

obey your parents even though you have observed mistakes in their lives. You said you have a Christian family and so I am taking for granted that they are not insisting that you do things that would cause you disobey God.

Your wording, "fighting Christian family," is most interesting. Perhaps they truly have Christian ambitions but amidst the misunderstandings and conflicts have forgotten some of the principles taught by Jesus and His apostles.



by Fred Walter

EMPHASIS-----teleology

That's right: T-E-L-E-O-L-O-G-Y. This highfalutin five-cylinder word simply refers to the subject of goal-setting. We all set goals: education, vocation, marriage—all objectives achieved or being strived for.

Say, FYCer, what are your goals AS YOUR FYC's *PERSONAL REP* to the world? So you don't have any, or you really haven't thought about it, eh? Well, let's give some thought to this. What goals can your FYC set to assist you in achieving the highest objectives possible in reaching out to your community, to all the world, with the hope of Jesus?

You need to begin with a real solid, Christ-centered outreach. That's the purpose of MARK OF MERIT. Goals in themselves are meaningless, but the results of such goals as those outlined in MARK OF MERIT will be far-reaching in building solid foundations for OPERATION OUTREACH—bringing HOPE AND JOY to those in need (including that friend!).

Teen Guidelines

Calvin A. Burrell

Christian Standards for Youth



Each month of 1972 in AIM you will have the opportunity to read an article, written by a committeeman of the Youth Department, concerning modern-day issues which are important to Christian Youth. Some of the topics will be: "Jesus Movement," "Space Race," "Drugs and Drug Abuse," "Women's Lib," etc. They will always appear under the "Teen Guidelines" section in AIM.

Playing cards... public swimming... jewelry and cosmetics... bowling... skirt length... roller skating... movies... wigs... ball games... dating activities..." To do or not to do? Right or wrong? These are the "\$64,000 Questions."

Before going further, I want to make one point clear! I do not intend to discuss each of these items individually, and then place my stamp of approval or disapproval on each. It would be futile to do that, because you

probably wouldn't agree with me on all of them, and neither would your parents or your pastor.

It is my purpose to offer some specific hints to help you make logical decisions for yourself—decisions which will be acceptable with both God and the generation ahead.

RESPECT THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS—

"Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set

at nought thy brother? . . . If thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably . . ." (Romans 14:10, 15).

If we want to prove ourselves as servants of God, we must be willing to respectfully consider the opinions of others in this matter of right or wrong Christian behavior.

In my teen-age years at camp meeting, I remember one of the ministers preaching about the rollers which the lady-folks use in their hair. He felt it was not proper for a Christian woman to use these "horns"; to him it was a matter of vanity. Following that service, some of us boys had a big laugh in ridiculing this elder and the message he preached about rollers.

Looking back, I can see the error in my behavior that day. The entire chapter of Romans 14 is written to deal with situations where there is reasonable room for disagreement among Christian brethren. Paul's advice is very plain: we ought not to "despise him that eateth not," and he ought not to judge us that eat. This does not take away our right to hold and express our own opinions, but it does command us to grant the other fellow a right to his opinions in these matters, with sincere respect for him and his feelings.

To ridicule or scoff at an opinion held by anyone, just because his idea is a little more old-fashioned than your own, is one certain sign of immaturity and

pride. It shows an unwillingness on your part to learn more about God's will for your life.

AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Some activities are easily shown to be right; for instance, playing ball (and physical exercise of other kinds)—I Tim. 4:8. Others are definitely contrary to scripture, such as, woman-style hair for a fellow—I Cor. 11:14. But many other things are somewhere between the black and the white: their "right-ness" or "wrong-ness" may depend upon your own spiritual condition before the Lord. In these "grey-ish" activities, we must be careful to heed Paul's advice about abstaining from even the very appearance of evil.

A brother in Michigan told of attending a movie theater when he was a teen-age boy and a Christian. He evidently went to this activity fully confident that he was right with God and that he was seeing a worthwhile film. Later, however, he was approached by a friend who knew he was a Christian. The friend had been quite astonished to have seen a Christian from the Church of God go into this place of entertainment. As a result of that incident, this brother resolved never again to frequent movie theaters. It had been a

Don't most of our excuses attempt to hide this truth: I like to do it; I want to do it; and I'm probably going to do it . . .

poor witness to others—the appearance of evil.

Are you courageous enough to evaluate all of your behavior in such an honest, sincere manner?

DON'T RATIONALIZE, OR MAKE EXCUSES

"Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die" (Prov. 15:10).

All of us have been guilty of making ridiculous statements that were merely designed as a smoke-screen or an excuse to cover up the actual facts that we ought to have faced. This is called rationalizing, and it is dangerous because we are often able to convince ourselves that these flimsy excuses have actually won the battle for us.

We do this often when we are being told by parents or preacher or teacher that some deed of ours was wrong. Listen to our answer: "I don't see anything wrong with it." Such a statement is at least 90% dishonest, since what we usually *mean* is, "I don't *want* to see anything wrong with it (and I really haven't looked very far)."

Let's hear some more excuses: "Everybody else is doing it." "I just go for the good part and I don't let the rest bother me." "Ah, that's just the old

preacher yelling at us again." "What do they want us to do—wear our grandma's skirts and play tiddy winks all day?"

Another line of "reasoning" (rationalizing) was expressed in a letter to *Tell Me, Please* of the October, 1969, AIM. The writer asked: "Do you approve of playing pool in a home? If so, it should be all right to play in a pool hall, and if that is acceptable, it would be hard to say anything against playing poker in a gambling establishment."

Let's be honest with ourselves! Don't most of our excuses attempt to hide this truth: "I *like* to do it; I *want* to do it; and I'm probably *going* to do it, no matter what anybody tells me."

BE CERTAIN YOUR OPINIONS ARE BIBLE-BASED

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

How many times have you heard someone say, "I just let my conscience be my guide." If you have been one who thought that was a good rule, then please remember that "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Quite often a person's con-

science has been poorly trained, or has been seared by the hot iron of temptation and sin. It is God's Word, and not our conscience, that is given to us as our guide, our lamp, our light, that we might walk acceptably unto the Lord in every good work.

