

Aim

The magazine for young people

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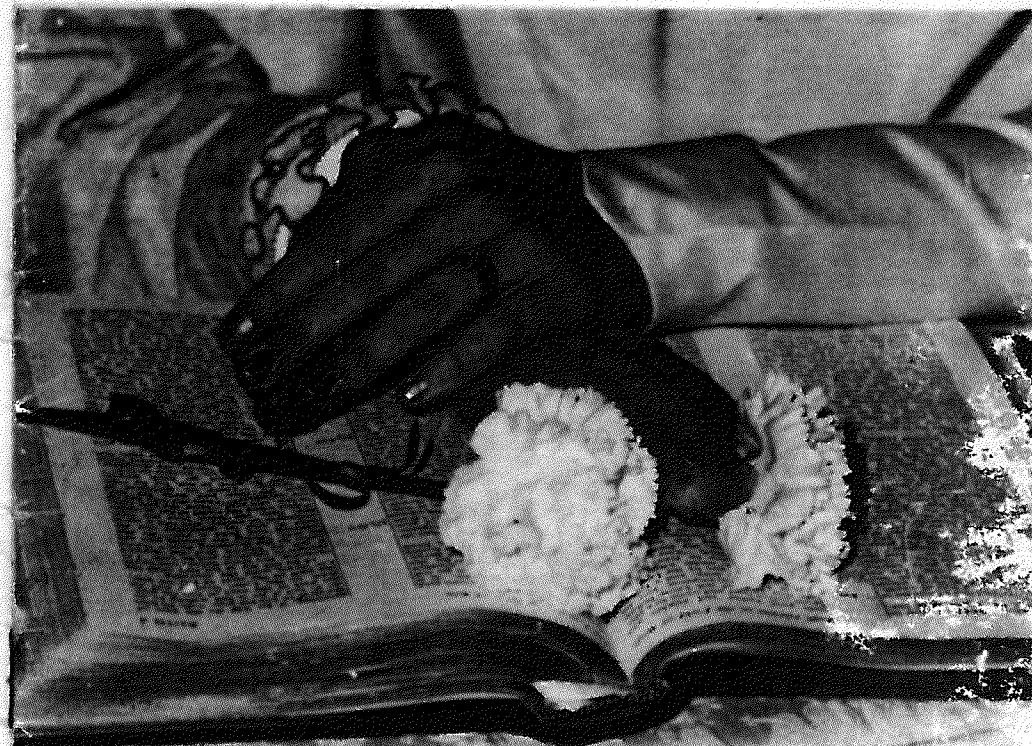


Photo by Ron Fry

*Love—it surrounds every being
and extends slowly to embrace
all that shall be.*

Kahlil Gibran

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

It is published monthly by the Bible Advocate Press at 330 W. 152nd Avenue, Broomfield, Colorado. Second-class postage is paid at Broomfield, Colorado 80020.

Contributions of material for publication are greatly appreciated. No responsibility is assumed for the care of manuscript, however, and only manuscript which is accompanied by return postage will be returned. Material which is original with this publication may be reprinted to the Glory of God. Please give proper credit.

Subscription rates: \$3.50 per year in the United States and Canada. Foreign, \$4.00. Clubs of 6 or more to one address, U. S. and Canada only, \$3.00 each.

A change of address must be allowed two weeks for processing. Please send both old and new addresses.

Address all mail to: AIM, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado 80201.

Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXVII, No. 6

LOVE

The feeling is too big for the word!

Elizabeth Page

EDITORIAL ETCHES

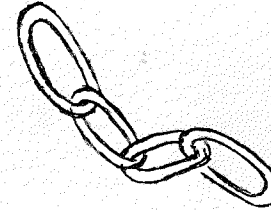
"Here comes the bride!" All eyes focus on that lovely lady radiantly adorned in shining white—a perfect picture of femininity. Her countenance glows—enraptured she stares straightforward at the strong, handsome figure waiting for her at the altar—waiting to join hands with her—a bridegroom waiting to claim his very own cherished bride.

What a thrill and privilege it is to be among the wedding guests—to see a young couple unite their lives in love. How awesome, reverent, holy is the marriage ceremony—how joyous is the wedding celebration!!

"HERE COMES THE BRIDEGROOM!" What a glorious day it will be when the Bridegroom returns to this earth for His Bride! Oh to be a guest at that great wedding—to be among those caught up to meet Him in the clouds!

We know Jesus is soon to return, just as He and God, His Father, have promised to claim His Bride—the Church. We know, too, that He will settle for nothing less than a perfect bride—a virgin—a glorious Church, *not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:27). Let us all work with renewed strength to make ready the marriage of the LAMB. Let us strive to be part of that glorious body to be claimed by the Bridegroom. May we all be as wise virgins having oil in our vessels so that when the cry is made, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," we will enter in to the marriage.

A Link in the Chain



by Gene Price

Will You Be One?

At this time of year when many young people have recently graduated and many others are getting married, important decisions are being made. New goals will be established and new challenges confronted. I fully believe one of the younger set face in making these decisions is the important question: **IN WHAT WAY WILL MY LIFE INFLUENCE THE PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD (7th Day)?**

From the Handbook of Denominations in the United States, 1956, we read: "At the time of the Puritan migration to Massachusetts, there were seven churches in London bearing the name Church of God... that were Sabbatarian. Members of these congregations settled in Massachusetts, Pennsyl-

vania, Rhode Island, and New Jersey between 1664 and 1800."

We readily see how our congregations have multiplied across the nation since that time, although we can only claim a small percentage of the United States' 210,000,000 population as Church of God members. It is our responsibility as young people and future Church leaders to constantly strive for an even greater advancement of the truth with which God has blessed our Church.

The early Church had the spirit and truth of Jesus Christ, and zealously spread the good tidings to other areas. For example, we are enthusiastic when we read of the fantastic momentum with which Paul and Peter preached the Word. Hundreds were converted. We can likewise be enthusiastic when we see the striking progress which has been made in the Church of God (7th Day) within the past decade. *If this progress falters, you*

or I could be responsible.

