

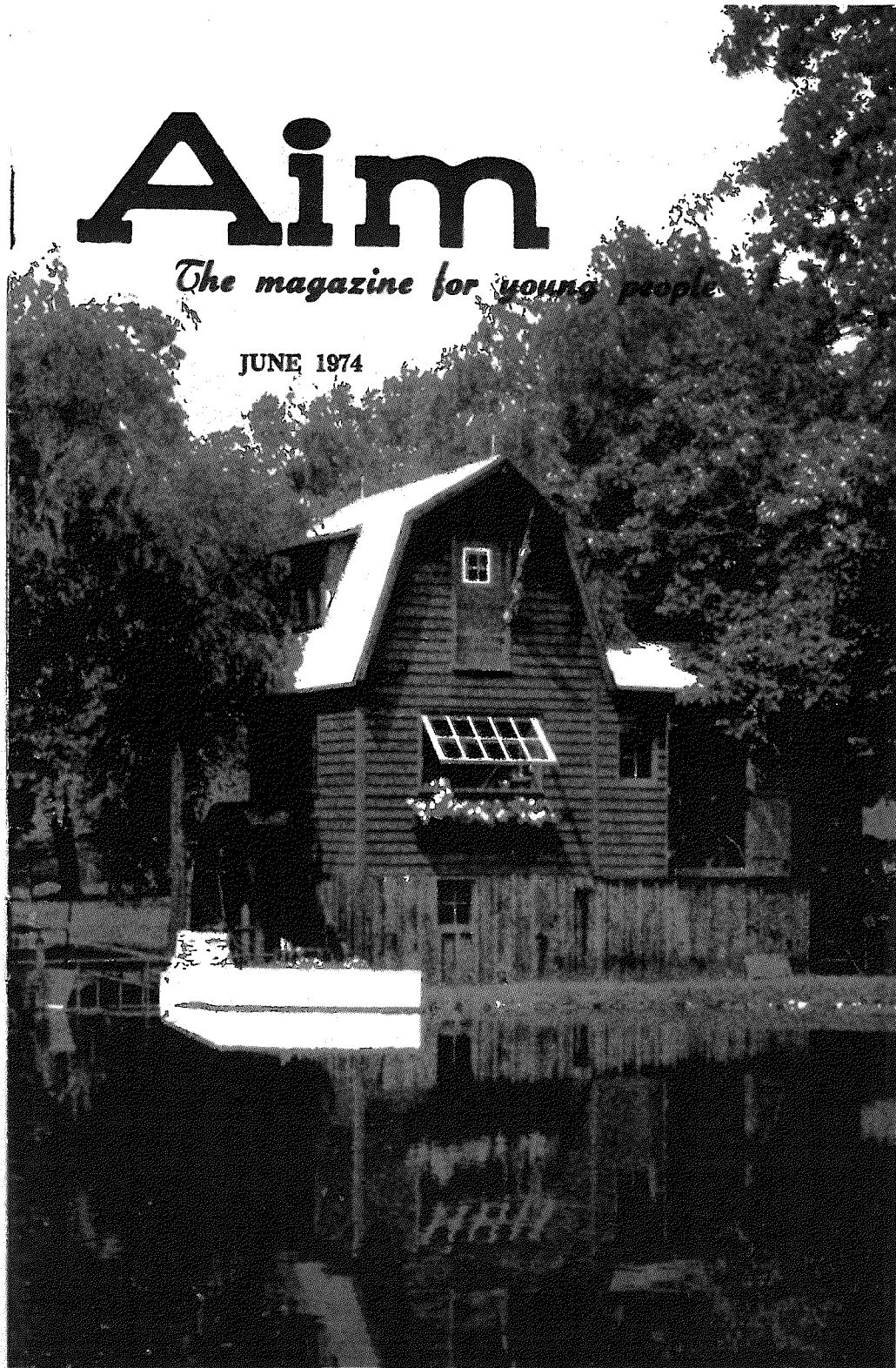
In This Issue

- Three Cheers
Mary Holbert page 3
- Teenager, Turn Yourself On
Charlotte Dickinson page 6
- The Lull in the Storm
Stanley J. Kauer page 8
- Chameleon Christians
Harris Kinzler page 10
- The Devil Maze
Mary Holbert page 13
- The Dating Game?
Tim Youngs page 14
- Good-bye, Gina
Renee Stauffer page 17
- Dear FYCer
Ken Knoll page 20
- The Fruit of the Spirit
Marilyn Current page 22
- The Eight-Course Meal
Minuteman page 24
- What Is It Like?
Vernon Dickinson page 25

Aim

The magazine for young people

JUNE 1974



Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 6

Speak clearly, if you speak at all; Carve every word before you let it fall.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

EDITORIAL ETCHES

Can you imagine how differently the transcripts of the Watergate tapes would read if President Nixon and all of his associates had known that the words they spoke in those private meetings would one day appear in print for all the world to see?! (*Had they known this, there probably would have been no Watergate tapes!*) Surely they would have deleted all of the expletives and would have been extremely cautious not to say or imply anything that might cause offense to a fellow politician or to any ethnic group. They certainly would have spoken each word and sentence only after much forethought and careful consideration.

Whenever I see parts of these transcripts in print or hear comments about them, I'm impressed with the striking lesson we can learn from this unfortunate happening! When describing the omniscience of God to a child, we say, "*God knows all about you. He sees everything you do and hears every word you say.*" Just as a little child cannot possibly grasp the meaning of this, neither do we always grasp its reality. GOD TRULY DOES KNOW OUR HEARTS AND DOES HEAR EVERY WORD WE SPEAK. Because God completely understands us humans—His creation—He gives us much advice and warning about the words we speak:

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's

(Continued on page 7)



Three Cheers

by Mary Holbert

With arms waving rhythmically, a loud "*Rah! Rah! Rah!*" in unison and "*We want a touch-down!*", the cheerleaders urged the excited students on in support of their team. This student rallying to the team brought out a strong spontaneous flow of good spirits in the minds and hearts of the players. They got the touch-down needed for victory; and the cheerleaders, excited fans, and the team went wild with victory cheers!