The next time a questionable activity or fashion confronts you, don't fall back on "my conscience is clear" or "I don't feel condemned doing it"; at least not until you have thoroughly trained your conscience with these and other Bible Standards:

- Does this thing call for being entertained by others committing sin? Romans 1:32.
- Is anything dishonest or impure involved? Philippians 4:8.
- Does it put me in a situation where temptation or lust is likely? II Tim. 2:22.
- Is it likely to cause offense or stumbling-blocks for other brethren? Romans 14:21.
- Does it tell others that I am a friend of the world? James 4:4.
- Does it violate the Christian standards of modesty and decency? I Tim. 2:9-10.
- Does it make me a good example for other Christians? I Tim. 4:12.

No matter what your conscience says, if the activity in question cannot pass these scriptural tests, or if there is serious doubt whether it passes, then the answer is "DON'T!"

GET IN TOUCH WITH GOD

"...Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

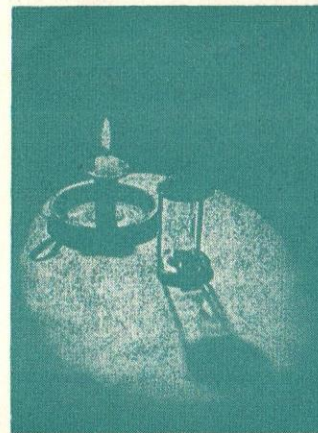
Do you know why it is so hard for some of us to appreciate and accept the standards of Christian conduct which our parents and pastors feel are important? Do these things perplex and upset you? I'm going to reveal from the scriptures the exact reason why it is difficult for you to see the reason for many things that your Bible, your church, and perhaps your parents teach you about standards of dedicated Christian living. Here it is:

"...They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh..." (Romans 8:5)

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

The reason that so many worldly activities and styles are attractive to us is this: we haven't really been transformed by the renewing of our mind to be a new creature with the very mind of Christ. We're still carnally minded; we still have a sinful nature; Satan still wields the mastery over us to cause us to desire things that are not right. As long as we remain in that sinful state, we will never fully understand why the Bible teaches strict stand-

(Continued on page 28)



2T₄G-

Take Time for God

By Marilyn Current

PRAYER: Righteous Father, wash out the sins from my life, and make me holy as you are.

Righteousness: (Holiness, Godliness, uprightness.)

Jan. 15—2 Cor. 7. Definition: Holiness is being cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.

Jan. 16—I John 2. Definition: Righteousness is being born of God.

Jan. 17—Phil. 3. Thought: Righteousness comes from God through faith in Christ.

Jan. 18—Romans 19. Thought: We cannot obtain God's righteousness through our own attempts to keep the law. We must submit ourselves unto the righteousness of God (verse 3).

Jan. 19—Romans 4. Thought: Faith is counted for righteousness.

Jan. 20—2 Cor. 5. Thought: Christ was made sin for us, that we might receive God's righteousness.

Jan. 21—Gal. 2. Thought: "If righteousness comes by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

Jan. 22—Gal. 3. Thought: "For if there had been a law given which

could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."

Jan. 23—I Tim. 2. Description (of Godliness): Let "women adorn themselves... with good works."

Jan. 24—Eph. 4. Description (of righteousness and holiness): "Put on the new man which is created after God."

Jan. 25—Isaiah 33. Description (of righteousness and uprightness): See verse 15.

Jan. 26—Isaiah 26. Description (of uprightness): "The way of the just is uprightness."

Jan. 27—1 Peter 1. Description (of holiness): "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

Jan. 28—Titus 2. (Description of holiness): "Be in behavior as becometh holiness" (see verses 3 and 4, for what follows).

The Search for Happiness

by Calvin Burrell



A French philosopher recently said, "The whole world is on a mad quest for security and happiness." As we live today, we see continual and convincing proof of this statement. Our materialistic world rushes on with its eternal quest for the fountain of happiness. This happiness for which men long is bound up in business success, financial security, social acceptance, and worldly pleasure. It may be said that man has been successful, up to a degree, in this quest for happiness. Vast amounts of knowledge have been gained, living standards are at a new high, and the opportunities for worldly pleasure offer a wide choice to any moneyed partaker.

But let us notice what the Bible says of this way. There is a God of heaven. This God is active in world affairs. He has a plan for your future and the future of all mankind. God's divinely inspired revelation to us is the Bible. Let us see what God says of man's way today!

Concerning social acceptance, Jesus has said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Luke 6:22).

What does God's Word say of

man's attempts at happiness through business and financial security? "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matthew 6:19-20).

God inspired Solomon to write, concerning worldliness: "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich" (Prov. 21:17).

Turn in your Bible to II Timothy 3. Begin reading with the first verse, and read slowly to fully grasp what is being said. Read down through the sixth verse, then notice especially the seventh. "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Can you think of any one prophetic scripture that more accurately describes man today? Think of the brilliant men—scientists,

physicists, mathematicians, chemists, doctors, psychiatrists, expert in all fields of fact and theory. These men, in all their brilliance, are *generally ignorant* of the basic, simple truths, *God's truths*, and the basic plan, *God's plan*, for mankind on this earth. Read the seventh verse of II Timothy 3 again.

What is the basic happiness for which men should search? The word "blessed" in each of the verses, Matthew 5:3-12, may be interpreted happy." These nine beatitudes, or beautiful attitudes, are God's rules for happiness. Turn in your Bible and read them, replacing the word "Blessed" with "Happy." Then begin to apply them in actual practice in your life.

I challenge each reader to actively join this search for *eternal* happiness. Surely such a rare and precious commodity is worth any sacrifice we may be called upon to make.

Once a minister, who was also a father, tried to finish his sermon. One interruption after another occurred, until his energies seemed all drained away. Then came another knock at his door. He braced himself, and tried hard to put a smile into his response. "Come in!" The door opened a little, and a sunny-faced little girl looked in.

"Daddy, may I come in?" Consent given, she leapt across the room, climbed up into the tired man's lap. "Daddy, I didn't come to ask you for a thing. I just want to climb into your lap and hug you, and tell you what a good, kind daddy you are!" So much warmth slipped into his tired heart that it crowded out all the weariness. God is a Father, too, and His heart warms at our giving of thanks.

David A. MacLennan in Revell's Minister Annual
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

The "eye of a needle" spoken of by Christ IS an object of speculation. Some feel that Jesus was talking of a gate to the city called the "needle's eye."

I don't follow that speculation! The "Jaffa Gate" is the one referred to and it appears that, in an effort to explain the text where Jesus used "eye of a needle," this idea was put forth by theologians and received popularity, becoming a traditional explanation.

