

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. XXXV, No. 10

Hope E. Dais, Editor

STATEMENT

Of the ownership, management, and circulation (required by the Act of Congress of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code) of AIM, published monthly at Stanberry, Missouri, for September 30, 1971.

Publisher: Bible Advocate Press, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

Editor: Hope E. Dais, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

Owner: The General Conference of the Church of God (7th Day), 1510 Cook Street, Denver, Colorado.

The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed through the mail and otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above is 728.

Contents of this Issue

Four Dropouts	
<i>Calvin A. Burrell</i>	page 3
Learn to Live	
<i>Hollis L. Green</i>	page 6
White Elephants and Dead Fish!	
<i>Ivan Burrell</i>	page 7
Remember Me	
<i>Jeannette Lloyd</i>	page 8
I Like Aunt Martha	
<i>Evelyn Witter</i>	page 10
... Into All Nations	
<i>John Lemley</i>	page 11
So Reads Your Epitaph	
<i>Elden Fischer</i>	page 13
Memories Linger On...	
<i>Mary Jean Knoll</i>	page 15
Happiness Is...	
<i>Gail Rincker</i>	page 17
Scrolls of Hope	
<i>Editorial</i>	page 21
New National Youth Committee ..	page 22
Reflection... and Vision... ..	page 26
School Reports	
<i>Sandy Moldenhauer, Sandy Williams, Jerry Griffin</i>	page 26
Book Review Corner	
Hey, Preach... You're Comin' Through	
<i>Marilyn Current</i>	page 28
2T4G—Take Time for God	
<i>Martha Ling</i>	page 32
News and Reminders	page 34

Four Dropouts

by Calvin A. Burrell

School has begun again; and just as you've been hearing that first bell each morning at class-time, you'll also begin hearing stern warnings against becoming that blotmark through a teacher's gradebook—the dropout. These warnings are based on others' experiences: probably 95% of all those who quit school before graduation soon wish they hadn't! There may be one or two good reasons for dropping out of high school, but most of them aren't...! Don't you join the "I regret it now" list.

Another type of dropout (which is much more serious) can cite an even more impressive percentage. Someday exactly 100% of all "Christian dropouts" will bitterly wish they hadn't quit in the school of faith and obedience toward God. To speak of a dropout, we imply

that one must first have been among the "in." Our warning about "Christian dropout-ism," then, is aimed at people who have known the Christian way of life, or have been trained in a Christian environment, and perhaps have even walked closely with the Lord at some time in the past.

Following are descriptions of four Bible characters who, for various reasons, lost their position with God and became, in some sense, a dropout. These things were written for our learning; let their experience help us to be more steadfast.

SAUL: As a young man entering God's service, Saul was extremely well-qualified. Besides being tall and handsome, he was also intelligent and humble—and had the respect of most people. God was with him. His fu-

ture seemed very bright—and it would have been had he known how to overcome his few weaknesses. Despite his tremendous qualifications, Saul was still human—and subject to error. Instead of admitting his wrongs and trying to correct them, Saul tried to cover up his mistakes; he made flimsy excuses for himself. When these mistakes finally caught up with him, he still refused to humble himself in repentance, but instead entered a mood of sulking, withdrawal, and despondency. The next step made Saul a full-fledged dropout: He just quit!

Saul represents the Christian who lets his own mistakes and those of others get him down into discouragement. The handle of discouragement fits nearly every tool that Satan has. Let us guard against his efforts to derail us through offense or disappointment.

JONAH: Jonah was a servant of God. One day God asked Jonah to do a job, but Jonah had other ideas. He was more interested in a sea cruise, so he boarded a ship sailing the Mediterranean. Jonah was unwilling to follow the command of God, and from that moment he walked down dropout road; it ended on a gang plank above a whale's mouth.

Jonah represents the Christian who is doing all right until he is asked to do something that doesn't appeal to him. It may be the call to greater service in a local church, the call to the

ministry, or the call to more complete obedience to God's Word. Rebellion against God's call is as dangerous for us as it was for Jonah.

EUTYCHUS: This young man was apparently very familiar with the church and its activities. He had attended many times, and seemed to be satisfied with his understanding of, and contribution to, the church. One night Paul's sermon lasted quite late. Even though he had the advantage of fresh air from the window in which he sat, Eutyclus grew drowsy. A little slumping of the shoulders, a nodding of the head to sleep, and . . . Eutyclus became a dropout—all the way to the street—three floors below. . . .

Eutyclus represents the Christian who allows the routine of church activities to lull him into complacency, a sort of spiritual drowsiness. This can happen, and perhaps most often to those who have been "in the church" for some time. It is indeed dangerous for one to hold down a pew each Sabbath, but never really be alive and awake to dynamic spiritual life in his heart.

DEMAS: We know just enough from the scriptures about this fellow to realize that he made a tragic mistake. Although once an active assistant to the Apostle Paul, the scriptures record that Demas later deserted both Paul and his Lord, Jesus Christ. Why? Because he "loved this present world." De-

mas evidently saw the gold and glitter of sin and worldliness, and he chose rather to enjoy those pleasures for a season than to suffer affliction with the people of God and receive eternal life. Being fooled by the world, he "turned on," and then "dropped out."

Demas represents the Christian who cannot resist the temptations of sin and worldly pleasure. He gives in on the little things—a puff on a cigarette . . . a movie for fun—then later finds himself ensnared by the real chains—drugs . . . fornication. It is difficult to overstate the warning against error. Consider that Saul, who became discouraged, later had an opportunity to serve God.

Jonah, who disobeyed God, received another chance to go and preach to Nineveh.

Eutyclus, who went to sleep, was revived and brought back into the service.

BUT, Demas, who loved this world so much, evidently became hooked. The Bible does not record that he ever repented, or re-enrolled in Christian living.

If you find yourself among the many who were once in grace but are not presently so, let me assure you that God permits re-enrollment in His school of faith and obedience. Students are accepted without regard to race, age, or background. You don't have to go on being a dropout.

If you've been discouraged, as Saul was, begin now to "look unto Jesus." "Be strong and very courageous."

If you've been rebellious, as Jonah was, then remember, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."

If you've been asleep on the job, as Eutyclus was, then "Awake, thou that sleepest, and Christ shall give thee light."

If you're loving this present world, as Demas was, then "Repent and be converted," and become "a new creature" in Christ Jesus.

Graduation with God will soon be here, and His final test will be given. Dropouts will not pass this test, but **"HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved."**

Along the path that once He trod,
I tried to walk today;
In footprints made so long ago,
I tried to find my way.

Not in dear old Nazareth,
Nor down by Galilee,
Neither in Jerusalem,
Nor in Gethsemane.

I walked where men were weary,
Sad, and in despair;
I tried to give them hope again—
Their burdens help to share.

I helped a blind man cross a street,
Found a puppy gone astray,
Made glad the heart of a little boy
As I went along the way.

Along the path that once He trod,
The burden that I bore
Was somehow lifted from my back—
I felt its weight no more.