Amid that throng of seemingly "one-accord," excited, cheering fans, was one boy who, though his shining eyes and big smile showed his joy in the unexpected victory, was really thinking about something else.

"*Jesus, a cheerleader! Yes,*" mused this brown-haired, clean-cut youth, whose buddies called Jim, "*That's what that radio announcer said.*" Jim continued to mull over this while weaving his way through the crowded stands of enthusiastic fans. "*What scriptures did the minister use? Wish I hadn't turned stations. I guess I'll have to do a bit of research when I get home,*" he decided. "*All this cheering made me think of that.*"

Jim did do the research—a concordance and his Bible furnished him with clues to what that intriguing sermon title was all about. Jim pon-

dered over his notes. *"The way I see it, Jesus gave us three big CHEERS. 'Be of good cheer,' that's what Jesus said,"* thought Jim, *"but not in the hip! hip! hurrah! atmosphere of sports. Jesus was encouraging us to feel a strong flow of spontaneous but quiet, good spirits in our minds and hearts."*

By this time Jim was at his desk in his bedroom. The door swung back on its hinges; and his exuberant young brother, Bill, dashed in, excitedly rehashing the big game. But Bill knew his brother, Jim, and with a keen look at him, asked, *"Well, Jim, what goodies have you found in the Bible to mark this occasion?"* It was true—Jim was a serious Bible student; Bill had more than once been glad to listen to Jim's Bible researches. *"Good for a fellow to remember the world doesn't exist just for sports and fun,"* thought Bill, wondering what Jim was reading.

Jim grinned. Bill had refreshingly overflowing good spirits most of the time; but about the Bible and things of God this exuberance became tempered with an earnestness that clued one into the depths of Bill's faith in God. So Jim started to organize his thoughts, knowing Bill really was interested. *"All those cheers reminded me of a brief radio announcement I heard. It was the title of a sermon*

—'Jesus, a Cheerleader.' I didn't listen to the sermon but got real curious about that title and here is the result."

"Jesus did say," continued Jim, *"'Be of good cheer' at least three times and each has a lot of significance. The first, I found in Matthew 9:2, '... be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven.' Does that cheer the spirit, Bill?"*

Bill, nodding his towhead, said thoughtfully, *"It makes my heart glad! Sin is such a worm-like an earthworm wiggling along its way slowly but surely getting where it wants to go. I have to watch all the time!"* Bill's blue eyes were remembering where his rash actions sometimes led him.

"Not such big sins but," he thought, *"but any sin causes a big gap between you and God."* Aloud he spoke, *"As the kids say, That's neat! Our sins forgiven is sure a lot to cheer about! What was the story back of this?"*

"Jesus said this to the man sick of palsy when He healed him," answered Jim. *"It caused quite a*

stir in the minds of some of the Scribes. But Jesus knowing their thoughts, said, 'wherefore think ye evil in your hearts.' Then He went on to explain that He could just as well have told the man to 'arise and walk' but by saying, thy sins are forgiven, the Scribe would KNOW that He, the Son of man, had power on earth to forgive sins."

"What was the second cheer?" asked Bill, when it seemed Jim was going to stay lost in thought.

"... Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid," answered Jim. *"That's found in Matthew 14:27 and Mark 6:50 also. On this occasion the disciples were in their ship on a stormy sea—tossed by waves from a contrary wind, the Bible says. Jesus came walking on the water to them."*

"Oh! Man! That would make the disciples afraid," broke in Bill; *"Can't you just see them staring at this WAY-OUT sight! Someone walking on the water in that stormy sea—no wonder they cried out in fear! I bet I would have too!"*

"They recovered from fear," said Jim, *"when they recognized Jesus. Remember Peter even started walking on the water toward Jesus, but began to sink when his faith got weak."*

"Guess he looked at the waves," mused Bill, *"instead of at Jesus. But Jesus took him by the hand. There's food for thought—strong faith in Jesus will take care of fear and certainly knowing Jesus' nearness cheers us. He'll take us by the hand too! Go on to number three cheer."*

Jim was a little astonished. Bill

didn't usually speak out like this. Maybe this young brother of his was more serious-minded than his mischievous eyes indicated.

"Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world," replied Jim. *"Found in John 16:33. In the first part Jesus said in the world we would have tribulation but we can still be of good cheer. Jesus really is telling us that we can be of good cheer because, if He overcame the world, we can too, with His help."*

Bill digested this information, and offered a summary: *"Be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven! Be of good cheer! It is I, Jesus, be not afraid! Be of good cheer! I have overcome the world!"*

"That's it," confirmed Jim smiling, *"we should never be low in spirit, or down-hearted, when we have such a Saviour—a Saviour who forgives sin; is ever near so we need not fear; and who, through His victory over the world, assures us of being overcomers too."*

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. Revelation 21:7," murmured Bill modestly, knowing good and well how surprised Jim would be that he knew that Scripture. *"I'll not tell Jim about that lesson we had on 'Overcomers' last week at church,"* thought Bill, as, with twinkling eyes, and airy manner, he left the room.

Jim laughed quietly, surprised and pleased with Bill's appropriate quote. Closing the Bible Jim murmured softly to himself, *"Be of good cheer."*

Mary McMicken Holbert has been active in writing for our church publications since childhood when she wrote letters to the children's paper. Mary, who enjoyed a career as a high school math teacher, and her husband, George, an elementary school principal, have recently retired from the teaching profession and now reside in Parkersburg, West Virginia.



You say, "I want excitement!" *This is natural.* You say, "I want to belong to the crowd!" *This is natural.* No one wants to be different, and you are no different than any other teenager when you want these things.

