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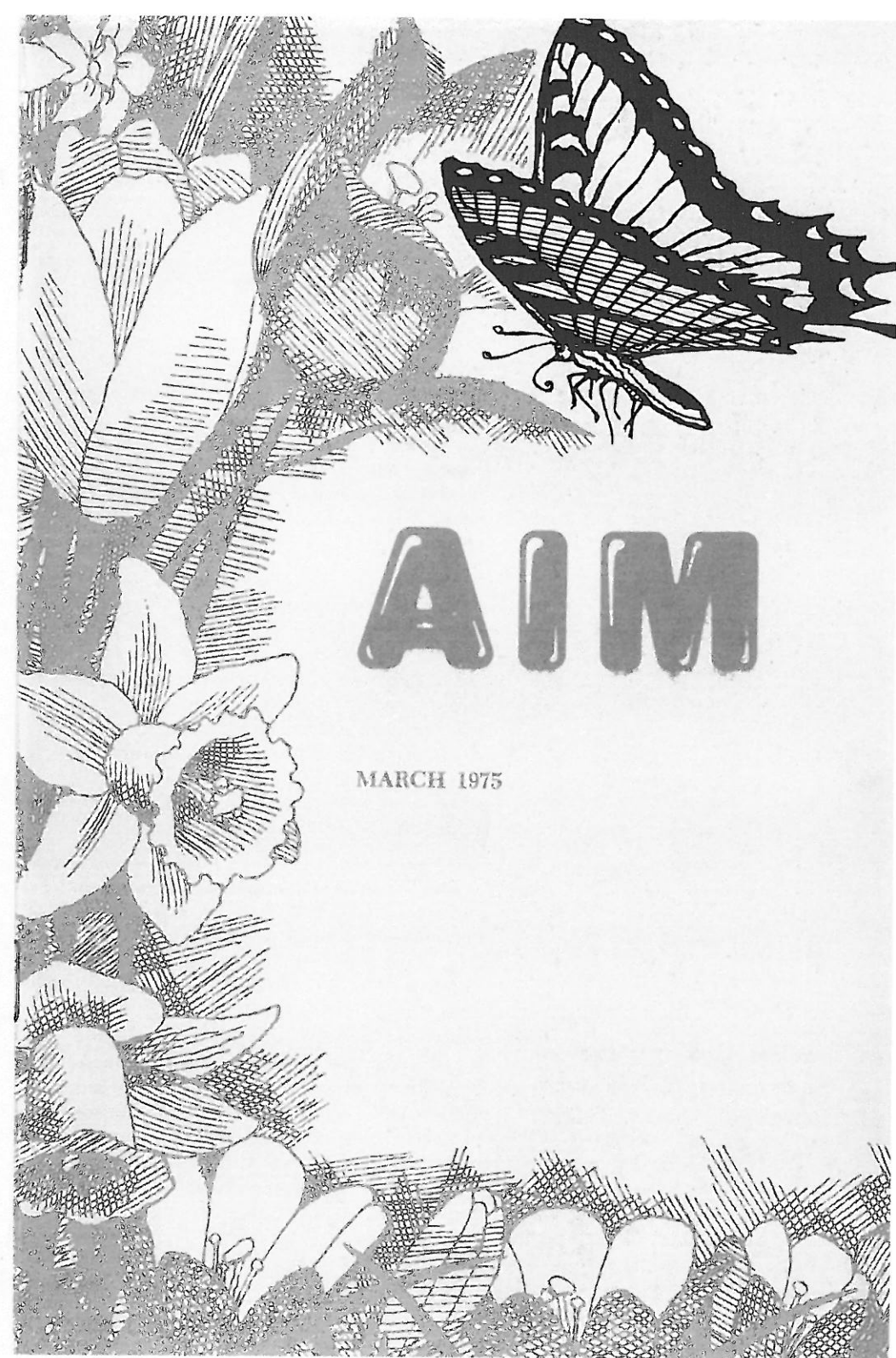
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Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXIX, No. 3

When God measures a man, He puts the tape measure around his heart, not his head.

EDITORIAL ETCHES

Thousands of tear-filled eyes and horror-stricken faces told the story. Mothers tried desperately to keep their children near their sides as they were moved along by the mob. Fathers carried their family's salvaged possessions on their backs. Some carried the wounded. Others carried the dead. And these men, women and children cried. They all cried.

This teeming mass of humanity had little time to flee the besieged city of Da Nang. Leaving their homes, their land, their possessions, and their freedom, they ran for the preservation of their very lives. Running without food, clothing, or money, they sought safety in other towns and cities. And now those other towns and cities are meeting the same fate as did Da Nang—the Communists have gained control and the death toll among the innocent victims runs high.

This is one of those pictorial scenes permanently burned into my memory. Since first viewing the news report two weeks ago, the drama of it all has remained fresh in my mind, and a feeling of utter helplessness has gnawed away within me. "What can I do to help those people?" I keep asking myself. But the answer is clear...there is *nothing* I personally can do to help, and there is very little the U. S. government can do to help at this point. My mind becomes bogged down with thoughts of these and of so many other suffering peo-

(Continued on page 11)



by
Jerry
Griffin

"I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." With these last words, Captain Nathan Hale boldly stood upon the scaffold awaiting his execution. He had been captured by the British army as a spy during the American Revolution. The trap door of the scaffold swiftly dropped; the rope tightened; and Nathan Hale hung motionless. He was only 21 years old.

