

**READ ALL
ABOUT IT!**



FOOTPRINTS

will appear in October. Watch for it!

FOOTPRINTS is a new magazine for youngsters up through the age of 12. This new magazine will become the successor to the *SABBATH SCHOOL MISSIONARY*.

FOOTPRINTS is coming with a new purpose. This purpose is to serve as a source of Bible teaching and inspiration in the home. It will not serve as lesson material in Sabbath school, or even as a take-home paper in connection with Sabbath school. It will simply be the children's magazine in the same way as *AIM* is the youth magazine and the *BIBLE ADVOCATE* is the adult magazine.

FOOTPRINTS will contain:

- Bible stories in children's language, with a lesson application
- Stories of present-day happenings which illustrate Bible truths and Christian virtues
- Poems
- Bible puzzles and quizzes
- "Get-acquainted" feature to learn about other children
- Letters from children
- News about the church and the world
- Feature for preschoolers

If you have children age 12, or under, in your home, *FOOTPRINTS* should be making its impressions there. Subscribe today!

Introductory or gift rate only \$2.25 for one year.

Write to: **Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 158, Stanberry, Mo. 64489**

Aim

The magazine for young people



FYCers from the Philippine Islands are featured in *AIM* this month. Above are pictured the District FYC officers of the Philippines.

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 Second and Willow Streets in Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Second-class postage is paid at Stanberry, Missouri.

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: \$3.00 per year in the United States and Canada. Foreign, \$3.50. Clubs of 6 or more to one address, U. S. and Canada only, \$2.25 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 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 9

Hope E. Dais, Editor

It may serve as a comfort to us in all our calamities and afflictions, that he who loses anything and gets wisdom by it, is a gainer by the loss.

—L'ESTRANGE.

Contents of This Issue

Christian Scholarship <i>Lorraine Carr</i>	page 3
Suicide is Painless?!! <i>Kenneth Lawson</i>	page 6
Precinct 16 <i>Pete Simer</i>	page 8
From The Philippines <i>John Lemley, reporter</i>	page 11
From Saskatchewan Youth Camp "Charlie"	page 15
Tell Me, Please <i>Ray L. Straub</i>	page 17
California Youth Camp— "This is My Church"	page 18
Kansas City Youth Week	page 20
Blessing in Disguise <i>Rick Taffner</i>	page 21
Scrolls of Hope <i>Editorial</i>	page 22
Teen Guidelines—Courtship <i>Jewell Linville</i>	page 23
Mark of Merit <i>Nathan Lawson</i>	page 29
2T4G—Take Time for God <i>Martha Ling</i>	page 30
Youth Doctrine Corner	page 31
Minuteman <i>Michael D. Vlad</i>	page 32
News and Reminders	page 33
The School of Life	page 34

BRACKEN
CHES
GRADE SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP

by Lorraine Carr



Summer has a lot to offer Christian youth. Perhaps you attended a youth camp or retreat; maybe you even found Christ this summer for the first time. And now the dread routine is settling and it's time to give some serious thought to the responsibility of being a Christian scholar.

We'll take for granted you agree with me that to understand God's Word a good liberal education—the best you are capable of attaining—is essential, but getting the education

you need can be one of your greatest Christian challenges. No matter what atheists may try to proclaim, God is in every subject and every class if you will take Him with you. God is in your Biology lesson, in mathematics, English, or history. Look for Him!

You won't have to look for opportunities to show God to others as you yourself are searching for Him. Unless you try very hard to keep it a secret that you know God (and if you know Him personally you just can't), those around you will soon learn to associate you with Christian, Christ-like ideas.

Most of us who are used to being challenged because we don't drink or smoke pot or because we go to church on a "funny day," are able to handle these arguments. But sooner or later Satan is going to start sending

"foxes to spoil the grapes" of our faith. Watch for him!

To be in the world—especially in a worldly school—and yet not a part of it, is no small trick. We are bombarded with chances to sin: a test we haven't studied for but must pass, a teacher's answer book we found, a theme to copy or to loan—it's all too easy.

Christian students should be without exception honest and trustworthy. Nothing can spoil your witness faster than to be found breaking one of man's laws no matter how staunchly you cling to God's commandments.

My first experience with cheating after I became a teacher still stands out in my memory. I had, at that time, a student who had said frequently he planned to become a minister. As a class, we had discussed this several times. Then during a test his best friend (a non-Christian) suddenly called out audibly: "Billy Graham's cheating!" (choosing the name which to him was synonymous with religion). In spite of the apologies he made voluntarily to the class, and to me, the incident stuck in our minds for a long time.

God expects us to use the faculties and intelligence He has given us. Do your best! Take seriously the privilege of learning, but do it *yourself* right down to the last math problem. Don't rely on cheating in or out of the classroom to get you through. Whether or not you get caught is really not the problem—God sees and knows

your sin. Someone put it: "Be sure your sin will find you OUCH!"

A few more positive words about your witness might be appropriate here. When you enter the realm of education, don't be afraid to *join something*. Most schools offer wonderful activities and chances to serve not only your fellow students but God also. Here, too, you have a chance to meet with students and teachers on a more individual basis and let your witness shine. Of course, if you can't include God, don't join, but you'll be surprised how frequently you can participate. I taught in a high school of several thousand students where an art service club visited a children's hospital regularly and the choir, a rest home. The rodeo club adopted an overseas orphan and future homemakers sent clothing to disaster victims. When a school has good Christian student leaders, a good Christian environment prevails. This is one of your greatest opportunities to witness.

If you should be unable to find a club or organization you can join, *start one*. Talk to your principal about a Christian Student Organization. (Youth for Christ International has a good outline for a Bible Club you could borrow.) You'll probably be surprised how many students and teachers will love to sing choruses and have prayer with you before school or after. In some schools Christian students prepare special devotionals for

announcement time or special Thanksgiving services.* Even though you do not attach a denominational name to your club, you'll have a real chance to let your beliefs be known.

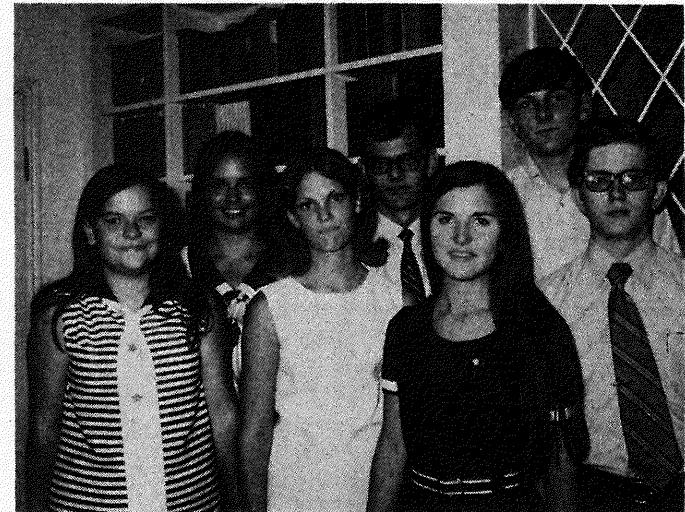
Above all, make it your responsibility to see that your school is one where God can be close. Christian ideals of good sound education with emphasis

*(Look at the Supreme Court ruling—it says **forced** prayer!)

on growth and knowledge must be there. There are plenty of kids left who aren't "pot heads" or "anti-establishment." Support them for your school leaders. Too often athletic prowess and/or social popularity replace real qualifications for office. Don't let your school (or country, for that matter) be run by less than those who know God's rules and encourage them.

Oh yes, and God grant you a great year!

FYCERS TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE AT STATE FAIR



Pictured above are some of the older FYCers from the Oklahoma City Church of God: *Front row*: Carol Freeman, Carol Vandagriff, Vicki Butrick, Jerry Jordan; *Back row*: Janet Freeman, Mark Vandagriff, and Dennis Birkicht.

We expect to distribute AIM's and help in the distribution of Christian literature at the Oklahoma State Fair in the "Made in Oklahoma" Building from September 25—October 3.

"—See you at the State Fair!!!"

Suicide is Painless?!!

by Kenneth Lawson

I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE what I heard as the radio Disc Jockey announced that the next song he was going to play was entitled, "Suicide is Painless." It was a song from some movie called "Mash" he stated. As the beat of the song continued, I could almost see some young boy or girl somewhere, listening to that song, and thinking about taking his or her own life. My heart went out to all young people at that moment as I wanted to shout to them all to forget such thinking. The wild "groovy" beat continued in a frenzy, most likely causing someone who was disillusioned with life to become excited, worked up, and even frantic. Sometimes losing all touch with reality, one in such a state of mind may take his own life, thinking he has done the right thing, and that

this was the only way out... and maybe... thinking it would be painless.

