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Aim

The magazine for young people

JULY 1974



Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 7

Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free.

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

EDITORIAL ETCHES

"When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self respect."

Adlai Stevenson

Today we know an America shamed by its government scandals and shaken by political unrest... an America diseased with the cancers of crime, drugs, and an over-affluent society... an America weakened by its rebels, radicals, and revolutionaries... an America weathering shortages, inflation and recession... an America of disillusioned, complaining citizens.

Although the problems of our nation are many in these troubled times, let us not forget what America is and what it means to us. America is a nation of wealth and prosperity, a country of great beauty, and a land of opportunity and freedom. America is our home. America is a place where we enjoy comforts and privileges known only to a minority of this world's people. *Let us be thankful for what America gives to us and for that inner light in which freedom still lives.*

THE FUTURE —

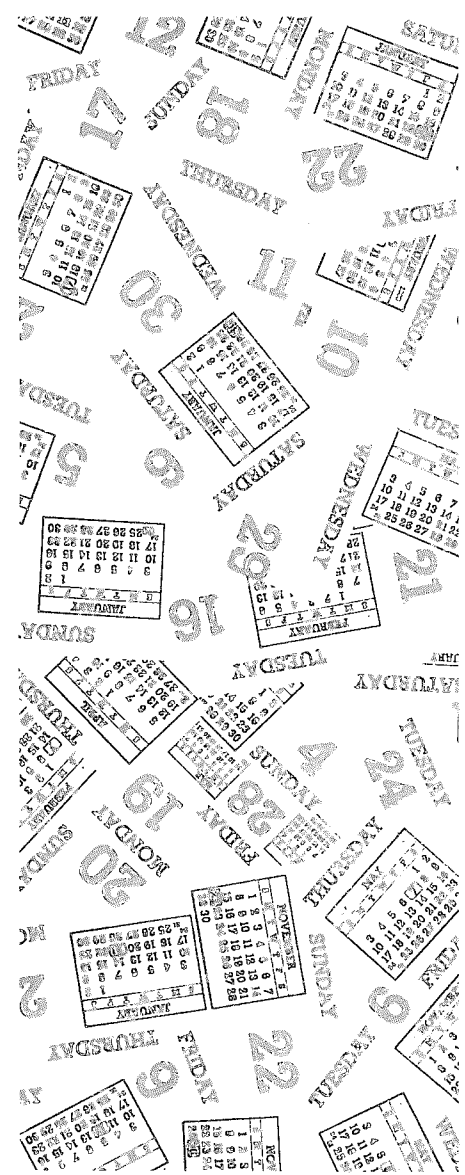
Futility

or

Fulfillment?

by Barbara Fischer

Working on a university campus, I see much evidence of indifference and listlessness among today's young people. Particularly disturbing is the aimlessness that infects so many. Recently, two Sacramento youths expressed their sense of futility by barricading themselves in a bank, along with several hostages. They demanded one million dollars in ransom and the right to express their grievances via national television. Before surrendering, the two young men announced to their audience that they were doing this because of their poverty and inability to obtain jobs.



A later newspaper report indicated that the boys came from comfortable homes and that they had indeed had sufficient food and clothing. The mother of one of the young men, however, stated that her salary would not cover the "extras" the boys felt they were entitled to. These included a car and enough luxury food (soft drinks, potato chips, expensive fruits) to satisfy their whims. The boys had tried to find jobs, but because those that were offered didn't meet their needs, they refused to look any further or to be trained for employment. The mother's final tragic comment was, "They don't realize they have to start off low. You have to work yourself up. It takes time. We all had to start."

Their high school principal indicated that the boys' attitude isn't uncommon. "It's the same with other kids. They want the wheels, money, and all of the good things of life now. They want it all and now"

How sad to think that people today DEMAND the luxuries of life without having earned them. Failing to achieve immediate wealth or thinking effort is vain in view of world affairs, many become apathetic and lack motivation.



"Rather than graduate and look for work, I want to go off into the hills and be by myself. What's the use . . . ?"

Of particular concern is that this same attitude of aimlessness is held by several Christian young people. Some indicate that there seems to be no reason to go out and seek employment since inflation and taxes eat up all one's earnings. They seem unwilling to establish goals for life and are drifting like rudderless ships in a sea of boredom and even despair. Why? Why should young people who have everything to live for and who believe in a God of design and order feel so rootless? Granted—there is more to life than working many hard long years merely gaining material possessions and so-called security. But working at a satisfying job, starting a home, and looking to the future with hope are goals that do have meaning even in today's chaotic world.