Teenager, Turn Yourself On

by Charlotte Dickinson

There is nothing wrong with excitement as long as it doesn't lead us into worldly things. I John 2:15, 16 tells us, "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Sometimes we think we know a lot more than God. We must remember that God's ways are above ours. Isa. 5:8, 9 states, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Sometimes we feel as if God has forgotten or forsaken us after we have started following Him. Sometimes we think He doesn't care about us anymore and we become discouraged. Psalm 27:14 instructs, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord." If we wait on the Lord for guidance He has promised to direct our paths but

we must never try to direct our own way. Psalm 3:6 tells us, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Turn yourself on to God. Listen to that still small voice you have said "no" to so many times. Maybe He has something for you, something better than you've even imagined. Rev. 3: 20 says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

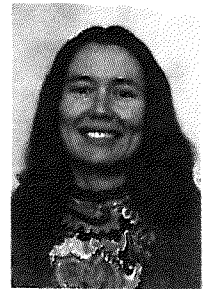
Maybe we can't understand what God has for us in this life. But if we wait and trust Him, He will not fail us. I Cor. 2:9 promises,

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." Also remember the promise in Rev. 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Has God been speaking to you? Have you been saying, "No"? Maybe you have turned yourself off to God, saying "Some other time, when I'm older. I've got plenty of time." Do you have plenty of time? Maybe so... but nothing is sure, not even tomorrow.



Charlotte Dickinson is active in the children's and women's programs of the Church. She has recently moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where her husband will be serving as intern minister for the next year.



EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

religion is vain" (James 1:26).

"A wholesome tongue is tree of life" (Proverbs 15:4).

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:36, 37).

"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man" (James 3:2).

As we continue to hear more about the dilemma our President is in because of the words he and his associates have spoken, let's pray, as did the Psalmist David, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them . . ."

The Lull in the Storm

By Stanley J. Kauer

At this writing in the latter part of May it appears that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has about completed an agreement for the disengagement of the armies of Syria and Israel. Such an agreement was made several months ago with Egypt. DOES THIS NOW MEAN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE-EAST? IS THIS THE GREAT "PEACE AND SAFETY" CRY? DOES ISRAEL NOW "DWELL SAFELY" IN HER LAND?

First we should note that Israel is still at war with Egypt although there is no actual fighting at the present time. Armies of Israel are still in Egyptian territory, only twenty miles east of the Suez Canal. No peace treaty has been signed. The separation of the armies is kept intact by a United Nations force of soldiers. Egypt is satisfied for the time being in

getting the army of Israel away from the west bank of the Suez and also in getting back the canal so that it may be reopened. But when this is accomplished we can look for more demands from Egypt to get Israel out of all the Suez peninsula. Meanwhile Israel continues to pump oil from wells in the Suez.

The disengagement agreement presently being worked out with Syria is much more dangerous for peace. Israel will give up the Syrian territory she took last fall. Israel will also allow a United Nations force to occupy the summit of Mount Hermon, but armed units of both Syria and Israel will remain on the slopes of the mountain. Israel will continue to occupy and settle territory in the Golan Heights (territory she took during the '67 war),

and the state of war between the two nations will continue, even though the shooting stops. We can expect continued Arab raids against Israel with greater and greater atrocities and retaliations. It surely is a time when people are saying "peace, peace" and in reality "there is no peace." There will have to be much more accomplished before it can be said that Israel dwells safely as they will be doing just before the beginning of the battle of Armageddon (See Ezekiel 38).

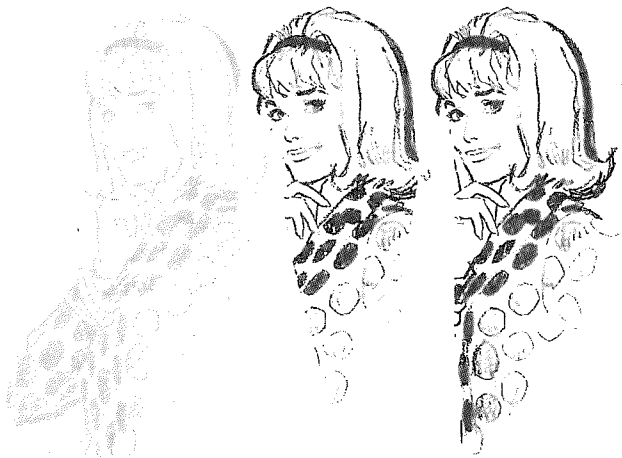
We should be glad to see the fighting and killing stopped. We wish it could be stopped permanently, but we know the "perpetual hatred" of Arabs for the Jews still exists. And Bible prophecy plainly shows that there will be more war and eventual desolation for the Arab lands. "As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Idu-

maea, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 35:15). Mount Seir is the land of Edom, the land east of the Jordan river. Idumea includes the lands east and north of Israel. These are the peoples who have continued to oppose the existence of Israel and desire to take over that land as described in Ezekiel 35:10. They desire the lands of Israel and Judah, but God is there, and His great plan and purpose is being fulfilled. Even as God caused the destruction of the peoples of the land of Canaan in the time of Joshua as Israel took over the "promised land," even so destruction is decreed against the Arab countries.

There may be a lull in the storm as a precarious disengagement of armies is worked out but the storm will yet come. Let us continue to watch and pray and use the time God has given us to spread His Word of saving Truth.

Elder Stanley Kauer lives in Stanberry, Missouri, where he is an instructor at Midwest Bible College. Elder Kauer, employed in the field of education for 30 years, has been an instructor at M.B.C. for 11 years.





Chameleon Christians

by Harris Kinzler

Did you know that God created you to be a chameleon? I said chameleon—not comedian! We have a surplus of the latter already! In the scriptures people are referred to as beasts, worms and vipers—so why not chameleons?!

The definition of a chameleon is; “a lizardlike reptile that can adapt its coloration to that of its surroundings.” Catch the similarity in us? People have invested hundreds and even thousands of dollars in wardrobes—solid or plaid socks; orange or green shoes; minis, midis and maxis; slacks and knee-knockers; suits and pantsuits; boots and sandals; pink dress or burgundy shirt. The variety in clothing colors and style is limitless. Why? To be like those around them! It’s better than Ethel in “The Streak,” that’s for sure. But we Christians are to be chameleon-like in another fashion. **For the Gospel’s sake, we must relate to all classes of people, in order that we might SAVE some.**

Change your color

In the 9th chapter of First Corinthians where Paul is defending himself against false accusation (the receiving of funds for personal motives), he reveals his ability to adapt to any given situation or peoples. Take your Bible and read verses 19-23 of this chapter right now.