I am not taking issue with the beat of the song. This writer happens to like good music of many varieties. But I am taking issue with the subtil suggestion that is planted in the minds of people by such a title, "SUICIDE IS PAINLESS."

Someone was either totally ignorant in giving any song that title, or else they did not care what their song title suggests. IF ONLY PEOPLE WOULD REALIZE HOW REALLY PAINFUL SUICIDE IS!! —To themselves, to their friends, and to their families. In the USA last year over 21,000 people took their lives by suicide. This means that thousands of parents went through the very painful task of burying their child. It means that many thousands of brothers and sisters went through the painful torture of attending a funeral and seeing a loved one who had died. And they then have to live for months, even years, before they get over the hurt of such a thing. Some never ever get over the pain of that experience.

So besides the actual pain involved when one cuts his wrist, or shoots himself, or takes poison, or uses any other method to accomplish this feat, THERE IS SO VERY MUCH PAIN, CONFUSION, AND TROUBLE.

BUT ABOVE ALL THIS, there is a point that some have really missed. And that is, that even though they may think there is

little or no pain now (and we have shown that there is), think of all the pain one will experience when he has to stand before God, on the Final Judgment Day, and give account for what he has done. Oh, the pain then, to be cast aside as a commandment-breaker into the lake of fire to be consumed forever.

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: *there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.* Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 13:41-43).

It seems to me that there is so much pain—to one's self, to his friends, and to his family—that this song title is totally unreal; it is a lie, and it is ridiculous! And yet, this is how Satan will work, in small ways, hinting at people to do the ridiculous, evil things, so he can win out over them and keep them from living for God.

My heart cries out to all youth and to anyone who is out of contact with God and reality so that they consider doing something such as suicide because they cannot cope with life.

To be close to God—all the time—is the answer. To face problems with God as your Friend. To rely on His power to guide you, to help you, to cause you to understand life and all its complications. God

can give anyone the strength and courage to face anything, even the devil himself, and come out victorious and happy.

SUICIDE IS PAINLESS? RECONSIDER, MY FRIEND. It is *most* painful—so painful, in fact, that the hurt can never be taken away from those such an act touches. It takes courage to live, to face life, to smile in the midst of troubles and trials. It takes courage to continue on and it takes trust, complete trust in God, to make it through. But we have His promises, exceeding great and precious promises, and with these in our hearts, and with God and His Son Jesus on our side, nothing—not life, nor trouble, nor even Satan himself can win out over us. Young people, IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? Life can be happy for you—so happy that nothing will keep you from doing all you can to make others happy and to help them to enter into God's Kingdom.

AN OPTIMIST'S PRAYER

*If I have made some face to smile
Once darkened by a frown,
If I have helped to lift the load
From one with grief bowed down,
If I have brought a gleam of faith
To one whose hope was gone,
If I have changed the wayward path
Of steps to right from wrong,
I'll thank the Lord and be content
At night-time's close of day,
I'll ask again for strength to help
Another on his way.*

—Ben F. Spies.



PRECINCT

16

By Pete Simer

Even without the precinct sign, you would recognize the place as a lockup; squad cars in front and on either side, officers hustling about, obviously troubled adults and teen-agers. You have come to visit a youngster. But you don't even know his name.

You introduce yourself, place a paper bag on the sergeant's desk, then explain: "It's some candy and gum and a New Testament or the lad who tried to rob me last night."

The sergeant dips double chins and peers at you over his bifocals. "Turnin' the other cheek, eh?" he says. Then, shrugging: "Well, it's your cheek."

You smile and say, "If I may, I'd like to talk with the boy."

"Got time to waste, huh?" The sergeant jabs a desk pen into its well. "Anyway, I haven't. So I can't show you in. You'll find your young hooligan in the bullpen at the end of the hall and down one flight." You thank the officer and turn to go. "Here," he says, "take this bag along. I initialed it so the turnkey will know it's okay."

There are seven youngsters in the bullpen. Six are playing cards. The other stands kibitzing. One of the players spots you, grins, says, "Didja

come to see the jailbirds, mister?" He rises, flaps his arms wildly and imitates crow calls. Laughter rocks the bullpen.

Then the kibitzer sidles up to the bars, faces you. "Well, if it ain't pops!" he says. "Been expectin' you. Honest. An' I'll bet you brought me some yummies."

It is all a little poise-shattering, but you pull yourself together, smile and say, "Yes, I brought you a few things. I brought you something else, too. In case you're interested in another chance, I know a man who has a job for you—good pay, and a chance to—"

Suddenly it is obvious: you are

wasting your breath. The youth probes the bag as if he hadn't heard a word you said. He tosses candy bars and gum to the others, then discovers the New Testament. Now he laughs derisively. "Hey, you guys—look! Just what we need!"

His companions chorus questions: "Cigarettes?" "Money?" "Hacksaw blades?" "Marijuana?"

"Naw," he replies ignoring you, "nothin' as earthy as all that. What I mean is, we've really got it made now." He holds up the Testament for all to see. "Mr. Dogooder here has brung us a Bible!" The other boys moan in unison. Then, smirking, your antagonist faces you again. "Thanks, pops. For the yummies, I mean. But don't go tossin' no rehabilitation rope at me. Experts tried to brainwash me with all that jazz already, an' flunked out. So you just save any golden, Honest-John job deals for a kid in your church!" He puts on a real show; tearing the Testament in two and tossing it onto the filthy floor.

The mortification you feel must show, because he laughs again—right in your face, this time. Then, as you turn away, he taunts:

"We'll meet again, pops—on some other collection deposit night. An' next time, I'll be sharp enough to cop the cash I come after!"

Precinct Sixteen. Out front, you look back at the sign and mentally tip your hat to the desk sergeant, acknowledging that he had been right. But had he—?

However, as always when discouragement bangs your head against a wall, you ask yourself: *What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes? In view of the veiled threat and naked snubs, would He turn His back on*

the youth, or would He—?

You approach the sergeant again and ask to see the lad in private; away from the others. And the meeting is arranged.

Now you wonder why you have bothered; what you are doing here, alone in a small room, face to face with a "young hooligan." You see mistrust, even hatred in his eyes. But there is a faint, hopeful plea for help in them, too. You offer your hand, tell your name and ask: "What's yours?"

Hesitatingly, suspiciously, he grips your hands. "Bill."

"Bill what?"

"Look, pops—why make like a cop? Whaddaya want from me, a confession? You'n the cops got me dead to—"

"No, Bill, I'm not after a confession."

He looks confused. "What then?" he asks cagily.

You clear your throat, then suggest that you both sit down. Now, as you face Bill across a rickety table, you are even more doubtful of your motives. So you pray silently, then: "About last night, Bill. Why?"

Bill puts his hands under the table, stares hard at you, then shrugs. "Okay. Sure. I'll tell you why. I got outta stir two days ago, an'—"

"Stir—?"

"Yeah, The walls, the joint, the reformatory. Had no money an' I didn't wanna go home—you wouldn't wanna go to my home, either! Anyway, I decided to rob you."

"Why me?"

"A kid in stir—my cellmate. He used to go to your church. He hopped me up high with the lowdown on you. For instance, I know you're secretary-

treasurer of your church an' that between nine fifteen an' nine forty-five every Sunday night, you come out to the church's parkin' lot, get in your car an' drive to a bank, then drop the collection money in a night deposit slot."

Now you are aware that Bill is fidgeting. His hands seem very busy under the table. "It's all stacked up like a good score," he continues. "At least enough loot to hold me till—" He leaves it dangling and places his hands on the table—hands that fumble with the split Testament. The sight lifts your heart, but you let Bill go on. "I waited for you in the parkin' lot till I 'bout froze. An' then I sneaked over to your car, hopin' it was unlocked an' I could get in out of the cold an' wait for you there. Lady Luck! I ducked inside an' shut the door—an' just in time, 'cause there you came."

"A little thing puzzles me, Bill."
"What?"

"Down in the bullpen you said you were expecting me. Why?"

"I got eyes. When them cops yanked me outta your car last night, I could see that you was feelin' sorry for me. An', besides, I know church people. They're always tryin' to help somebody—even people who do 'em dirt. An' that's why I was expectin' you. Now, I got a question: How'd you know I was hidin' in your car?" Bill shows his smile for the first time.

"It was below zero last night. Your breathing left vapor patches on the window. . . ."