Earlier generations worked with vigor at farming, teaching, mechanical repair, housework, and were happy in their professions because they didn't engage in futile dreams of what it was like "on the other side of the fence." They felt a sense of accomplishment in doing a job well and were content with their lot in life.

Perhaps the fact that we have the opportunity to be educated and to pick and choose from so many more vocations than did our parents and grandparents works against establishing a pattern for life. We no longer are limited to one or two professions; with such a myriad of areas open to both men and women we become choosy and begin the fruitless search for the "one job" that will keep us satisfied from graduation to retirement. There is no such job.

All vocations have periods of frustration and boredom. But any job, no matter how routine, can be meaningful when we inject our own enthusiasm into its performance. We are in this world to serve. Our relationship with Christ is expressed in our attitude toward our jobs and the people with whom we work (Colossians 3:22-25). If we perform menial tasks with enthusiasm it is because as Christians we have an obligation to do all things well. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

It is true that the ordinary working man or woman must labor long and hard to make a "decent" living. Taxes and inflation sometimes do make the effort seem fruitless. Yet we still enjoy a standard of liv-

ing that was unknown fifty years ago. We have become greedy in our abundance of "things." We demand more and more, but when we see a slowdown in our ability to acquire, we become resentful and feel deprived. What shortsightedness we have! Look around at the beautiful world (and it is still beautiful despite the despoiling of much of nature). Birds continue to sing, the mountains are there to view and climb, people are still wonderful, the lilies of the field remain brightly clothed, and "hated" work offers to the Christian the challenge of joy in performing tasks to the best of his God-given abilities.

The believer DOES have a goal in this aimless modern world—not one of acquiring a store of possessions, idyllic retirement or working toward a man-made utopia—rather, his goal is demonstrating that a better world is soon coming. Life does not owe us a living; we should be thankful for the opportunity to live and make this world a better place for our fellow creatures through guidance to a belief in Jesus Christ.

The Christian young person has no excuse for sitting back while acknowledging the failures and futilities of this life. Senator Robert Kennedy once noted that "the future is an achievement . . . not a gift." Your life is what you make it. Begin now to utilize your ability and knowledge to look at the inequities of this world and provide some Christian insight into how their effects may be lessened. If the most you can do is work

(Continued on page 21)

Marty Furman
741 Edith
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear God,

I feel so far away now that I thought I'd better write. What's happened to us lately? I guess life's hassles have been getting me down. I get along fine with You, God, but it's these other children of Yours that give me problems....

It shouldn't be that way, should it, God? Jesus died for them, too, and I should love them just as You love me. And I do, God... most of the time. But it's just that lately I don't feel as if I have the strength to love anyone. I haven't been spending enough time with You—That's it, isn't it? I suspected this was most of my problem because whenever I talk things over with You I always feel better and so refreshed. Why do I neglect talking with You like I do then? It just doesn't make sense.

And Your book—You know, it really is a suicide trip when I don't read it every day. It's really something how a book can make so much difference. But then, it's no ordinary book. It has power in every line, and it's the breath of life to all who believe in it.

God, please help me to hang in there. I feel so discouraged when I don't keep my eyes strictly on You and my heart filled with Your love. You really are the answer to all my problems, large or small. As long as I keep looking to You, Your strength flows out to me and fills me and nothing can overwhelm me, but when I look at the unsurmountable odds against me, I start to slip and fall.

Oh God, will I make it into your Kingdom? Oh please, I've got to... I want to be with You for eternity... I want to be Your servant... I love You. When I'm at my lowest, Dear God, please remind me of the wonders you've performed in my life to bring me to this point. When I see what we've already overcome, I feel sure we're going to make it. Paul's words ring in my heart, "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 3:13, 14).

I'm glad we had this little talk, God. I feel better already. Hope to see You soon,

*Your servant always,
Marty*

WHERE Has ALL the Power Gone?

by Rita Moldenhauer

"Well, I've never even HEARD of a healing in the Church of God, 7th Day—or at least not one that's happened in my lifetime."

"Yeah, and how come we have 'healing services' where so many people go forward, but we never hear of any results?"

"Sometimes I get really discouraged because it seems like everything is so dead. Where has all the power gone?"

If comments like these sound familiar, or echo back to thoughts of your own, don't be afraid to face these doubts squarely. Fear is one of the most inhibiting and destructive forces preventing understanding, knowledge, AND FAITH!