How?

By *complacency*—by being so satisfied because we have the truth that we aren't concerned about Joe around the corner and Debbie across the street. Maybe it's because we are afraid of being different. Christ was different; and, after all, isn't He the pattern for our lives? If we really feel this reluctance to be different, we defeat the purpose Christ wants us to fulfill!

Where is the Church of God (7th Day) going? Exactly the way in which we direct it.

We are part of a new generation. We could be a most important and intricate tool in the building, planting, and directing of the wonderful work which is before us!

HOW?

The younger generation as a whole is especially looking for something today!—something which, even if intangible, has tenacity—something which has great force and power, yet can be gentle, kind, understanding, and loving—something in which to have faith, without the fear of having it fail them—something, someplace, or someone they can go to for direction in time of need, in time of fear, in time of tears!

They are wondering if that something might be just around the corner! And it might be if you and I have the courage to mention God while they are passing.

To some it may be just at the top of the hill. And again it will be if we are that solid white

fence revealing the gentle, green pasture which seems to say, "Wait!! No more wandering! We have what you have been searching for!! We have the wonderful Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Do we have the overflowing love, compassion, courage, and strength to be there? Or will that corner be passed and that hill be traveled time and time again without our being there to witness for Christ?

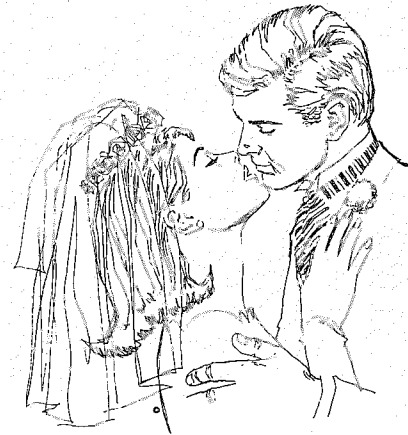
We have been left with a great commission and responsibility! But we have a great Director who possesses qualities necessary to help us progress to the point where we can accomplish whatever goals we set for the Church.

Where is the Church of God going?

Let us take each other's hand, then someone else's, and another and another until we have an unbreakable chain long enough to contain more than a million links!

Finally, when the entire chain is bound together, we will have the privilege and satisfaction of saying, "And just think, we were instrumental in helping the Church to really move on for Christ."

The Church needs to grow, and it has every right to ask our help and support! Talk to someone about the Church today—and take my hand. PLEASE???



*and they
lived happily
ever after?*

by Terril Littrell

In 1900 one marriage in twelve ended in divorce; in 1912 it was one in eight; today the figure is one in three; 3,000 families in the United States are broken up EVERY DAY through divorce, separation, or desertion!

What has gone wrong with marriage? What is the cause of all of this tragedy? How can it be avoided?

The Wedding Itself

Personally I feel that the conduct of the wedding itself may make an important contribution to a happy marriage. (I don't know how scientific that belief is.)

To me a wedding is deeply an act of worship. For this reason, I feel that a minister of the Church of God should always be in charge of this service, and the wedding conducted in the sanctuary of a local Church of God where this is possible.

Nearly always at a wedding, there are many guests present who are very closely connected with the parties being married. A church wedding is conducted with emphasis on the meaning of true happiness through Christ and obedience to His Word. Each member of every home present can be

blessed. A church wedding is simply unforgettable. The vows that are taken before God and the people of His church are not so easily broken. Many people, I have noticed, long after they are married, come back to the church where their ceremony was performed for the first time, and take again their marriage vows. It is something sacred to them! They both express in practical form their loyalty to God, and from this, strengthen their love for one another.

The Early Years of Marriage

The plain facts are that all young people are going to have some conflict in their early years getting adjusted to each other.

Probably number one in the hazards of the early years of marriage is that of LACK OF COMMUNI-

CATION. It is commonly stated by those having marital problems who come to their pastor for counsel: "He (or she) does not understand." They do not "get through to each other." Marriage is SHARING in an emotional partnership!

With matrimony comes a complete spiritual, emotional and physical union. The work has just begun. Marriage will have GROWING PAINS. Nobody ever DRIFTS into marital happiness! It must be developed!

A successful marriage is based to a great degree on sexual adjustment of the partners. It has been said that "adequate sexual adjustment—if you have it—constitutes 5% of a marriage. If you do not have it, it constitutes 95%." Sex is normal, wholesome, and important. What God was not ashamed to make—we should not be ashamed to be. Each of us is a man or a woman and there is a great emotional strength in accepting ourselves as we have been created.

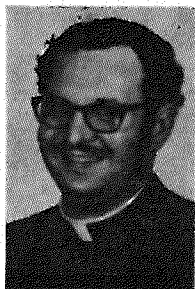
It was thought by some of our "puritan" ancestors that sexual pleasures of marriage were enjoyed only by the male. But this relationship was not scriptural! The Bible says that Sarah called her husband Lord, their lives were SHARED. She was not downtrodden but yearned to be the center of his devotion and affection, TO MOTHER A CHILD FOR HIM.

It is extremely important that both parties in the marriage union try to please the other and seek God's blessing upon their home. Each must learn to overlook faults and commend virtues. When sharp differences of opinion arise, sit down and calmly "talk it out," but

stay away from your families, friends, and neighbors in these controversies, and above all, STAY OUT OF THE LAW OFFICES. Both of you come together with your pastor before discussing with anyone else your conflicts. If you will do this you will have a lifetime guarantee for a successful marriage. All repairs need to be made at the factory. No amateur mechanics are to bungle with the carburetor! Then have prayer together. Discussing problems with your pastor will keep down any major marital trouble, and you will find that differences never become serious or bitter so long as you can pray together.

Above all, *don't be in a hurry about getting married.* Seek the Lord's guidance. If it is His will for you to be married, He has the right one picked out for you, and if you pray for His guidance, He will surely lead you to that one. Remember this promise, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

Many a young lady, by the time she reaches her 22nd birthday, has probably felt that she would surely be left an old maid, and that somewhere along the line she



Terril Littrell, who is a high school teacher in Nevada, Missouri, is a minister for the Church of God (7th Day).