Precinct Sixteen. The sign keeps flashing in your mind's eye. And your heart keeps telling you that this boy doesn't belong in jail—not really, despite his record. Maybe it is the

difference you see in him, away from that gang in the bullpen. Or it could be the hint of mist in his brown eyes as he keeps turning the torn Testament in his hands.

"Any plans for that, Bill?" you ask, indicating the Book.

He flushes a bit. He even tries to hide the Testament, but gives up, grinning. "When I get to the walls again—" He falters, stares briefly at the Book. Then he looks up at you and smiles again. "A little tape an' some glue'll patch it up good as new."

At last Bill had given you an opening. "Lives can be patched up, too—no matter how badly torn."

"You kiddin'?" Bill asks forlornly.

You let the question go unanswered, feeling that your words would soak in more effectively that way. And you bid Bill goodbye.

And suddenly you know why you went to Bill. Somewhere in that tragic gap between Bible School and prison, somebody had failed this boy. But you would not, because you are confident, now, that you can sell Bill on what he needs most: Your help, prayers, human concern and understanding, and the hope that springs eternally from God's redeeming love. *Epilogue:* "Bill's attempted robbery, coupled with his parole violation, landed him in "Jacktown" (Southern Michigan Prison) instead of the reformatory. He was re-paroled last December—to the man he tried to rob! I feel sure that "Bill" will never be jailed again. Why? Because he has found a friend and a Book—and because he finally got around to believing in both. I know, because "Bill's" lock (cell) faced mine—and I could not help watching his benefactor's letters and New Testament "soak in". . . .

...From The Philippines...

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"—Isaiah 52:7.

For the past few months Brother Prude Sausa, Chairman of the Young People's Department in the Philippines, has been working hard accumulating materials for AIM. The Don Carlos FYC is happy for this chance to introduce themselves to young people all over the world. As a result of their efforts to let their light shine through AIM I am sure that many youth will be spiritually blessed.

Our dear brethren:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our soon-coming King, we FYCers in the Philippines extend our heartfelt and warmest greetings to each and every one of you.

We hope America is different when compared to the people of the Philippines.

Here in the Philippines, with the exception of a few, many prefer to have the wide gate and broad way to destruction, but very few prefer the straight gate and narrow way to life. Like the first couple, Adam and Eve, they prefer to follow the commandment of the devil rath-

er than of God. They prefer death rather than life. Here, if there is a free movie I assure you that hundreds or even thousands of people, young and old, will try their hardest to see the show. But, when it comes to a religious rally or religious program, you can never expect big crowds.

"We thank God for His blessings that we were able to convert a new man who is a real asset to our Church. He is Brother Elias Flores, who is so good in music that we were able to organize a choir both in Quezon and Don Carlos. He serves as our music instructor. You may see him in some of our pictures enclosed herewith, together with his letter to us.

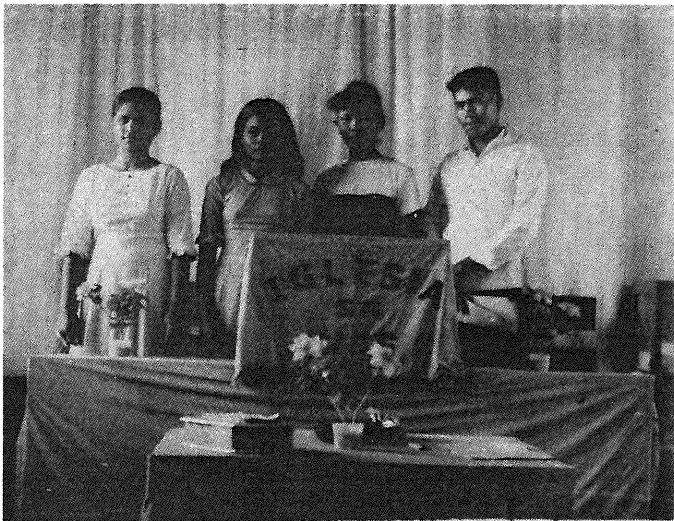
Another enclosure is an article by one of our FYC officers in Quezon, Sister Nena Espiritu, Secretary-Treasurer.

For record purposes, this is a brief outline of the FYC in the Philippines organized on December 30, 1967 in Quezon, Bukidnon with the following officers: Leader—Brother Elpedio de la Cruz; Assistant—Sister Phoebe Dingal; Secretary-Treasurer—Alice Pincas; Assistant—Evelyn Robanes.

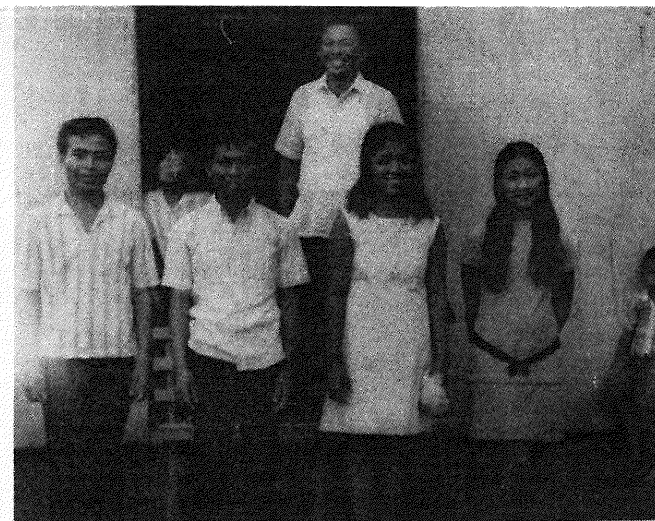
After two years of service to God the following projects were accomplished:

1. Church building in Quezon;

(Continued on page 14)



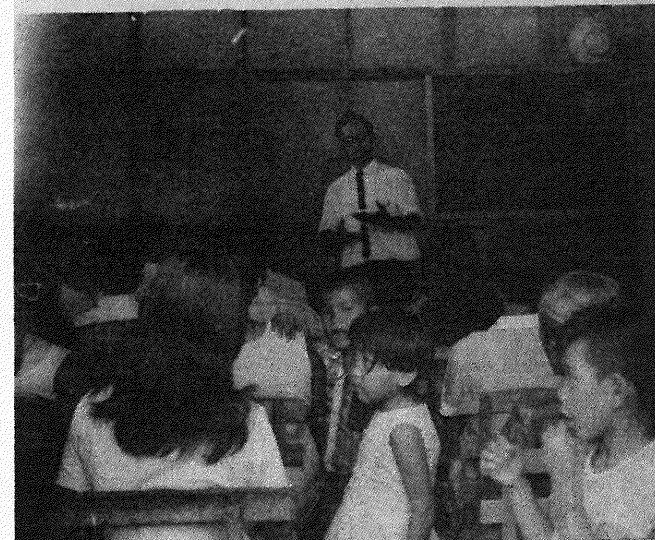
Kiocong local FYC officers: From left to right, Sister Lolita Barangot, assist. sec-treasurer; Sister Nena Espirito, sec-treasurer; Sister Alicia Pinca, assistant leader; Roy Espirito, leader.



Don Carlos FYC local officers with Bro. Sausa, chairman. From left to right (front), Brother Lino de la Cruz, assistant leader; Bro. Fred de la Cruz, leader; Sister Emma Dingal, assistant sec-treas., and Eva Dingal, sec-treas. Back—Prude Sausa (chairman).



Mr. Flores tries to give more spirit to the members of the choir in Quezon Church.



Bro. Flores emphasizes the importance of the pitch in music. He is our new convert.



Elder B. Dingal explains the doctrine of the Church of God, 7th Day, to Brother E. Flores, while others listen.



Some members of the choir in Don Carlos Church pose for a picture after an hour of rehearsal for tape recording for the radio broadcast. (Last June the Church of God message began going over station DXMB from Bukidnon—a tremendous result of your support of the FYC project of the year. Keep up the good work!)

... FROM THE PHILIPPINES

(Continued from page 11)

- 2. Purchase of some musical instruments;
- 3. Cabinets for Church magazines;
- 4. Cottage for visitors, especially used for camp meetings.

In 1969, we organized the Don Carlos FYC with Sister Phoebe Sausa as leader. Projects accomplished are the following:

- 1. Church lot was obtained;
- 2. Church building almost finished;
- 3. Sponsored a weekly rally;
- 4. Sponsored a debate;
- 5. Converted three outsiders.

Our projects for 1970 are the following:

- 1. Cement flooring on the chapel and

- its pulpit
- 2. Solicitation of funds for:
 - a. FYC uniforms
 - b. Reading center
 - c. Church furniture (seats, cabinets, musical instruments)
 - d. Materials to be used during Lord's Supper
 - e. Salary for Music Instructor
- 3. Recording music for the radio broadcast

We hope you will never forget us, especially in prayers for our success in the Philippines.