Because the camel had to be unloaded to get through the Jaffa Gate, popular comparison has been made with a rich man who must not be encumbered with his riches if he is to enter the Kingdom of God.

However, the disciples could not comprehend a rich man's going into the Kingdom of God because they saw NO WAY for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. But Jesus said "with men it is IMPOSSIBLE but with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."

Some disagree saying that it is ridiculous to think of a camel going through a needle's eye. I don't think so! Jesus also said we should take the beam (timber or log) out of our own eye before we try to take a speck of dust (maybe sawdust) out of another's eye.

Did you ever see anyone with a "timber" in his eye? We have to take both of these for their spiritual applications, and in this aspect neither is ridiculous.

FYCers

I

Have

Known

by Calvin Burrell

Let me tell you about five young people. I'm changing their names, but if you think you recognize any of them, please don't criticize them. Just pray for them, and read Matthew 7:1-5.

Here are my friends:

MR. PART-TIME— This young fellow somehow reminded me of a neon light. I guess that's because he was going off and on all the time. When he was "on," he surely could be a big help to our F.Y.C. group; but you could never count on him for very long. He was soon "off" on some tangent, ready to give up on us and everything else.

It all depended on his latest mood. If he felt like it, he would serve God; but as soon as he lost that particular feeling, he wasn't much good for a while.

I always wanted to tell Mr. Part-time, and I guess I will when I get a chance, that he can't really expect to "bounce like a football" into God's Kingdom. If you see him first, remind him that "steadfastness" and "dependability" are necessary Christian traits. David said in the first Psalm that the righteous would be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, while the ungodly are like chaff and are blown about by every wind of doctrine or problem.

MR. DOLITTLE— His first name was Will, as I recall, and he reminded me of a man who bought a book on reducing exercises and then lay down to read it. This guy usually voted "yes" at the business meetings and talked about an active F.Y.C. group; but when the actual planning and work took place, he was hardly ever available.

His case reminded me of the cock and the mouse who certainly wanted a nice cake to eat, but was unwilling to do any work to prepare that cake. In fact, the only times Mr. Dolittle was really very active were at the socials and when refreshments were served.

I often thought about telling Mr. Dolittle that passed motions and refreshments do not make for much service to God. I'd like to get across to him that a Christian FYCer must really be involved—singing, witnessing, praying, studying, befriending, planning, working, giving, fellowshiping, etc. If you meet my friend, ask him where he was when the real service took place.

MISS B. LITTLE— A second cousin to Mr. Dolittle, she reminded me of a porcupine. I mean, she had some fine points, but you just didn't care to get too close to her.

Why not? I suppose it was because she could hardly say two sentences without grumbling about something! You name it, and she criticized it, condemned it, or complained about it. It was a "dud social," or a "dry sermon," or a "nosey preacher," or a "stuck-up girl," and so on until you could get the idea that the only perfect thing about the church had the initials of B. L. It was

really disgusting to listen to her, and she made others unhappy by spreading all her little complaints.

If I'd had a chance, I'd have told Miss B. Little that her behavior certainly proved her selfishness, immaturity, and pride. I'd have asked her to read James 4:11 which says, "Speak not evil one of another, brethren." And if you know Miss B. Little, will you please send her a copy of the poem, *It Isn't the Church; It's You?*

MR. ROBOT— Perhaps by his name, you can get an idea of what this FYC'er was like. I'd say he was, sort of, well, mechanical.

Oh, he was usually involved in the activities all right; in fact, he often sang, read poems, and even prayed aloud when called on. But it seemed like he was just going through the motions, just trying to make a good impression before people—as if he had a wooden heart, or something. I don't believe he ever really knew what devoted Christian service is all about.

I wanted to tell Mr. Robot that we need to serve God more than just in form, in ritual, in the letter. There must also be a proper spirit, an earnest heart, a humble soul which seeks for real spiritual blessings, and does all to the honor and glory of God! If you see Mr. Robot, please suggest to him the need of a heart transplant, so that he can really feel his religion and serve his Creator in spirit and in truth.

MR. BEN ReBORN— Here is my favorite FYC'er, and I'm glad to tell you about him today.

He reminds me a lot of a fine watch. Here's why: He's always wound up and ready to work. He's good as gold, doesn't make a lot of unnecessary noise, but always tells the truth. He has a smiling face and helpful hands. Under the surface, where it really counts, he's more precious than 17 jewels, because he knows the Lord; he's been cleaned and re-made by the Masterbuilder Himself.

No one despises this young man, because he is an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

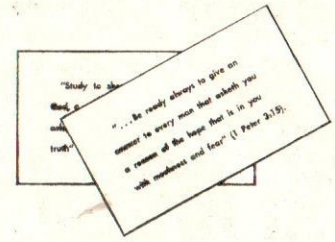
When you meet Mr. ReBorn, you might ask him how he got that way. The Church of God needs a lot more youths like him, and he can probably help you and introduce you to the same Masterbuilder who re-did him.

It really does thrill me to think of what could be accomplished if every FYC'er would join the ranks of Mr. Ben ReBorn.

MBC and SVA Commencement and Baccalaureate

Commencement exercises at Spring Vale Academy will be:
Baccalaureate—Sabbath, May 27; Graduation—Sunday a.m., May 28, 1972
Commencement exercises at Midwest Bible College will be:
Baccalaureate—Sabbath a.m.; Commencement—Sabbath p.m., May 20, 1972

MINUTEMAN



by Marcia Woods

Faith. The key to success in the Lord's army. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Hebrews 11:6). Through faith we can move mountains. Through faith the blind can see, the lame walk, the deaf hear. Through faith the dead can be brought to life. If we truly have faith, there is nothing that we cannot do.

As soldiers in God's army, this perhaps is the strongest piece of armor that we possess. No foe is too strong, no obstacle too great if we have faith.

However, it is a SHIELD of faith that has been given to us and a shield is of little value when left lying around. We must not only pick up our shield but we must watch our enemy's every move and be on guard, ready to defend ourselves at his slightest

move. We cannot sit idly by thinking, "I've got faith, nothing will harm me." (Satan would love that.) We must develop our faith through prayer and study of God's Word. It must be an active faith.

"... Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Through a close study of God's Word, particularly James 2, we can find that even though we are not victorious because of our works alone, our faith must be accompanied by works. Works are, or at least should be, our faith in action. No soldier can survive by merely sitting around and shining his armor. He must not only know how to use it but he must actually put it to practical use.

Let's make sure that our shield of faith is well-worn when our Commander comes back for inspection.

Ephesians 6:16

I John 5:4

II Timothy 4:7, 8

Matthew 21:21

Hebrews 6:12

Matthew 17:20

Hebrews 11:6

James 2:26

People, Problems, and Pollution

by Calvin A. Burrell



Planet earth has a problem—a very bad problem. This difficulty has to do with her air, her water, and her land. You see, earth's air and water and soil are becoming very crowded, very noisy, and very dirty. And that's no joke. It's a life and death matter for the human race since we depend upon clean

air and water and soil for our very existence.

Pollution! Today, it's everywhere! And it's killing us! The best-informed scientists tell us that something must be done to reverse the trend of pollution on our planet during the 1970's OR we may face the extermination of normal life from the face of the earth! Doesn't that sound more than vaguely like these Bible predictions:

"And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and *the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants*" (Leviticus 18:25).

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof" Isaiah 24:5).

When God created the heavens and the earth, He made all things "very good." In the original order of the earth and nature, God installed a wonderful bal-

ance and harmony among all His creation. As long as this pattern was not seriously interrupted by outside forces, "nature" kept this planet in beautiful condition: pure, uncorrupted, and relatively quiet.

But God also created man, and gave him something that no other creature possessed. This unique possession is the privilege of making up his own mind, and doing "his own thing." In exercising this privilege, far too many men choose to behave in a way that was contrary to the revealed will of the Creator. This rebellion against God is called "sin." And *sin* is the reason why there is pollution in the earth today.

Let me explain.

Nearly every sin can be boiled down to a basic selfishness which exists in people. It is a greedy willingness to do what *we* want to do, regardless of what God says about it. This kind of a "live it up—pay later" attitude will inevitably bring disaster, both in the physical and spiritual realms.

In his efforts to "get all you can," and "can all you get," mankind has had little or no regard for the total effect of such greed upon the environment and the generations to come. Thus, it was not until the mid-1960's—just a few short years ago—that man began to think seriously about what his "prosperity" and greed were doing to planet earth. It wasn't until nearly 1970 that "ecology" became a household word; and now, it may be too late!

Actually then, planet earth's problem is not so much dirty water and soil and air. Planet earth's major problem is *people*—selfish and sinful people. For wherever there are people, you will be sure to find problems—and pollution!

Things are bad. The air we breathe is smog-filled. The water we drink is either polluted or heavily treated with chemicals. The soil from which our food comes is often bleached of nutritional values or laden with unhealthy chemicals and foreign substances. There is precious little pure air or water—or anything—left. The landscape is littered. Garbage piles increase. Things are bad, and getting worse. . . .

What can you do?

1. **MAKE UP YOUR MIND THAT YOU WILL NOT LITTER OR POLLUTE.** You can hardly quit driving your car or burning the trash, but you can determine not to toss cans and wrappers along the roadside or in the park. Certainly a Christian should be the best example in this matter—don't be a litterbug.
2. **QUIT SMOKING.** The greatest single source of air pollution in many people's lungs is cigarette smoke. If you want to breathe cleaner air (and live longer), never smoke!
3. **BE INFORMED.** Keep abreast of the efforts to restore and retain natural purity in your community. **BE CONCERNED.** Cooperate with these

efforts wherever possible. Do what you can with this problem of pollution. You cannot do it all, but you *can* and you *should* do more than your share.

4. PRAY for those who are in authority, dealing with the pollution problem. Read I Timothy 2:2. A quiet and peaceable life partly depends on the fight against pollution.

5. SEE THAT YOUR OWN HEART AND LIFE IS FREE FROM THE POLLUTION OF SIN. Revelation 1:5 tells that Jesus *washed us from our sins* in His own blood. I Timothy 5:22 commands us to *keep ourselves pure*. In this pollution problem, we are either part of the problem... or part of the answer. Which is it with you?



Big Man!

by Ivan Burrell

Wilt Chamberlain is considered to be a "big man." Many individuals are considered to be "big men." What is meant when an individual is referred to as a "big man"? What is used as the method or means of measuring a man? Are only professional athletes "big men"?

Most professional athletes are "big men" because sports like basketball, football, and hockey require that the players have a large physical stature to participate in the game. The superstars of the various sports are admired by their loyal fans. In this way they are "big men."

Young people have their own definition of what it means to

be a "big man." In cities throughout the country young people are involved in gangs, cliques, and clubs which require a person desiring membership to prove he is a "big man." This may be accomplished in various ways, such as sex, theft, drugs or possibly even killing. If the young person "proves" himself by "passing the test," he then becomes a recognized member. He has presumably attained the status of a "big man." What has he measured up to? What did he prove? He was measured according to the standards of a select group. This does not necessarily prove how "big" he is.

Just like the superstar is ad-

mired by his fans, the young person who accomplishes these daring acts is admired by his comrades. This is why the young person feels it is important that he do something impressive and sensational.

Is a man measured by the sensational feats he performs? The methods of measuring the greatness of a man differ according to various ideals. But God's ideals remain constant. The amount of physical power a man possesses or the immoral acts in which he indulges do not make him "big" either in the sight of God or the majority of men!

A really "big" man is one who has Christ dwelling in his heart! He truly has something "big" in his life! Therefore a Christian man, whether of large or small physical stature, can truly be a "big man." He has access to a Power beyond human comprehension—the power of God conveyed through Christ. The man who has not invited Christ into his life has no power to do anything to change prevailing circumstances. He is doomed to accept his "fate."

The man who accepts the power of Christ in his life is enabled to say "NO." ... NO to alcoholic beverages, drugs, cigarettes and immoral acts. Along with the power to say "no" the Christian has power over sin. And the reward of overcoming sin is the promise of a future eternal life in God's Kingdom. Every person who has ever lived or ever will live has the same opportunity to claim God's wonderful promise of eternal life.

The promise of eternal life certainly is a big promise! It is a promise made by God for all those who are "big men" according to His standards.

Nevertheless, it must be made clear that Christians are not necessarily "big men" according to the measurements of the world. Christians may not be "big" in the eyes of professional sportsmen, gangs in the cities, or even businessmen. But after all, which measurements are MOST important—those of man or those of God?