Why shouldn't young people question—and adults, too—for the purpose of finding the TRUTH? This type of seeking is healthy and God-directed as shown in II Timothy 2:15. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." One reason young people have been afraid to search for the answer(s) to this question of power may be that they have tried asking an adult who was unable to answer. This might understandably cause the questioner to fear that the answer is "...blowing in the wind...", that nobody knows, and he then tries

to suppress the fear that there really is no power in the Church of God today. At this point, searching may stop.

I would like to open this issue and open it especially for those who fear this question and for those who have stopped searching. Because like most "impossible" questions, I feel it is the same with, "Where has all the power gone?" The answer is simple! **YES, SIMPLE!** Anyone who thinks on it just two minutes will understand the common sense behind this answer. It is the **FAILURE OF TESTIFYING.**

Think about it. . . Very few people have publicized their miraculous healings (whether due to neglect, shyness or embarrassment). Surely, they may tell a small number of people, yet does this good news ever get passed on? No! So because you haven't heard it very much, you have asked yourself, "WHERE has all the power gone?" The miraculous thing is that there **ARE** healings going on in the Church of God, 7th Day, **ALL THE TIME!**

Have you heard of the boy in North Dakota whose foot was crushed by a truck? It was restored whole—**INSTANTLY!**

I wonder if anyone told you of the woman who suffered with stomach cancer, but has been **DISEASE-FREE** for four years due to miraculous healing?

Then there was the brother who felt relief from an impending heart attack and was given a witness that **HE WOULD NOT DIE.** But no one told you that, did they?

Were you told of the teenager with epilepsy who was cured through prayer and fasting?

Again, a young woman in Canada prayed for another who was dying, and the sufferer regained consciousness **IMMEDIATELY**—why weren't you told?

What about the young man suffering from second and third-degree burns, who was being directed toward plastic surgery for his face, but was healed instead with **NO** resulting scars?

Were you given the testimony of a woman who was barren due to a childhood accident? After miraculous healing she gave birth to a son who is now in the ministry of the Church of God 7th Day!

I mention these healings specifically because I **KNOW THEY ARE TRUE.** In every case but one, I know each person mentioned and can testify to their story. The point is that you haven't been informed of the countless other miracles that take place in the Church of God 7th Day either.

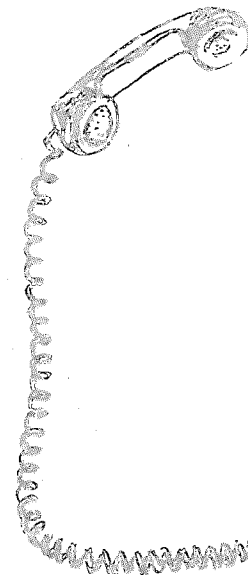
If accounts like these mentioned sound unfamiliar, it is only due to the **LACK OF TESTIMONY.** It is only due to the fact that few people **TELL THE NEWS** of what God has done for them. Here's the important thing: **HEALINGS ARE HAPPENING IN 1974 AND HAVE**

BEEN HAPPENING IN RECENT YEARS JUST AS THEY HAVE HAPPENED THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH. Doesn't it feel great to know that?? Find out more and strengthen your faith! There are probably several people in your own local congregation who have been healed but haven't publicized their experiences. I challenge every reader to make the rounds of his local congregation to ask this question: "Have **YOU** experienced a miraculous healing where you have witnessed the **POWER** of God?" The results may well astound you!

What can you do about the lack of testimony? Encourage church members with whom you speak to **TELL** the Church of their healing experiences. Emphasize the **STRENGTH** it will lend to young and old. When you hear of other young people struggling with this old fear, **TELL** them of what you personally heard, and most of all, **PUBLICIZE** your own experience if and when God touches you.

Isn't it time that no one need struggle over this, that no one need doubt or fear? Don't people, and young people in particular, have enough other problems? **TELL EVERYONE THAT WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING GOD'S POWER IN THE CHURCH OF GOD, 7th DAY, HERE AND NOW.** I'm not in doubt anymore, and I'm glad.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Judea and Jerusalem, and in all Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."
Acts 1:9



Will You Answer
the Call to Service?

Become a
Volunteer
in
Service
to
Our
Church

For complete information
about VISTOC and for appli-
cation blanks, write National
F.Y.C., P. O. Box 2370, Denver,
CO 80201.