When Paul says, “To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak,” are we to believe Paul took an overdose or broke a leg so he could enter the hospital and relate to the other patients there? Or are we to believe Paul became weak in conscience in order to relate to those of a similar mind? Did he suddenly become old and feeble to relate to the aged?

When Paul says, “To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain Jews” and “to them that are without law, as without law (Gentiles)”, should we believe he had himself uncircumcised every time he lived among those who had no knowledge of God’s law (word) and then had himself circumcised again when he moved back among the Jews? Did Paul become a criminal in order that he might relate to those in jail? Did he brush his teeth, knot his tie, or tie his shoes as those he wished to win?

The questions asked thus far are ridiculous, but they help make my point. **You don’t become a sinner to help someone else become a saint!** The obvious answer to all the foregoing questions is a definite NO. Paul is speaking about adapting or communicating the Gospel. Getting close to the people is one thing; becoming a monkey is another.

Paul was a man who traveled quite extensively and lived in various cities and countries for months and years at a time. He was a fleshly descendant of Israel and had been chosen by God as an apostle born in due time. On numerous occasions he emphatically stated that the Ten Commandment law of God was still in existence dur-

ing his time, being holy, just and good. It was to be observed and fulfilled in the Spirit by born-again believers. On the other hand, the law of Moses and its yoke of bondage had passed away at the cross.

The Gospel Challenge

For the Gospel’s sake we are called upon to do many things. As a child of God, we are responsible to communicate or adapt the Gospel in ways that make it clearly understood by those we are attempting to reach. The Word of God is powerful! It is sharp! But it has to be understood first.

Paul adapted himself and the Gospel message to three classes of people or situations which actually comprise all. They are as follows:

1. Adapting the Gospel to those of a different nationality.
2. Adapting the Gospel to those who are ignorant of God’s Word or who might differ with our belief.
3. Adapting the Gospel to those of varying age groups or physical conditions.

Let us consider these three areas.

In order to relate the Gospel to those of another nationality or cultural group, we must have an understanding of the people and area.

Elder Harris Kinzler is an enthusiastic young minister in the Church. He presently pastors the Conroe, Texas, Church of God.



Remember, we are dealing with people as they are, not as they ought to be.

The better we understand them, the more certain it will be that they can understand us and our message. We will have to listen more and speak less than we normally do and not harbor a "better than thou" attitude or a "put on" concern. **Only a constant, genuine interest in the people will be successful, for a "gift without its giver is bare."**

Language is oftentimes a barrier, too. A teenager from Texas couldn't go into the northern states and say a person without God is like being enclosed in a "turtle hull." Neither would a person from New York, having moved to Switzerland, talk and dress like they do in Brooklyn. Adaptation means getting close to the people and not remaining aloof. An American worker sent to Canada becomes a Canadian and a Texan moving to California becomes a Californian.

Adapting oneself with those of a different belief might be more difficult for most of us. We find it hard to relate with those who oppose us. Why is this? Is it because we are afraid or don't know how? The latter might cause the former. But either way, the question remains: How to relate to those who are ignorant of God's Word? There is no magic formula, but we can do it! The guidelines aren't too much different from those used for peoples outside our area, for **good human relations are always based on understanding.**

Nobody will believe or accept anything we might recommend if he does not have confidence in us, and **confidence is built by understanding.** Remember, we are dealing with people **AS THEY ARE, not as they ought to be.** Trying to tell people what they ought to do, or be, before a relationship and confidence has been built, will surely mean our words fall by the wayside. We won't even reach first base!

Be friendly and talk with people. Build a rapport but be conscious of time, for some have been establishing a rapport for the past ten years and still haven't come to sharing their views with effectiveness.

Children express themselves differently than people in a convalescent home. They have disagreeing ideas and desires, but if we wish to win them to Christ, we must be able to communicate or adapt the Gospel to each of their worlds. Both love attention! Both appreciate having interest shown in them. In fact, they are just like we. If something makes us feel good and happy, it most likely will work the same in others. People might be slow to respond, but we are all humans, and our basic needs and desires are constant. **Therefore, we should overlook no human, regardless of his age or condition.** Young or old, sickly or well, disfigured or whole, we must adapt before we can win them.

Learning to adapt is usually not sudden or easy, but once you have learned it, there can be no loss. Always keep your objective in view—winning others to Christ—then drive toward it!

Adaptation does not mean compromise. On the contrary, it is steadfastness united with wisdom. Before we can relate the truth of the Gospel to others, we must have a clear understanding of it ourselves. We are rejoicing in the fact that God has added us to His kingdom and family; therefore we

wish to help others share this prize. Do you feel this way?

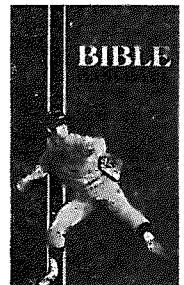
Do you want to help others understand the Gospel? Are you willing to try adapting the Gospel to those around you? If we want to be used, we must become instrumental in relating or adapting the Gospel to human needs. Let us help people understand. Let us extend a helping hand. When we are close to them, they will be closer to Christ.

*All scripture quoted is from ASV.

The National FYC Has Produced an Exciting Game!

Challengers

BIBLE BASEBALL



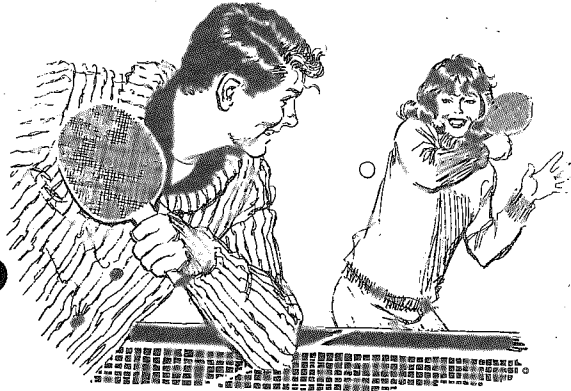
This new, adventuresome Bible game will capture the interest of all ages from young children through the older adults. Two hundred Bible question cards will help the participants to learn important and interesting Bible facts. The questions are separated into four levels of Bible knowledge, classified as "Single," "Double," "Triple," and "Home Run" questions. Participants who answer correctly move their "players" around the magnetic diamond to pile up scores for their team.