After the assassination of King Philip II of Macedonia, his son, Alexander, assumed the responsibilities of king. It is said that as a boy, Alexander "wept bitterly at his father's conquests for he feared there would be no worlds left for him to conquer." At the age of 20, Alexander quickly defeated all opposition to unite the Greek city-states under Macedonian rule. With the home front under control, the "boy wonder" set out to fulfill his childhood dream of conquering the world. He undertook this mission at the age of 22. With an army of 35,000

he defeated Persian armies numbering from 600,000 to 1,000,000 strong. In only 8 years he marched his army from Greece to Egypt to India subduing all parts in between. Alexander the Great was the sole ruler of the known civilized world by the ripe old age of 30.

One cannot flip a light switch without thinking of Thomas A. Edison. Our push button generation is indebted to him. His long and productive career as an inventor included 2,500 patents and such inventions as the incandescent light, alkaline storage battery, carbon telephone transmitter, electric railway, motion pictures, and the phonograph. Even though many of his inventions came in his later years, Edison began his laboratory experimenting when he was a young man of 22.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, France was being torn apart by a bitter civil war known as the Hundred Year War. Since 1337 the French and English battled for possession of French soil. The future of the French nation looked bleak indeed. However, in 1429 an event took place which would turn the tide of war and change the destiny of France. Joan of Arc, a French peasant girl, donned a suit of armor and personally led the French army to victory at the siege of Orléans. A year later she was captured by the Burgundians and sold to the English. Accused of heresy and witchcraft, she was burned at the stake in 1431. Even though she suffered a tragic end, her heroism aroused a sense of national consciousness and patriotic fervor which would save France and win the crown for its rightful king. Joan of Arc is still considered the national heroine of France. She was only 17 when she rallied the French army and 19 when she died.

All of these great and legendary people held one quality in common—YOUTH! Throughout history youth has been the major source of creativity, energy, daring, and muscle. Every field has been influenced and in many cases dominated by youth—music, art, exploration, science, invention, literature, sports. Even the weight of war has been carried on the shoulders of youth.

Greatness and success grow from the seed of youth, watered by curiosity, ambition, exploration and experience. You are a product of your youth. Psychology confirms that the majority of your ideas, concepts and abilities are formulated before the age of 25. All further achievements are built upon the basic knowledge and skill obtained during your youthful years.

Today, the emphasis is on YOUTH. One half of the population of the U.S. is under 25. Not since the Golden Age of Greece has the youthful physique and life style been idolized as it is today. In order to compete in an increasingly younger world, millions have become preoccupied with bathing in the fountain of youth via the health spa, the face lift, "the dry look." The affluence and buying power of the young have become dominant forces in our society. Entertainment, business and industry cater to the needs and wants of the youthful market. Youth is in! But in this day of the "Now Generation," a haunting question must be answered: YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIVES?

The capacity for success and greatness lies within the youthful minds and bodies of each one of you. You may answer, "Well, I'm no Alexander the Great. And I'm surely no brain like Einstein. I'll never be great or famous."

Granted, you may never be great in a secular sense, but you can achieve greatness in another sense. If your life is dedicated to Christ and His service, then that is GREATNESS! Start now while you are young. Take advantage of the youthful benefits of creativity, energy, daring, strength and enthusiasm. Nathan Hale, Joan of Arc, Alexander the Great, Franklin, Edison, Einstein all dedicated their lives to a work while they were young. Should *you* do any less for the greatest work of all—The KINGDOM OF GOD?

The youthful achievements of the great men and women venerated in this article should inspire us to action. However, there is a note of sad-

ness in the realization that their youthful energies and abilities were devoted to causes which are not eternal.

The world empire of Alexander the Great fell apart soon after his death.

The countries for which Joan of Arc and Nathan Hale gave their lives will someday be overthrown.

The symphonies of Beethoven and the wit of Benjamin Franklin will some day be forgotten.

The great inventions of Edison and the genius of Einstein will some day no longer be needed.

When Christ sets up His Kingdom all the accomplishments of this world will be forgotten and destroyed. To quote a phrase which is becoming a cliché, "Only the things done for Christ will last." Doesn't it make sense to dedicate your life to the *only* lasting cause? Since the young people of history sacrificed blood, sweat, and tears for temporal causes, the young Christian should feel challenged to work for a cause which will determine eternity—the CAUSE OF CHRIST!

There are many case histories recorded in the Bible of young men and women who were involved in the cause of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom.

When the Philistine blow-hard, Goliath, had the men of Israel shaking in their sandals, God did not use a mighty soldier to deliver Israel. Instead, the giant-killer was David, a teenage shepherd boy.

Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, and Esther, just to name a few, also served God from their youth. Their lives had great impact for God's Kingdom.