1259 Crimrose Lane

by Vernon Dickinson

Where is 1259 Crimrose Lane? The location could be in most any city or town; however, the location is not important. What is important is the residents who occupy the house at that address. Why are they important? They are important because of their position in life and because one of the residents at 1259 Crimrose Lane could very possibly be YOU!

"How can my station in life be important?" is the next logical question you may ask. There are a number of reasons, so let us explore some of them together.

There are at least three positions in life that are very important to you and to your Christian witness. First, you are considered only a pilgrim and stranger in this world. This position is supported by the eleventh chapter of Hebrews where some of those who were faithful to

God are listed. Here we find that the faithful were considered "... *strangers and pilgrims on the earth* ..." (Hebrews 11:13). Peter recognized this position for he said, "*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims* ..." (I Peter 2:11).

Secondly, Paul reckoned your position in life as a race when he said, "... *they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize. So run that ye may obtain*" (I Corinthians 9:24).

Thirdly, in fulfilling your Christian witness, you are expected to be a good soldier for Christ. We find in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians that he likens the armour of the Christian to that of a Roman soldier. "*Put on the armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*" (Ephesians 6:11). Paul also admonished Timothy to endure hardness as a good soldier for Jesus Christ.

Hence, we can see that our position in this life may be likened to that of a stranger and pilgrim, to a runner in a race for the prize of eternal life, and to that of a good soldier for Jesus Christ. Just knowing our role or position in life is not enough. God has established requirements for us to meet in fulfilling these roles in life. Meeting the following requirements is essential for us in order to fulfill our roles properly:

1. **Acknowledge your need of God.** This goes further than just recognizing God as God. God must be Supreme in everything we do. Solomon concluded that the whole duty of man is to "*fear God and keep his commandments* ..." (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

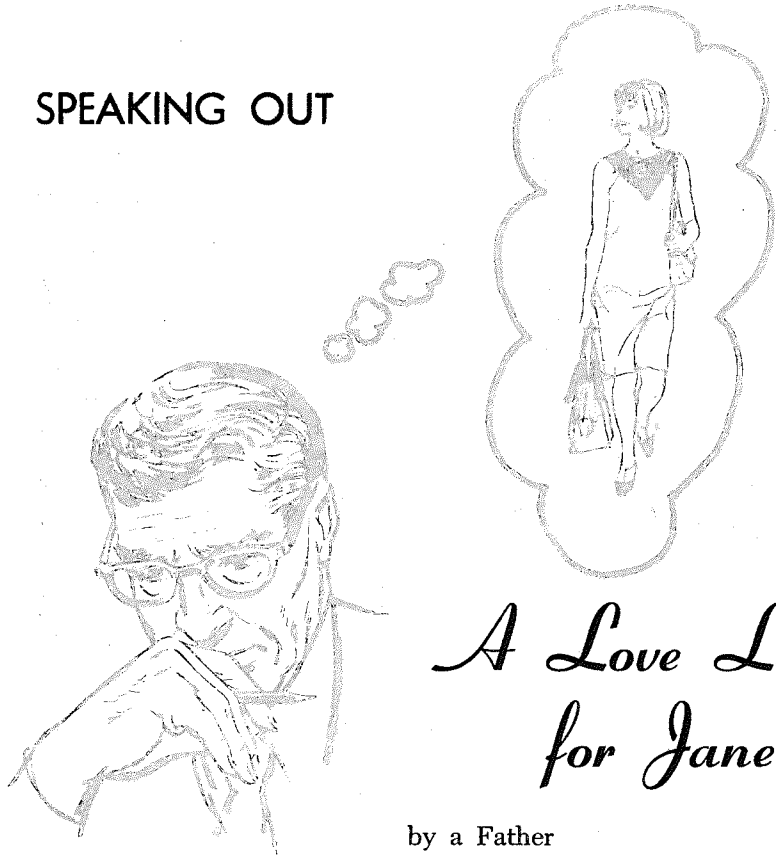
2. **Acknowledge your need of Christ and the Holy Spirit in your life.** Christ and Christian attributes are paramount in your life. Remember, with Christ all things

are possible.

3. **Study God's Word.** We must recognize that the study of God's Word is commanded in the Scriptures. We find that Christ commanded the study of the Scriptures when he said "... Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Paul taught the study of God's Word in his admonition to the young minister, Timothy, when he said, "Study to shew thyself approved ..." (II Timothy 2:15) and all Christians are admonished by Peter to study the scriptures. He gave the admonition "... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh ..." (I Peter 3:15). Without the study of God's Word how can we be ready to give an answer?