This game is interesting, challenging—and most of all, it is Biblically instructive. Bible Baseball is an excellent gift item, too. The price is only \$3.95 per game.

Order today from:

NATIONAL FYC, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201

The Dating Game?



What kind of relationship should two young people of the opposite sex have today? How long should they go with each other before they talk about marriage? How fast should one enter into a serious relationship? Are you practicing proper dating conduct?

These are questions we all should ask ourselves. The majority of you who are reading this article are not yet married, but probably are already thinking about the companion you are going to live with the rest of your lives. Remember, marriage is not a game, and neither is dating.

The Purpose of Dating

Dating should not be a game, and it should be taken seriously. **Don't misunderstand. I'm not saying that we should not have fun on a date!** I'm simply saying that we should seriously consider our purpose in dating. If you are dating just to see how many people you can date and have fun with before you get hooked on one, think twice before you do it again. Remember! There is no Biblical example of anyone going out on a date. We have to draw our own conclusions as to what the purpose of dating is.

The main reason for going out

on a date should be to look for the one who best suits the qualities you have in mind for a marriage partner. What other purpose is there for dating? If there is another reason for dating, it should be seriously examined. **Dating is not an old custom.** In fact it has only risen in the past century. It used to be that only young people thinking about marriage would date, and now it is not uncommon to see eleven and twelve year-old's date. Hasn't dating kind of lost its purpose when children practice it?

Why are so many people of the older generation down on dating?

Why do they think young people should wait until a certain age to date? The answer is, they know what dating can lead to. Too many couples who go out on their first date think they have to kiss during their time together or the date is not a success. Remember, young people, kissing or holding of hands, **does not** build a successful relationship, or at least it shouldn't. The character and attributes of a person make the relationship. **A person's innermost being is the thing to fall in love with.**

Being Yourself

"Numerous sociologists have pointed out that the desire of young people to be popular during the dating period often leads them into considerable amount of **OUTRIGHT DECEIT.** They are on their best behavior, and try to hide any disagreeable qualities they might have, and sometimes pretend to be entirely different from what they really are."*

Nobody can continue to practice deception successfully in a marriage, for marriage involves 24-hour a day, day in and day out contact. The stakes are very high. Choosing the wrong person for a

marriage partner can mean living with a life-long enemy, or more realistically can mean the tragedy of divorce. Your life is in your hands when you select your husband or your wife. Pick your mate carefully. Don't go by feelings alone. Blind emotion without spiritual and parental guidance can lead a person from the first date to marriage to unhappiness.

What Is Love?

Do not confuse love with emotion. True love is a lot deeper than that! **Real love does not stem from physical attraction alone.** It has to come from the heart. **True love is out-going concern.** Guys! True love involves respect, admiration, and unselfish concern for her happiness and welfare—combined with mental, social, and cultural compatibility. Love is when you care for her like you do nobody else. You want to be with her, in her company, to talk things over, to share your problems as well as triumphs and successes. This is real love.

Girls! Your love is the same kind of love. You have concern for him and you want to be with him. Don't get lost in some romantic, fairytale dream-idea that

Tim Youngs, who just completed his sophomore year at Midwest Bible College, has returned home to Walla Walla, Washington, where he will be employed for the summer. Tim has been an active and enthusiastic leader in local FYC work for several years.



he is some kind of prince-charming who is going to make every moment of your life one great ride on a fluffy cloud. A husband is to love you and to cherish you, but please, a man can only go so far!

There is no such thing as love at first sight! Love is something that develops. Love is something that starts as a little seed and then gradually matures into a beautiful flower. When starting to date someone, try them out a while before getting serious. Don't get the wrong concept that a person can't be close to someone without getting serious. **Remember! Love grows. If a person is the right person for you, the love is going to grow.**

Young people! Satan is walking about in this world seeking whom he may devour, and if any of his techniques work, it's this one. You all know how high the divorce rate is, as well as how strong the lust of the flesh is. It is very easy to be led the wrong way in choosing your marriage partner. Beware! When dating, only date those whom you think will best suit you and your life pattern. I'm not referring to the occasional date. I'm talking about "going steady" dating. There is nothing wrong with

an occasional date to have fun as long as you are temperate. **Set your standards high, and hold on to them!**

Finally, the most important thing about dating is the fact that marriage is a sanctimonious occasion and God will respect you, and bless you, and guide you in finding a partner. Seek God's counsel now about this matter. Don't wait until you are 18, or 19, or 20 to ask God to send you the right person. Start now! When you go out on that first date, instead of concentrating on how your date is going to react to you, pray about it. You might even make it a practice to pray together when you go out on a date. That is one strong way to build your relationship. Don't worry about whether he or she will like you. Trust in God, and keep Him tuned in on your life.

All-knowing God realizes the important place dating occupies in our lives. Have faith God will send you the right mate, and let me assure you, you won't be disappointed.

"Whatsoever you ask of the father in my name, he will give you." John 15:16

**(Dating, G. T. Armstrong)*



"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.

Tomorrow Gina will be married. There will be no wedding cake or rice, no happy crowds or nervous mothers—just a quick, hurried trip to the city hall, a few words spoken and then, somehow, a life-long commitment established. But it probably won't last.

Gina is not only a bride, she is also soon to become a mother. Carried deep within herself is the beginning of a new life. She is trying so hard to be gay; but, even as she laughs, there are traces of tears in her eyes.

Kent, her husband-to-be, sits staring soberly at nothing when they discuss their wedding and fu-

her heart must be breaking. *Gina, dear Gina, my prayers go with you.*

I remember the morning Gina called me. It was a typical March day, clear and windy. She sounded very frightened about something, and asked me to come over so that we could discuss a very important matter. Her tone disturbed me. Gina is usually so carefree; nothing ever bothers her.

I ran the three blocks to her house and waited breathlessly for her to answer my knock. She finally opened the door, looking very tired; deep lines were etched all over her face.

Good-Bye, Gina

by Renee Stauffer

ture plans. He is not happy at being forced into this wedding; neither is Gina. But there is the child to consider, of course.