(Continued on page 14)

MEDITATIONS
Of a
Snowy Morning

by Marty Furman

I came home from work in the morning with my heart singing for joy. Last night I had gone to my job at the hospital with a heavy heart. My problem is still there, but the heaviness is gone. What happened? God told me He still loves me and cares about my heart-ache. All through the night, millions of exquisitely shaped snowflakes spelled out His message of love. Until I moved to Washington, Isaiah 1:18, "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow," had no special meaning for me. I had never seen winter's stark nakedness covered gently with the downy softness and purity of a snowy white blanket. I tried to imagine it, but seeing is believing. Now my heart thrills with every snowflake, each tiny miracle made by the great Artist of nature.

During the night while God was transforming the bare empty trees into richly laden works of art, I took a few moments to pray in the hospital chapel, and God restored my ailing empty heart with His love.

As I lit the fire in my wood stove, I thought of how differently I would feel about the snow if I had no wood to dispel the icy cold in my house. Having the wood and the stove to burn it in made all the difference.

And then I remembered a summer experience that tied it all in to God's love for us in providing a Saviour for mankind. It was the last trip I took with my husband, Tim. One basic difference between us is that he is an experienced, competent driver, whereas I am an inexperienced, timid driver. I was supposed to be following close behind him as we drove from Washington to California. I tried my best, but the road was narrow and curving, and as he breezily passed every other car on the road, I lagged way behind. About fifteen minutes later I saw him up ahead, pulled off to the side. My heart began to hammer painfully... here it comes, a lecture about stupid women drivers. Much to my surprise, as I pulled in behind him, he pulled out again. I drove along in stunned silence. What could he be up to? Then it happened, he put his left signal on and started to pass another car, but this time, he stayed in the oncoming traffic lane until I had space and time to also pass the car. After this happened a few times, I caught on. Instead of lecturing me about my insecurity and incompetence in passing cars, he merely made provision for me. By staying in the left lane, he insured a safe passing for me. If anything was going to hit us, it would hit him first... he stood between me and danger. The trip became pleasurable, knowing I had his protection.

On life's road, there are many obstacles, many threatened collisions. God didn't just tell us, "hang in there kids, you'll make it somehow," but He sent His only begotten Son to meet the worst collision ever, head on! He stood between us and eternal death and died in our place.

But you know, if we don't let Him be our Guide, we face all the obstacles and collisions ourselves... it's all up to us.

I'd still freeze to death, even with my wood supply and wood-stove, if I didn't start the fire. The snow, even with all its beauty, would cause my death.

I know life can be a drag sometimes. Hearts can be crushed by circumstances. Fear of life causes men's hearts to fail, well-laid plans go astray. But with Jesus, Life will be Beautiful! Even out of tribulation... cometh Joy. Come alive in seventy-five with the Life-Giver!



Winter Never Lasts Forever

by Linda McNeal



Spring is here in all its beauty . . .
Fresh green blades of grass thrive
In sunlight made of gold,
And rainbow colors all come alive
In delicate flowers—a sight to behold!
Spring is life, and life is all around me . . . Yes!
I'm young and alive and death can't touch me,
And I will go on laughing and loving
And living for Thee.



Summer comes . . . my favorite time of year.
There's so much to enjoy, so much to do . . .
The swimming in cool lake waters near,
Skimming the waves on a pair of skis . . .
And for all this and more, O God, I'm thanking You!
Life is all around me . . . Yes!
I'm young and alive and death can't touch me,
And I will go on laughing and loving
And living for Thee.



Autumn has come, and my rainbow flowers are dying.
They go away when the crisp autumn breezes
Make the air grow cool. I feel like crying,
For the doctors say that like the rainbow flowers
My life will go away as cold-wind Cancer blows
Through my body. Dear God, don't let me die!
Life is all around me . . . Yes!
I'm young and alive, but death is nigh
And I'm so afraid. O God, help me
To keep on laughing and loving
And living for Thee.



Winter has come with its icy splendor and cold beauty.
Sparkling snowflakes fall gently to earth.
And cover the ground with white purity.
I watch them fall as I breathe my last breath
And feel no fear. O God I know
You are with me now in the shadow of death.
Someday it'll be spring again and God, we'll be together.
I'll have new life, for winter never lasts forever.
Life was all around me . . . Yes!
I was young and alive when death touched me,
But I laughed and loved, and yes . . .
Lived for Thee.

Death . . . what does it mean to you? Are you afraid of it?
Are you "*scared to death*" of dying? Stop and think about it.
Examine your feelings. If you are an average person, the
death of loved ones is a very sorrowful experience. But should
it be? And your own death . . . is it something you prefer not
to think about?

We, as Christians, are not just *average* people. We are *special*. We
have a wonderful loving God to comfort us in times of sorrow, and
we can claim God's promise of eternal life. But we are creatures with
feelings. When someone we love dies, we are left with a deep sense
of personal loss. At times it becomes extremely difficult to even accept
the fact that someone with whom so many happy times were spent
is no longer present to share our joy, our sorrow, and most important
our love.

I'm sure that God experienced sadness and pain as He watched
His only begotten Son die on the cross, and I believe that God under-
stands our sadness when we experience the death of a loved one.
But God knew that His Son was not gone forever. God raised Jesus
back to life, and He now lives eternally. Even so, death for the Chris-
tian is not a permanent state. Just as winter never lasts forever but
someday turns into spring, death is not a permanent end. God will raise
His people into an eternal springtime.

