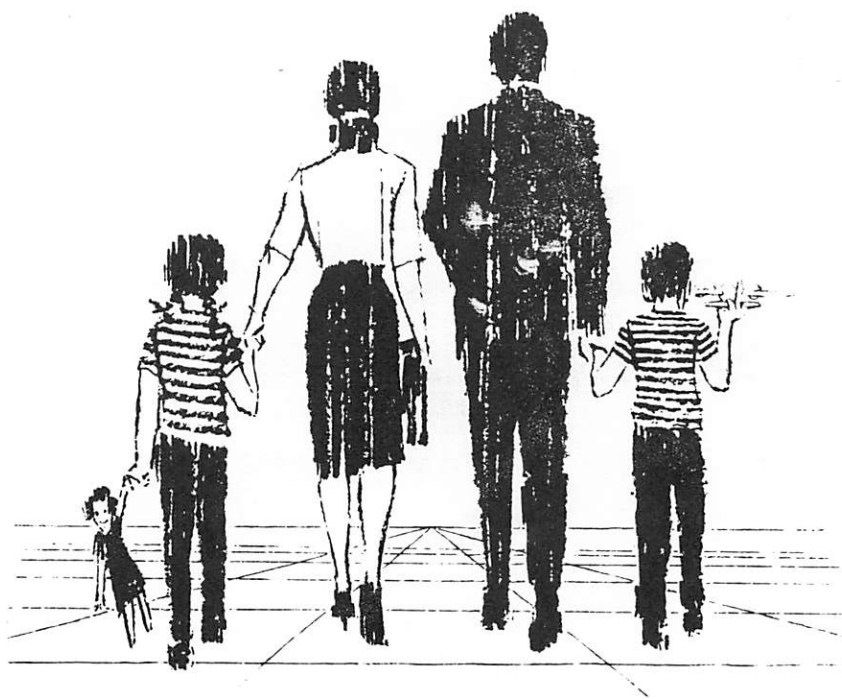
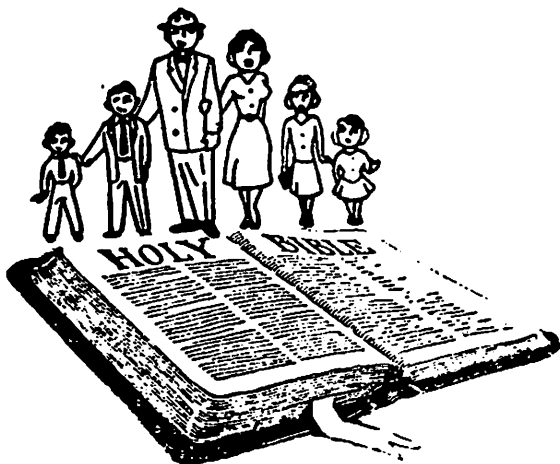


CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE



"HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS"



JUNE, 1966

VOL. 1, NO. 2

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE

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From the editor's pen:
THE GREATEST LOSS
Benny B. Bristow

How often we refer to those things which were once ours that have been lost. It may be something lost in trade, on the stock market, a precious jewel or even a loved one or friend in death. Many of these can be very tragic within our hearts and often words cannot express our loss. But it is also true that there are even greater losses that do not disturb the general run of the common

mass. The loss in which reference is made is losing a child from neglect of parents or failure of religious leaders to hold such by strong spiritual influence.

In a sourcebook of illustrations edited by Willie W. White, I chanced to read a title with a few lines, 'LOST-A BOY'. "Not kidnaped by bandits and hidden in a cave to weep and starve and raise a nation to frenzied searching. Were that the case, 100,000 men would rise to the rescue if need be. Unfortunately, the losing of this lad is without dramatic excitement, though very sad and very real.

The fact is, his father lost him. Being too busy to sit with him at the fireside and answer his trivial questions during the years when fathers are the only great heroes of the boys, he let go his hold.

Yes, his mother lost him. Being much engrossed in her teas, dinners, and club program, she let the maid hear the boy say his prayers, and thus the mother's grip slipped, and the boy was lost to his home.

Aye, the church lost him. Being so much occupied with sermons for the wise and elderly who pay the bills, and having good care for dignity, the minister and elders were unmindful of the human feelings of the boy in the pew and made no provision in sermon or song or manly sport for his boyishness. And so the church and many sadhearted parents are now looking earnestly for the lost boy.'



It is admitted that this life is filled with many added responsibilities. However, can we say that such are more important than building Christian characters within the hearts of living pliable clay. Admitting that physical needs are important if our children are to have strong healthy bodies, yet if these bodies are not used for good and noble purposes, what have we accomplished. Our efforts have been no more than feeding out livestock. Surely we want our children to live each day of their adulthood lives glorifying their creator and contributing services to their fellowmen. As Christians we must desire more than anything else for our children to live earthly in such a way as to receive joy in eternity.

Yes, we have many painful losses in this life, but who could say that any are more weighty than the neglect and loss of a human life--bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh-- with an eternal soul. 'Better to build boys than to mend men.'

"Timing is the essence of success. It does no good to cultivate corn when it is time to pick it."

DEAR FRIENDS:

May we introduce you to a new book, 'TRAVELING WITH PAUL' By Benny B. Bristow. All four journeys are covered with information about every stop.

This book may be purchased for your reading or for class work since it has questions and map for each journey. The author has tried to make you feel that you are aboard

the ship with Paul. Highly recommended for Wednesday night adult or teen-age classes. Order now from: Benny B. Bristow 801 W. Main, El Dorado, Ark. Price: 50 cents per copy; 40 cents each in lots of 12 or more.

A Little Fish With A Big Lesson

Benny B. Bristow

'Little drops of water and little grains of sand, fill the mighty ocean and form the solid land.'



From the above statement our minds should begin to ponder the fact that in all walks of life little things are important, but without doubt little things in Christian homes are priceless. Our children grow and mature into adulthood by a long chain of impressions large and small, but too often we feel that the little impressions do not count. However, we must admit that children get hurt over the things that we feel are insignificant.