Gina has changed so much these past few weeks that I scarcely know her. The quiet, gentle Gina I once knew has disappeared entirely. One would think that her old self had vanished completely, leaving only a mere shell filled with shallow laughter and hollow words. Sometimes, though, you will notice a strange quietness about her as though some of her former self had suddenly returned. She is bearing up well enough, though it is obvious that inside,

Later, in the privacy of her room, she told me: "Sherri, I'm pregnant."

"You're what?" I asked stupidly. She looked so pale and small sitting there, I couldn't believe it. Not Gina! She looked away.

"I said, 'I'm pregnant,'" she announced again. She spoke so softly that I could barely hear her. Then she was crying, shaking all over like someone with a bad chill and blurting out the whole terrible story.

"Oh, Sherri," she cried wildly, "I didn't mean to, honest. It's just that we got so serious with each other that we got carried away; it



"You'll have to tell your mom and dad," I warned her.

"No!" she screamed, wringing her hands together. "No! I can't!"

—it just happened! I don't know what to do! Oh, I could just kill myself!" she wailed.

For a minute I sat silently contemplating the situation. The "we" would mean no other than herself and Kent McCartney. She and Kent had been going steady for almost two years and had become deeply involved with each other. I had known for sometime that something like this *could* happen, but I had dismissed the idea—*not Gina!*

"Kent?" I asked her. She nodded dumbly. Kent was only seventeen and Gina herself a mere fifteen. Gina would have to tell her parents.

"You'll have to tell your mom and dad," I warned her.

"No!" she screamed, wringing her hands together. "No! I can't! It would kill them!" I sighed deeply, near tears myself.

Oh, Gina, Gina, I asked her silently, what have you done? You're my best friend; but you're going to have a baby, and you're only fifteen! By this time we were both pacing the floor. The house was silent. Mr. and Mrs. Peters had gone earlier to a neighbor's house, leaving Gina alone.

"You'll *have* to tell them!" I insisted. "Gina, there's no other way!" She turned to me from the window where the breeze ruffled the curtains.

"Yes, there is," she said grimly, her mouth set. "I'll have an abortion."

My mouth fell open. Did she realize what she was saying? An abortion? Gina? Why, she couldn't even bear to see a butterfly crushed!

"An abortion?" I asked her. "What's happened to you, Gina? Sure, this child is illegitimate, but

would you take away its life just to rid yourself of your own shame?" She looked at me strangely and burst into tears again.

"Oh, Sherri," she whispered, "what am I saying? I can't kill my baby! I can't even stand the thought of death, so how in the world could I ever hurt my baby?" I patted her gently, speechless, my own voice choked with tears.

"Gina, I have to go now," I finally said, pulling on my coat. "Gina, please, for your sake, and for the baby's sake, tell your parents! It won't be easy, but they ought to know." I had turned my hand on the doorknob, when I thought of something else—"And above all, *pray.*"

That was all three weeks ago. Since then, Gina has finally told her parents, and a hasty wedding has been arranged. Mrs. Peters looks as if she has aged ten years overnight. She walks about in a sort of daze, looking like she is a million miles away. She seems always to be lost in thought. I have seen Gina only once since then, but she has changed so much. I hold in my hand a letter from Gina, received only today—a fragment of her old self. I have read it over many times, but now, I read it again:

Dear Sherri,

So much has changed since I saw you last. Oh, Sherri, I just never realized what a mess I've made of my life until today. I've broken Mom and Dad's hearts. Mom cries almost every time she looks at me, and Dad can't even speak to me!

And Kent. He and his parents come over almost every night to discuss our wedding plans. I can tell, every time he looks at me, that he hates me for getting him into this mess. He was going to college, Sherri—he even had a scholarship. But not anymore.

Nothing's left for us. I don't even know where we're going to live or what I'm going to do after the baby comes. I know Kent will want to divorce me and get me off his hands just as soon as he can. I can't even stand the thought of living anymore.

Sherri, please don't come to my wedding tomorrow. I don't want anyone to come. I probably won't see you after the wedding for a very long time. I want you to remember me as I was before—before I made such a fool of myself, Sherri, please pray for me. Don't forsake me now.

That was all. I cried for a very long time after reading that letter; it had hurt me so much. I know that after the wedding I will possibly never see Gina again. When she leaves this town, she will leave every shadow of her old life behind. She will not come back, because she is not strong enough to bear the guilt and shame; nor will she be able to find enough strength and courage until she turns to God and faces reality.

I have done all I can do for Gina; nothing else is left to do—except to pray. But until that day when Gina finally comes home, I can only say, "Good-bye, Gina. My prayers go with you. . . ."

—*Lighted Pathway*

Dear FYCer,

The National Leadership Retreat is upon us! Final last-minute preparations are being made offering an added air of excitement for coming programs. I know you are planning to delegate a representative from your F.Y.C. to share in the retreat program as it benefits will be far-reaching.

What do we have planned on the National scene following the retreat?

CHANGES

We are planning to make some changes within the present structure of the F.Y.C. program. First of all we are planning to make some changes in the personal growth programs of 2T4G, Minuteman, and Evangelette plus a complete new Mark of Merit program. Our goal is to have these ready for use in 1975. These changes are being formulated now to be introduced at the retreat for your thoughts and comments. The greatest work will come after the retreat is over.

Some months ago several persons were asked to write on topics felt to be especially important to modern youth. We are hoping to have these produced in booklet form to be used by you for personal spiritual needs as well as an aid in your personal evangelism program.

CONSTITUTION

Because of the recent change from the Departmental to Agency approach, the constitution of the F.Y.C. must be changed. Much work is to be done so these changes can be made at F.Y.C. General Conference in the summer of '75.