(Continued on page 16)

Teen Guidelines

by Kenneth Knoll

The Good Earth and You



"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." "And God looked and saw everything He had made and said, Behold, it is very good."

"Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air . . . And God blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth . . ."

"Because thou . . . hast eaten of the tree . . . cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life . . ."

Ever since man has dwelt upon the earth, he has depended upon its vast natural resources for his existence. And today the earth's storehouse of wealth still affords us the privilege of maintaining life. Mineral deposits and precious stones, oil processed to supply fuel for heat and transportation, forests which supply building materials for shelter, water to drink, air to breathe, and food to eat are only a few of the earth's bountiful gifts to man. We have all of these things because God knew at the time of creation what would be needed to maintain life on earth. God created a perfect earth complete with all man needs to maintain life, and He installed a system of checks and balances, supply and demand so that the earth could continue to sustain life through the many generations to come. When this system of balance is thrown off course by man, all of creation suffers. During the last century nature's balance system has been ignored and the emphasis throughout the world has been on personal gain. **Because of his greed, man has had little thought or concern for conserving or for replacing the precious resources he has sapped from his home—the earth. So now, after many years of abuse, we face an "energy crisis"—a crisis that threatens our prosperity and the very comforts we have grown to take for granted.**

A few years ago a "review" of the 1960's appeared in TIME magazine. This article stated that America possessed such an immense supply of natural resources that there would be no possibility of depleting that supply until around the

year 2000. But now, only a short time later, ecologists, economists and scientists offer grim predictions about the future of America's natural resources. The price of building materials has increased by 50% since January, 1973 because of the scarcity of timber. Gasoline is presently being rationed, and reports now say that by mid-summer, 1973, gasoline may be selling for 90¢ to \$1.50 per gallon.

And then there's a different aspect of our natural resource crisis—many elements and conditions in today's modernized world combined with human neglect through apathy greatly threaten the wild-life of our nation. Various species of wildlife have already become extinct, and the frightening fact is that the list of animals, birds and fish facing extinction is growing.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, there are fewer and fewer people each year to produce the nation's food supply. Any nation hoping to remain alive must be able to feed its people. We have not felt a great deal of concern about this because of our huge surplus of grains and corn. But if American farms were faced with a serious widespread crop-failure, our surpluses would be depleted almost completely.

Ken Knoll, pastor of the church at Fairview, Oklahoma, is a member of the National Youth Committee. Since the time he was an FYC'er, Ken has been active in the youth work.



(Continued on page 21)

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions Answered by
Dale G. Lawson



QUESTION

I want to go to church bad, but my folks won't take me! What would you do? How can I get my folks to take me to church? I am 13 years old.

ANSWER

It was great to hear of your desire to attend church.

Why don't you make an effort to get to church, even if your parents do not attend? Get permission from your parents to attend and then see if some of the church folks can come by and pick you up. Do it even if someone has to go out of their way to get you. Christians are always thrilled with the opportunity to help others get to church.

Tell your minister the situation and ask for his help. He will be glad you did, and I am sure that he will be happy to visit your folks and encourage their own church attendance.

Pray! Pray that your parents will see the importance of taking you to church and that they will awaken to their own need for God. That is what I would do.

QUESTION

Why do most preachers pick on us teenagers? Everything that is

fun to do, they try to make a "No-No." I sure get fed up sometimes.

ANSWER

In Hebrews 11:25 the Bible speaks of "the pleasures of sin." Some things that are "fun" definitely are sin.

If that thing the preacher insists is a "No-No" is:

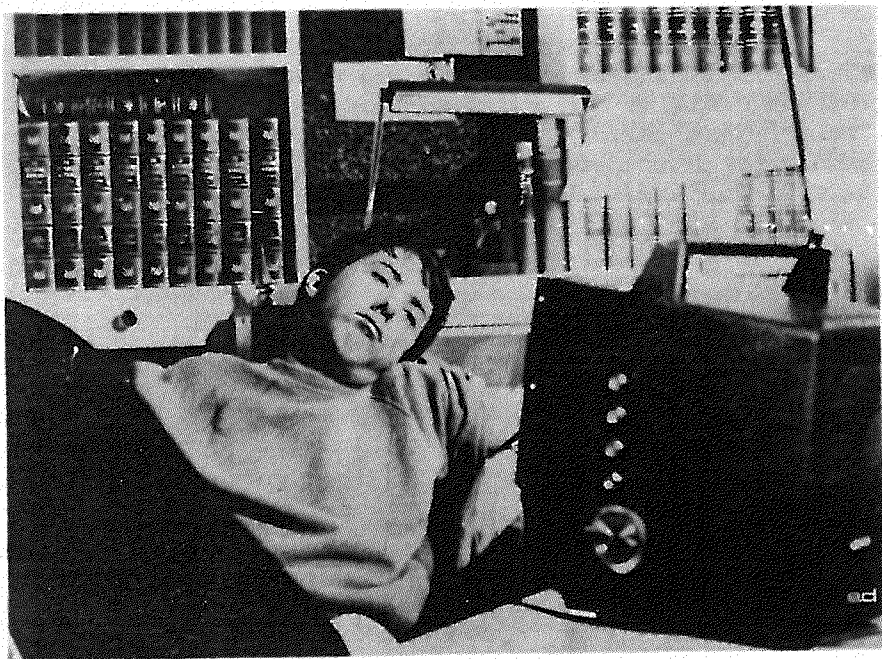
**destructive to your physical body
destructive to your spiritual life
destructive to your good name
(reputation)**

then you can be sure that he IS NOT "picking" on you. Rather he is concerned about your good, your welfare both now and for eternity, and a hearty thanks to him would be in order.

Being a preacher myself, I am positive that "most" preachers are not against "fun." However, they are, and should be, against things that destroy a teenager's physical health and spiritual life.

If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Elder Dale G. Lawson, P. O. Box 108, Cloudland, GA 30709. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.