This truth was illustrated to me just recently when my two girls and I were down on the lake where I was doing some carpenter work. They decided they would catch some fish since the weather seemed to be just right for fishing. Needless to say that my work slowed down until they had both hooks beneath the water, but finally things quieted down as they awaited the fish. Their experience was quite different from their plans - for the fish just wouldn't bite. In fact the problem became so acute that the nine year old pulled her line from the water as the five year old began moving about restlessly. Finally the five year old came closer to my work where the water was shallow and the moss within 12 inches of the surface of the water. In my opinion it would have taken another 'draught of fish miracle' for her to catch one there. Yet, within five minutes she began screaming with joy, 'daddy, daddy, look, I got one.' I turned hurriedly to see the big catch and saw her holding the pole straight up with a 2 1/2 inch brim flopping in



the air. But this show of joy took place too closely to the water and before I could open my mouth, the fish flopped loose and headed for the water. This didn't seem to me such a great loss, but of all the things that have disappointed this five year old, this topped them all. Tears began to flow which became near impossible to stop. With my encouragement she would finally get under control, but with only a single thought of her loss, she was in tears again.

Friends, when we recognize how impressionable these lives are and how they are effected by little things, we will make many changes in our lives. What are some of the little things that are so important.

ATTITUDE TOWARD BIBLE

How often parents feel that all their children need in the spiritual training is to attend Bible classes and worship. This is important and all of our space could be used to show its importance, but as important as these are, they need a supplement. In fact, children need their parents to study the Bible with them at home. How can we expect to bring them up in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord' if we constantly stand off from God's word.

Do I hear some of you say that family devotions are good, but not all that important? If this be your feeling, may I in kindness say you are wrong. The only home devotions that many children have is a steady daily diet of TV programs which are filled with greed, killings, improper love affairs, drinking of liquor as though it solves problems and many other evils too numerous to mention. Then parents often wonder why their children lose interest in religion after growing up. God's word fits young lives as well as old. One word or sentence from the Bible may make an impression for eternity in your children's lives.

BOTH PARENTS CHRISTIANS

Some fathers are naive enough to believe that the mother can head the department of religion with their children and all will be well. Sirs, you are mistaken. May God bless these mothers that work and worry trying to carry the full load, but they need help. Do you think that little boys or girls can watch daddy stay home refusing to be a Christian without noticing?

But you may say, 'I tell him he should go with his mother and at every opportunity I tell him he should go to church.' But careless father, may I remind you that your son cannot hear your words because of your life. Haven't you learned the built-in slogan of little boys -'what is good enough for daddy is good enough for me'.

Still, do I hear someone say, 'I see that the boy is well fed and clothed and his physical needs are always met.' Sir, that is fine. You have cared for his temporary body, but what about his eternal soul? It makes me frightened to even imagine how many sons, fathers have sent to eternal torment because they neglected God in their own lives and in the lives of their children. Is this a little thing? No. Just as big and vast as eternity.

BE INTERESTED

One of the loudest cries of parents today is that they cannot get close to their teen-agers. There can be many reasons for this problem, but I'm suggesting one that stands near the top of the list-**FAILING TO BE INTERESTED IN LITTLE THINGS**. While our children are growing up they put us through thousands of tests. It may be untieing a little knot in a string, a mashed finger which will hurt for only 60 seconds, sharing with us the excitement of catching a tiny fish or the desire to do little things with mom and dad. These tests are very important. If we fail them in childhood, and if we have no concern of their childish ways, they will not trust us to be told of their teen-age way, believing that we could not understand. (continued on page 41.)

**TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN
ONE MUST:**

Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the Word (Heb. 11:6)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3)

Confess Christ before men (Matt. 10: 32, 33)

Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16) (Rom. 6:4; I Cor. 12:
13)

CHRISTIAN FAMILY VACATION

Charles Jackson

It is without question that one of the most, if not the most anticipated periods of the year is vacation time. Because of the nature of our economy in this good country nearly every occupation affords its holder a vacation ranging from two weeks to many weeks. This is good. A vacation enables one to do many things he could not do otherwise. Such as visiting relatives and friends, seeing or doing things that otherwise time had not permitted. A vacation is so important that we often plan months in advance as to how we are going to utilize this rare available time. For what other time or occasion do we plan so minutely or so far in advance?

If anyone is to enjoy a vacation certainly a Christian family should. With most it is a period of recreation, which is, by definition, "to relieve", "to cheer", "to give fresh life to." Jesus, during His earthly existence saw the need for such things. He enjoyed the social meal (Luke 5:29;34). He participated in a marriage feast (John 2:1-11). He, on occasions, was honored at banquets. (Luke 5:29, John 12:1;2). He enjoyed boat riding for rest and relaxation. (Mark 4:36).

It is a truism: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull Boy." Christians, especially in our day, need something to relax, rebuild, and refresh them. There was an old Puritan concept that held that all things of pleasure were sin. But such is not true. A thing is not worldly because it is enjoyed but it is worldly because it comes between one and his God. A religious view which was akin to Calvinism held that, "any action which does not serve to honor God directly, it is sin; to rejoice in anything is in conflict with Christian self-denial; innocent jests, laughing, taking a walk, etc., all is sin." The truth of the matter is that the Christian is commanded to be joyful. It is the only way we can be our best physically, mentally and spiritually. One has said, "no one has a right to rob me of my joy than he does my money."

On the other hand, a Christian family can misuse its vacation
(continued on Page 41.)

FOR CHILDREN

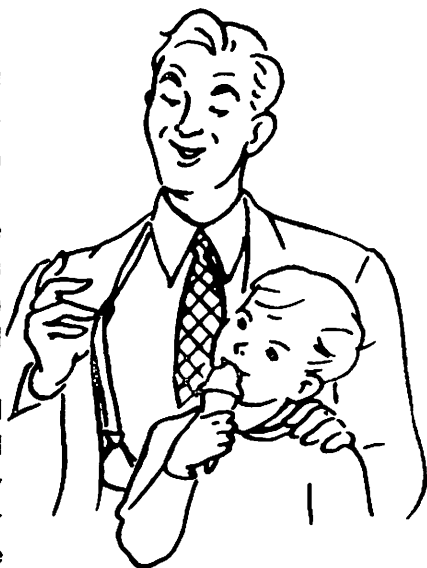
A GOOD BOY FINDS A GOOD HOME

Benny B. Bristow

Well, here we are boys and girls ready to hear more about a fine boy named Tommy as he begins a new life with his grandparents. It was on a bright and early spring morning that Tommy heard his grandfather's truck pull into the driveway. With a big bounce Tommy was through the front door and gave his grandfather a big hug. Since this move had been planned, Grandfather was not surprised that Tommy had his clothes packed and ready to go. Within only a few minutes Grandfather and Tommy were driving down the highway toward the farm.