4. **You must recognize and cope with current world conditions.** If you have diligently complied with the preceding three important requirements then you should be able to cope with current conditions. You will be equipped with the knowledge that you will need to face these conditions and will know that we will be faced with scoffers, false prophets, false teachers and false Christs in these last days. However, you must not only recognize these conditions but you must remain free from all worldly evil as taught by the Apostle Paul when he said, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord ..." (II Corinthians 6:17) and the admonition to, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

(Continued on page 14)



A Love Letter for Jane

by a Father

I'm writing this letter to you, my daughter, because I love you, because I want to see you live right in the sight of God, and because more than anything else I want you to be in the Kingdom of God.

Jane, when I was a teenager I wondered about a lot of things, but didn't dare question, "Why?" What Dad or Mother said was law, and that was that! Today's teenagers are different. I'm glad that our young people are asking questions, and I think they are entitled to the answers. When Dad or Mother or the Church of God tell you to do or not to do something, you are entitled to know why.

Although the Bible says, "Honour thy father and thy mother . . .", it also instructs, ". . . and ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Further, we parents are commanded to "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22: 6). This, Jane, is why I feel it is my duty to explain a few things to you, and as you begin to understand the reason for these things, you will realize that we parents and the Church are not merely laying down rules for rules' sake alone, but that we are deeply interested in you and in your welfare.

Do you know that you can sin with your body, that you can cause some young man to sin, and you both can be lost to the Kingdom of God forever? I won't talk about the wrongs of premarital sex, as by now you have read and heard enough of this. I simply want to warn you of something that can lead to premarital sex.

Jane, you need to be careful about the clothes you wear. The Church of God has long taught this, but perhaps has not fully explained why. And you, modern girl that you are, rebel because you refuse to be "dictated" to. Do you remember that knit blouse you bought recently? When you tried it on at home your mother called me to your room to see if I liked it, and I told you that I did not. Of course you demanded to know, "Why?", and you said that all the girls (even girls from the church) are wearing them. I commented to your mother what men's reactions are when looking at a girl who wears such a revealing blouse or a short skirt or other immodest clothing. Then she explained this to you but you just told her, "Well, it doesn't send me when I see another girl with a revealing blouse or a short skirt on." This is why I personally want to caution you about a few things.

You know that in the beginning God created all things including man and woman. You know, too, that God performed the first marriage ceremony there in the Garden of Eden. Notice in Genesis chapter 2 that God says after a man and woman become husband and wife, they shall become as one

flesh. The Bible also tells us that Adam and Eve were naked and were not ashamed. Jane, dear, it is only in marriage that such nakedness is pure and good.

I don't think you are fully aware of the strong sexual drives God has built within man. And I really don't think you comprehend what can, as you would say, "turn on" a fellow. Remember, Jane, that you told your Mother it doesn't "send" you to see another girl wearing a revealing blouse or a short skirt? Well of course it does not send you, Jane, but such clothing that exposes so much of a girl's body has a very different effect upon a man and can very definitely arouse his sexual desires. You already know that a man and a woman's sexual drives are different and it takes a lot of what you call necking and heavy petting to arouse a woman whereas a man is excited much easier. Here is where the sin of the transparent blouses, halter tops and short skirts come in. I have lived and observed long enough to know that such immodesty is nothing more than an "open invitation" to any young man. Of course, when a boy and girl are involved in necking, etc. passion takes control, and as I've said many times before, "When passion comes in the door, common sense flies out the window."

Everyone has his or her moment of weakness and this is why there are so many pregnant brides, illegitimate babies, and abortions today. Don't misunderstand me, Jane. I'm not saying that this sin of fornication cannot be forgiven. You know it can. Just remember the

sin of David and Bathsheba in II Samuel 12:14. Nathan told David, "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme," and so you see, such sin brings reproach to the Church.

Do you realize that even if a fellow doesn't make a "pass" at you, he can still sin? Matthew 5:28 tells us, "But I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." You can cause a man to sin by wearing immodest, revealing, suggestive clothing. This in turn causes you to sin, for the Bible says you ARE your brother's keeper.

Jane, please accept this letter not as a "sermon" I've preached to you but rather as a "love letter" —I love you deeply and do want you to be in God's Kingdom.

With Love,
Dad

P. S. You made me very proud of you when you told me you took the blouse back and exchanged it for one you would not be ashamed to be wearing when Jesus comes again!