Are You Hooked?



by Calvin Burrell

Of all the household gadgets invented since toothpaste, the T.V. is probably the most marvelous. Its magic lens scans the globe to bring news breaks, sporting events, weather reports, international happenings, and all varieties of entertainment into the cool and comfortable access of your favorite living-room rocker—almost instantaneously. With just a flick of your wrist, you can change the scene ten thousand miles and one hundred years—a literal time-and-space machine! And you don't just listen either—listening went out with prayer meetings: with this gadget you have full view of all that occurs, exactly as it happens.

I'll be perfectly honest with you—television is a fantastic invention. For educational purposes it can't be beat; newcasts and commentaries are excellent viewing; travel pictures are delightful; sports events are good entertainment. I wish that I could sincerely endorse the television 100%, but I can't. T. V. could be so fine and wholesome. Properly used for right purposes, T.V. could be one of the most powerful influences for good in our whole land. But no, the main idea of the producers seems to be "gold," not "good." We see more heed paid to T.V. rating and viewer demand, with no care really given for the eventual benefit of the poor person in front of the box. So in many programs, wrong themes are chosen, wrong situations are portrayed, wrong instincts are appealed to. With a magnificent opportunity to be a force for God and for good, television is doing a fair job of wrecking many lives and homes that pay daily homage to its habit-forming offerings.

Let's examine some issues closely: The same hate, crime, and murder that is wrong for you to commit personally, is wrong for you to watch and enjoy on the T.V. screen. The same unnatural and immoral sexual behavior that is sinful when shown in the movie theater downtown, is just as sinful for your entertainment when portrayed on a T.V. screen in your own living room. The same off-color jokes, suggestive remarks, and generally cheap conversation which is wrong to come from your own lips, is also wrong for you to snicker at and appreciate when it comes from your favorite T.V. personality.

The Bible states it simply and flatly: "ABHOR (hate) that which is evil" (Romans 13:9).

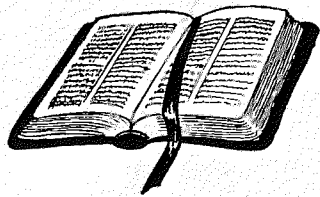
Now I know that there are some good programs, but many more are not. Wrong movies cheapen and destroy character. You're a better person if you avoid them, for there's a terrifically strong tendency to be what you see. Far too often many folks who claim that they know when to turn it off are the same ones who continue to watch, trash included, what freely emits from the box. They somehow think that they can absorb the good and allow all the undesirable to run off. They are strong in good intentions, but things just don't work that way.

But this is not my main appeal to the Christian teenager. Perhaps you love the T.V. I don't blame you, for it's quite an attractive thing. Most teenagers spend double the time watching the box than they spend in church and church-related activities. But for Jesus' sake, you must listen and decide for yourself whether in your Christian life you can afford to watch it all.

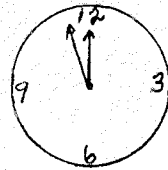
In most rooms where a T.V. occupies a position of reverence, two other objects are usually found. One receives a place of honor in



*Calvin Burrell,
Chairman of the
National F.Y.C.,
presently serves
as pastor of the
Fort Smith, Ar-
kansas, church.*



box, more beer commercials, and a certain haunting in the memory of wasted hours and what might have



location, either nicely featured on the end table or maybe on the box itself; this object is a book. The book has two covers which always remain closed while the box blares incessantly away from morning until bedtime. The Bible remains unread, and prayertimes are forsaken.

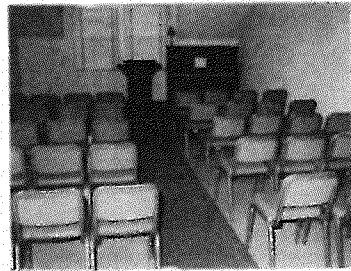
been done for Christ. In this day when everyone seems to be crying "no time," everyone seems to have plenty of time for their favorite T.V. thriller.

The other object generally hangs on the wall—it is a machine operated by electricity. The machine quietly and quickly marks each hour with a new program from the

The closed book on the table advises, and the quiet machine on the wall urges YOU—

DON'T get hooked on T.V.

It's time now for you to reserve your seat for the 1973-74 school year!



For complete information and application forms write to:

**Elder Max M. Morrow,
Director
MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE
P. O. Box 158
Stanberry, MO 64489**

Something Is WRONG



by Ricky Everett

What is happening to the morals in our teenage world today? Man has gained much knowledge in the last one hundred years. In what way is this knowledge affecting our teenagers? Will this newly acquired knowledge enlighten or blind our teenagers?

played.

People throughout the ages have pursued the idea of "fleshly pleasure." From the early days of this earth, people have sought pleasure as their main goal. And afterward men had to bear the punishment for their loose morals. Will history repeat itself?

What about parents? Yes, too many contribute to this rising problem by letting their children go wild. Many teenagers say, "Mom and Dad are real hip! They don't care what I do as long as I am happy." Shocking. No wonder this problem is increasing.

How does this problem affect today's generation—especially people between the ages of 12 and 20 years of age?

What effect does this have on a teenager during and after his teenage years? Statistics show the alarming rise in venereal disease resulting from personal intimacies, not to mention the 40% of teenage brides who are already pregnant when they take their wedding vows. The rising rate of suicide among teenagers shows that something is wrong.

Here's how!

Teenagers have been bombarded with the three-letter word S-E-X from childhood on. Blaring music from records and radio drug the teenagers with a desire for "pleasure." And let's not forget the motion pictures, advertisements, and filthy magazines. Everywhere one looks, sex is dis-

What about later in marriage? Facts show that 50% of all teenage marriages end in divorce within five years. Just imagine what their lives will be after this tragic happening! What if they have children? Most children are sent home to mom or to an adoption agency. Young people, this is a serious problem!

V

olunteers

It is with great joy and thankfulness that the National F.Y.C. announces the placement of the first two VISTOC workers.



Diane Williams, a 1971 graduate of Spring Vale Academy and a 1972 Midwest Bible College student, is serving as a VISTOC worker in Washington, D. C. for District No. 6.