Finally Grandfather turned from the main highway and continued up a long dusty road which had fields of green on both sides. Grandfather began to point out the cattle, sheep and horses letting Tommy know that his farm was on each side of the road. Tommy had been here many times in the past, but he had been very young, and besides, his many problems had made him more aware of life. Only a month or so ago Miss Bond taught a Bible lesson on creation of the

trees, grass and animals, but only now could he realize what the Bible meant when it said, 'and God saw that it was good'. As they bumped along the road, perfume from the clover blooms made it a pleasant drive. Tommy knew that nothing would take the place of his parents, but with good Christian grandparents and a big beautiful farm made by God in heaven, it would be easier. In only a short time Tommy had arrived on the farm, unpacked his clothes and found himself sitting at the dinner table eating a good home cook dinner prepared especially for his arrival



by his grandmother.

That night as they prepared to leave the supper table, Grandfather informed Tommy and his grandmother that he wanted to talk to them after the dishes were washed. Tommy was trying hard to feel at home, but all day he felt like he was only visiting. Several times he had wondered what it would take to make him feel like this was home. But Tommy remembered the rose that Miss Bond handed him and the promise that he would try to do right. With this hope in mind, he awaited to see what Grandfather had to say.

After the kitchen was made neat as a pen and the three seated in the livingroom, Grandfather began. 'Tommy, we wanted to take this first night with you to explain how we feel and how much we want you to enjoy living with us. We know that we will never take the place of your parents, but we want to make you as happy as possible. You are now a part of our family--not a visitor. You will be expected to do your part of the work, but we will not expect you to do more than your part. All three of us will be a team working for the same purpose just like the men I hire in the fields. Now, we believe that because we are Christians that we will always consider each other. Have you learned of the golden rule?' Tommy thought for a moment, then he remembered. 'I can say it in my own words.' 'Alright, what is it,' asked Grandfather. With a bright face Tommy answered, 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' 'Very good Tommy. Now, if we all live by this all will go well.'

Tommy sat quietly and listened. He had never known a kinder voice. Again Grandfather, 'Now, Tommy there will be times when we will have to say no to your requests and tell you what to do. We will not be just trying to boss you, but rather to help you. You have come a long ways already, but in these next few years you will really be training to be a Christian man. Any time you feel that we have made a mistake, come to us in the right way and we will discuss it. But if we still feel it is for your good you will be expected to obey.'

As Tommy climbed the stairs for bed, he felt closer to his grandparents. They made him feel wanted and needed and like he was at home. There would be many problems to face and work

out, but he had heard his Dad say many times that if we will solve our problems as they come--one at a time,--rather than all at once, they will not be so big. Just before saying his prayers and sleep, Tommy agreed that he would take one day at a time.

A NEW MORNING--A NEW LIFE

Before Tommy could realize it, the night had passed and the big red rooster was shaking the house with loud awakening crows. Tommy hit the floor, dressed, ate breakfast and was out in the early morning air helping with the chores. The sun was peeping over the meadow which was just below the barn. The dew drops were sparkling like millions of diamonds as a fresh moist breeze brushed by his face. It took only a few days before Tommy learned his jobs well and carried his part of the load. Not only did they attend Bible classes and worship every time the church met, but this family lived it every day of their lives. Grandfather lived by that golden rule even when dealing with the hired hands. Such an example make it easier for Tommy to deep his promise to Miss Bond. Never was a meal eaten before a prayer of thanks was offered to God the giver, and never a night closed without a few minutes spent in a family devotion. The Bible reading was good, but the talks Grandfather made and the comments of Grandmother, made the Bible truths real.

After one month on the farm, Tommy began to really feel that he was home. More and more he loved to be in the company of Grandfather. They went to town for supplies, took workers (continued on page 42.)

just off the press

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by Gwen Bristow

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UNVEILING TIME

Pat Beckham

What time is it? Many living things have built in clocks to help them answer that question. Plants, animals, and people get an idea of the time from things in their surroundings.

When the weather starts getting warm many animals begin to shed their heavy winter coats. Their new fur takes on a brilliance as if to let the world know they are ready for the change of season.

People that garden or raise flowers know that plants grow and thrive during the warm weather. Many times plants that have been covered as protection from the harsh winter weather are uncovered at this time of year. These plants are ready for life, to bloom, bud, or produce their particular fruit once again.

What about people? What happens to people at this time of the year? It has become almost universal that as soon as the first warm spell occurs people begin to shed their clothing just as the animal has shed his heavy winter fur. It is true that weather helps determine the amount of clothing worn, but to abandon practically all clothing is ridiculous, for health's sake if for no other reason.

Is the Christian confronted with this problem? Definitely yes, as the years pass we become more susceptible to the temptation of "shedding our all" just as the world has done. In the past this problem concerned primarily the women, but today we see that men have also accepted this scanty mode of dress.

Time has proved that a large percentage of crimes, sexual offences, drinking, etc., have been greatly accelerated and influenced by the immodest dress of modern women.

Can we be good, honest Christians and dress in this manner? No, God made us to be a peculiar people, a light unto the world. How can our lights shine if we are causing someone to stumble in the dark? We must practice good habits ourselves and be able to instill good habits in our children. Good habits are not made on birthdays, nor Christian character at the new year. The workshop of character is everyday life.

WHAT IS BEAUTY?

What is beauty? Not the show
Of shapely limbs, and features. No;
These-----are but flowers,
That have their dated hours,
To breathe their momentary sweets, then go,
Tis the stainless soul--within--
That outshines -- the fairest skin.

"You can often pretty well determine what kind of grown-ups
your children will be by whether you as parents are training
them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord right now."

"The kind of a husband the young lady selects will pretty well
follow the pattern of the kind of young man she dates."

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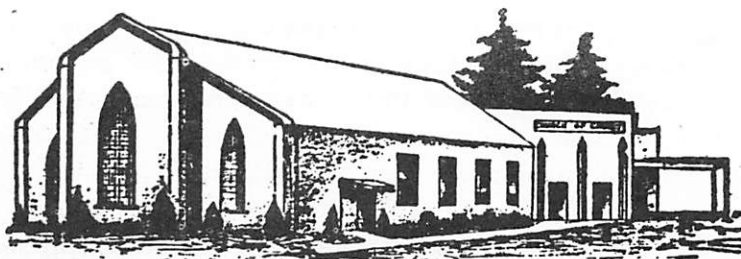
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Meet Your Brethren



CHURCH OF CHRIST

1817 COLLEGE AVENUE, EL DORADO, ARKANSAS

Henry Hogg

The history of College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado is the story of progress during the eleven years since 66 Christians moved across town for worship as a new congregation.

Under the sponsorship of Block and Hardy Church - Now Hillisboro Street Church - which had reached the expansion point, the move developed into a labor of love and a measure of faith. Whether measured in thimbles or bushels, the exercising of faith has been regarded with the accomplishment of a number of worthwhile undertakings.