In one of my classes (the class for which I wrote the poem)
at the university I am presently attending, my instructor presented
us with two statements: "*Life is absolutely meaningful without life after
death,*" and "*Life is absolutely meaningless without life after death.*"
I tend to agree with the second statement; however, I am not
"*living to die*" as one of my classmates put it, but rather I am
"*living to LIVE.*" I enjoy life so much now that I want to go on living

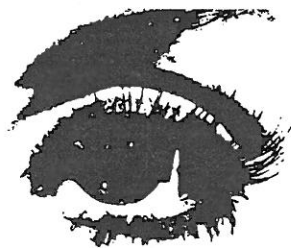
forever. God has shown His love to you and me in His desire for us to love Him and live with Him forever, and it is His promise of eternal life which gives a special meaning to my earthly existence. It is this same promise which takes away my fear of death and at the same time gives me comfort when someone I love dies.

Someday, perhaps in the not-too-distant future, we Christians may be persecuted and possibly even put to death for our beliefs. Through our faith in God we should be able to calmly accept our own death and the death of fellow Christians. We should be able, like the Psalmist David, to say, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me." We will know and believe with all our hearts that someday it'll be spring again and our wintry death will seem like only a moment in time. God has promised that winter never lasts forever, and we'll surely be together with Him in that New Spring.

by Clay Smith

When I Am Tempted,

I Shall Come Forth As...?



As young people we have our particular little trials that so often make us falter. We pray, "Father, please help me overcome this temptation." But many times these temptations seem to sneak in, and really cause us to stumble and fall. Often we feel like we have come to the end of the road, and we don't feel like getting up and trying again. Remember Timothy, a young man who also faced many problems and temptations. He was admonished to flee youthful lusts. Paul, in one of his letters to Timothy, encouraged him to "be strong in the grace that is in thee," and to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:1, 3). As Timothy was advised, we also ought to be strong and immovable in our Christian walk. Our lives should be based upon the firm foundation of faith that our Creator can help us stand against any temptations which might beset us.

These temptations can lead us to health problems, discouragement, and even backsliding if we can't tap the proper Source for help. The problems that so often plague us cause us to feel that we "really have it bad" but in reality our problems are no worse than anyone else's. Sure, everyone has his own particular hang-ups, but others suffer the same type of consequences. Paul says in I Cor. 10:13 "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it." This shows us that God WILL give us a way of escape — He is our Everpresent Rescue Squad that sets us free if we only trust and ask Him to make us stronger.

"BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE SAVED" (Matthew 24:13).

Life can't be all bad! We should rejoice in our problems! James 1:12 tells us, "Blessed is the man who endureth temptation." ENDURANCE is the key to overcoming trials and temptations. We need to have the FORTITUDE to remain steadfast when temptations come. As we focus our attention on Job we recognize his patience toward God. Even though he lost everything, he still trusted in God. He didn't give up hope that God would help him. Let us endeavor to endure as Job did, and have the patience and confidence that God is on our side. If we can do this, we can say as Job,

"WHEN HE HATH TRIED ME, I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD!" (Job 23:10).

EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

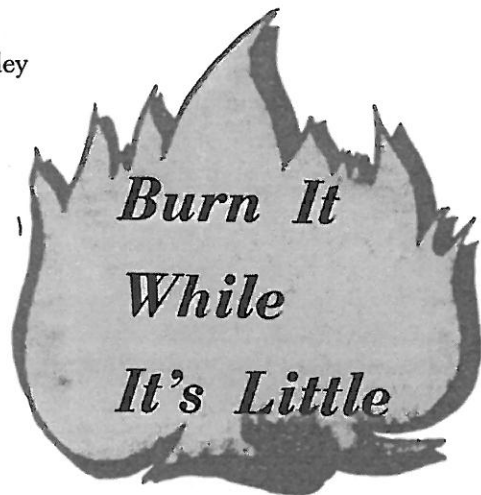
ple — the wars, the famines, the sin, the sickness — and my heart aches too much. I fall to my knees and cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus." Talking to God about this helpless, hopeless feeling brings a feeling of hope and peace. And often the lyrics of one of my favorite songs run through my mind, and I softly sing, "Come back home. Come back home. It's time again for You to come back home. If only for the children, come back home."



The instructor held a box of matches in one hand and a large stick of wood in the other. He sat silently watching the students as they filed into the lodge and sat on the floor in front of the big fireplace.

It was his turn to give the lesson for the evening at youth camp, and he was supposed to teach the students how to successfully build a fire. He had often seen students confidently try to build a fire after such lessons, only to have it flicker and go out. He was determined that this time they would understand better what it is all about.

by Uncle Dudley



"Students," he said, when they had finally decided to get quiet and see why no one was yelling at them to be quiet, "I'm going to start a fire!"

A sudden burst of indignant mumbling and a few open remarks in derision were obvious signs that they didn't consider his announcement to be worth all the "hush-

hush" approach, as though something spectacular were about to happen!

"How many of you believe that I'm going to start a fire?" A few cooperative souls held up their hands and stood on their knees, the better to see. Fires are ALWAYS attractive to some people!