"SPEAKING OUT" is the monthly AIM feature designed to give AIM readers an opportunity to "speak out" expressing their ideas and opinions on topics of interest to today's youth. Send your articles for the monthly "SPEAKING OUT" feature to: AIM, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

1259 CRIMROSE LANE

(Continued from page 11)

5. Last and most important, you must remain steadfast until the end. The Apostle Paul gave us the admonition, "...be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). Christ said, "...he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Where is 1259 Crimrose Lane? Well, the location isn't important but the individuals living there, one of whom may be YOU, are important. You see, you are a pilgrim and sojourner in this world. As a pilgrim and sojourner you are to be engaged in a Christian race and at the same time be a good soldier for Jesus Christ. In performing your Christian obligations you must meet certain requirements to fulfill these roles so in the end may it never be said of you, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should obey not the truth" (Galatians 5:7).

Dear FYCer,

Dear FYCer,

The recent peace settlement between Syria and Israel directs our attention to God's Word, and should cause us to realize our redemption truly draws near. With an apparent "peace" in the Middle-east, we can only speculate as to when nations will sit down and attempt to negotiate a worldwide peace. We really don't know what will happen next except that our Saviour shall return sometime in the future. We must be ready, watching and praying at all times!

One way we can prepare for the Lord's return is by being active in His service. VISTOC is now over a year old, and is a program that offers an excellent way for young people to be active in the Church work. As we review the events of a year ago, we recall that the first two "pioneer" volunteers served in the program.

Since the official launching of the program, other young people have followed. To date no less than eight persons have served in the program. The most recent assignment has been Melva Carlson to Spring Vale Academy for the summer months.

Our special thanks go to Paula Wilson and to Brother Ed Keim for their terms of service in VISTOC! Paula served as accountant for Midwest Bible College while Brother Keim is assisting Elder R. C. Moldenhauer in the pastoral program of the Stanberry Church.

There are further openings for placement in VISTOC. A local pastor has made a request for a worker to assist him in his area. Other agencies of the Church are reviewing their programs to consider placement of VISTOC workers. Why not consider this program and take advantage of the opportunity to serve. Consider how you can best serve God and His Church in these latter days!

Sincerely,

Ken Knoll

Kenneth Knoll

A Memorable Week



1974 National Youth Week proved to be a time of spiritual refreshing as well as a time of great pleasure for the Denver F.Y.C. Throughout our week's activities the theme of Youth Week, "Redeeming the Time" became personally significant to each of us.

We began our Youth Week by viewing an inspirational film, "Beloved Enemies" on Wednesday night. This film impressed us with the importance of being well-grounded in the faith.

On Thursday night following a very fine banquet meal, we were encouraged by the words

of our featured Youth speaker, Brother Jerry Moldenhauer, District Youth Worker from Sacramento, California. We felt happy and satisfied as we left the banquet room of the Regency Inn that evening. Just as our group entered the parking area a bomb planted inside a Mustang exploded. Debris covered the parking area and flew as far as 500 feet through the air landing on the expressway and causing a seven-car pile up. Some members of our group narrowly escaped injury by the flying debris. We all felt thankful and praised God for His protective care over us as we thought of what could

have happened to us in the bomb-explosion incident.

In our Friday evening worship service Brother Moldenhauer recalled the events of the previous evening and reminded us just how great God is and how He does care for His people.

Sabbath was a special "Youth Day" in the Denver church as F.Y.Cers filled the positions of leadership and provided music for the services. Brother Moldenhauer admonished the congregation to truly live the abundant life in Christ in his worship hour message. Then Sabbath evening we

presented the play, "Watch Ye," a modern-day version of the ten virgins parable. This play vividly portrayed the reality of Christ's second return.

Our Youth Week activities concluded with a Sunday afternoon picnic and softball game.

Youth Week was an enjoyable and uplifting experience for the Denver F.Y.C. During the week's special services and activities we became more aware of the last-day times in which we live and of the importance of redeeming the time.

—Reported by Wanda O'Banion

The Devil Maze

by Mary Holbert

The devil by his many names and his many characteristic traits lurks in this maze. Find them by reading forward, down, or diagonally. Circle each one as you find it, and then check your answers with the list on page 19.

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P B A C C U S E R E D M F E B
R S D N A O R C D N E U J I V A
O E V W G A V E R V C R L I C
F R E A I E N E M Y E D T L K
A P R L I L R J T L I E H D B
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M U N H O L Y V L D R A G O N
    
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Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions Answered by
Dale G. Lawson



QUESTION

I believe in God and love Him very much. I try with Christ's help to live a true Christian life. I want to be in God's kingdom, but I want it to wait for awhile because I would like to have a family of my own. I do not want to miss that. Is it sinful to feel this way?