Truly yours in Christ,
For Faithful Youth Challengers
Prude Sausa
Chairman

BROTHER ELIAS FLORES' TESTIMONY

Dear Friends and Brethren,

I am thankful to God who led me through His Holy Spirit into this Church of God (7th Day) from the Radio Church of God. I would like to contribute some facts from my actual findings of the Radio Church of God as a message to any reader who may have the interest to know about news from those who came to the Church of God (7th Day).

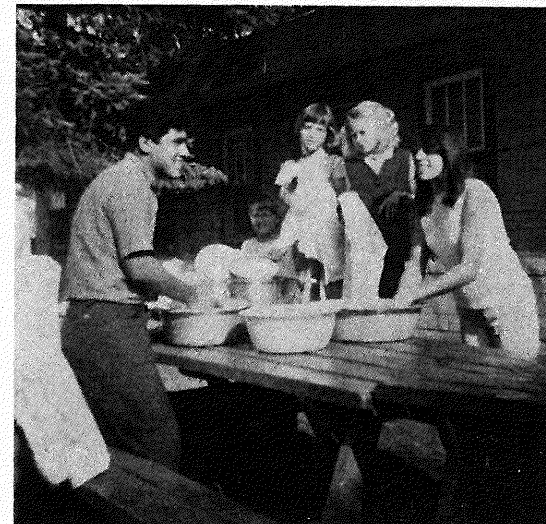
My six years membership of the said Church of God, had caused me to realize my spiritual downfall should I continue to keep her doctrines. (Drinking wine is the greatest soul's desire among its members and ministers and it is now unpreventable habits together with the dancing that each other's breast drawn closer that if you think they are lusting they judge you to have a "dirty mind.")

I keep on praying and reading the Bible for enlightenment, and while studying the texts I used to underline for further study until it is so clear enough to say and discuss among the brethren of the said church. I am very strong enough to stand for truth that festival observance as written on the Book of the Law or the Law of Moses ended already at the cross. I could no longer keep silence of the truth and for this reason I tendered resignation and came to this Church of God (7th Day). At present I am satisfied of the truth and it is clearly a living Church.

My heart is with you always, praying for the success of every member and leader of the Faithful Youth Challengers around the world.

Sincerely yours,
Elias A. Flores

... From Saskatchewan Youth Camp...



Most of our meals were enjoyed outside in this setting. Pictured here are some "fortunate" K.P.ers.

DEAR MOM:

Arrived at camp Sunday afternoon. Some old faces; some new. Spent some time getting settled. Several parents stayed for supper. Had our first meeting that night. Elder Nimchuk spoke to us about why we should have a youth camp. Today, Monday, we had some excitement. Elder Dan Camero and family arrived, bringing three new campers with them—two from Dakotaland and one from Manitoba. It's great meeting other young people who believe as we do. And when Elder Camero played his guitar—WOW—how we kids did sing tonight! He spoke to us and everyone listened during his sermon. Having a wonderful time.



Love,
Charlie

DEAR MOM:

The meals here at camp are great—just like home cooking. One day the cooks, Sisters Violet Chalus and Dorothy Nimchuk,

got so involved in our softball game that they burned the soup. We're really roughing it out here at Candle Lake. They have a power unit which is in operation from about 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Elder Nimchuk keeps forgetting to shave at night. If it weren't for his car plug-in, he'd soon look like a grizzly. Elder Paul Chalus from Calgary must have a better memory or else he's used to shaving at night. A fellow camper from across the line never

saw an icebox before. We've got 'em here! This is Thursday and I'm sure we'll always remember the great "Snipe Hunt" we went on last night. It's raining right now. We had a regular storm during the meeting tonight. Winds about 60 mph; hail, rain—we had it all. You should see the whitecaps on the lake. Someone said it rained 'cause Elder Nimchuk bought a bathing suit and he wanted



a chance to try it out. The rain let up a little and we had a wiener roast down by the beach after service.

Love,
Charlie



DEAR MOM:

It's Sabbath night and the final meeting is over. We go home tomorrow. You know, I'll be glad to see you; but I'm also a little sad to realize that camp is about over. We've had fine preaching and classes all week. Elder Camero spoke to us at this final meeting. We had a youth rally first. One of the highlights of the week was the special music by the Cameros, their nephew Frank, and Orene Walker. We're going to be talking about this camp for a long time to come. And we're already planning on attending the retreat in Minnesota in December, Lord willing. I'm sure there were several kids who raised their hands stating they'd like to be prayed for and to get to know the Lord better. We had to close our eyes so I didn't see who they were. I know there was at least one, 'cause I had my hand up—way up high! We don't have many campers; but we like to think we have "quality" rather than "quantity." See you soon.

Love,
Charlie

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



QUESTION:

Should a girl get married before she is 18, if she is really in love?

ANSWER:

Generally, no. It probably is not love that is causing youth at such a young age to consider marriage. It is physical attraction. Love has patience and can wait until sufficient maturity can give more assurance that a marriage is well-advised.

Young people would be better off if they would quit thinking about the possibility of an early marriage until they are old enough. Please remember that you deny yourself much more when you marry too early, than what you deny when you delay marriage for two or three years.

QUESTION:

What is wrong with kissing on your first date, even if you do not know the friend too well?

ANSWER:

What's right about it? This question suggests that you would rather like to kiss everyone you go out with. Soon your handshake will show more affection than your kisses!

Contrary to what many youth assume, it is *not* good to be too ex-

perienced in the various activities preparatory to love-making. The more experience you show, the less of a prize you are. The biggest bums in the necking crowd are those who know most about it. You may not believe it now, but six months after your marriage (probably much sooner), you'll be wanting to join us in cautioning other youths about this matter.

QUESTION:

How old should a person be before he begins necking?

ANSWER:

Old enough to know better. Necking is a natural expression of a legitimate affection. It is no way to become affectionate, nor does this activity belong to those who like necking better than the person they are squeezing.

Forget about necking. Find a person you can appreciate and like. Be dignified and grown up in your growing friendship. Be considerate, courteous, unselfish. Culture a respectable relationship that you can let anyone watch without fear or shame. In these moments you will feel tall, clean, and adult. Too many youths are getting no more than their necks wrung by necking. (Reprint from 1965 AIM)

California Youth Camp

"This is My Church"

A time to doubt
"Camper's on fire!"
"Everyone out."

No water.
No axe.
No one will stop.
"Let's go."
Battery's dead.

A push to station. Water, smoke, fire's out. Assembly line, luggage out...
"We are late." "Maybe it's not God's will for us to go to camp?"

A time to listen.
"Don't get your lives mixed up with the world..."
"If only we could realize that God has provided the most wonderful way out."

"The most important thing is to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life."

"We are expecting more from our young people because we are investing more."

"We want to give you an opportunity to know the Lord, an opportunity to get your lives straightened out..."

A time to weep
Amongst God's creations. In the stillness of the night. "If you want to come forward, come, but remain standing; it's too dirty to kneel."

They came.
They knelt.
God moved.
Young people wept,

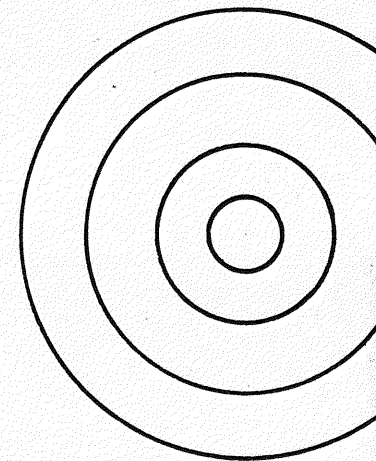


A special occasion was the banquet on Thursday evening. Tables were decorated with cleverly-made nut cups, which depicted Bible life.

Faithful Youth Challengers

2T₄G

A Daily Goal



For A Life with A Daily Purpose

Name _____

Address _____

of these are all the
Many churches fo-
members as different
h of God (7th Day).
s new members which
he leaders are all so
oward young people
about their welfare."
mberly Craig

I have learned it
church is very well
the Lord has greatly
rch for this.

feel is really wonder-
Church of God wit-
ding God's Word all

-Doug Houser

appreciate the leader-
rch. I do believe that
em there. God really
orking with His peo-

ns to be a lot of mis-
nd actually much ig-
young people as far
tion and organization.
m time was extremely
of us. The panel dis-
y good. I got a lot out
udy of the organiza-
urch is very thrilling
do love God's church
the greatest thing for
I am really thankful
p given to us as youth
d to be a strong Chris-
od for the Church of

Jerry Camero

glad the church has
concerned about the
has been in the past.
been very helpful to
ed on page 28)

day keep the devil away."