KEEP FACING IT!

A tramp, when asked about his philosophy of life, replied, "I turn my back to the wind." That probably is why he was a tramp. Following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and many men crooked. A man cannot drift to success.

In contrast to this philosophy is the statement which Captain MacWhite spoke to his mate in Joseph Conrad's immortal tale of the sea, *Typhoon*. In the midst of a great storm, MacWhite said: "Keep facing it! They may say what they like—the heaviest seas run with the wind. Always facing it! That's the way to get through!"

It is better to be shunned by the worldly, wicked and proud because you live for God than be applauded because you are one of them.

Flight No. 51 ... to Oaxtepec

by Calvin A. Burrell

"Mexicana Airlines." "Flight No. 51, to Guadalajara and Mexico City; now ready for passengers."

That was our signal and six of us representing the National F.Y.C. found our places in line and crowded slowly down the stairs, up the ramp, and onto the 727 jet. Janice Carlin, Pat Jones, Debi Scott, Patricia Stephens, David Robinson, and I were headed for the Mexican National Youth Congress of F.J.C. leaders, in Oaxtepec, Mexico, on August 14 through 16.

We arrived in Mexico City shortly after midnight, where two of the local youth were waiting to drive us the sixty miles through the mountains to Oaxtepec. By 3:00 a.m. we were safely in our dormitory rooms for a short night's sleep.

The next morning David and I were immediately met by Brother John Barrera, who is the interpreter and translator for the Mexican National Youth Committee. John, who is a graduate of a California High School and now resides in Mexico, served us very faithfully for the entire time we were in Mexico. His help, in addition to that given by Patricia Stephens, a Spanish teacher from Houston, Texas, kept us well-informed on proceedings of the various meetings.

One can't be around Oaxtepec very long without noticing that it is "quite a place!" A government-owned resort, it is built on a foothill of the scenic Mexican "Rocky Mountains," within view of beautiful 17,000-foot Mt. Popocatepetl. The housing accommodations range from "very nice" to "luxurious"; covered sidewalks trace through lush green trees, palm trees, shrubbery, and blooming flowers to the modern convention hall where our meetings were held. Meals were served cafeteria-style in a large, beautiful dining hall. A huge, open courtyard, marked by statues of Mexican historical figures, dominates one end of the resort area. At the other end, there is a cable car that can be ridden from a high rock to a beautiful spring-fed pool on a lower level for 2 pesos (15¢ approx.). While riding this cable car we watched



All the young people who attended the Mexican National Youth Congress gathered on the steps of the convention hall for this picture.

an iguana lizard play on the rock below. And the days were "sun-shiney"!—temperature in the 70's! This was living!

And yet the real life of those three days was to be found in the convention hall-auditorium, where nearly 250 youth leaders and sponsors from all over Mexico met to worship, discuss, and plan for a greater work in the F.J.C. (Fraternidad Juvenil Cristiana, or, Fraternity of Young Christians) of Mexico. Their singing was strong and spiritual; their fellowship was cordial and heartfelt; the sermons were "to the point" and seemingly brief (at least when they finished their strong point, they immediately sat down—I hope to learn from them!); their enthusiasm for and dedication to the gospel of Christ and the Church of God was obviously high.

During a special business session with the brethren, I learned that 1972 is the first year the Mexican F.J.C. groups have participated in such programs as Mark-of-Merit and National Youth Week. I was thrilled to hear them report that the benefits from these activities have far exceeded any problems that may have been experienced. Now their National Committee is asking for closer cooperation between the Mexican and U.S. youth, and their desire is that all the Churches of God around the world might be organized into one army of youth to enjoy fellowship and benefits of similar organization and activity. They made it plain that they are looking to us for leadership in organizing such a world youth movement.

One of the most memorable things about our three days with the Mexican youth was the warm friendliness and smiles which they exhibited to all of us! When we sang, they responded with loud and hearty "Amen's." Wherever we went, they treated us

with the finest hospitality. The language barrier was a hindrance to much personal conversation, but there was no doubt about the feeling that existed in their hearts: it stuck out all over.

Then on Thursday morning it was all over, and time for us to return home. We enjoyed the kindness of Brother Escalante, Chairman of the Mexican Conference of the Church of God (7th Day), who treated us so royally before we met our plane on Thursday, at noon. The flight back to San Antonio, on board a nice, new Braniff jet, was beautiful.

And thus ended a month's traveling for God and Youth, and a tired but happy group of F.Y.Cers separated and went five different directions to home.



Elder Calvin Burrell, Chairman of the National FYC, John Barrera, interpreter, Elder Raul Escalante, Chairman of the Mexico Conference, and Abraham Fentanes, National FJC Director, met on the lawn of the convention center to discuss and plan the work of international FYC.



The National Mexican Youth Committee, the Overseer of the FJC and the youth leaders of Mexico's six districts posed for this group picture.

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions Answered by
Dale G. Lawson



QUESTION

I've got a question for you! How old do you think a person should be to get baptized? Christ was baptized when he was 30 years of age, and yet a lot of people get baptized when only 9, 10, 11, and 12 years old. Now! Is this just 'feeling' or are they really ready for baptism?

ANSWER

And a fine question it is!

The fact that Jesus was about 30 years old when He was baptized is in no way a Biblical attempt to set an age at which one may be baptized. You see Jesus' baptism was an event that came at the beginning of His public ministry; and at that time priests had to be 30 years old to serve in the priesthood. Jesus, who sought to influence those religious leaders of Israel, had better reception as a "teacher" (priest) since He also had reached the age prerequisite (according to the law of Moses) for religious teachers.

Also, in the nation of Israel one became an adult with adult responsibilities at the age of 20 years. But that does not set an age requirement for baptism either.