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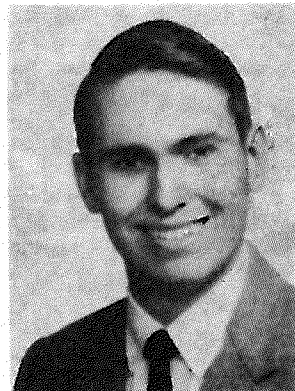
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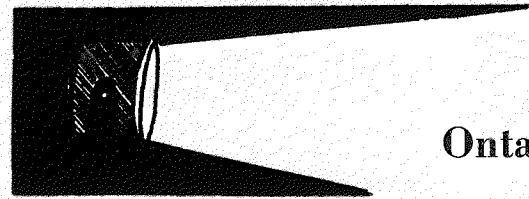
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Paul Severance, a graduate of Oregon State University, completed the Biblical Foundations Course at Midwest Bible College last month and is now serving as a VISTOC worker for the Bible Advocate Press in Denver, Colorado.



SPOTLIGHT ON

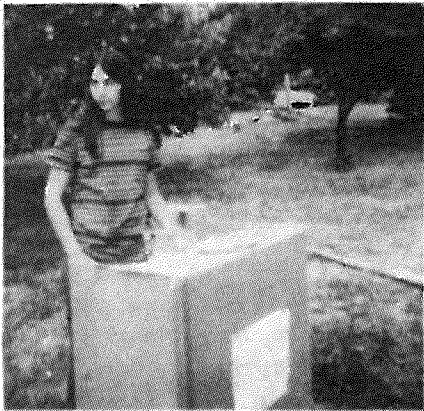
Ontario, California FYC



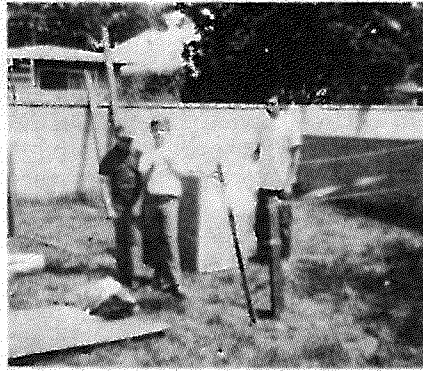
After exhausting many tried-and-true money-making projects and in attempting to raise funds for youth camp, our F.Y.C. came up with the "brainstorm" of sponsoring a backyard carnival and bazaar. Following much planning and preparation, our mini-fair opened on May 6th and met with great success. Our fair offered such attractions as a haunted house (located in a darkened basement), a wishing well, a tunnel maze for the smaller children, a baking contest for the ladies, a dart-throwing contest, a basketball-shooting contest, a crazy computer which provided fortunes for a small fee, wagon rides, a magic show, and a refreshment stand where we sold hotdogs, popcorn and lemonade.

This project was well worth all the time and effort we put into it because it brought us much enjoyment in working together, a lot of fun and laughs, and larger proceeds than we expected.

—Reported by Tim Kester



Our refreshment stand proved to be one of the "favorites" at the mini-fair.



Two young contestants prepare to enter a dart-throwing contest.

We'd like to see YOUR F.Y.C. in the "Spotlight"! Remember . . . in each month's AIM we want to feature a brief summary of an outstanding project some local F.Y.C. has accomplished. Please send 2 or 3 action photos (black and white preferred) and a summary of a project your group considers notable to AIM, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

(Continued from page 6)

missed out by not being available to go with young men outside the church. But she wasn't! The right one came along in due time and they dated one another and married. Rushing things along could have caused her to miss the will of God completely for her life. The Bible says: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14). Spiritual unity is such an important factor that these differences can cause much heart-

ache and conflict. The Prophet Amos reminds us, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

After you are sure—REALLY SURE—that you have found the one that you desire to spend the rest of your life with, I suggest that you set up a series of counseling sessions with your pastor. Many pastors use a pre-marriage discussion book which provides a structure for their discussion. The one that I use in counseling with young people is available at the Bible Advocate Press, Denver, Colorado 80201. It is en-

titled "BEFORE . . . YOU SAY I DO" by M. LaVern Norris. It may be purchased at a very nominal fee. The general idea of the pre-marriage counseling sessions is similar to what takes place at Cape Kennedy when they have to make many "check lists" prior to the launching of a satellite. We simply check that everything is "go." We want the marriage to get off with the right start!

Staying Happily Married—An Art

Staying happily married is an art! But like every other art, it requires effort. The art of staying happily married like every other art, emerges from the individual reflection of a creative mind! This art can be learned! But you must apply yourself to it earnestly. This art must be practiced throughout all the years two people are married. As there are SYMBOLS in all ART, so there are symbols in this—the greatest of the arts. Here is how it works:

BE THOUGHTFUL!

Let us first define thoughtfulness. It is a virtue, a habit, a quality of the heart which makes us FORGET OURSELVES and become mindful of our companion to the extent of sensing and even anticipating his or her needs and wishes.

Be thoughtful about experiences through which we all go in our homes. To give you an example, every evening when I come home from any late appointment, my wife always has burning in the window a lamp. Just a simple thing like that; but I appreciate it. She is

THOUGHTFUL of me. This may seem a very trivial thing, but as I drive home and turn the corner where the house becomes visible, I never quite get over the joy of the lighted lamp in the window.

Being thoughtful means that you give a little bit more of yourself—going the extra mile—performing the pleasantly unexpected favor. Thoughtfulness doesn't say, "What Must I Do?" but "What Can I Do?"

In married life we find many opportunities to practice the virtue of thoughtfulness—if only we use them. Believe me, your home will truly be a better place to live, and your marriage a happy one—IF YOU PRACTICE THOUGHTFULNESS!

The most important element in the success of a home is that the human NEEDS of the persons involved be met. There are basic human needs which each of us has. According to Dr. Robert W. Burns they are as follows; (1) Acceptance; (2) Affection; (3) Association; (4) Achievement; (5) Adventure.