BIGGEST GOAL AHEAD

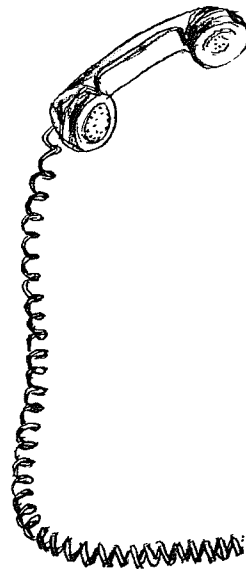
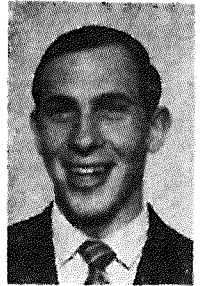
Still the biggest step would seem to be for a tremendous improvement in participation at the local level. Total F.Y.C. participation offers an added zing to the overall local church program. Please make a special effort to increase F.Y.C. participation in your local church. Check your F.Y.C. membership. Encourage those who may

be slack... Determine that all F.Y.C. homes will receive AIM... Accept the challenge of making AIM better by submitting manuscript for print.

Throughout America many people are taking their annual vacation. To some it may mean visiting relatives while others may attend a special church function during their vacation. Others may be looking for adventure by doing something different. I urge you to take an adventure with God! Your opportunities are unlimited. Test those opportunities by launching an all-out effort in your F.Y.C. to provide the best possible program of growth. Make it exciting by steadily drawing on God's source of inspiration and guidance!

Ken Knoll

Elder Kenneth Knoll, our new National FYC Chairman, has served on the National Youth Committee for the past six years and has been involved in many phases of the FYC work both on national and local levels. He is also presently serving as pastor of the church at Fairview, Oklahoma.



Will You Answer the Call to Service?

Become a

**Volunteer
In
Service
To
Our
Church**

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



The Fruit of the Spirit

Too often we are guilty of sitting in our rockers and telling ourselves, "We've got it all—the Truth of the Bible, the right doctrines. We do, and don't do, such-and-such. Aren't we good Christians?"! But, according to God's Word, we really don't "have it made" at all! Surprised? The writers of the Bible point out that the basic principle (milk) of the Word is not in the outward actions (things we do or don't do), but rather in our inward being (the attitudes behind our actions!) The Pharisees were condemned for emphasizing the letter of the law instead of the spirit.

Although observing God's commands is essential, that alone is not enough. Christ said, "This you should have done, and not left the other undone" (Matt. 23:23). During His entire ministry Christ stressed the spirit—our attitudes—mercy, love, meekness, etc. Don't believe it? The law was there, but in the background only!! After all, there was no shortage of such doctrinal teaching around at that time, but there was a great shortage of understanding behind the law—so Christ taught love to his fellowman.

This month's daily readings will bring to light the great importance of the Christian Spirit—and the fruit of that Spirit!

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.
	1 Mark 7:15-23	2 Psalm 24:3-5	3 Matt. 3:8	4 Matt. 7: 12, 16-30	5 Matt. 12:33-35	6 Mark 9:50
7 Luke 3:8	8 Luke 13:6	9 Luke 14: 34, 35	10 Rom. 6:22	11 I Cor. 3:1-3	12 Col. 1: 6, 10, 28	13 Heb. 5:12-14
14 Heb. 12:14	15 I John 3:2, 3, 14, 15	16 II Sam. 16:9-12	17 II Sam. 18:21, 22	18 Luke 23:34	19 Acts 7:60	20 Lev. 19: 15-18
21 Matt. 6:14, 15	22 Mark 11:25, 26	23 Eph. 4:2, 3, 17-32	24 Phil. 1:15, 17	25 Col. 3:8-15	26 James 3: 2, 13-18	27 James 2:8, 9
28 I Pet. 2: 1-3, 19-23	29 I Pet. 3:9-17	30 I John 8:9-11	31 Rom. 15:2, 3	JULY, 1974		

We are pleased to share with you this "progress report" on the completion records of the 38 2T4G participants. Keep up your good work in prayer and daily Bible reading!

AFRICA

Goodrich Adira—2 mo., 19 da.
Joezer Ejukwu—4 mo., 5 da.

CANADA

Karolyn Nimchuk—4 mo., 27 da.

CALIFORNIA

Gena Carpenter—1 mo.
Phil Heavilin—7 mo.
Cyndi Kester—8 mo.
Rachel Kester—2 mo.
Valerie Kester—2 mo.
Carolyn Marrs—1 mo.
Barbara Nease—2 yrs., 3 mo.

COLORADO

Caryl Frye—4 mo.

IDAHO

Karen Hart—5 mo.

MICHIGAN

Andy Hassen—1 yr.
Danelle Keim—9 mo., 1 da.

Danny Keim—6 mo., 19 das.
Sherrie Keim—3 mo., 3 das.
Sara Leach—1 mo., 5 das.

MISSOURI

Mary Carol Davis—2 yrs., 6 mo.
Renee Hancock—10 mo., 2 das.

NEBRASKA

Sylvia McNeal—1 mo.

NEW YORK

Diane Dobbs—1 mo.
Cindy Robinson—1 yr., 4 mo.
David Robinson—1 yr., 11 mo., 26 das.

OKLAHOMA

Connie Johnston—2 mo.

OREGON

Carol Shapitka—18 das.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Cathy Meier—9 mo.
Joyce Meier—1 yr., 6 mo.

Roy Meier—1 yr., 3 mo.
Sharon Meier—1 yr., 9 mo.
Shirley Meier—1 yr., 9 mo.
TEXAS
Winston Sweet—3 mo.
WASHINGTON
Alice Jacobs—9 mo.

Linda Watts—1 mo., 12 des.
Steven Watts—11 mo., 3 des.
Kathy Welch—8 days
Jenny Youngs—2 mo.
Joanna Youngs—1 mo.
WISCONSIN
Debbie Forbes—3 mo.

What Is It Like?

By Vernon Dickinson

MINUTEMAN

The Eight-Course Meal

There is a verse in Proverbs 16:3 which says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established."

Some things exist for beauty alone; some exist for function; and still others exist for both beauty and function. The scriptures belong in the third category. While many of them are beautifully, almost poetically, constructed, their true worth is revealed only as we allow them to be applied to our lives. Many of our modern household appliances are things of beauty, but scarcely would we buy a kitchen range, a console stereo or even an electric toaster, however artfully constructed, merely to admire its loveliness.

A man may admire the sleek glamour of his shiny new car, but unless it faithfully takes him where he wants to go, he will waste little time getting rid of it.

