see a beautiful sunset, think about this.

—Lighted Pathway

BEWARE of the Scent

by Thelma Severance



Stepping to the window to close the drapes at dusk, I gazed in awe at the drama enacted in the gravel drive beside the house. There, nose to nose with a skunk, was Porky, our nondescript little brown dog. Carefully, slowly, she backed down the driveway, the skunk matching her every step with confident poise. The dog's usual sharp bark was silenced. Steadily, steadily she backed—forward, forward stalked the skunk.

The animals stepped from sight and I could only surmise the outcome. I waited for an acrid stench to fill the air. None came. I could well imagine the arrogant pride with which that sleek black and white animal walked back to its familiar haunts, while the little brown dog no doubt cowered and shivered in a corner of refuge within the barn beyond the house. How long was the backward journey she's taken? One yelp, one unquestioned move and her enemy would have smothered her with choking, undeniable victory.

I'd rather get caught backing away from a stinky situation than to find it necessary to clean up afterward.



We'd had ample proof that Porky had tangled with a skunk on other occasions. I'd watched her agonized rolling about in the grass and dirt after a previous spray job from the enemy. To add insult to her injury, the otherwise friendly humans avoided even a hint of contact with her. Ah, yes—she'd learned the skunk lesson well!

Consider the human who dabbles in forbidden pleasure, the enticing thing that teases, tantalizes, and so sharply focuses itself in clear sight. It may be the beckoning of companionship that is best backed away from. It may be the partaking of a substance into the body that would be harmful. It may be the questionable party that should be backed away from—or any number of other things—gossip, talebearing, bad language, or even an offensive TV program.

A skunk gives ample warning of its intentions. It first thumps a warning with its forefeet to let an offender know it means business. It shakes its head from side to side, then when the warning is unheeded, it lifts its tail and an offender then knows the skunk meant busi-

ness. God has warned mankind that Satan entices by presenting evil as something to be desired, dangling it before us as something dazzling and good. Every individual will meet temptations. *Backing away from partaking is preferable to experiencing the stench of involvement in wrongdoing.*

Skunk odor lingers and lingers. The after effects of sin may linger longer than we think. It would be well for us to avoid confrontation with sin, even as Porky avoided further confrontation with the skunk. *I'd rather get caught backing away from a stinky situation than to find it necessary to clean up afterward.*

Even as skunk odor eventually disappears, the effects of evil can be blotted out. When we come to God for His help, He takes away the sin and removes it far from us. God said, *"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* (Isa. 1:18). We might say, *"Though your sins are as offensive as skunk odor, God will make them as pure as unpolluted air."*

Shape Up in '75

by Delores O. Fischer

THINK UP—be optimistic! The misfortunes hardest to bear are those which Christ helps us bear.

LIVE UP to the highest standards you can set for yourself, not the lowest ones you can possibly get by with.

GIVE UP the bad habits which were no asset to you in '74—they'll only continue to tax your happiness in '75.

STORE UP only the good expressions and impressions others give you.

COVER UP the injustices others do you with a forgiving attitude and a forgetting smile.

SHUT UP when you feel like nagging, complaining and criticizing.

COUNT UP all the blessings you received in a single day. There's no more sure cure for the blues.

GROW UP! Only babies have to be pampered constantly.

SPEED UP—so much needs to be done before Christ's soon return; complaining and procrastinating just won't do. Let's get busy!

CONFESS UP—committing a sin took your effort; righting it will, too.

SET UP a workable schedule that includes daily Bible reading and prayer. Then stick to it.

STAND UP for the right, the truth, even if it hurts at the moment.

PUT UP with other's faults gracefully. Silently learn from them.

POLISH UP on good manners.

PRAISE UP—be more concerned about praising God than getting praise for yourself.

SPRING UP at each opportunity to do a good deed.

FIRE UP for God; He needs you, but most of all, you need Him.

STRIKE UP a friendly conversation with an enemy. Chances are you'll strike out the flame of hatred.

WHIP UP an article for *Aim*. You'll be surprised at how easy it is; at what self-satisfaction it evokes; at what a blessing it can be to others.

CHEER UP someone whose life may not be so sweet.

SPEAK UP when you can say something that's worthy of being received, remembered and repeated.

BRUSH UP on some of those idle talents. Use them for the glory of God.

STRAIGHTEN UP—carry your burdens with confidence and courage. With God this is possible.

READ UP—"Study to shew thyself approved . . . rightly dividing the word of truth."