The truly happy marriage depends on how much you GIVE. True LOVE is realized only in efforts of GIVING, to make your partner happy. It would be well to read 1 Corinthians 13 as an example of what loves does.

Your home is important and the success that you achieve in your family life will influence EVERYTHING else you do. The wholesome, Christian home is the hope of our world and we achieve such a home only when we work DILIGENTLY at the opportunity to make our marriage a success.

A Look at Two Nations

by Stanley J. Kauer

Israel's Enemies Kill Each Other

In the Bible history of Israel we read of many battles in which enemies were defeated because they killed each other. One such instance is recorded in I Samuel 14:20. Here the Philistines were involved. "And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture." This was often the way the Lord fought for His people, Israel.

Today we see a similar situation. Not long ago Israel was condemned for invading Lebanon and killing leaders of the Palestine guerillas. The news reports great loss of life on both sides as these Arab peoples fight each other. The government of Lebanon is trying to stamp out the guerilla forces and thus eliminate the danger of Israel attacking in Lebanon. And so we many times see it demonstrated, even as mentioned in Ezekiel 35:10 that those nations which would take over the land of Israel are defeated because "the Lord was

there." Yes, He is still there, and His word is being fulfilled.

A Silver Anniversary Celebration

In the month of May Israel celebrated its 25th anniversary as a modern nation. In this short time span this little nation has made more progress than any other nation of similar size in all history.

The Lord has told us in Bible prophecy that once Israel has returned and established themselves as a nation, they will NEVER be driven out of the land (Note Amos 9: 14, 15). In the 1967 war, Israel used modern weapons to win victory but there are many reports of mysterious supernatural happenings too. God is fulfilling His Word both with the efforts of the people and with miracles. And so in the anniversary celebration, Israel paraded the greatest display of military might ever seen in the Middle-East. In fact, it was one of the most sophisticated displays which could be made anywhere in the world. And one surprising thing mentioned in news reports of the parade and of the air display over-

head was that included among the planes were jet war planes made in Israel. Very few nations of the world have the capability of manufacturing jet aircraft, and tiny Israel is one which has that ability. And not only that, but the most advanced guns and other weapons are now made in Israel. At the same time Israel has an abundance of consumer goods—many home appliances are available for comfortable living. Their advances and production in agriculture are beyond belief.

God has a special purpose in connection with the land of Palestine. What is happening there is to the glory of God. Truly the Lord is building up Zion as prophesied in Psalm 102:3-16.

Relief from Disasters?

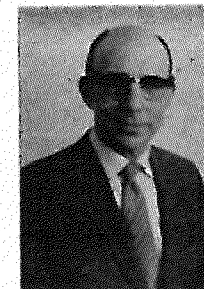
The president of the United States recently recommended a new system of disaster relief in which the states would bear more responsibility for helping the victims. In his report he mentioned that there were at least 48 major disasters in the United States last year. These included floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, forest or grass fires and others. The total number of natural disasters was an average of almost one each week. And now in this year of 1973 there have already been great floods, tornadoes, and an over-abundance of rainfall. It would seem there is just one disaster after the other in quick succession, and this is happening not only in the United States but throughout the world. There is no question but that we are seeing a great increase in these conditions, and this is what we should expect in accordance with Bible prophecy.

The bad conditions which are to exist in the time just prior to the second advent of Christ are described in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. In Luke 21:11 it says, "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." These descriptive words can include all the natural disasters which happen in our country and throughout the world.

If these disasters have not affected us we should be very thankful. Those who have been affected can be thankful that it has not been worse. We have many promises of God's care and protection. Let us continue to trust in Him.

Scandals Shake Our Nation

The revelations of dishonesty and illegal actions by those in high places in our government are distressing to all of us. We like to think that our nation is mostly "Christian" and that our leadership is of the highest moral caliber. But in these last days we can expect to find in the prophecy of 2 Timothy 3:1-5 is fulfilled. Men are "truth breakers, covetous, false accusers, despisers of those that are good." We seem to be in the situation described in Micah 7. "The good man is perished out of the earth: and



Elder Stanley Kauer, employed in the field of education for 30 years, has been an instructor at Midwest Bible College for 10½ years.

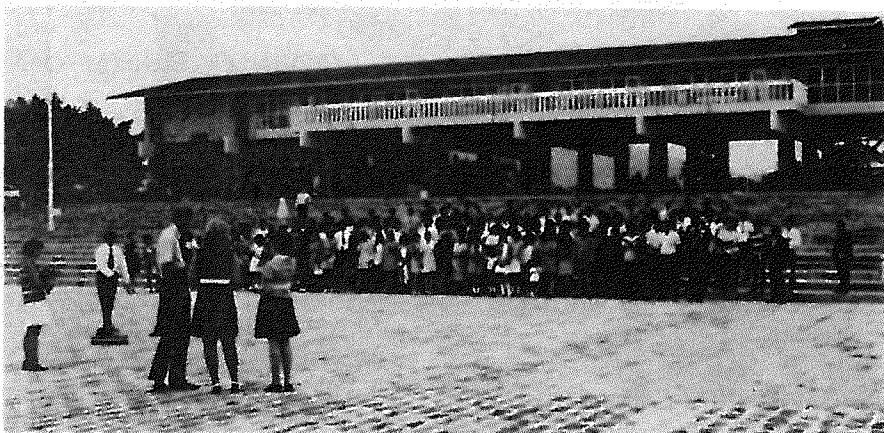
there is none upright among men . . . the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward, and the great men uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up."

It seems men will do anything for money. Bribes are freely given and received in government. It has been so in other times but never more than

now. As we consider these things, let us draw nearer to our God. Let us hold high the standard of truth and of obedience to His commandments. And let us pray for our nation and for each other, and remain true, no matter what may happen. There is a future kingdom of peace and righteousness to be attained.

It's Coming Soon . . .

The Mexico National Youth Convention



This is the convention hall where the National Youth Congress will be held.

Place: Oaxtepec, Mor., Mexico

Date: July 23-25, 1973.