Let's use these verses in our

lives. They are the nourishment I hope that as we study these verses each month, we are fixing them not only in our memories but in our heart and lives as well. Otherwise they are of little or no value and we fall far short of our goal. To learn them with the mind alone is to half-learn them. It would be like spreading a well-balanced meal before a child, teaching him the names of each food and its importance, but not allowing him to partake. For all his learning, his growth would be lacking.

Here is the eight-course meal upon which we are to grow this month:

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Isaiah 1:18

I Thessalonians 4:16

James 4:7

I John 3:18

Proverbs 16:25

I Thessalonians 26:41

I remember how eagerly I anticipated entering Midwest Bible College and how I wondered, "What will it be like?" Now, after completing four years of studying and learning at Midwest, I know what it's like and would like to share that knowledge with you.

First, M.B.C. has been a real stepping-stone in the building of my knowledge of the Word of God, and in turn, has elevated me to a higher spiritual plane. Not only did I gain knowledge of the Word, but I also became aware of the methods to apply this knowledge in my every day Christian witnessing.

Secondly, M.B.C. is a small college. Though small in size, it offers the richest of opportunities for interaction with students of like faith. It offers unforgettable times of sharing joys and sorrows and times of spiritual uplifting through the many prayer meetings and chapel devotions. After having walked the halls of Midwest the past four years, I shall dearly miss the closeness and friendship with fellow students—brothers and sisters in the faith.

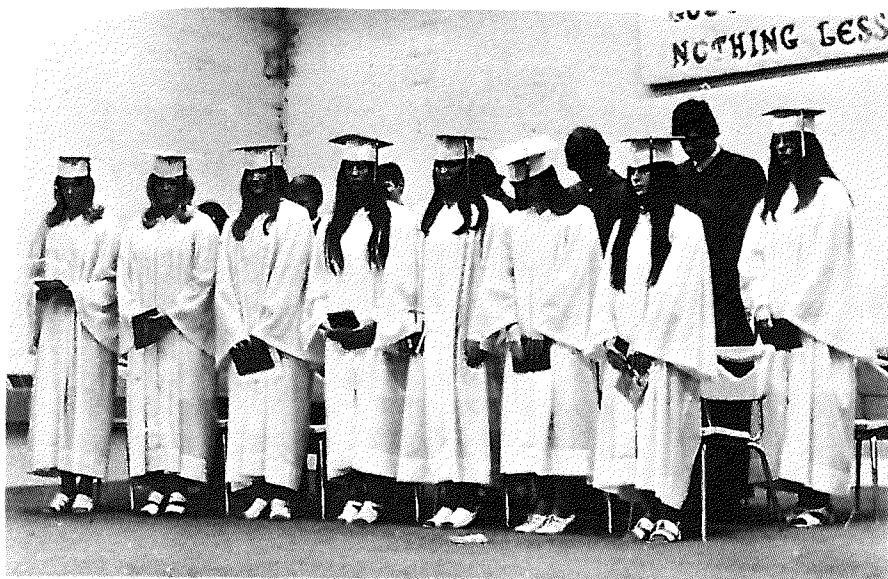
Last, but not least, I think of M.B.C. as being a real character-builder. It is an institution where one's life can be molded and shaped for optimum service to God and His Church whether as a minister or as a layman.

I thank and praise God for permitting me to attend M.B.C. and to experience these life-changing blessings. It is my prayer that many more laborers will answer the call and realize that M.B.C. is the place to prepare for a greater Christian service in the Lord's vineyard!

Our congratulations to Vernon Dickinson who just graduated from Midwest Bible College last month. Vernon is beginning his internship training now and will be serving at the St. Joseph, Missouri, church.



Congratulations, 1974 SVA Graduates



Graduates in the class of '74 are as follows:
Randy Brunson, from Inola, Oklahoma; Glenda Caswell, from Eugene, Oregon; Nolan Cummings from Jenison, Michigan; Lowell Forbes from Denver, Colorado; Joyce Helvey from Hawthorne, California; Judy Huffman from Grand Junction, Michigan; Lori Johnston from Huntsville, Alabama; Karen Larson from Spokane, Washington; Sharon Melby from Ettrick, Wisconsin; David Moore from North Liberty, Iowa; Clay Smith from Conroe, Texas; Lynn Taylor from Stockton, California; Peggy Williams from Elmira, Oregon; Teresa Wooden from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Orders are now being taken for the 1973-1974 Midwest Bible College annual. The 48-page, hard-back annual, which is being professionally printed, will contain no advertisements. The fine photography in the yearbook explores every facet of M.B.C. life—classes, students, faculty, extra-curricular activities—and will contain a special section featuring the past three years' graduates. **This outstanding annual is available for only \$4.00. Don't delay—order your M.B.C. annual today! Send your order to: Midwest Bible College, P. O. Box 158, Stanberry, MO 64489.**

Get Ready . . .

Get Set . . .

Go . . . To Youth Camp!

MARANATHA BIBLE CAMP (Nebraska)

July 2-6, 1974

Camp is located just east of North Platte, Nebraska. Sponsored by Central District. For further information contact Paul Linville, Camp Director, 1156 N. St. Francis, Wichita, Kansas 67214.

CEDAR LAKE OUTDOOR CENTER (Michigan)

June 23-30, 1974

Camp is located in the Waterloo Recreation Area, northwest of Chelsea, Michigan. Write Elder Vernon Patchen, Route 5, Owosso, Michigan 48867, for further information.

SUTTLE LAKE (Oregon)

June 23-30, 1974

Camp is located approximately 25 miles west of Sisters, Oregon, on Route 126. Write Duane Tilley, Camp Director, 595 Blackfoot, Eugene, Oregon 97402, for additional information.

LAKE TEXOMA STATE PARK (Oklahoma)

June 23-29, 1974

Camp is located between Ardmore and Durant, Oklahoma, and is sponsored by the Southwestern District. For more information write Elder Kenneth Knoll, P. O. Box 325, Fairview, Oklahoma 73737.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

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

New Address (Please Print)

Name

Address

.....

city state zip code

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

.....