The instructor struck the match, held it under the lower end of the big stick of wood. Little pieces of bark, about like bits of husk on a coconut shell, caught fire immediately, flamed up, and then the fire all disappeared from the match, the flaming bits of bark, and all. Again the instructor lit a

match, held it to the large stick of wood, but this time only a tiny flicker, a spark or two, and again the fire went out.

A third time he lit a match, held it to the large stick, but this time with no sign of igniting the large stick.

"Well! I SAID I was going to start a fire. NOW how many of you

believe that I am going to start a fire?"

One or two hands started up, hesitantly, but were immediately lowered when glances about showed plainly others had lost all confidence — or just weren't willing to play games any longer.

"Well, I was SUPPOSED to teach YOU how to start a fire but it doesn't look..." laughter drowned out the rest of his remark. "What do you suppose was wrong?"

"The wood was too wet! Our scout teacher said you have to have dry wood," a student volunteered.

"You have to do it with kindling!" another contributed.

"You just don't know how to teach!" Laughter again.

"What do you mean, 'kindling'?" the instructor asked, looking at the Scout.

"Little pieces of wood!" he quickly informed the instructor.

"Like these?" the instructor asked, holding up pieces like a broomstick.

"Yep!"

"Do you mean if I light this piece of kindling, I can burn the big piece?" This time a chorus of affirmative answers.

The instructor started to strike a match, as though to light one of the pieces of smaller wood. "Not like that!" the Scout protested.

"Then you show me how!"

The Scout came forward and took the broomstick sized pieces, placed them "teepee" fashion in the fireplace, laid the larger piece near them, struck a match, tried to light the wood—no better luck than the instructor.

Now the students were all getting concerned, and some offered this bit of advice and that—bits of it good but most of it irrelevant. They were students from the city where they were forbidden to burn trash in open incinerators, and few had fireplaces. For their fires at home, either they just turned a knob and a pilot lit the fire in the stove, or a thermostat turned it on automatically, and the students knew even less about how that worked!

"How many of you have tried to start a fire without any luck?" Many hands went up. They HAD been on camping trips — but Dad usually just laughed at them when they failed, and lit the fire himself without explaining what the problem was.

"Well, watch this," the instructor said, taking a broom straw, lighting it, holding it till the whole straw had quickly burned to near his fingers. He just "happened" to have other small sticks, in progressive sizes, larger and larger, lying handily at the edge of the fire apron.

He took another small one, lit it; then placing it in the fireplace, he held a slightly larger one above it till it lit, then laying it atop the first, continued in this fashion with larger and larger pieces till he had a brightly burning pile of twigs; then the "broomstick-sized kindling," pieces of wood larger and larger till he put on the original large piece which had refused to burn.

By this time, students at the front of the class began to move back from the heat.

"Who can explain how to build

a fire?" Every hand went up! Satisfied, the instructor nodded to his colleague to take over for a different lesson.

Seems to me there are a number of problems which can be tackled in the same way. Begin with small problems — overcoming them first gives the confidence to tackle larger ones. Start with a big problem — if it proves too large, don't give up; try something much smaller and build up to the difficult one.

Sin is like that, too. Burn it out of your life while it's too small to resist much — wait till it grows into a tree trunk, and you're bound to have trouble warming up enough to burn it out of your life!

If you try, and have no idea what went wrong, turn it over to the Instructor — the Lord Jesus Christ . . . He knows what He's doing, even though many are convinced He doesn't — they just have not understood how He goes about teaching us the lessons of life!

YOUTH

(Continued from page 5)

There are also many unsung youthful heroes in the Bible. The lad in John 6:5-9 is a prime example. How insignificant this unknown boy seems to be. Compared to the important Shadrachs, Meshachs and Abednegoos of the Bible, he is a nobody. All he had was five loaves and two small fish, and "what were they among so many?" But the boy was willing to let Christ use his meager possessions to FEED THOUSANDS! There is a lesson here, young people. You do not have to be thrown into a fiery furnace or experience the sensational to serve God. God simply wants you as you are. If you are willing to let Him use your abilities, however meager they may be, THOUSANDS can be affected for Christ!

Edison said, "Genius is 2% inspiration and 98% perspiration." The same is true in letting God use your life. God is not going to ZAP you into serving Him like a robot! It takes effort, work, and determination on

your part. God supplies the 2% inspiration through His Holy Spirit. The 98% perspiration is up to *you!*

The life of the wise man Solomon provides a remarkable illustration for today's youth. If anyone has ever achieved glory and greatness in this life, it had to be King Solomon. He had everything man's world has to offer — riches, political power, world wide fame and adoration, a harem of 1,000 wives, and God-given wisdom. But during his reign, somehow this great man lost his proper perspective and priorities. In the retrospection of his old age, Solomon realized that his fame and fortune would pass away. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon lamented over his wasted years—

*years when he lived lavishly—
years when he sowed his wild oats—
years when he lusted after material pleasures—*

years when he flaunted his gift of wisdom—

years when he neglected God's will. With the phrase, "vanity of vanities; all is vanity," Solomon bemoaned his

wasted years which brought nothing but emptiness of heart, valueless activity, and futility of life.

Don't make Solomon's mistake. Heed his warning in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the time of trouble comes and the years draw near when you will say, I see no purpose in them" (NEB).