ANSWER

No, it isn't sinful to feel this way, but it does show a little lack of understanding about the Kingdom of God with all its glories. The desire to have your own family is a natural, God-given ambition. However, I am sure that the rewards of God's kingdom will more than satisfy those who miss the opportunity of having their own happy families—and someone is bound to miss that.

Incidentally, in my early teenage years I was afraid the Lord would come before I got old enough to drive a car. My brother Ken once told me he thought the Lord would come before he could even get through Midwest Bible College and out into the ministry. We both realized our ambitions and are now

advancing on "middle age."

The important thing for you to do is to CONTINUE LOVING GOD and OCCUPY UNTIL HE COMES. One word of warning—you must not be so eager for that family that you make hasty decisions and wrong choices so that you obtain misery instead of happiness. Always put God first in your life.

QUESTION

What about short skirts?

ANSWER

Well, what about "short skirts"? The Bible teaches that we must dress modestly. To do otherwise is a violation of God's command and is sin.

QUESTION

Why do people who profess to be Christians go around like old grumps?

ANSWER

Where have you been? The *opposite* has proven true in the lives of those I know who profess to

follow Jesus Christ. Christians (even preachers) appear to me to have a tremendous amount of fun and pure happiness. Maybe you have observed someone who believes that a sober face is a sign

of "holiness." I do not believe that, and I observe that neither do multitudes of others in the Church of God. Try to get where the action and the *true happiness* is—and that is in Christ and in His Church.

THE DEVIL MAZE

You should have found the following words in the Devil Maze on page 17.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Accuser | 14. Enemy | 28. Obscene |
| 2. Adversary | 15. Envy | 29. Profanity |
| 3. Anger | 16. Evil | 30. Riot |
| 4. Backbiting | 17. Filth | 31. Serpent |
| 5. Bad | 18. Greed | 32. Sin |
| 6. Bitterness | 19. Hate | 33. Sinner |
| 7. Brag | 20. Idolater | 34. Spite |
| 8. Clamor | 21. Liar | 35. Steal |
| 9. Covet | 22. Lie | 36. Tempter |
| 10. Cruel | 23. Lion | 37. Unholy |
| 11. Deceiver | 24. Lust | 38. Vain |
| 12. Devil | 25. Malice | 39. Whisperer |
| 13. Dragon | 26. Murder | 40. Wiles |
| | 27. Murderer | |

CHRISTIANITY IS . . .

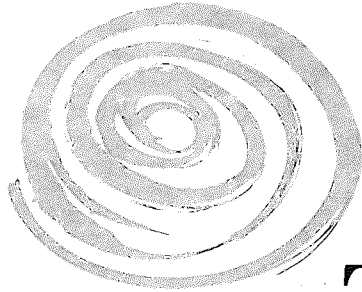
Christianity is not a religion of transcendental abstraction, or brilliant speculation; its children are neither monks, mystics, epicureans, nor stoics.

It is the religion of loving, speaking, and doing, as well as believing.

It is a life as well as a creed.

It has a rest for the heart, a word for the tongue, a way for the feet, and a work for the hand. The same Lord who is the foundation of our hopes, the object of our faith, and the subject of our love, is also the model of our conduct, for "He went about doing good, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

—Cumming



THE TUNNEL

A few months after the Berlin wall was built, a group of college students in West Berlin began the dangerous and monumental task of digging a tunnel under the wall through which certain friends could escape from East Berlin. They worked night and day in their spare time in the cold dampness of the underground tunnel where they faced the constant threat of being discovered and executed or, no less frightful, being buried in a cave-in or poisoned by gases. This they did for months, often lying on their backs digging over their heads. Work was slow and tedious and they often studied in the soggy dimness when it became necessary to wait. For a period one of the instigators of the project was hospitalized and he continued to make plans and give his instructions from his hospital bed.

When the tunnel was finally completed came the most hazardous operation of all, getting the families, babies and small children included, safely through the tunnel. Timing must be perfect and comings and goings from the buildings which housed the tunnel's extremities must be very

casual. After crawling through the muddy passages in the tunnel everyone must be cleaned up and clothes changed or washed out so that those leaving the tunnel would not look suspiciously unkempt thus endangering the safety of those who followed. Stockings were often washed out and put back on soaking wet.