California AR _____

"This

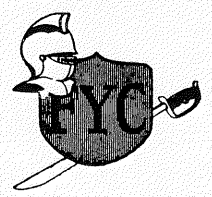
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath

A time to doubt
 "Camper's on fire!"
 "Everyone out."
 No water.
 No axe.
 No one will stop.
 "Let's go."
 Battery's dead.
 A push to station. Wa
 out. Assembly line,
 "We are late." "May
 will for us to go to c

A time to listen.
 "Don't get your lives
 the world..."
 "If only we could r,
 has provided the mos
 out."

Send your completed folder to
 Mrs. Martha Ling
 National FYC Office
 316 N. Willow
 Stanberry, Missouri 64489

For additional folders write to the
 Bible Advocate Press at Stanberry,
 Missouri, or to the national FYC office.



in remorse.
 in dedication,
 for a boyfriend,
 for a sister,
 and prayed.

A time to sing
 "Well, I woke up this morning feelin
 fine, I woke up with glory on my
 mind, I woke up with joy in my soul,
 for I KNEW my Lord had control...
 Well I'm feeling mighty fine, I've got
 glory on my mind; Don't you know,
 I want to go where the milk and hon-
 ey flow..."

A time to laugh
 Director in creek.
 "Old MacDonald had a farm E-I-E-I-
 O..."
 Staff-faculty Basketball game—"Is
 she going for a touchdown?"
 Softball, sprinklers and chaos!

A time to reflect
 "I am thankful that God brought me
 and my Mom into the Church and
 I'm praying for my Dad..."
 "I am thankful for the tribulation of
 the past year..."
 "God healed me! The next morning
 after they prayed for me I felt
 strength coming back..."
 "I was on the verge of being the
 world's worst person or of becom-
 ing a Christian..."

A time to learn
 Forum, group discussions, classes...

- "I learned several things, one was about the departments of the church, the people who serve on them; also where the tithes, offerings and funds go."
- "I believe that this church has many admirable traits. I think the

most important of these are all the youth functions. Many churches focus on the older members as different from the Church of God (7th Day). It also welcomes new members which I'm glad for. The leaders are all so understanding toward young people and concerned about their welfare."
 —Kimberly Craig

- "Of what I have learned it seems as if the church is very well organized, and the Lord has greatly blessed the church for this.
 "One thing I feel is really wonderful is how the Church of God witnesses are spreading God's Word all over the world."
 —Doug Houser

- "I really appreciate the leadership of the church. I do believe that God has put them there. God really seems to be working with His people."

- "There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding and actually much ignorance among young people as far as church function and organization. I think this forum time was extremely valuable for all of us. The panel discussion was very good. I got a lot out of that. The study of the organization of the church is very thrilling to me because I do love God's church very much. It's the greatest thing for young people. I am really thankful for all of the help given to us as youth to serve God and to be a strong Christian. Thank God for the Church of God."
 —Jerry Camero

- "I'm very glad the church has become more concerned about the youth than it has been in the past. I'm sure it has been very helpful to
 (Continued on page 28)

Kansas City Youth Week

How do you activate an FYC group?

The Kansas City young people planned an extensive youth week program with the intentions of finding inspiration for a more active work for God.

They started their nine-day program with FYC orientation and ended it with a Sabbath spent resting and meditating in God's great outdoors.

On Sabbath afternoon, three young people were baptized into the Body of Christ. This was fine reward for a week of concentration on the needs of young people.

Various activities engaged in during the week were as follows: FYC Rally Program, fire-side services, outdoor picnic banquet, sightseeing tours, weekend retreat, baptismal service.

The young people from Stanberry, Missouri FYC joined the Kansas City FYCers for several of their activities and contributed to the program with special music and speaking. A carload of young people from Central City, Nebraska, found rich fel-



Three young people were baptized on Sabbath afternoon by Elder Dale Lawson. They are: Donna Huff, Karen McNeal, and Alvin Burkhardt.

lowship and spiritual benefit during the weekend retreat. Two of them were baptized on Sabbath afternoon.

We encourage other FYC groups to do extensive programming that will help activate their FYC. For ideas and information, write to the National FYC office, 316 N. Willow, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

In Romans 8:28, Paul tells us "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Recently I was given a good example of this first hand.

For the past several years the Kansas City church had been without a steady pastor. During this absence the young people's department had fallen down severely. Last summer I became interested in the church but not quite as interested in God. I tried to rebuild the youth with lots of activity, but of course I failed miserably.

Then from August 1969 to December 1969 I was privileged to attend Spring Vale Academy and see the workings of a real F.Y.C. It was here I met God and asked His guidance. Although I didn't return to Spring Vale second semester, I did start working for God at home as local F.Y.C. leader.

While I was attending school at home second semester I had sufficient time to work on my church responsibilities, but following school I took a job that kept my activity in the church down to almost nothing. It was at this time that God came to my aid. He laid me off my job.

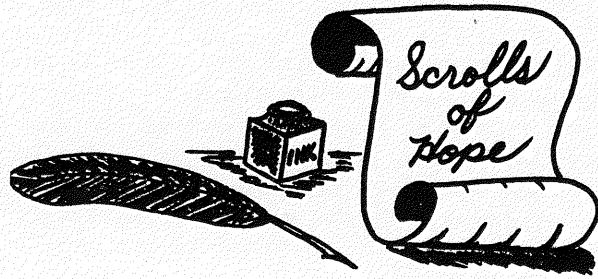
Earlier, at Spring Vale, I had asked God's help and guidance in my service, but I turned right around and refused to yield myself completely to His will. Although I still tried to be a help in the young people's group, I kept letting other things come first. God knows we are weak, though, and if we love Him and truly want to serve Him, He'll help us. Although my actions often didn't show my desire to serve God, the desire was there and He knew it.

After being laid off, I scoured around for another job but my search proved fruitless. This left my entire summer to do as I pleased or, even better, as God pleased. This summer the Kansas City Church received Elder Ron Sanders as a full-time pastor. Under God's guidance he has led our church in a giant leap forward toward active service to Him.

I've just returned from the highlight of my summer—and one of the most memorable times in my spiritual life. I'm speaking of the "Leadership Convention" in Boulder. For four days over one hundred young people gave their entire being to God and the leading of His children. The campers from all over the nation left feeling that this retreat would become known as a landmark in God's church.

As a rule, being laid off from work would seem more a curse than a blessing, but if we love God, we welcome anything that helps us serve Him. Even when we are denied something else we want to remember that "he is with us always, even unto the end of the world." I am confident that God's plan is not yet complete in my life and that He will continue to furnish me my needs even as He has done this summer. I ask your prayers for me and for His work here in Kansas City as well as His work throughout the world.

In Christian Fellowship,
Rick Taffner



As this issue of AIM goes to press, the 1970 Youth Leadership Retreat is one week in the past, "...but the melody lingers on..."

A hundred youthful voices blending harmoniously as they sing, "To be used of God, to sing, to speak, to pray. To be used of God to show someone the way..."

... Many memories linger on ... youth kneeling together on the rocks on the beautiful mountainside, pouring out their hearts to the Heavenly Father, many staying on after prayer to look out over the valley and meditate on God's goodness, and upon the tremendous task that lay before each of them—going back to their FYC groups to lead them to more effective service and more effective witnessing for God.

It seemed that workshops and open discussions often returned to the same question—"How can we best witness to others and share with them the joy of knowing Christ and His truth?" And the answer, in a nutshell, seemed to be phrased in three simple words: "Be a Friend." So it is that many of you returned to your own local churches more determined than ever to have a genuine love and concern for those around you—not just a mechanical thing so that you might fulfill your duty to witness—but the cultivating of real, genuine friendship with those around you.

"Please, don't let us be complacent," was another phrase which seemed to recur rather frequently both in testimony and in prayer. Undoubtedly what emphasized this so strongly was the inspiring testimony of a young convert of only one month. "... Don't be complacent," he pleaded. "Don't be satisfied to keep this joy and truth to yourselves. Many others just like myself are searching for real meaning in life. Help them find it..."

Perhaps the most precious memory of all is of those times when one or two, alone, climbed the rocks to Inspiration Point and there, so close to God, lingered in meditation and prayer.