Cost: \$24.00 per person for room, board and installations for the three days.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE U. S. DELEGATION TRAVELING TO THIS CONVENTION, WRITE US IMMEDIATELY!

The National F.Y.C.
P. O. Box. 2370
Denver, CO 80201

THE GOOD EARTH AND YOU

(Continued from page 8)

These factors of neglect take us back to the beginning. In the beginning God created everything. He placed man on this earth to enjoy it. But man was not happy living in perfect surroundings and he sinned. Because of his fall to sin, man has had to work the ground to bring forth the fruit of the land. Through years of hard work, man has found that fruit to sustain life, but because man has not had any great appreciation for preserving the creation of God, there is an energy crisis today.

In blessing man, God gave him dominion over creation. But, God said to replenish the earth as well. That means to take care that we not abuse it in any way. The beauty of the creation has been in the balance of animals, birds, insects, plants, water, and water life. Each has a specific purpose and each strives to multiply to preserve posterity.

We are a part of that preservation and must be aware of what we can do. New farming methods help preserve the soil and prevent erosion. Concerned game wardens study the habits of wildlife so that we can preserve each species. They also police our streams and forests so that man will not wantonly destroy the creatures of nature. New regulations are being established to better control air-pollution and sewage treatment. In general, more is being done to help take care of America and keep it clean.

Finally, after years of not caring, there is a genuine concern

about preserving our environment. We have breathed enough filthy air; we have seen too many of our streams and lakes and highways filled with the junk and wastes of man's discarding; there has been much too much killing of wildlife simply for the sake of sport.

It is time—far past time—for all of us to recognize that we share in the responsibility of maintaining God's good earth. In the parable of the steward, the Master gave the stewards charge of the vineyard and expected them to take care of it.

Likewise, God expects the same of us today in both a physical and a spiritual sense. The application is placed upon both the good earth and personal Christian living. We as Christians must respond to this message!

In the well-known story of the bridgebuilder we are told of an elderly man who comes to a stream he easily could swim across but chose rather to build a bridge across. When asked why he undertook such a great task he replied, "I could, without any difficulty, cross this stream. But there may come someone much younger than I who perhaps would have a difficult task in crossing. I do not build the bridge for me—I am building it for him."

Take care now, young Christian. Guard this good earth with loving care and help restore the bountiful resources our God has given so that as long as there are people on this earth they, too, might have the privilege of enjoying God's creation.

Steps to Salvation

Faith and works, the two essentials as far as salvation is concerned, were discussed last month and now they are going to be broken down into the four part plan of salvation. *Faith is still the initial step, but as we have already seen, salvation does not stop there.*

The Bible speaks of confessing our sins and of being repentant, but what does that mean? Does merely listing our sins before God (Who knows them already) and mouthing the words, "Please forgive me, Lord" do the trick? Not by a long shot!! Repentance means being sorry for our sins—sorry that we committed them, not just being sorry that we were caught. But repentance goes even deeper than that. We are to be so sorry and repentant that we will change our actions and our attitudes. We will no longer want to do those things that we did before.

A third step or term of the gospel is restitution for wrongs committed. This practice is taught in Ezek. 33:14-16 and Exod. 22:3. Restitution, where possible, should be given.

The final and very essential step of baptism is strongly commanded in the scriptures. Check the following scriptures concerning the importance of baptism: Matt: 3:13-17; Acts 2:41; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 22:16; Acts 8:36 & 37; Mark 16:16. There is much debate and discussion over whether baptism means mere sprinkling or complete emersion. Read the following scriptures and see what the Bible teaches: Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:1-5; John 3:23; and Matt. 28:19.

The terms of the gospel are plain and strongly taught in the Bible, and they must be met if we are to enter into the kingdom which God has prepared for those who serve Him.

Acts 2:38
II Cor. 5:17
Heb. 11:6
Luke 13:3

Matt. 18:3
Acts 22:16
Gal. 3:27
Romans 12:1, 2

The Treasured Possession

by Marilyn Current

Friendship is that thing that sweetens life, lightens burdens, and enriches one's own existence. Throughout the ages man has felt the need for the close companionship of one he can call "friend." The Bible contains many interesting observations about friendships, and we'll read some of them this month.

DEFINITION OF FRIENDSHIP

July 1. Prov. 27 (v. 17)
July 2. I Sam. 20 (vs. 41, 42)

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

July 3. I Sam. 18 (vs. 1-3)
July 4. Psa. 35 (vs. 13, 14)
July 5. Prov. 17 (v. 17) Note also chapter 18, verse 24
July 6. Matt. 2 (vs. 10, 11)
July 7. Luke 10 (vs. 33, 34)

VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP

July 8. II Sam. 16 (vs. 1, 2)
July 9. Eccl. 4 (vs. 9-12)
July 10. John 15 (vs. 13-15)

RESPONSIVE FRIENDSHIP

July 11. Prov. 18 (v. 24) Note also Prov. 27:17-19
July 12. Prov. 22 (v. 11)

FRIENDSHIP WITH A MOTIVE

July 13. Job 17 (v. 5)
July 14. Prov. 14. (v. 20)
July 15. Prov. 19 (v. 6)

TREACHEROUS FRIENDSHIP

July 16. Psa. 41 (v. 9)
July 17. Matthew 26 (vs. 48-50)

DISTRUSTED FRIENDSHIP

July 18. Job 16 (v. 20)
July 19. Mark 14 (vs. 44, 45)
July 20. John 7 (vs. 12, 13) Note also John 19:38
July 21. Luke 11 (vs. 5-7)

DANGEROUS FRIENDSHIP

July 22. Deut. 13 (vs. 6-9)
July 23. II Sam. 16 (vs. 16-23)
July 24. Job 32 (vs. 2, 3) Note also Job 42:7

FALSE FRIENDSHIP

July 25. II Sam. 16 (vs. 16-23).
Note also II Sam. 20:9, 10.