After purchasing one acre of land on College Avenue a house of worship was built in 1955 which consisted of an auditorium and a few classrooms. The building was financed with a loan from an insurance company. Two years later a modern home for the minister was erected. As the membership increased, additional classrooms and a fellowship room were added in 1960. With the addition of more parking area in 1964 the present \$100,000. physical plant was completed.

Due to the strategic location of El Dorado in the gateway between Arkansas and Louisiana, plus the favorable communications available, College Avenue took the lead in broadcasting the gospel with the splendid cooperation of 16 congregations in the two-state area. For 28 months "Let the Bible Speak" was

broadcast over KTVE from three to five times weekly. Now that program has been off the air five years, correspondence courses offered by the church are still in demand because of the broadcast. Presently the Hillsboro Street and College Avenue churches jointly sponsor "The Herald of Truth" at 8 A. M. on Sunday.

In the missionary field College Avenue sponsored the work in 1961 of the Stan Shewmaker family in Zambia. Again, several of the same congregations who supported the television broadcasts came to our assistance and the mission work was supported. Presently College Avenue is sponsoring a new five-year program for the Shewmakers, and is cooperating with others in the building of a college to train native workers in Zambia.

Preliminary planning has started for an area-wide Campaign for Christ in cooperation with other congregations. It is in this area of working together with other congregations that College Avenue has received wonderful support and encouragement. Its programs are closely coordinated with those of the Hillsboro and other local congregations, and the bonds of love between them remain strong through the years.

A total of five elders, seven deacons, and five preachers, including Charles Jackson who is now doing an excellent work, have served the congregation since its establishment. The present budget of \$30,000. or \$577. per Sunday is being exceeded through the contribution of 160 members. The support of Southern Christian Home has been increased. Monies have been allocated for Manhattan Church of Christ, Herald of Truth, World Radio Broadcast, Louisiana Teck Bible Chair, and Consideration is being given to the establishment of another congregation.

In the teaching program of the church a detailed study of the total curriculum from pre-school through high school is being made. The aim of the study is to give the child Bible training with materials suited to the child's age under the direction of better trained teachers. A class for personal workers is also in progress, including the use of cottage classes.

In short, College Avenue has many challenges, and we trust will continue to have the faith to meet them.



TEEN CHAT

Gwen Bristow



WHAT CAN I DO?

Do you hear others your age expressing this question when ministers, as well as Bible teachers, urge young people to be a part of the work of the church. Maybe you've thought or actually expressed this idea yourself. Many of our young people throughout the world are awakening to the fact that they are part of the church and there is a role (small or large) they can do in service to the growth of the Lord's church. For this the church is grateful because every worker is needed. I know that when you teenagers don't feel a part of things, you lose interest. This has caused many to find excuses for missing services, to feel like-warm toward Christianity and eventually, to completely drift away from the church as they become adults.

Yet, some of you are sincerely conscientious and realize a need of finding your place in the work and serving others. On many occasions I've heard groups express, 'as Christians we know we need to be working, but we don't have the time due to school or other activities.' Others say, 'We want to work, but we don't have any talent.' In fact there are those who humbly feel they aren't any good or qualified for any job in God's Kingdom.

As yet, I have never met anyone living, regardless of age, that would fit into any of the categories just mentioned.

First, if you are worthy bearers of Christ's name and love his church, then you must put Christ first in your life. Regardless of popularity, school, home life, or recreation, they must come last. (Matt. 6:33). The greatest struggle will be the learning of how to say "no" to so many of the unnecessary things that would cause you to stumble and not put Christ in first place. That is a **big** assignment. It isn't going to be easy, but it can be done. You can be sure of this--it will take a stronger character, one

who has great conviction and determination to say no than it does to say yes to everything that tempts you.

Second, in all the years in working with teen-agers, I've never seen any who were completely untalented. Just realizing that we do have limits, and particular skills, and applying what we do have, instead of wishing we were like someone else; is the main factor involved. Often we wish to be like the tall shouldering pine tree that gracefully projects itself above all others, when actually maybe we're only scrub pine tree material. But the point is--stop worrying and comparing yourself to others. But be the best scrub pine you can be. For it takes both the tall shouldering pines and the scrub pines to help make up the forest, and so it does in work of the Lord's Church. It takes all talents working together to make up a united kingdom for God. Each have their job to do regardless of size or quantity of talent. Remember the story of the parable of the talents recorded in Matt. 25:14-30. The one talent person was not condemned because he had just one talent, but was condemned because he buried it and didn't put what he had to use.

If your talent is baking, then bake cookies or pastries for the homeless, the aged, soldiers in Viet Nam or someone who's lonely or bereaved--but just do it. If you are only good at licking stamps, then help mail out bulletins, letters for special events or occasions, get-well cards, etc., but just get busy and use that tongue for a good purpose.

Maybe it's your good strong back that's your talent--then offer to mow an elderly widow's yard, or work around the building or mow the yards for your own congregation. But just bend your back and go to work. There are worthy things you can do regardless of how insignificant and unimportant they may seem to you.

Never be afraid to encourage your Bible classes to take on a particular planned project to accomplish yearly. Include every class member with a job on each project. This makes an excellent start in gaining confidence in things that your age can do.

Be sure that you keep your eyes and mind open to jobs that you can do individually or collectively as a class. There are many, many announcements made yearly in your own congregation

of jobs that need volunteer workers. Why not start by signing up for some of these jobs and doing your best. I will guarantee you will get more benefit from doing these services than you can imagine. Why? Because you will have a place in the kingdom and will have certain needs satisfied. 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' (Matt. 6:21)

Below are some jobs that are often neglected by many teenagers and yet are helpful in carrying on the work of Christ. These are things you could do:

1. Changing bulletin board ideas in classrooms. (there are many catalogs available for ideas)
2. Weekly teen-age visitation program.
3. City teen-age census (promote personal work program)
4. Mailing cards or letters to shut-ins or hospital patients.
5. Furnish transportation for older people and others.
6. Conduct and attend religious services at Homes for Aged.
7. Supplying tract racks for hospitals and local congregation.
8. Secretarial jobs for local congregation--typing, keeping records, attendance charts, etc.
9. Mailing out welcome letters and invitations to services for new city arrivals and visitors.
10. Helping in Nursery with pre-school children.
11. Serving as ushers, waiting on Lord's Table, etc.
12. Serving on welcoming committees for services.
13. Assisting teachers by cutting out pictures and making visual aids for classroom use.
14. Helping to keep library and teachers workroom in order.
15. Doing maintenance and yard work at place of worship.
16. Helping prepare Lord's Supper.
17. Keeping song books mended for use.
18. Select articles of interest for bulletin.