Don't waste the active years of your youth. Don't use the old excuse, "I'll serve God when I get

older." NOW IS THE DAY OF SERVICE!

If God can use the boy with the five loaves and two fish, he can use you, no matter how young you are, no matter how inexperienced you are. Remember, Jesus was only 12 years old when he was about His Father's business!

What about you? How many more youthful years will YOU waste before being about your heavenly Father's business?



WHO is *your* DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR? Look and see:

South Western District: Harris Kinzler
Rt. 3, Box 441
Conroe, TX 77301

South Eastern District: Dale Lawson
Box 108
Cloudland, GA 30709

North Eastern District: Mark Ling
622 Badour Road, Rt. 9
Midland, MI 48640

West Central & Central: Jerry Moldenhauer
2553 Northrup Avenue No. 30
Sacramento, CA 95825

Canadian District: Nick Nimchuk
P. O. Box 70, Collingwood Avenue
Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada T0E 2C0

REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR FYC COPIES OF *SHAPE* SUPPLEMENTS B, C, H, I, K, F. Keep it all running smoothly!



Dear FYCer,

"All you need to do is register. Nothing to buy, nothing to do. Simply register by filling out the accompanying form." "Well, I've got nothing to lose. Why not?" we say as we register to enter this contest or that drawing. We are required to register to vote and to enter school. We register our dogs and our cars. We register for many things, and these registrations entitle us to various privileges.

It's simple – all YOU FYCs need to do is register. Local FYCs should be registered with the National FYC office too! Why? When local FYCs are registered, each FYCer will receive *all* general mailings from the National FYC and will be informed of all current programs and projects. This is an important way for the National FYC to keep in touch with each individual FYCer, and it is an important way for each FYCer to keep abreast of all FYC news. It is simple and all you need to do is REGISTER YOUR FYC. PLEASE BE CERTAIN THAT EACH YOUNG PERSON IN YOUR LOCAL FYC IS REGISTERED WITH THE NATIONAL FYC.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEXT MONTH!!!

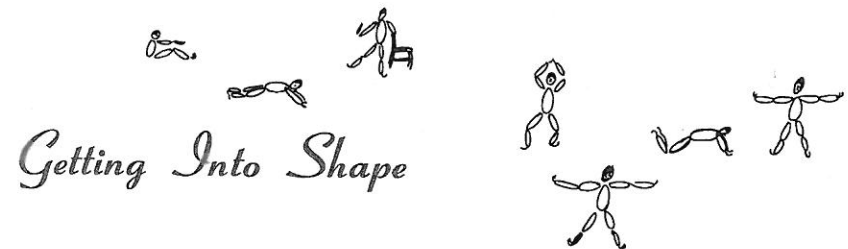
Next month in this feature a special announcement will be made concerning one further reason why all FYCers should be registered and how Quarter-per-Quarter will help the local FYC. Don't miss this announcement!

Sincerely,

Ken Knoll

Ken Knoll

SHAPE is the organizational guide for local FYC groups. Questions and suggestions concerning this program are dealt with in this feature. Please send all questions and suggestions to the editor.



QUESTION: "All those forms look like busy-work that has little to do with the operation of an FYC. Could you please explain why they are necessary?"

ANSWER: Sure can. SHAPE'S areas of emphasis include: (1) a personalized, flexible approach for local FYC's, and (2) greater communication on all levels – local, district and national.

The former program (Mark of Merit) stressed specific standards that applied to all FYC's; therefore, a statement of the standard was all that was necessary. SHAPE takes into account that each group is unique and it isn't practical to have the same standard for all groups. This means that instead of a standard to follow, guidelines are given to help each group in determining its own particular course that will be most meaningful to them.

Communication between the FYC, pastor and church board is enhanced if these guidelines are followed. This helps eliminate scheduling problems. Also, the District Youth Coordinator and National FYC Office are better able to serve youth because they will know of the needs each FYC group has.

Other benefits of using these forms are found in more effective planning and improved quality of activities. These should be included in the goals of every group, and the forms in SHAPE can help you reach them.

The forms you mentioned are necessary. If they are used in their entirety your group will have the guidelines to accomplish any program or activity you decide to do.

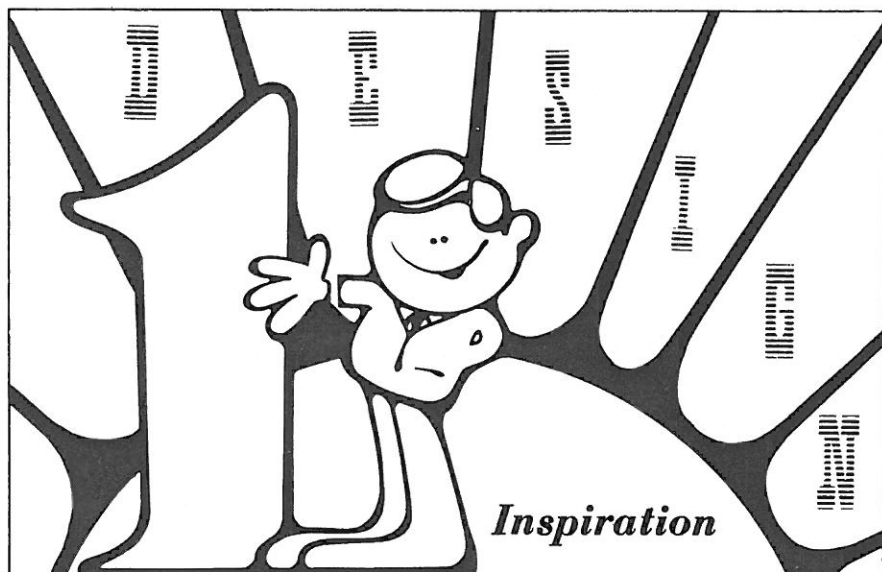
Following is a summary of the forms and how they are to be used:

- Supplement A** For the Vice-president to keep a file on all committees so he can contact each regularly to encourage them.
- Supplement B** For the Secretary to fill out in triplicate – local file, District youth coordinator and National Office.
- Supplement C** To be distributed to everyone at the quarterly business meeting for their personal reference sheet.

Supplement F To be completed by the Secretary after the business meeting with copies distributed to: local file, Pastor, sponsors and District Youth Coordinator.

Supplement H For each committee chairman for how many activities his committee will be planning.

Supplement I Completed in triplicate (same as Supplement B) by the leader or other officer present at the activity.



I and II PETER

AUTHOR:

The author identifies himself as "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ" in the first letter and as "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ" in the second letter. His real name was Simon, but at their initial meeting, Jesus gave Simon the nickname of *Cephus* (Aramaic) or *Peter* (Greek)—both of which mean a "stone" or "rock" (John 1:42). This first encounter with Jesus took place near the site where John the Baptist was baptizing. Peter was introduced to Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Originally from the Galilean village of Bethsaida, Simon Peter and Andrew had become fishing partners with James and John who were sons of Zebedee. It was at Capernaum that Jesus later officially called these fishermen to be His apostles (Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11).

Of the twelve apostles, Peter became the most prominent. His bold and aggressive actions and words always placed him in the forefront as the unofficial leader and spokesman of the twelve. However, his impulsive character often got him into trouble as evidenced by Jesus' rebuke: "Get thee behind me, Satan" (Matt. 16:21-23) and Peter's boast and denial at Christ's arrest. After the ascension of Christ, Peter became a dominant figure in the development of the New Testament Church. He preached the first Christian sermon on Pentecost resulting in 3,000 converts (Acts 2). He was the first to take the gospel to the Gentiles on a mass scale after his vision in Acts 10. For his work, Peter was recognized as a "pillar" of the Church (Gal. 2:9).

Peter may have dictated his first epistle to a scribe/translator, perhaps Silvanus (Silas) as indicated by I Peter 5:12. Because the style and word-usage of I and II Peter differ, it is suggested that II Peter was written directly by Peter without the aid of a scribe.

DATE:

The tone of I Peter anticipates severe persecution (4:12). Historically, the neurotic Roman Emperor Nero was the first to persecute the Church. He burned Rome in 64 A.D. and used the Christians as scapegoats. This persecution lasted until his death in 68 A.D. Since there was not another organized persecution until 95 A.D. during the reign of Domitian, it is fairly certain that I Peter was written at the beginning of Nero's persecution around 64-66 A.D.

From Christ's prediction in John 21:18-19, it is believed that Peter died a martyr's death in 67 or 68 A.D. during Nero's persecution. Because II Peter 1:14 suggests that Peter expected to die soon, this second epistle must have been written around 67 A.D., just shortly before his martyrdom. (*Tradition claims that Peter was crucified upside down on an X-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die in an upright position as did his Lord. This, however, is a matter of speculation.*)

PURPOSE:

I Peter was addressed to the Christians in the five major Roman provinces of Asia Minor—people who were largely Gentile (1:1). The letter was written from "Babylon" (5:13) which may refer to the actual city of Babylon, or to a code name for Rome. Although there is no biblical evidence to substantiate the claim that Peter was the first bishop of Rome for 25 years, there are hints that Peter did go to Rome shortly after Paul's release from his first imprisonment. Paul's death-wish, to have John Mark brought to him in Rome (II Tim. 4:11), and John Mark's presence with Peter during the conception of the first epistle, suggest the possibility of Peter's visit to Rome. Because of the pending threat of persecution, I Peter warns the church of the suffering that lies ahead from external forces. Along with the bad news, I Peter offers comfort and reassurance in the thought that the Christian's trials make him a partner in the suffering of Christ, and prepare him for

the wonderful joy of sharing Christ's glory when He returns. For this reason, I Peter is called the "epistle of hope."

II Peter was written to the same people as the first letter (3:1). The purpose of this second letter was to warn against false teachers and their teachings. Peter realized that internal heresies can be more devastating than external persecutions. Peter's antidote for false teaching is true spiritual knowledge. The Greek words for "know" and "knowledge" are used sixteen times. In the face of external persecution and internal heresy, I and II Peter both stress the centrality of Christ and the certainty of His return as the basic tenets of Christianity.