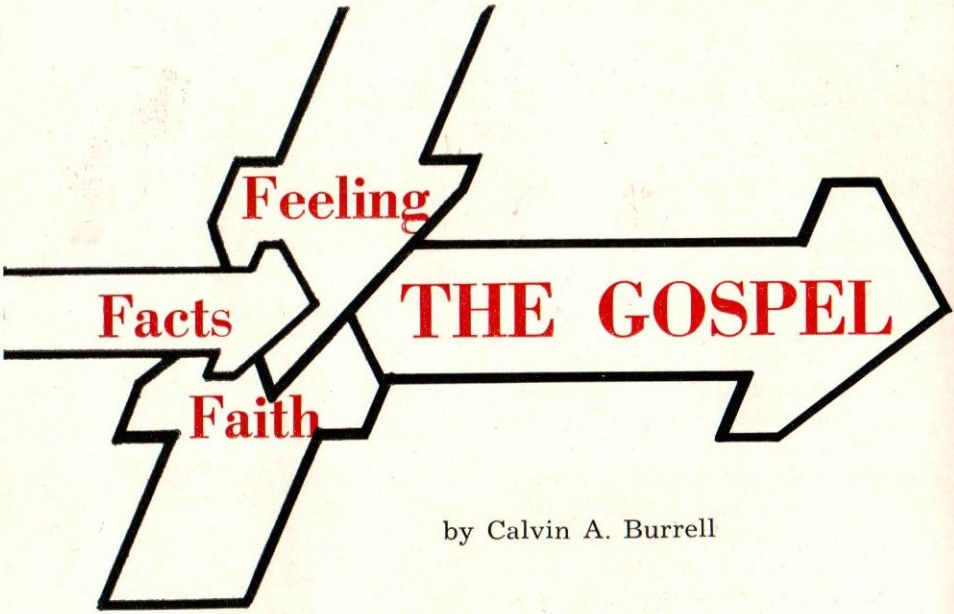
Here is what God does require of one who is to be baptized:

- That he be old enough to believe in and confirm God and the death and resurrection of His Son (Heb. 11:1 and 6, Mark 16:16, Rom. 10:9).
- That he be old enough to comprehend his sinful self (carnal nature) (Rom. 3:23, Rom. 7:14, 24-8:1).
- That he be old enough to know what sin is and that he understand what repentance means (I John 3:4, Luke 13:3, and Acts 2:38).
- That he be old enough to understand the need for conversion and understand the meaning of living a spiritual life in Christ (Acts 3:19 and Rom. 6:1-2).
- That he be old enough to understand obedience to God (Rom. 6:16).

This automatically requires that one be able to confirm his faith, understand and accept God's plan of Salvation and His standard for living.

There is really no way that we can set an age limit for baptism. However, it does fall the

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by Calvin A. Burrell

The "good news" of our salvation through Jesus Christ is not difficult to understand. Although it is recorded in various descriptions throughout the Bible, it can be summed up and explained in rather simple terms.

Facts

Occasionally we need to be reminded of these most basic teachings of scripture. These are the facts:

- 1. We are sinners, facing death. Romans 3:23 and 6:23
- 2. God loves us, and Christ died for us. John 3:16 and Romans 5:8.
- 3. Through repentance and baptism, we can be forgiven. Acts 2:38

- 4. Righteous living is possible, and will lead to eternal life. Gal. 2:20 and Rev. 22:14

And these are *true* facts—unchangeable and everlasting. Whether or not we believe them does not change the facts, but it does change us. These facts contain the summary of God's offer to sinful man. They are the expression of God's *grace*, of His willingness to do the best for man who deserves it least.

But facts alone do not, and will not, save us or make us Christians. Yes, God has provided opportunity for our salvation and stated it clearly, and yet there is a missing ingredient. This missing ingredient is one that man must supply—FAITH. Read Hebrews 4:2.

Faith

Even though we may have heard often of God's grace, and we may know the facts listed above quite well, it is not until we "mix" this good news thoroughly with our *faith* that we are saved. Read Ephesians 2:8.

This genuine, strongly-held faith will bring salvation, because it will cause us to *act* upon these truths—to repent of sin, to be baptized, and to become an obedient child of God. Having thoroughly and actively believed the gospel of God's grace, we are then Christians, and can look forward to life eternal in God's kingdom.

But nothing has yet been said about our feelings, and yet the gospel is also a message of joy. One would certainly respond with happiness and thanksgiving if twenty years were added to his life, or \$20,000 to his bank account. How much more should be our joy knowing that we shall share all of the riches in glory forever with Jesus Christ!

Feelings

There is some danger in depending too heavily upon our feelings. Feelings are emotions, such as sadness, joy, anger, love, etc. The decision to have faith in the facts of God's grace, as discussed earlier, *may be* made without great emotion. On the other hand it *may be* made with considerable emotion, but it *must be* with faith. Our reac-

tion to the facts is a response of *faith*, and not necessarily of feeling.

Occasionally when a person takes the necessary steps to becoming a Christian, he expects that some overwhelming feeling will immediately charge through him. If such emotion does not come as expected, he is disappointed and even doubtful of whether he has actually been forgiven. It is at such a time that *faith must be* sufficient. And it can be, for the Bible says in several places that "The just shall live by *faith*."

If God said He loves us, let us believe it regardless of our feelings. If the Bible says He will forgive us of sin when we confess our sin, let us believe it. It matters little what our emotions may tell us—if God's Word tells us that through baptism we put on Christ and walk in newness of life, let us not be doubting, but believing.

Our emotions are often fickle, changeable, and therefore un dependable. We might call them moods. I suppose everyone is subject to change in moods—at one time we feel something very strongly, while at a later time that same impression is weaker.

But God does not change! And the facts of God's salvation do not change! Our tendency toward "up's" and "down's" in feeling does not change God's love for us, and it need not change our faith in Him if we are prepared for such times and

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the world cannot wash away the sins we've already committed. This is why we need God's grace. When we have faith in His promise, He will blot out all of our past sins. And, as Paul says in Romans, we are saved initially by grace, not of our own works, because we were helpless to free ourselves from our past record of sin. But as James wrote, we prove our faith from this point on by our good works so that men will glorify God. When we fall to sin after this, God's grace once again cleanses us. God's grace is not like a balance where if the good outweighs the bad, we'll gain salvation. Simply, if our faith is genuine, it

will manifest itself in good works. So we are justified by our outgoing, demonstrative faith in God's grace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE 2T4GERS WHO HAVE REACHED "MILESTONES" IN THEIR 2T4G PARTICIPATION: KAREN HART FROM MARYVILLE, MISSOURI HAS COMPLETED HER SECOND QUARTER IN THE PROGRAM. PAT JONES FROM STANBERRY, MISSOURI HAS COMPLETED HER FOURTH YEAR IN 2T4G—CONGRATULATIONS PAT! KEVIN WEIR FROM NEW AUBURN, WISCONSIN HAS COMPLETED HIS FIRST QUARTER.