These are only a few that could be mentioned, but I hope it will start you thinking seriously about your responsibility to the church.

I have faith in everyone of you. You can be capable, dependable, co-workers in God's Kingdom. Find your place in the church and get busy. Don't make the mistake of putting it off or (continued on page 42.)

A LITTLE FISH WITH A BIG LESSON (continued from page 29.)

The next time you weigh the importance of little things, remember the little fish and the five year old. Solomon said: 'There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare meat in the summer; the conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their house in the rocks; the locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; the spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.' (Proverbs 30:24-28).

'Drops make up the sea. Acorns cover the earth with oaks and the ocean with navies. Sands make up the bar in the harbor's mouth, on which vessels are wrecked; and little things in youth accumulate into character in age, and destiny in eternity.'

CHRISTIAN FAMILY VACATION (continued from page 30.)

It can be done by going to the wrong places and doing the wrong things in the wrong ways. I have in mind a family that would not only take leave of job, usual environs, etc. but also take leave of their accustomed Christian conduct in order to live free of usual restraint during the vacation. To be out of sight of elders, brethren and friends is not to be out of sight of the Lord. There are too many wholesome places to spend a vacation than to go where the lewd and sensual is advertized.

One thing that separates the Christian in word from the Christian in deed is to note where the Lord's Day morning finds the vacationer. A highlight of a Christian's vacation should be the meeting and worshipping with brethren elsewhere. Get acquainted. Look around for a new idea in promoting the gospel to take home to the brethren. The Christian family should enjoy its vacation, return home refreshed with renewed zeal having added a bit of spice to life.

KEY QUOTE OF THE ACC LECTURESHIP

"Devotional Use of the Bible" by Eddie Couch:

"We are making a great mistake in this 20th century when we leave all the reading and studying of the Bible to the Sunday Bible school, the worship services, and the Wednesday evening service. The home needs to be an even greater center of spiritual learning than is the church building."

A GOOD BOY FINDS A GOOD HOME (continued from page 33)
to the fields, but best of all they went once each week to the stock auction, with a truck load of livestock. Tommy could not understand the man that was selling the animals, the auctioneer, but it was easy to tell that the men knew and were buying them. To Tommy he sounded like a buzzing bee, but Grandfather assured him that it would take time.

A BIG SURPRISE

One Friday as they were going to the auction barn, Grandfather told Tommy that he had planned a surprise. Grandfather looked at Tommy and said, 'I'm going to buy you something.' This thrilled Tommy, but he said, 'Grandfather, you don't have to buy me anything. I am happy just being with you and Grandmother and working on the farm. Just giving me a nice home is more than I can thank you for.' A smile came over Grandfather's face as he replied, 'Tommy, I know I don't have to buy you anything, but I want to. This is my way of showing you that I am pleased. Just remember, it always pays to do right and we could not ask for a finer young man.'

Tommy could hardly believe that only a few weeks ago that his life was so torn, but now so happy. He could not imagine what the surprise would be and the road to the auction seemed hours. But the surprise was well worth waiting for.

Boys and girls, do you know what it was? In our next story we will find out, and we hope you will want to read further about a good boy named Tommy.

WHAT CAN I DO? (continued from page 40)

waiting on others your age to go to work or waiting on someone to lead you. Maybe your zeal and interest will be the spark that will influence others to answer the question, "What Can I do?"

"People who say that the epistles were the apostles wives just haven't studied their Bible."



BOOKS FROM THE BOOK MARK

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Christian Family Magazine
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE



"THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD"

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE

EDITOR

Benny B. Bristow

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From The Editors Pen:

"The greatest danger confronting the children today is the example set by adults."

Do you agree with the above statement? How could we possibly deny it when we stop and realize that young people are what we make them. This leads me to wonder if we as parents are directing enough attention toward our children. Oh, yes, I know we are feeding them well and making sure they have the proper clothing to wear, but are we really giving the attention in the right way?



In years gone by our way of living was very near reversed from today. Children were trained to work, not every time because the parents felt the need of child training, but because of necessity. Money was difficult to obtain and providing the bare essentials was an accomplishment. Nevertheless, children were given responsibility and made to feel important. They did things with their parents as they prepared for adulthood. But what about today? In most cases Dad works from 8 to 10 hours away from home, some mothers are also employed away from home, and the children come home from school with time on their hands. Even though much of their time is spent doing homework, they are robbed of many practical experiences, especially those performed with parents. Now we must admit that in many cases our society has driven us to this way of life and that we can't turn time back to yesteryears. However, this does not mean that we are helpless to the problem.

May we suggest that you come out of your shell. How often do you fathers take your boys fishing? How long has it been since you took them for a stroll in the woods? Or you mothers, do you take the time to let your girls try their hand at cooking and sewing? How about being guest to one of their little 'real tea parties'? Maybe some of you are saying, 'but they mess up my kitchen and get flour from head to toe.' But Mothers, it will not be long before they will grow up and be working in

their own kitchens. It won't be long and you would give worlds for your daughters to desire to be with you working together in the kitchen. True, those little hands are not as skillful as yours, but you have the responsibility of making them so. The dirty kitchen can be cleaned and the flour washed from her hair, but you cannot later change a neglected life. Someone has rightly said, 'A man never stands as tall as when he stoops to help a child.' It is not the amount of money you spend that makes the deepest impression, but the giving of yourself that counts. Just a simple basket picnic, wiener roast, boat ride and a hike through the woods may mean more than expensive gifts.

Most parents awaken to the truths found in what we have just talked about, but in too many cases it is realized after the children's lives are already molded and the molding clay has become cold. Have you ever observed a blacksmith shaping iron? He heats it to a flowing white and with the greatest of speed rushes it to the anvil. For the first few seconds this heavy hard piece of material yields to the blows of the hammer. But all at once the metal grows cold and he finds his hammer bouncing uselessly on a hard surface. This describes our job in bringing up children except for the blacksmith's one advantage. He can cast the iron back into the fire for a repeat performance, but how often we have the one chance and fail forever. Then, will you strike while the iron is hot?

Yours in Christian Service,
Benny B. Bristow



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What Is A Girl ?

Alan Beck

Little girls are the nicest things that happen to people. They are born with a little bit of angel-shine about them and though it wears thin sometimes, there is always enough left to lasso your heart—even when they are sitting in the mud, or crying temperamental tears, or parading up the street in mother's best clothes.