OUTLINE:

I Peter

A. Comfort in suffering

1. Living Hope (1:1-12)
2. Call for Holy Living (1:13-25)

B. Instructions for Living

1. The Living Stones and a Chosen People (2:1-12)
2. Submission to Rulers and Masters (2:13-25)
3. Wives and Husbands (3:1-7)
4. Suffering for Doing Right (3:8-22)

C. Preparation for Persecutions

1. Living for God (4:1-11)
2. Suffering as a Christian (4:12-19)
3. To Elders and Young Men (5:1-11)
4. Closing Remarks (5:12-14)

II Peter

- A. True Knowledge of God and His Message (Chapter 1)
- B. False Knowledge from False Teachers (Chapter 2)
- C. The Certain Knowledge of Christ's Return (Chapter 3)

Design I Reading Guide

- A. Set aside a definite time to read each day.
- B. Pray before you read that God will speak to you through His Word.
- C. Read one book at a time.*
- D. Read until a passage speaks to you or read by units of thought rather than by a certain number of chapters.
- E. Underline and memorize special verses.
- F. End reading periods with prayer, asking God to help you apply what you have read.

**It is recommended that you read the books of the Bible in sequence outlined by Design I. The books have been rearranged in a systematic study format according to subject and chronological order, instead of the traditional order of the orthodox canon. Brief background material about the Author, Date, Purpose and Outline of each book is given to aid your reading and understanding. It is hoped that this information will help make the Bible come alive before your eyes.

The Devotional

Every youth group experiences a need for a concentrated dose of spiritual inspiration from time to time. While all FYC activities are to be spiritually related, the devotional usually allows for a greater opportunity for meditation. This can greatly increase one's spiritual awareness.

There is no set program for a devotional; however, there are some ingredients that are common to most. How these ingredients are used should be dictated by the quarterly sub-theme as seen in the eyes of the devotional committee.

Selected choruses are meaningful. This is not the time to learn new ones, but to reflect on the messages of ones already known. Skits, films, slides and personal testimonies each can serve the purpose of the devotional well if they are: (1) short, and (2) well planned. They should relate to the theme with the emphasis on making the application of Christian principles better understood. Skits should not involve too many people—three or four is an ideal. Slides should be put to music or narrated well. Personal testimonies need to be brief and to the point.

A prepared talk that is short, crisp and easily understood is good. Special songs that emphasize the theme can be fit into almost any devotional with good taste. Impromptu testimonies have a place at many devotionals.

The arrangement of the devotional program is something that deserves considerable thought. The goal is to present your program in the best possible way. That means the selection of ingredients, participants and their sequence, is very important. The setting is also important. Be creative—use variety. Make the devotional something meaningful to everyone present. Give them something they can take home with them and share with others.

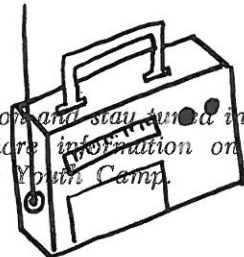
DEVOTIONALS THAT HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS. PLEASE SHARE YOUR PROGRAMS BY SENDING A COPY OF THEM WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THEM TO THE EDITOR.



NEWS AND REMINDERS

Several FYCs have not yet registered for 1975, and it is **URGENT** that we get these registrations. Leaders, secretaries, FYC-ers . . . **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FYC HAS SENT ITS REGISTRATION TO THE NATIONAL FYC OFFICE!**

Turn off and stay tuned in to AIM for more information on District Four's Youth Camp.



MARK OF MERIT 1974 WINNERS

LIGHTHOUSE AWARD WINNER—Joplin, Missouri

Congratulations to the Joplin FYC! This is their **THIRD** consecutive time to win the **LIGHTHOUSE AWARD**. They earned the **GOLD MARK** plus 1724 bonus points in the 1974 Mark of Merit competition.

RUNNER-UP FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE AWARD—Nampa, Idaho

This active FYC earned the **GOLD MARK** plus 775 bonus points in the 1974 Mark of Merit program.

GOLD MARK WINNERS—500 pts.

- Nampa, Idaho
- Marion, Iowa
- Joplin, Missouri
- Eureka, South Dakota
- Houston (Eng.), Texas

SILVER MARK WINNERS—

350 to 499 Pts.

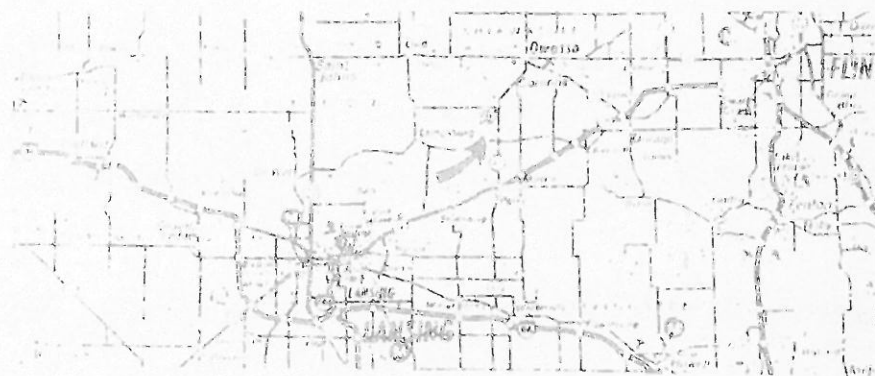
- Bloomington, California
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- Tahlequah, Oklahoma
- Tacoma, Washington
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