FRIENDS OF GOD

July 27. James 2 (v. 23)
July 28. Heb. 3 (v. 2)
July 29. Luke 12 (v. 4)
July 30. John 11 (vs. 1-3)
July 31. John 15 (vs. 14, 15)

Mark of Merit SCOREBOARD

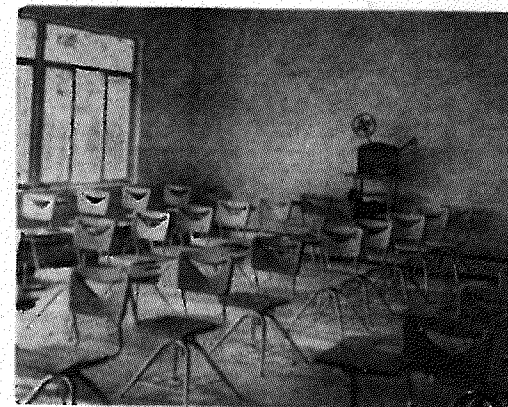
Following is a report of the first quarter Mark of Merit scores:

FYC	Merit Points	Bonus Points	Foreign Support	Qtr. per Quarter
ARKANSAS				
Delaplaine	208	347	6.00	7.50
Fort Smith	150	125		20.00
CALIFORNIA				
Bloomington	140	174		
Lodi	220	225	6.00	30.00
Los Angeles	153	110	6.00	3.00
Sacramento (Sp)	100	90		
San Jose	185	230	6.00	
CANADA				
White Fox, Sask.	130	30		
IOWA				
Marion	165	50		
MICHIGAN				
Detroit	180	31		72.60
South-West	113	46		18.75
MINNESOTA				
St. Paul	183	174	6.00	16.25
MISSOURI				
Joplin	153	775		11.00
Kansas City	90			
Stanberry	105	10	6.00	
NEW MEXICO				
Roswell	100	57		
NEW YORK				
Manhattan	93	111		11.00
NORTH DAKOTA				
Alfred	183	125	6.00	8.75
OKLAHOMA				
Shawnee	135	140	6.00	5.00
Tahlequah	183	127	1.50	8.75
OREGON				
Elmira	203	115	6.00	9.75
Harrisburg	175	362		
Marion	195	271	6.00	50.00
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Eureka	220	77	6.00	22.50
TEXAS				
Houston (Eng.)	30	22		
San Antonio (Sp.)	168	45	6.00	18.75
WASHINGTON				
Tacoma	165	95		
Walla Walla	163	67		10.75
WISCONSIN				
New Auburn	165	105		

Spring Vale Fires 16 More Students...

Student positions now open and filling:

Singers
F.Y.C. Leaders
Class Leaders
Witnesses
Guitarists



Sixteen graduating Seniors left Spring Vale Academy on May 27 for a world of Christian challenges leaving these seats empty.



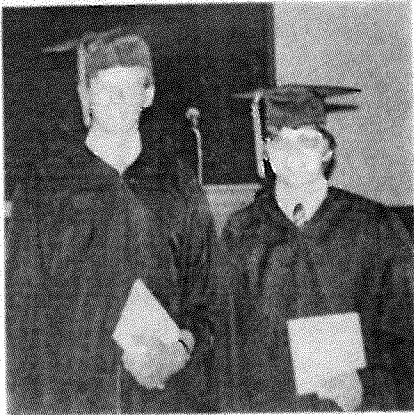
If you can fill some of our empty shoes, write today for a new 1973-1974 bulletin.

Spring Vale
Academy
Rt. 5,
4150 S. M-52
Owosso, MI
48867

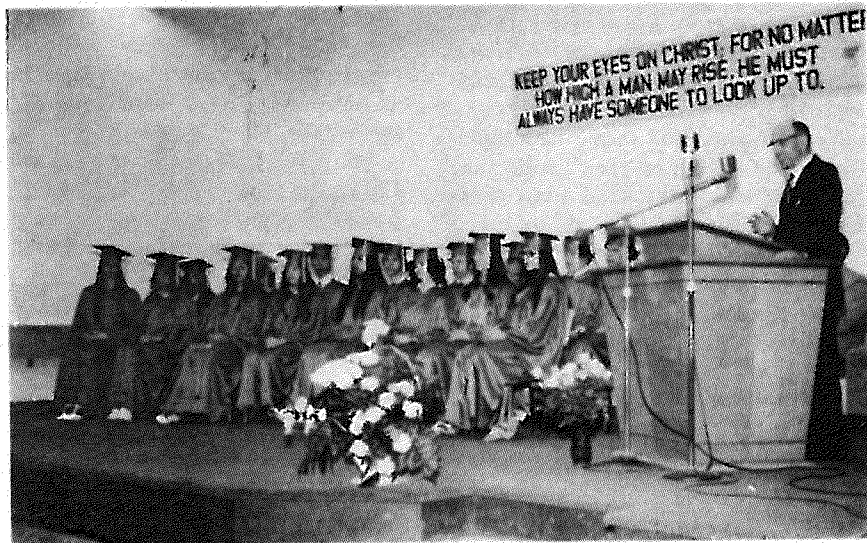
At Spring Vale Academy our objective is to fire students with enthusiasm for developing missionary talents and a greater Church work.

We guarantee that you cannot become an SVA flame without becoming fired up with the Holy Spirit!

We Salute You!



On May 19 these two young ministerial students, David Robinson from San Antonio, Texas, and Steve Kurtright, from Stanberry, Missouri graduated from Midwest Bible College. David will be serving a year of internship in New York City while Steve does his intern work in Denver, Colorado. Let's remember to pray for these young men as they enter their full-time ministries.



On May 27, the following 16 young people graduated from Spring Vale Academy: Ross Benight, Karen Blackwell, Melva Carlson, Kathy Crisp, Becky Guerra, Dan Jarwin, Mike Kelly, Gordan Kuryluk, Mary Lippincott, Linda McNeal, Janet Meadows, Vanessa Moore, Pat Olds, Linda Singleton, Tim Stack and Sandy Young. Our congratulations and best wishes to each of these young people.

General Conference, 1973

Aug. 10-18

St. Marys, Ohio

We want to see YOU there!