A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) oftener than anyone else in the world. She can jitter around, and stomp, and make funny noises that frazzle your nerves, yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there demure with that special look in her eyes. A girl is innocence playing in the mud, Beauty standing on its head, and Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot.

Girls are available in five colors—black, white, red, yellow, or brown, yet Mother Nature always manages to select your favorite color when you place your order. They disprove the law of supply and demand—there are millions of little girls, but each is as precious as rubies.

God borrows from many creatures to make a little girl. He uses the song of a bird, the squeal of a pig, the stubbornness of a mule, the antics of a monkey, the spryness of a grasshopper, the curiosity of a cat, the speed of a gazelle, the slyness of a fox, the softness of a kitten, and to top it off He adds the mysterious mind of a woman.

A little girl likes new shoes, party dresses, small animals, first grade, noise makers, the girl next door, make-believe, ice cream, kitchens, coloring books, make-up, cans of water, going visiting, tea parties, and one boy. She doesn't care so much for visitors, boys in general, large dogs, hand-me-downs,

straight chairs, vegetables, snow-suits, or staying in the front yard. She is loudest when you are thinking, the prettiest when she has provoked you, the busiest at bedtime, the quietest when you want to show her off, and the most flirtatious when she absolutely must not get the best of you again.

Who else can cause you more grief, joy, irritation, satisfaction, embarrassment, and genuine delight than this combination of Eve, Salome, and Florence Nightingale? She can muss up your hair, your home, and your dignity- spend your money, your time, and your temper-then just when your patience is ready to crack, her sunshine peeks through and you've lost again.

Yes, she is a nerve-racking nuisance, just a noisy bundle of mischief. But when your dreams tumble down and the world is a mess- when it seems you are pretty much of a fool after all-she can make you a king when she climbs on your knee and whispers, "I love you best of all."

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Chinese Proverb: "Give a pig and a boy all they want and you will have a good pig, and a bad boy".

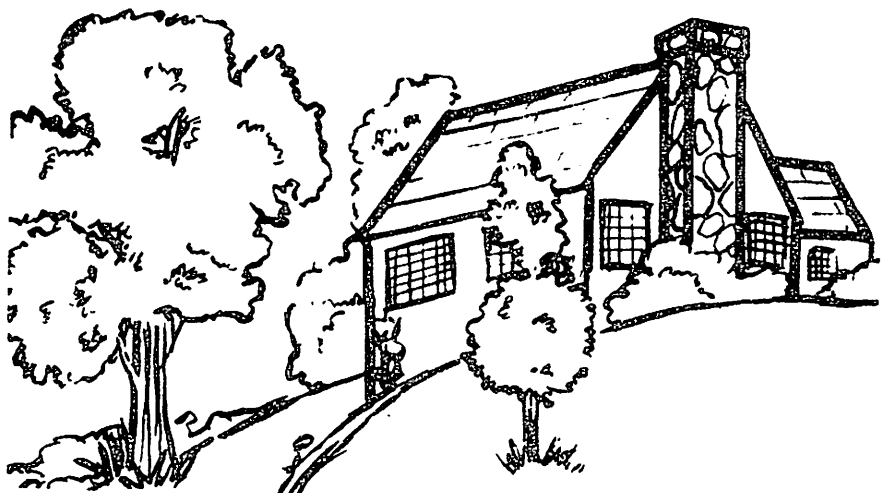
"Too many parents tie up their dog and let their children run wild".

"Some families can trace their ancestry back 300 years, but can't tell you where their children were last night".

"The best of sermons is always followed by indigestion unless followed by exercise".

What Have They Seen In Thine House?

Benny B. Bristow



There have been those precious few in all generations that recognized the true value of a home. But with sadness we must all agree that thousands go through life placing the **smallest** emphasis possible on the home. When you find an outstanding man, you usually find an outstanding home. For here is his physical beginning. Here the seeds of how to become a successful adult is planted. It is here that man's life is often moulded for Christian service.

The home is a book that reveals what kind of person we really are. Someone has said, "a man's home is the expression of his personality. You cannot say you know him until you have seen him in his own house. The 'At Home' portrait is the truest, and as you can tell exactly what was the size of the animal that inhabited the shell you hold in your hand, so you can describe pretty accurately the habits and character of a man from an inspection of his home."

The title for this article was taken from the question that Isaiah asked Hezekiah, but it can easily be asked each of us today: 'what have they seen in thine house'? There are certain characteristics that must be found if our homes are truly successful. In your home, what would be found?

WHAT ABOUT PEACE? This is a word that will never

change its meaning for it suggests calmness to man's soul. Home is intended to be a place where each member of the family can find peace and tranquillity. But too often peace is not found. How sad it is for us to even imagine a home where tempers run high, parents and children talk unkind to each other, and where the spirit of Christ is absent. Yes, it is true that the calmest water has its occasional ripples. Likewise, one cannot deny that all homes have times where problems produce certain irritabilities. But this is far different from the home that never knows peace. When John Howard Payne penned the words, 'Mid pleasures and palaces wherever you may roam, be it ever so humble there's no place like home, he must have been describing a home with peace.

To sum up the importance of finding peace in your house, we have only to make a single statement. A home without peace is not a happy home.

WHAT ABOUT LOVE? We often say that love cannot be defined, but who would say that its absence cannot be felt? We may not be able to see love, but we see its fruits. Our eyes cannot view a single puff of wind, but how often we see giant oaks bend at its presence. The proof of love for your family is in your actions. If a man says he loves his family and is continually cruel, selfish, and unkind, you had better watch him closely for he is apt to lie about other things. For the way we treat the members of our families, determine the degree of love in our hearts. How often humans fail because they lay aside love and approach members of families with cold hard words. Perhaps the following little parable will help us to see the need of love in our house:

Once there was a little piece of iron, which looked frail, but was really strong. One after another had tried to break it but failed.

"I'll master it," said the ax; and his blows fell heavily on the iron, but every blow made his edge more blunt until it ceased to strike.

"Leave it to me, said the saw; and with his relentless teeth he worked backward and forward on its surface until they were all worn and broken, then he fell aside.

"Ha, ha," said the hammer, "I knew you wouldn't succeed.

"I'll show you the way." But at the first fierce blow off flew his head and the iron remained as before.

"Shall I try?" asked the soft, small flame. They all despised the flame; but he curled gently around the iron, embraced it, and never left it until it melted under his irresistible influence.

Friends and parents, when your house is observed be truly sure that they find and see love in thine house.

WHAT ABOUT CHRIST? The continued knock brought the busy mother to the door. A man stood there with a Bible in his hand. Without a word of introduction he asked, "Does Jesus live here?"