It is my earnest prayer that the inspiration and determination that was felt there in the heart of each local FYC leader, each Leadership Committeeman, each National Committeeman, each special guest ... and in the heart of this editor ... will not become just a memory of a mountain-peak experience but will continue on to bear fruit and to grow into greater service for our Heavenly Father, and for the youth of the church we love.

Teen Guidelines

--Youth --Courtship --Christianity

Jewell Linville, National FYC secretary

Editor's note: It will be helpful to note that last month's article in this series, in contrast to this, deals with ual dating. This second in the series, in contrast to this, deals with courtship itself.

"Vital Statistics No. 582,000; December 31, 1968; Tucson, Arizona—Case History: 'Divorce granted to Susan B. White Capella on grounds of pregnancy at marriage. Age of defendent—20; age of plaintiff—18. Marriage vows solemnized March 15, 1968. Innocent parties affected—one (1) daughter, Linda Marie Capella, age 6 months. Susan B. White Capella granted custody of child. Child support granted and set at \$30 per month. Case closed.'"

Rather cold and impersonal account of the obvious ruination of three lives, don't you think?

An exaggerated case far removed from any that may happen to YOU? —Don't pass it off too lightly—you could become vital statistic No. 682,000 for 1970, or No. 882,000 for 1978, or maybe No. 1,102,000 for 1982! The outcome depends on YOU! And it does not depend on your action in 1982, but it depends upon your action today—NOW!

There exists an urgent need for concern relative to this matter of dating, courtship, and marriage that one can readily see with just a glance at such statistics as California's 1968 marriage rate of 8.5 per 1000 population as compared to 3.9 divorces per 1000 population—almost *one-half* as many divorces as marriages, and at the fast pace the divorce rate is climbing (the 1969 increase for the

first 6 months was up 17% over the same period for 1968, which represented more than twice the increase that occurred during the same period in 1968 and 1967), it is quite likely that of that 8.5 marriage rate of 1968 *over one-half* will end in divorce by 1972. TRAGIC, ISN'T IT?

Young people—Christian young

people even—do not remove yourselves so far from this type of situation. It CAN happen to YOU!

However, the beauty of it all for truly dedicated young people is that there is a solution, and that answer lies totally with GOD. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3: 5, 6).

God in no wise limits the application of this proverb to any one phase of life; but rather, it is ALL INCLUSIVE, applying just as readily to the boy-girl type relationship as to direction in any other vital decision in the Christian walk. And certainly your judgments relative to courtship are significant in your effective service to God, both now and in the future.

Your successful performance in service to God can be sadly hindered or even destroyed completely by one little "let-down" of your moral standards during the natural course of dating or courting a member of the opposite sex. Such a looseness of morals is most especially possible during the serious stage of courtship when you feel that "special" attraction that *might be* love, and it, in turn, causes your God-given desires and emotions to be surfaced. You MUST adequately prepare yourself to cope with your own passions, and this preparation consists of a lot of prayer, common sense, and entire consecration to God, even as the words of the beloved hymn say, "Take myself and I will be, ever ONLY, ALL for Thee."

Courtship Defined

These *warnings* certainly are not intended to discourage dating and court-

ship, but only to make you aware of the dangers that can come with careless handling of one's own emotions. In reality, courtship is a delightfully enjoyable experience that can be nicely defined as "dating with serious intentions based on feelings of or related to love." Unlike dating in its early stages, as discussed in August's "Teen Guidelines," courtship is that enchanting time when the possibility of true love draws two people together in a beautiful closeness that can be considered one of the loveliest of God's thrills for man. —It is a time when the rich discovery of love causes one to feel he has burst forth in all his glory even as the wonders of nature burst forth each spring in response to the warm glow of the sun's rays. —It is a time when love is explored as to its authenticity with the realization that passion is possible without love, but is not always easily discerned from love. —It is a time when one has opportunity to "make sure" of his inclinations as to choice of a mate. —It is a time for a smooth transition from the "dating-for-fun" stage to the "engagement" stage. —It is a time for serious thinking, thorough analysis and deep devotion and prayer as two people seek God's guidance in perhaps the most important decision of one's life except that of salvation itself!

Although we consider courtship as that stage of dating when one actually makes his choice of a mate, you must never feel that just because you have begun serious thinking, you must now carry through to the engagement stage. You must always allow yourself the privilege of "breaking up" until you are so absolutely positive of your choice that you feel that nothing short of death

itself could prevent your marrying your "dream-come-true."

If there were ever a time in your life when you viewed a decision selfishly, may it be at this time! By being completely selfish in your choice of a mate, you will be performing a favor for both you and your dating partner (not to mention the children that come as a natural result of marriage) that may mean the difference between happiness or misery in this life and eternal life or eternal destruction in the end.

Going Steady???

Even for this reason, please young people, never consider that this type of courtship has to have a special "going steady" arrangement. True discovery of love will bring this "going steady" automatically without any "arrangement." And until love brings it about, you should certainly be allowed the opportunity to "look around" before settling to one for life. All too often, if the "looking around" is not fully accomplished before marriage, it will be done after marriage, which is the first step to a breakdown in the marriage itself. This must never be!

At the same time that we consider the seriousness of courtship, please accept the warning against hastening into the transition from courtship to engagement. Remember that engagement carries with it a responsibility of betrothal that makes it doubly difficult to "change your mind." Although no one should consider engagement so "sealing" as to prevent a reversal if any doubts appear; at the same time one should not enter into an engagement lightly. It should be and must be a thoroughly investi-

gated, well-planned, serious step toward marriage and must be entered into only after much prayer and direction from God.

Courtship Standards

As we consider courtship in contrast to early dating as discussed in August's "Teen Guidelines," we must of necessity contrast certain dating standards as well. It is apparent, of course, that the same "aloofness" that exists in dating for fun will not be prevalent during the serious stage of courtship. Following are courtship guidelines worthy of your consideration:

1. Date with other couples, but at the same time, you must allow yourselves some opportunity to be alone for the privacy of serious discussion, prayer for guidance, and mutual companionship. (The living room of the young lady's home makes an ideal setting for such discussions.)
2. Choice of places to go must not deviate from the good, wholesome activities of the early dating stages, although you may choose to "go alone" occasionally, or even often.
3. Although length of time spent on a date may be extended during courtship, use good judgment.
4. The closer relationship with your date in no way excuses you from respecting and adhering to the desires of your and your date's parents concerning any rules of dating they request.

Those who yield their souls captive to the brief intoxication of love, if no higher and holier feeling mingle with and consecrate their dream of bliss, will shrink trembling from the pangs that attend their waking.—Schlegel.

5. Do not depend upon your date for all your pleasure, but enjoy "together" the association of those around you.

In courtship, certain displays of affection are permissible and desirable as contrasted to the absence of the same in early stages of dating:

Holding Hands —When one feels especially drawn to another, holding hands becomes a sweet display of that affection that causes a certain transfer of warmth that is precious. Nevertheless, this does not excuse that previously-mentioned "gluing" together that causes the public image to be below that which a Christian should project to others.

Sitting close —With the mutual attraction between two people possibly "in love" comes this natural desire to sit closely together, an action which, *if used with discretion*, is acceptable. However, this does not condone lap sitting, overly close contact, etc. These are things which only stir up the natural lusts which can lead to dangerous intimacies to be avoided. To put it in the words of one fellow: "Sitting so close causes me to have desires that I feel guilty about later, and some girls can't blame a guy for his reactions if she is so careless herself!" Need I say more?

Embracing —Casual embracing during courtship can be termed as plea-

sant and acceptable, but long sessions with close bodily contact only lead to TROUBLE and must be avoided by those interested in their Christian walk and in their own self-respect. Even with casual embracing, you must be careful of any contact with areas of the body meant for marital contact only—it is DANGEROUS and it is WRONG! "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

Kissing —When love is present, it is only natural to desire to demonstrate that love with a kiss—but it must be with CAUTION! A recent "Intelligence" Report by Dr. Herbert Lollgen of the Schlebusch Medical Hospital in Lerkusen, Germany, reveals some striking facts that speak a big word of caution: "When lips and tongues touch, the nerves carry messages to the central nervous area, inducing immediate extension of the spinal cord. Nerves in the pelvic area are notified. The adrenal glands begin to secrete more adrenalin. The pancreas produces more insulin. The sex glands are stimulated. Blood pressure increases from 120 for most young people to 180. The heart works overtime beating up to 150 times per minute."

One who has counseled with young people would no doubt agree that the above report helps to explain the ease with which young people find

themselves rationalizing and justifying sexual intimacies when their physical desires have been exploited. Such quotes as the following are sadly indicative of such rationalization:

"We can stop short of sin. . . ."