THE GOSPEL: Facts—Feelings —Faith

(Continued from page 7)

are determined to trust on through them!

We are not saved by feelings. Nor are we lost for a lack of them. But that is not to say that feelings are unimportant. Feelings and emotion are what take life off the dull list, and make it appealing to us personally.

And in our Christian life, feelings are important! The Bible tells us about love, joy, and thanksgiving, and other emotions of the heart. But remember that these are not the cause of our salvation; instead, they are a result of salvation.

Worship should be a pleasant experience for us. Love for God and brother and neighbor ought to flood our hearts and minds when we are Christians.

We should sing "I've got peace like a river, joy like a fountain, and I can feel the fire burning in my soul!" and really mean it.

When a Christian truly lives by faith, every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before as he loves Him more and more! That's something we can really feel.

Final Quiz

FACTS + FEELING = CHRISTIAN with FAITH?

No! "For without faith it is impossible to please God." Heb. 11:6

FACTS + FAITH = CHRISTIAN with FEELINGS?

Yes! "For by grace are ye saved through faith." "Yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." Eph. 2:8, and 1 Peter 1:8.

TEEN Guidelines

(Continued from page 11)

of them finally turn to drugs. Only by listening and observing can we begin to understand the feelings and needs of others, and only then can we help them. God created us with a purpose in mind, and He wants us to keep our lives pure and clean for His use. This is the first prerequisite for helping others. *When we can realistically and enthusiastically portray the power of Jesus Christ, then we can "tune in" to others and show them how Christ can meet all of their needs.*

It's so easy to view drug abuse with a passiveness that isolates us from the problem. When we see one who is under the influence of a drug and is obviously in need of help we tend to shake our heads and say "poor soul" as we walk on our way. "It isn't my problem" we may say. God's Word says, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; not withstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15, 16). Those of us who are tuned in to Christ must do all we can to help the ones who are miserably turned on to drugs.



ANNOUNCING . . .

We are happy to have these four young people as new members of the FYC. God bless you with strength and courage to live for Him!

Carol Cobal
New Auburn, Wisconsin
Bryan Dais
Denver, Colorado

Pam Tealey
New Auburn, Wisconsin
Dwayne Tuller
Denver, Colorado

REMINDER TO LOCAL FYC GROUPS: We need YOUR help to make this monthly feature successful. Please report names and addresses of any new members of your group to National FYC, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

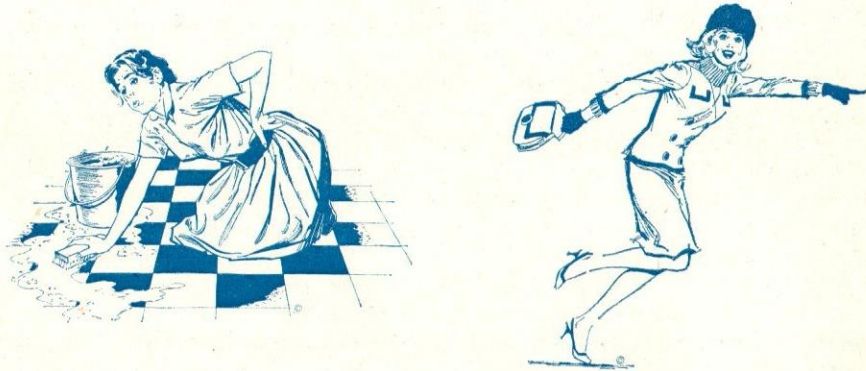
Teen Guidelines

by Calvin A. Burrell

"As women we accuse men in North American society of being domineering, aggressive and competitive. Men treat women as sex objects and make them the drudge workers; men do not listen to women or think women have brains."

These lines, written by Linda Seese in the book *The New Women* (page 155), are probably an accurate summary of the gripes voiced by most women who have become involved in the "battle between the sexes." The women's liberation movement, as it is commonly called, has marched and moved for many adjustments in our society but their basic four demands, as listed in Diana Reische's book *Women and Society* (page 22) are:

1. Free, twenty-four hour child care centers.
2. Free abortion, on demand.
3. Complete equality for women in employment, advancement, opportunity.
4. Complete equality for women in education.



The Liberated Ones

LEARN TO DO WELL: SEEK JUDGMENT, RELIEVE THE OPPRESSED, JUDGE THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW.
Isaiah 1:17.

Decency, respect, and fairness are Christian attributes that should be applied in every area of life. The sincere believer cannot condone or practice abuse, exploitation, discourtesy, or discrimination toward *anyone* on the basis of sex or race. These are cornerstone principles of the Scriptures, which, if applied to all

people, would solve much of the apparent inequality in the American society today.

BUT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION, GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. Mark 10:6.

However, the same Bible that demands universal compassion and courtesy also teaches that the all-wise God created men and women as distinct, different beings. Man and woman are not the same physically, and neither are they identical in emotional make-up. We must admit that God "built-in" these differences and a study of Scripture will show that He also made a distinction in the roles given to male and female (Genesis 3:16, I Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:22-23, etc.).

The fact that man and woman were given differing responsibilities and roles in life does not mean that they are unequal. Opposites in sex are not identical nor are their roles interchangeable, but they are equals in God's sight. It is not a case of superiority and inferiority.

The "women's lib" movement makes its biggest mistake when it fails to recognize and accept Bible authority. Some of its moderate advocates have spoken slurringly of the Apostle Paul's comments about the female, while the more radical promoters frankly reject the Bible as having any pertinence in this 20th century "struggle for freedom."

For us to question the position and duties of men and women as described in the Bible is to accuse God of making a mistake! Where there is inequality, oppression, and discourtesy in our modern society, let it be corrected. *But let fairness and equality be judged by God's standards and not by our own!*

LIKEWISE, YE HUSBANDS, DWELL WITH THEM ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE, GIVING HONOUR UNTO THE WIFE, AS UNTO THE WEAKER VESSEL . . . I Peter 3:7.

Weaker? Certainly women are not weaker mentally or spiritually. *But they are weaker in regard to their authority in the Christian family.*

The subject of women's liberation—that is, a *proper examination* of the subject—is by no means a simple criticism of modern trends in female behavior. It involves a complete study of the assigned positions of the male and female in the home, the church, and all areas of life. Just as certainly as God ordained that women would bear children did He intend for women to be the "keepers at home" and for wives to be in subjection to their husbands.