LOOK UP for your redemption draweth nigh. Praise the Lord! Some of us won't have to make resolutions in '76; we'll be resting quietly, undisturbed with Satan's evil clamor all about us. We'll be waiting for that blessed resound, "It's time to wake up! . . . Rise! . . . Live eternally!" Aren't you getting anxious?

"**LAY UP** for yourselves treasures in heaven. . . ."

Dear FYCer,

Shape Up

"Shape up" is a disciplinary phrase used by those of authority to stimulate a positive response of behavior. "Shaping up" calls for a change of behavior from average and unproductive to constructive and meaningful. With SHAPE, the new organizational guide, local F.Y.C.s will be able to better plan their program and put them in tip-top shape.

Some may say, "But I don't understand SHAPE! I mean, it is SO confusing—all those supplements and forms!! There is so much more work involved in planning and reporting and carrying out activities, that there won't be any fun. Aren't all these supplements and forms a lot of needless 'red tape'?"

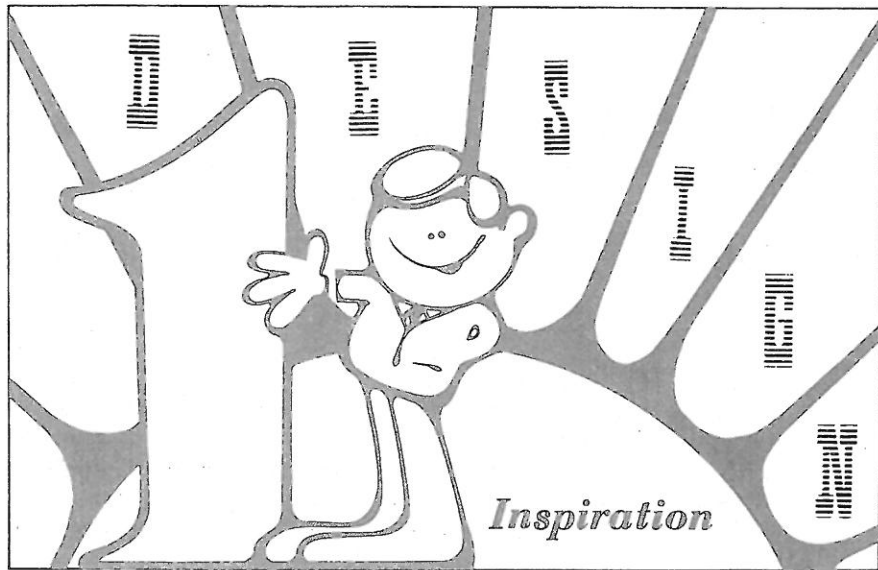
SHAPE emphasizes an orderly and efficient way of establishing and meeting goals. Activities for the sake of activity may be "good one time, disaster the next." Activities designed to accomplish set goals cause people to work and to plan with a purpose in mind. Start to SHAPE UP your F.Y.C. program by making it work for you. Read the guidelines as a group and use the supplements in your planning. Get the "feel" of the program. If you have any questions concerning the program write to me and the National Committee.

Jewelers tell us that pearls and silver keep their beauty through use. If you store them for special occasions, they tarnish or lose their luster. So it is with SHAPE. Use it now. Increase its value by making it indispensable to your local program.

Sincerely,

Ken Knoll

Ken Knoll



MATTHEW

Date:

Although the date of writing is uncertain for the book of **Matthew**, records from the second century indicate one of two possibilities:

- 1) Matthew wrote a Hebrew (Aramaic) edition of his gospel in the 50's A. D., and later wrote an expanded Greek edition in the 60's A. D.
- 2) He recorded (by shorthand?) the sayings of Jesus as they occurred and later drew upon these Aramaic notes to compose his Greek gospel.

Regardless of which theory is true, it should be understood that the books of the Bible were written by Divine guidance through a human agent.

Author:

Matthew, apostle and one-time tax collector, is undoubtedly the author of the gospel which bears his name. Although the Scriptures mention Matthew only on three occasions (Matt. 9:10-13; 10:3; Acts 1:13), valuable insights can be gleaned from these brief encounters.

Matthew, also called "Levi," was a publican or customs officer in Capernaum. (It was his job to collect the tolls and excise tax levied on the merchants of Galilee and the caravans which traveled between

Egypt and Damascus.) It was during this time that Matthew received the call from Jesus to "Follow me."