All this to free a few friends from bondage for a mere lifetime, and many of us won't even cross the street to free someone for eternity. Isn't it a shame? Right now we have the liberty to assemble, to hold revivals, to witness to others, to pass out tracts, but we don't have the time, or is it just that it doesn't matter that much to us?

None of us has time for everything we would like to do, but all of us find time for the things that really matter to us. Perhaps souls just don't matter enough to us. If not, I wonder how much we will matter to God when He separates the sheep from the goats. Jesus said, "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required..." Of the many things God has given us, freedom of worship is not the least. Much will

be required of us because of it.

If we haven't been finding time for study, time for meditating, time for service and time for prayer, then let us at least find time for prayer. For until we establish a working friendship with God we will never "find the time" for His things, because they just won't matter enough.

We are so happy for you Minute-men who do care enough that you are willing to study and memorize key scriptures so that you will be prepared to witness for Christ and "give

a reason for the hope that is in you." Following are the verses we urge you to study for the coming month:

I Corinthians 2:9

Psalms 19:165

Romans 12:1

Revelation 21:4

I Corinthians 13:13

Romans 12:21

Hebrews 11:1

I John 2:15

THE FUTURE—FUTILITY OF FULFILLMENT?

(Continued from page 5)

diligently and honestly at a routine eight-to-five job, that will make the burdens of your employer lighter and provide a joyful example to your fellow workers.

The Church of God has entered a period of accelerated growth. The church administration is outlining plans that can and should involve many lay people, young and old. Opportunities await writers, secretaries, teachers, book-keepers, musicians—anyone, in fact, who is willing to use his abilities for God! Do your plans for the future include a measure of service

to the Church of God? We need your enthusiasm and vitality in this period of surging outreach. We need your genuine commitment of responsibility to ease the burdens of despair. Make your life count!

The Christian has one privilege that is greater than all the dreams of wealth or prestige that may be available in the world... he knows that Christ's return will shortly usher in an age of justice and joy in which he will fully share. With this knowledge of ultimate "right," today's tedium acquires meaning; aimlessness becomes commitment; and the pervading sense of futility vanishes in a desire to meet life head-on with thankfulness.

It is not work that kills men; it is worry. Work is healthy; you can hardly put more upon a man than he can bear. Worry is rust upon the blade. It is not the revolution that destroys the machinery, but the friction. Fear secretes acids; but love and trust are sweet juices.

Henry Ward Beecher

More Fruit

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22, 23).

How beautiful is the saying, "A Christian must have a servant's heart and a learner's spirit." Our purpose in life is to become Christ-like, and to improve our characters (with Christ's help) to the point that others will see Christ in us. This can only be accomplished by eliminating our human nature (dying daily) and letting Christ's character show through us. For example, when we are angry at someone for offending us, we try to justify our attitude by saying, "Well, it's only natural." Yes, it is natural and do you know what? That in itself condemns us, for in I Corinthians 2:14 we are told that the natural man does not receive the things of God. So we must avoid the things that "come natural" rather than simply using them as an excuse for our behavior. Replace the natural with the Spiritual. This brings lasting happiness and peace of mind!

This month's daily readings will give you more insight into the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in YOUR life.

Read the following chapters paying particular attention to the verses listed.

READ YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY EVERY DAY.						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAB.
AUGUST, 1974						
				1 Gal. 5: 14, 22-26	2 Prov. 20:22	3 Prov. 25: 21, 22
4 Matt. 5:3-16	5 Matt. 18:21-35	6 Matt. 19:19	7 Matt. 20:28	8 Matt. 22:37-40	9 Ps. 1	10 Mark 12:29-31
11 Luke 6:27-44	12 Luke 8:15	13 John 13:13-17, 34, 35	14 John 15: 12, 17	15 Luke 10:27-37	16 Luke 17:3-10	17 Rom. 5:35
18 Rom. 12:9-21	19 Rom. 13:8-10	20 Rom. 14:19	21 Rom. 15:2, 3	22 Ps. 34: 12-18	23 I Cor. 10:24	24 II Cor. 6:3, 6
25 Phil. 2:1-8	26 James 1:3, 4	27 I Thess. 5:15	28 Matt. 23:23-28	29 Rom. 1:29-32	30 I Cor. 6:7	31 I Cor. 13

America the beautiful

Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free. The wretched refuse
of your teeming shore, send
these; the homeless, tempest-
tossed to me. I lift the lamp be-
side the golden door.

Emma Lazarus

Inscription on the Statue of Liberty



ADDRESS CHANGE?

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