Those women who argue that housework and child care are boring, undignified, menial tasks are victims of worldly thinking. They have been brainwashed by the attitudes of this world,

(Continued on page 33)

I where it speaks of those that "when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools..." Does it sound like your college classrooms? It sure sounded like mine!

At that time I also became aware that as a Christian I was becoming stagnant. I knew God created the earth, the Bible said so, but to those who didn't believe the Bible I couldn't exactly explain creation or other things I thought I knew. Taking 19 units a quarter wasn't easy and it didn't leave me much time to do any "in depth" studying of the scripture, or anything else for that matter. Many questions arose. Just being in that type of atmosphere influenced my thinking. I needed some time to study religious matters. I needed a change of atmosphere. I needed to learn from those wiser in the scriptures. Midwest Bible College met those needs.

Now that I have completed my college education, I am well convinced that the time I spent at Midwest was well worth all the effort. I am continually encouraged and inspired from the knowledge I gained there. It will be well worth it for you to attend MBC too!!

MARK OF MERIT

(Continued from page 27)

mary of an outstanding project some local FYC has accomplished. There isn't an FYC spotlighted in this issue of AIM because no group has sent in a report or pictures. Won't you send a brief explanation and pictures of some project your FYC has completed? **We want to hear from you!**

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Since this is the cold, wet season in most parts of the country, an outdoor project might be prohibited by weather conditions. For this month's project I suggest that your FYC meet together to study (REALLY STUDY) a tract.

The third quarter reports we have received to date are as follows:

FYC	Merit Points	Bonus Points	Amount Sent	Goal
CALIFORNIA				
Bloomington	345	721		
Ontario	370	656		\$50.00
Sacramento	310	65	\$14.05	
Stockton	453	951	60.00	80.00

MISSOURI				
Joplin	398	1219	45.00	60.00
Stanberry	203	20	60.00	102.50
NORTH DAKOTA				
Alfred	453	415	51.00	68.00
OHIO				
Toledo	465	714	23.00	23.00
OKLAHOMA				
Tahlequah	428	410	24.00	32.00
OREGON				
Elmira	393	430	27.00	36.00
Harrisburg	455	1191	120.00	120.00
SOUTH DAKOTA				
Eureka	335	260	45.00	45.00
TEXAS				
Houston	100	90		33.00
WASHINGTON				
Tacoma	395	955	74.00	74.00
WISCONSIN				
New Auburn	380	390		60.00

TEEN GUIDELINES

(Continued from page 29)

and are in need of transformation by the renewing of their minds.

SO OUGHT MEN TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEIR OWN BODIES. Ephesians 5:28.

If Paul was wrong, then so was Peter. Both received inspiration from the Holy Spirit to declare woman's subordination to her husband in certain matters. But one can hardly fail to notice the "safeguard" that was built into this relationship. Peter said, "giving honour... dwell with her according to *knowledge*." What is that knowledge? Simply that he (the husband) in his relationship with his wife is expected to reflect Christ's behavior toward His church.

Christ loved the church. He gave Himself for her. All that He did, as the Head of His church was with the church's well-being in mind. And through that relationship the Church is liberated.

And so the women who fulfill their God-given roles in life are the ones who are truly happy and liberated!

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY. II Corinthians 3:17.

Are there habits you know you should change—yet you do not take positive action to accomplish it?

Are there values you would change? Do you suppose there are some material aspirations you have now, which would look terribly insignificant at such a time?

On your campus, high school or college—are you diluting any Christian standards in any way in an effort to gain or preserve the approval of some certain individual or group? How do you think your attitude would change concerning the importance of that individual's or group's approval, if you were suddenly aware that Christ's coming were today—and that what you will do IS DONE?

As you see the close of another calendar year approach, consider in a constructive way what changes you would make in your living, and your loving, and your giving, if 1973 were clearly marked THE END on your personal calendar.

ON SALE NOW!!

There's a big sale in progress at Spring Vale Academy!! The yearbook, "FLAME '73," is on sale now, for only \$3.50 and the sponsorships are only \$10.00 a page. Help support your church school and order now. Make your checks out to Spring Vale Academy and indicate that the money is for YOUR 1973 SVA yearbook or your sponsorship.

**A NEW YEAR
—A NEW CALENDAR**

1972 is almost gone and it will soon be time to take down the old calendars and put up the new. Attractive new Sabbath calendars have recently been printed for the Bible Sabbath Assoc. These calendars are available for 50¢ each from: BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.



READY FOR COLLEGE?

UNDECIDED?? CONSIDER MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE!

Regardless of what vocation you're considering, the one-year Bible Foundations Course at Midwest Bible College offers you the tremendous opportunity to become firmly grounded in Bible truth and principles before furthering your secular education.

Ministerial training, of course, continues to be the prime function of Midwest Bible College. If you feel called into gospel work, by all means write now to: Midwest Bible College, P. O. Box 86, Stanberry, Mo. 64489.

by
Calvin
Burrell

T H E P R O F E S S I O N

As I press on toward the mark of my high calling in Christ Jesus, one thing continues to impress me as being outstanding: the Christian Way stands out!

The Christian Way is a life. It is not an additive, not a supplement, not merely an emergency first-aid station. Christianity is a life-time profession. The requirements for admission to the profession are repentance, conversion, and baptism. Considerable in-service growth is required to maintain the profession's high standards.

Several interesting facts may be noticed relative to "the Way." All members of the profession are dead (to sin), die anew each day (to self) yet are completely alive. Each member has exclusive liberty, yet each is inseparably chained to the Master of the profession. The members of this profession would rather give than receive; they would die rather than kill another; and strangely enough, they rejoice when faced with affliction or persecution.

The most distinctive advantages enjoyed by the Christian are his fire and life insurance policies. They are both infallible, by divine authority. The Christian is guaranteed immunity from the fire which will someday engulf the earth, and is promised unending life in the world made new. No one but a member of this profession may receive such assurance.

Despite the wonderful assurances and many fringe benefits enjoyed by members of this profession (to say nothing of the joy and contentment one derives from service therein), most people today are in avenues of work which promise substantially less returns. Why they are willing to settle for the pathway which leads only to death is difficult to tell; the director of personnel for that group undoubtedly has an answer.

My friend, if you would like to have these assurances personally, then get to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Join this outstanding profession, and *make it your life!* See what God can do for you!