Matthew celebrated his call to apostleship by inviting his fellow publicans to a great feast in his home with Jesus as guest of honor (Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:14-17; Luke 5:27-32). As tax collectors for the hated Roman government, Matthew and his former associates were regarded as traitors, opportunists and swindlers by their Jewish country-men. Jesus was therefore severely criticized by the Pharisees for attending Matthew's feast for "publicans and sinners."

Regardless of this national prejudice, Jesus chose Matthew to be one of his twelve apostles for good reason. As a tax collector, Matthew would be skilled at writing and keeping records. Since shorthand was known in the ancient world, perhaps Matthew became the official scribe of the apostles and kept an on-the-spot account of the words and works of Jesus.

Purpose:

Unlike the gospel of Mark, which was written primarily to Gentiles, **Matthew** was addressed to the Jews in an attempt to prove that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament. To accomplish this purpose, **Matthew** quotes the Old Testament forty-one times, using the phrase "... that it might be fulfilled as spoken by the prophet(s)" thirty-seven times! Because it shows the fulfillment of the Law and Messianic prophecies in the person of Jesus Christ, **Matthew**—more than any other gospel—provides the link between the Old and New Testaments. Whether Jew or Gentile, the reader of Matthew's gospel sees the Old Testament come alive in Jesus Christ.

Matthew is also called the "Kingdom Gospel" because the phrase "kingdom of heaven" is used thirty-three times. Jesus is portrayed as King; His genealogy is traced to Abraham and David; and He is given the royal title of "Son of David."

While Mark emphasizes the things that Jesus did, **Matthew** stresses what Jesus said. No other gospel gives a more complete account of the sayings of Jesus than does **Matthew**. Jesus' sermons and discourses are arranged by subject in a creative manner. The entire gospel centers around five main discourses, each of which concludes with the phrase "... And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings..." This phrase is then followed by a narrative which leads the reader to the next important discourse. Notice this literary arrangement as you read the gospel.

Matthew stresses the things Jesus said because they are the "words of life." Don't overlook them!

OUTLINE OF MATTHEW

A. Introduction of the King:

1. Genealogy and Birth (Chapters 1-2)
 2. Preparation for Ministry (3-4)
- B. Discourses and Narratives:
1. First Discourse:
 - Sermon of the Kingdom (5-7)
 2. Narrative:
 - Miracles of the King (8-9)
 3. Second Discourse:
 - Proclamations of the Kingdom (10)
 4. Narrative:
 - Rejection of the King (11-12)
 5. Third Discourse:
 - Parables of the Kingdom (13)
 6. Narrative:
 - Ministry of the King (14-17)
 7. Fourth Discourse:
 - Instruction for Subject of the Kingdom (18)
 8. Narrative:
 - The King in Perea, Judea, and Jerusalem (19-22)
 9. Fifth Discourse:
 - Final Public Sayings of the King:
 - Denunciation of the Enemies of the Kingdom (23)
 - Olivet Prophecy of the Consummation of the Kingdom (26-28)
 10. Narrative:
 - Trial, Death and Resurrection of the King (26-28)
- C. Conclusion:
- Commision of the Kingdom (28:16-20)

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THE TIME IS NOW

If your local FYC group has not returned your 1975 registration form, please do so now! It is important to the work at the National office for current names and addresses of your FYC members and officers to be on file. Thanks for your help with this!

MAKE YOUR MARK!

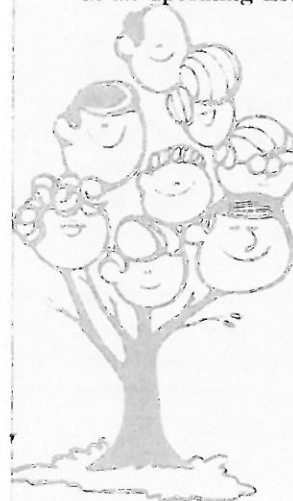
Any Mark of Merit reports for the last quarter of 1974 should be sent immediately to the National F.Y.C., P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201. Announcement of the outstanding F.Y.C. of the year (the Lighthouse Award-Winner) and all the gold and silver award winners for 1974 will be made in an upcoming issue of AIM. We need your reports now!



Special Announcement

FIRST FARGO F.Y.C. ORGANIZED!!

The National FYC Office has received a report from Fargo, ND., registering eight FYC members in their new group. (Just recently a Sabbath School has been organized in Fargo - and in addition, three of the FYC-age young people were baptized.) Praise the Lord for this new addition. Keep them in your prayers that this NEW FYC will grow and grow and grow!!! Watch for an AIM report on their activities.



We're growing

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.

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