"It's marriage in the eyes of God, anyway, so. . . ."

"Our love makes it right. . . ."

"We'll be married soon anyway. . . ."

Such warped reasoning quickly identifies *passion* as compared to *love*!

Do you Christian young people dare let yourselves be subjected to such overwhelming natural forces that, if used unwisely, can lead to personal intimacies that steal away the opportunity for God to give you complete and glorious fulfillment in marriage with one you love?

These natural desires must be restrained! A light kiss as an indication of a sweet affection is not out of place, but long kisses are like long embraces—they are dangerous and they are WRONG!

Please remember, too, that with real love (and who wants any kind of imitation?) comes real respect which will simply not allow such things to occur!

Petting —Love brings a spontaneous longing to manifest your devotion through *touching* the one you love. Even a slight squeeze of the arm becomes something precious. And there is nothing wrong with a slight squeeze of the arm—or a stroke of the hair—or a pat on the cheek—BUT any petting beyond this type is dangerous, and can lead to disaster!

It is needless to explain the hazards of such actions, but the warning is borne out in the fact that in 1967,

in the United States only, there were 221,378 illegitimate births reported, and this figure excludes the non-reporting states of New York, California, and Massachusetts, which alone make up approximately 21% of all births, so were we to add the number of illegitimate births among this 21%, our figure would no doubt soar to an even more unbelievable high!

Young people, you cannot afford to be "caught in the clutches" of such traps—you must relinquish the "pleasure" today to avoid the "pain" tomorrow!

* * *

Young ladies and young men, "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard. . . ." (Colossians 1:23) and "Submit yourselves therefore to God. . . ." even as Paul expounds in 1 Corinthians 9:27 when he says: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection. . . ." God will of a surety give you the self-control and Christian strength to stand fast and rebuke Satan when temptations come your way.

One of the most vital keys to a successful period of dating, courtship, fun, and marriage is simply waiting on the Lord. Don't get in a hurry to go steady, become serious, or marry—give yourself time to know for sure what you want, and at the same time giving God a chance to lead you. Even statistics prove that "haste makes waste" as is borne out in the fact that divorce occurs six times more frequently in the age group under 21, and 40% of these involve pre-marital pregnancy. Don't become one such statistic yourself! Commit your life to the care and

keeping of God. He knows best what to do with it!

"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing... (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation [righteous living] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:15, 16, 18-21).

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CAMP

(Continued from page 19)

the young men in the church to have someone they can go to concerning the draft, and to help them when they get into difficulties."

● "I was simply thrilled with the lecture on church organization. It's scriptural that we have to be united; the Church is the body of Christ! I believe that because of increased harmony and the advancement of God-directed programs, our church is not for long going to be just another voice crying in the wilderness, but rather an echo in every corner of the earth!"

I hope with all my heart to be a part of God's Church on the move.

A time to play

Wow! Who said California Youth Camp was lacking in recreation? Football, basketball, volleyball and softball all in one day!! Can you beat that???

A time to work

THIS IS MY CHURCH!!!

THIS ONE THING I DO

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

—Philippians 3:13-16

REFLECTION

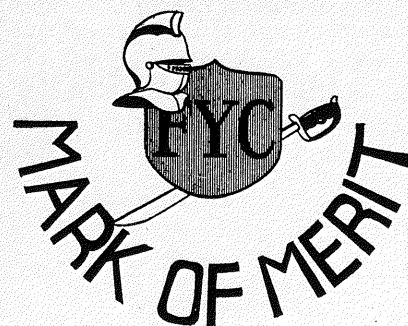
I pondered as I walked alone
The way a simple weed had grown

Through a crack of hard cement
Uncrushed, as people came and went.

I prayed that I might be as strong

Amid surroundings that are wrong.

—Jean Clark



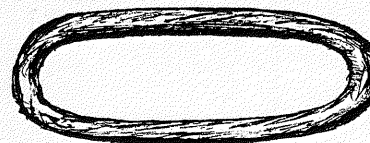
by Nathan Lawson

Along with the twenty-one groups listed in last month's issue of AIM, we have six more FYC groups that have completed two quarters in the Mark of Merit program this year. This brings the total to twenty-seven active FYC groups in this program. There are five others who began the first quarter, but failed to send in their second-quarter reports. We hope that they will yet do so. The following report should be added to the one in the last issue of AIM.

FYC Group	Mark of Merit Points	Bonus Points	National FYC Support—15%
Stanberry, Mo.	330	336	\$12.85
Fort Smith, Ark.	220	39	1.30
Freeland, Mich.	190	112	2.27
Marion, Ore.	330	186	11.62
Hammondville, Ala.	245	525	2.00
New Auburn, Wisc.	330	405	9.21

We pray that all of our other fine FYC Groups will get enthused, and join the Mark of Merit program this coming year. Just a few short months before another new year will begin. Plan to join this program and be a part of our National FYC work. If you need information, please write to me.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH—October, 1970



Help find the missing link! Our General Conference is planning to launch out into a much, much-needed Headquarters and Publishing Plant that will be located on our General Conference property in Denver, Colorado. The missing link is \$40,000. The project is for our youth to help supply this missing

link. Raise funds to complete this project. Bonus points will be given for this project. For FYC Groups raising \$50, through their local treasury, we will give 50 bonus points. For FYC Groups raising \$100, we will give 100 bonus points. If you complete this project, be sure and list it on your Mark of Merit Report so that you will receive your bonus points.

2T₄G- Take Time for God



By Martha Ling

While Matthew portrays Christ as the Messiah, Mark shows Him as the Son of God Who was subject to God. Luke seems to combine the two thoughts, speaking of Him as the Saviour of man coming as a person (Luke 19:10).

In Jesus' short ministry, He had so much to do; He never stayed in one place for very long. Mark depicts this well by using words such as "straightway" and "immediately" many times in his text. Jesus had much to accomplish before His work culminated in His death—His great work for us. "For the Son of man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Luke has several passages similar to Matthew, such as the sermon on the mount and the prophecy of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, but he also includes many things not included in any of the other gospels. The parables of the good Samaritan, the rich man and Lazarus, and the prodigal son are unique to Luke.

As you read these books, try to apply the various stories and parables to your own lives, so that their writings might not be in vain.

* * *

We have quite a list of names this month since it actually covers two months. We have another person who has completed a whole year in 2T4G—Pat Jones! Marilyn Current is half way through her third year! Congratulations to both of these

Sept. 29	Luke 1
Sept. 30	Luke 2
Oct. 1	Luke 3
Oct. 2	Luke 4
Oct. 3	Luke 5
Oct. 4	Luke 6
Oct. 5	Luke 7
Oct. 6	Luke 8
Oct. 7	Luke 9
Oct. 8	Luke 10
Oct. 9	Luke 11
Oct. 10	Luke 12
Oct. 11	Luke 13
Oct. 12	Luke 14
Oct. 13	Luke 15
Oct. 14	Luke 16
Sept. 15	Mark 3
Sept. 16	Mark 4
Sept. 17	Mark 5
Sept. 18	Mark 6
Sept. 19	Mark 7
Sept. 20	Mark 8
Sept. 21	Mark 9
Sept. 22	Mark 10
Sept. 23	Mark 11
Sept. 24	Mark 12
Sept. 25	Mark 13
Sept. 26	Mark 14
Sept. 27	Mark 15
Sept. 28	Mark 16

girls. John Lemley has completed his third quarter. Those finishing six months are: Jan Patchen, Vicki Moldenhauer, Rachel Kester, Esther Castellanos, Ron Harris, Debbie Massengil, and Wanda O'Banion. Christie Norton, Vincent Hassen, Andy Hassen, and Jeff O'Haver have completed one whole quarter.

We are finally settled in Toledo, so all your 2T4G folders may be sent to my home address instead of the National office.

My address is:
Mrs. Martha Ling
2248½ Broadway
Toledo, Ohio 43609

Youth Doctrine Corner

*"Ye shall know the truth
and the truth shall make
you free" (John 8:32).*



REGATHERING OF ISRAEL

Official Church of God Doctrine—Article No. 28

. . . **The regathering of a portion of literal Israel to the land of Palestine as portrayed in the prophecies, is in process of fulfillment, and this is a sign that the return of Christ is not far away.**

Israel to be Dispersed

. . . **Scattered to all nations because of disobedience** (2 Chron. 7:19-22).
. . . **Scattered after the time of Christ** (Luke 21:20, 24).