The woman, although she was a member of the church, was so upset by the question that she did not answer. She didn't even remember that he then walked slowly away. All day the man's question kept going through her mind. That evening when her husband came home she told him about it. He laughed and said, "Why didn't you show him the church directory with our name on it? You could have told him that we nearly always send the children to Bible study, and that we have attended several times ourselves. Why didn't you remind him that we give a little to the church and look upon ourselves as a respected Christian family?"

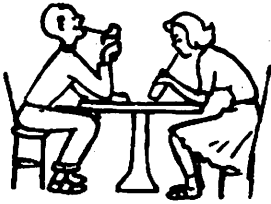
"Yes," she said, "all that you have said is true, and I could have told him that, but I'm still troubled, because he didn't ask if we sent the children to Bible study or if we were respected Christians. That wasn't the question. He asked me 'Does Jesus live here?' and all day I've wondered if He does."

(continued on page 20)



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TEEN CHAT

Gwen Bristow



THE GOLD CHARM

The day was hot and humid, hardly a breeze stirred at Linsville High School. Tempers had been short that May morning, just two weeks away from graduation. The heat seemed to be affecting everyone. There was an unusual amount of scraping of chairs and loud whispers coming from the Library study hall.

Mrs. Parks, school librarian, had quieted the third period study group several times reminding them of the study hall rules. Somewhere in the room someone murmured, "She's a griper, wish she would shut up." "Today, sighed Peggy, is going to be difficult."

Peggy Barner, a typical seventeen year old senior, isn't a real pretty girl but what you might say cute and likeable. She comes from an average American family and is most fortunate to have Christian parents who try to give her understanding as well as advice and parental love. But this doesn't mean that her life is a bed of roses, far from it; for just like every other teenager she has her own personality weaknesses and faults. Every day is a living struggle as she battles to do right and to remain a faithful Christian herself. Her school life often presents many problems to her beliefs and her Christianity has often become a great source in solving these problems. Peg tries daily to study God's Word because she strongly believes she does receive strength and help to live a Godly life.

On Peggy's past seventeenth birthday she received a lovely gold charm of the praying hands to be added onto her charm bracelet. The gift had meant so much to her for on back of the charm were inscribed some beautiful words with a great meaning; "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, the

Page 8

wisdom to know the difference." And many mornings before Peg left for school, she prayed that the Lord would help her to live these words and let them become a part of her Christian living.

She couldn't have known that this would be the May day that she would be tested concerning those very words nor the consequences that would follow.

In the study hall, Peggy was trying hard to concentrate on her notes for the final English exam. But for some reason her eyes caught a glance at Eve Stuart who stood at the library check out desk. Mrs. Parks had wondered away from the desk and was



leaning against the window hopefully wishing for a faint breeze.

Nervously, Eve glanced about the room as if to make sure no one was particularly noticing her. Then quickly her hand lifted the lid from the petty cash fine box. Carefully she took something out and slipped the contents into her own library books which lay on the desk. Peggy's heart raced wildly as she witnessed her friend in the act of theft. "Was Eve deliberately stealing money from the library? Or was she only adjusting the lid to the fine box. Had she really committed a school felon? For the next minutes Peggy sat stunned. Then more questions and thoughts raced over and over in her mind.

"What must I do? Would it be best to go directly now to Mrs. Parks and tell her what I have seen or should I go to Mr. White, school principal. Or should I just let the whole episode go unmentioned since I was the only one who saw her, probably she took only a small amount anyway. Whatever I decide to do, it must be the right step.

Suddenly the fourth period bell rang and Peggy was anxious and relieved to leave the room. As she gathered her books off the table, the summer sun light caught her charm bracelet. Those familiar words inscribed on her favorite charm flashed up to meet her anxious eyes. Once again that day she read the words and made her decision.

Down the hallway, Eve had already reached her locker and was taking out her Biology book for the next class. As Peggy approached Eve she prayed that the Lord would help her say the right words; to be humble, tactful but honest with Eve. Slowly she told Eve what she had just seen in the library and how wrong it was for her to take what didn't rightfully belong to her. And she begged her to return whatever she had taken before Mrs. Parks or anyone discovered it missing. She assured Eve that she would never "squeal" on her.

Peg had no idea how her friend would accept this conversation and the truth. Her reactions came quiet shocking and startling. Eve Stuart lost control of her emotions and loudly began to tell Peggy what she thought of her. And she'd get even with her if it took the rest of her life. By this time students were gathering from other classes in the hall to see and hear the ruckus. Skirring down the hallway came Mrs. Parks pushing her way through the gathering crowd. She reached the two girls, but not in time to prevent Eve's slap on Peggy's right cheek. Peggy backed away embarrassed, hurt, and ashamed to be mixed up in what seemed a cheap brawl. Mrs. Parks didn't give either girl time for explaining or complaining. Quickly taking each girl by an arm, she marched them to Mr. White's office.

For the first time in Peggy's twelve years of school she had to face the principal on a discipline charge. Peggy felt sick. Now she must tell the whole story. During those next minutes

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Peggy heard some terrible accusations against her from the angry girl. "You a dirty Christian, Peggy Barner," would ring a long time in Peggy's heart. It would be sometime before she'd forget all the hateful things Eve said that day. Somehow Peg got through the remaining school hours. She fought the tears back all the way home, but as she opened the kitchen door and faced her loving mother, she burst out in long hard sobs. Among the sobbing came out the whole story of the difficult day.

"Mother, did I do so wrong in going to Eve and trying to reason with her? I went to her privately, hoping not to make it a public affair. Now the whole school knows. I had hopes Eve would return the money and realize that I only went to her in love. Now I'm afraid that she'll hate me always and I'll even loose other friends at school from this one incident."

Setting the cooking potatoes off the stove, Mrs. Barner came around the kitchen table and put a loving hand on her daughter'.