Israel to be Regathered

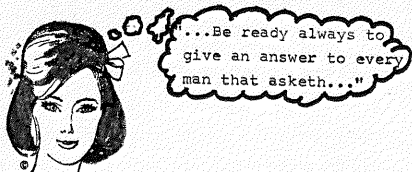
. . . **Gathered from every direction** (Isa. 11:11, 12).
. . . **Gathered back to Israel** (Jer. 31:10-12; Ezek. 37:21).
. . . **Gathered in the latter day** (Jer. 30:18, 24).

Israel to be Established in Palestine

. . . **Established as a nation** (Ezek. 37:22).
. . . **Given victory over enemies** (Jer. 30:10, 11).
. . . **Not to be removed** (Amos 9:14, 15).

Christ to Return

. . . **At the building up of Zion** (Psalm 102:16).
. . . **When all nations attack Israel** (Zech. 14:1-4; Jer. 30:18-24).



by Michael D. Vlad

MINUTEMAN

EXCUSES

- "I don't want to be a Christian." 2 Corinthians 5:10
- "There are too many hypocrites in the church." Phil. 2:12
- "I'm a good man." Romans 3:23
- "I'm too great a sinner." 1 Timothy 1:15
- "What will my friends think?" Joshua 24:15
- "I'm a member of a church." Luke 13:3
- "I can't forgive." Colossians 3:13
- "God is too just to destroy anyone." 2 Thess. 1:8, 9

The final goal of every "Minuteman" is to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. All through this year we have been preparing ourselves to be better witnesses. We've studied "Steps to Salvation," Bible reading, and Witnessing, and this month we want to study

EXCUSES!!

You will find as you witness to people of Jesus Christ, that they usually have an excuse of some sort for not wanting to attend church, attend a youth rally or accept the Lord. Sometimes these excuses are not just to put off going to church or accepting Christ, but are real stumbling blocks in the lives of people to keep them from Salvation! Many people cannot grasp the truth about God—that He is merciful, loving, forgiving, and powerful. Many feel that they are too wicked, they have gone too far, or God just can't use someone like them!

This is where you as a minuteman can come to the aid of such people. Because of your own personal experience with the Lord, you KNOW that God can forgive anyone and use anyone who is willing to let God use him. By studying God's Word, we can help people see that excuses won't help them when they stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Minutemen, we must be ready to handle the excuses of those we approach about Christ and Salvation. **AND THEY WILL COME!!** All kinds of excuses.

Prepare yourselves to combat any excuse that is brought before you.

BE A MINUTEMAN!!!

National Leadership Retreat

Words cannot describe the success and blessings of the National Leadership Convention that was sponsored by the Young People's Department. LOOK for the full report of that meeting in the next issue of AIM Magazine.

Young People's Department Programs Receive a Boost

Many young people have enrolled in the 2T4G, Minute Man and Evangette Programs. Those of you who are now in the programs are being urged to stay in there and keep working. It is just as important for you to continue as it was for you to join. Those of you not yet in the programs are being urged to "awake" and join others in preparing themselves for greater Christian service in God's Church.

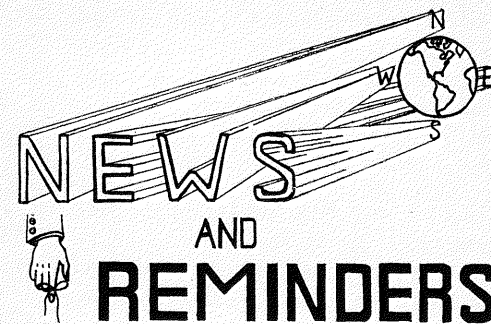
Note of Thanks

A special note of thanks goes to Elder Daniel Camero and Sister Sue Kanady for their past service on the Leadership Committee. It is our prayer that they will continue their interest in the young people's work of the Church of God.

Five New Members Are Appointed to Leadership Committee

A hearty welcome to the new members of the Leadership Committee. The new committeemen are:

- Calvin Burrell—Arkansas
- Pat Jones—Alabama



- Kenneth Moldenhauer—Oregon
- Dorothy Nimchuk—Canada
- Gail Rincker—Missouri

We urge FYC groups that have been assigned to these committeemen to work with their respective committeemen, and to feel free to call on them for help with the local young people's work at any time it is needed. Even though a group may not be in need of help, we ask the leaders to respond to the correspondence of their Leadership Committee so that we may better coordinate God's work among His youth.

New Evangette Program Director and Program Revisions

Sheryl Youngs has been appointed as Director of the Evangette Program. Some interesting and beneficial revisions have recently been made in Evangette. We urge you to join this personal improvement and Christian Witnessing program. For information write to Sheryl Youngs, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

General Conference—1971

Approximately four-hundred young people are expected to gather at La Verne, California, next August 6-14

for the youth conference that will be held in connection with General Conference. Plan now to be one of those four-hundred young people.

Order FYC Pens

Order your FYC pen from the National FYC office. The choice of colors is: blue, green, and black. Each pen is imprinted with "Faithful Youth Challengers" and a Scripture verse. The pens may be ordered for 50¢ each.

Fall and Winter Retreats Coming Up

Texas, Missouri, California, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota and other areas will be sponsoring fall and winter retreats for young people. Some will be local FYC retreats and others will be state or district programs. Be sure to attend the retreat in your area.

Tribute to Jewell Linville

Because of her teaching responsibilities at Midwest Bible College, coupled with her family responsibilities as wife and mother, Jewell has found it necessary to resign her position as Secretary of the National FYC. She will continue to serve the department as a member of the Leadership Committee. It is our prayer that God will bless her and keep her instrumental in leading many more young people to Christ. Our thanks to you, Jewell, for the fine service you have given to our young people!!

New Address

The new address of Martha Ling, 2T4G director, is 2248½ Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609.

The School of Life

by Alfred A. Montapert

Life has been likened to a school. All things considered, it is a good simile.

The schoolbell rings at birth. It need never be rung again. School is never out. Nor are there any vacations or holidays. The curriculum is exacting. The lessons are hard. The course is prescribed. There are no elective subjects. Professor Time plays no favorites. The Superintendent is concerned only with eternal values. He is determined that all shall graduate with honors.

While we may not elect a course in the School of Life, we may *specialize* in certain subjects. I have chosen for myself certain subjects in which you may be interested, also.

I want to know:

—How to keep the symphony of my life in tune with the Infinite.

—How to gain the wisdom to order my life in such a way as to achieve my own highest good while keeping due regard for the opinions, rights, and privacies of others.

—How to capitalize my own disappointments and weaknesses so that I shall be able to enrich others with understanding, encouragement, and helpfulness.

—How, when wounded in life's battle, to draw the water of hope and courage from the deep wells of quiet meditation and prayer, and return to the conflict undaunted and unafraid.

—How to keep a due appreciation of myself, my abilities, and whatever of value I may have accomplished without becoming egotistical, arrogant, and boastful—knowing that self-depreciation is a cardinal sin and

egotism is a cancerous growth to shun.

—How to gracefully say, "I do not know," rather than attempt to bluff in the name of wisdom, and by so doing reveal my ignorance the more clearly to those who do know; and thus become an object of pity and contempt when I might have kept their respect and confidence by being honest with them.

—How to use several languages when the occasion requires it, but how to keep silent in every language most of the time.

—How to occasionally let others

have the last word even though I know they are wrong.

—How to acquire wisdom and yet keep my place in the kingdom of God with the faith and simplicity of a child.

—Finally, how to keep constantly before me the truth that God's "well done" is more important than the passing approbation of men who themselves have never known the true meaning of life.

These are the subjects in which I am interested, and which I conceive to be of paramount importance.

—*Science of Mind via Sunshine*

PROMOTE SUBSCRIPTIONS

. . . Earn Bonus Points

The Fall season is special subscription promotion time!! It is the time for making an effort to find out whether your friends are receiving the necessary Christian magazines.

This year we have a new magazine to introduce. It is FOOTPRINTS, a magazine for pre-teens and young children. Every home with youngsters age 12, and under, should have FOOTPRINTS on its reading tables.

AIM, of course, should be going to every young person who has any interest in the things of God.

Also promote gift subscriptions for the BIBLE ADVOCATE. The ADVOCATE is free to those who request it, but you can encourage folks to subscribe for their friends and neighbors.

Your FYC group can earn 3 bonus points in the Mark of Merit Program for every subscription the group submits. The Young People's Department urges you to participate wholeheartedly in this effort.

Here are the subscription prices:

AIM—regular rate, \$3.00; gift rate, \$2.25

Footprints—regular rate, \$3.00; gift and introductory rate, \$2.25.

Bible Advocate—gift rate, \$2.25.

Send your subscriptions to: **Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 158, Stanberry, Mo. 64489.**