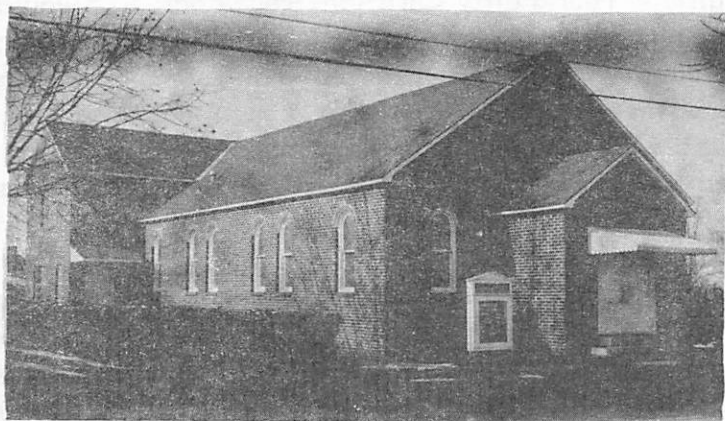
"Peggy, today you had a taste of the trials of living the christian life and standing up for what you believe is right. Sometimes it isn't easy to help others, they often don't want to be helped. But maybe someday Eve will understand that you did care about her and were only trying to help her. Just always try to remain a true christian and God will help you. Now run upstairs, wash your face, and freshen up for supper is about ready."

Later that evening as Peggy lay on her own bed she understood the meaning of those words she had often read on her charm. Yes, there are some things in this life that cannot be changed, but she must always have the courage to try and change the things that were possible.

Somewhere in the distance a low rumble of thunder could be heard. Maybe in the night rain would come to cool the heat and tempers. Tomorrow would be another day, fresh and new, and with the Lord there by her side to help her through other difficult days.

TEEN-AGERS: Did Peggy do right? Send your letters to
TEEN CHAT, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Ark. 71730

Meet Your Brethren



LAKE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

A. J. Arnold

The first meeting of the Lake Village church was in 1937. It was in this year that Brother and Sister T. B. Tillman and about a half dozen other Christians moved to this area from Urbana, Arkansas. Eight members of the church began meeting regularly for worship in a farm house six miles north-west of Lake Village.

The church began meeting in 1939 "from house to house" among its members in Lake Village. They began their first Gospel Meeting the Sunday Pearl Harbor was attacked, December 7, 1941. Brother Alvan Johnson from Turkey, Texas was the visiting evangelist.

The church continued meeting in various homes until 1942 when they began meeting regularly in Brother and Sister C. W. Tillman's home. It was about this time when Several Christians, who lived in the Jenny community six miles South of Lake Village, began meeting with this church. Their number, along with Brother and Sister R. J. Fincher, brought to approximately twenty the total membership.

The Legion Hut was used as a meeting place from 1945 until 1949 when the present auditorium was completed. The church had a membership of approximately thirty five during these years.

Brother N. E. "Junior" Rhodes of Urbana preached the dedication sermon in the new auditorium on November 6, 1949.

Brother B. L. Hanry of El Dorado led the singing. Within a very short period of time the church grew to over fifty members even though there were a lot of families who moved out of the community. The work was carried on by the local members from 1949 to 1955 except for approximately a year in which Brother Rhodes preached once each month.

The Lake Village church secured the services of its first full-time evangelist in 1955. During the tenure of Brother and Sister Bill Simpson, the first Bible class work was begun. Since there were no class rooms in the church building, nearby homes were used for this purpose. A vacant house, owned by Brother C. W. Tillman, was used not only for the High School class but also as a fellowship building for the entire church.

Brother and Sister Julia Nolan began working with the Lake Village church in 1958. It was in this year that six class rooms were built and a preachers house was bought. Total attendance was now averaging around 100 each Sunday.

Brother and Sister D. C. DuBois worked with the church from 1962 to 1963, Brother and Sister Bob Green from 1963 to 1964, and after the work was carried on by local talent for several months, Brother and Sister A. J. Arnold moved here on October 21, 1965.

The elders began on November 7, 1965 meeting regularly each Sunday morning at 8:30 for the purpose of planning our future growth in this community. The elders and preacher meet an average of at least twice each week during the months of November and December for long and profitable planning sessions. They are continuing to meet regularly each Sunday Morning and other times as the need arises. These regular Sunday morning meetings will be continued indefinitely. Close contact is also being maintained with the deacons and men of the congregation.

Our over-all program has been divided into committees with director responsible for each area of work. Our program of fellowship got underway on November 18, 1965 with a pot-luck supper that was attended by almost 100 people. This spirit of fellowship among the brethren has continued to be emphasized by the elders, and it is a major contributing factor to the success of our various programs. We now have a spirit of unity in this

church that is extremely strong.

The elders are putting a great deal of emphasis on benevolence, particularly in our own community. There is already abundant evidence that this area of our work is producing the best publicity this church has ever known. We are working with the belief that people will more readily accept the message of the gospel if they first see us practicing the Christian living that we preach. Our attendance the past few Sunday's has been well over the 100 mark which is more than can be said for the last half of 1965.

The remainder of the work is divided into the following committees: Evangelistic, Educational, Worship, Financial, Building and Grounds, Public Relations, and Visitation. Much of our effort has gone into the Educational Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee. The other areas of work are continuing to be developed under the respective directors.

A two bedroom house just next door to the church building has been rented to supplement our available classroom space. In addition to the work that has already been done to make our building and grounds more attractive to the community, more facilities have been added in the classrooms. The annex is being used in the areas of Bible classes, community benevolence, and fellowship.

The greatest strides forward have been made with the Educational Committee. Our departmentalized Bible class program was begun January 2, 1966 with a total of ten Bible classes on Sunday morning, which included three adult classes, and a corresponding number of classes on Wednesday night. The Bible class curriculum has been co-ordinated for greater effectiveness. Brother R. B. Sweet's complete set of Teacher Training Filmstrips were purchased prior to the above date, and they are now being used regularly in our teacher training program. We continue to
(continued on page 20)

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For Children-

A Little Boy's Problem

Benny B. Bristow

In our story today we want to become acquainted with a little boy named Tommy. Most stories begin happily, but this one has a sad beginning. For one morning when Tommy was staying with his aunt while his parents took a trip, he received the sad news that his mother and daddy were killed in a car accident. This was the biggest problem that had ever come to Tommy's life. The days became long and he found himself awake many nights crying. He just could not realize that they were gone. He had cried so much that all tears seemed to be gone. Tommy was a good boy and he had tried to understand why this happened, but he needed help.

Tommy had been one of the lucky boys that had good Christian parents. One of the things they had always taught him was to attend all Bible classes and learn about God. On this particular Sunday morning, Tommy thought once about staying home from class since he felt that God had let him down, but how often his mother had told him that when you have problems, God can understand more than anyone else. His teacher, Miss Bond, was very understanding so with a very slow walk he was off to Bible class.



Even the boys and girls of Tommy's class seemed sad as they all listened quietly as the teacher began the lesson. After telling an interesting flannel-graph story she asked the boys and girls if they had any questions. Tommy quickly asked, 'Miss Bond, why do people die?' Miss Bond looked at Tommy and saw that he needed help for his little heart was broken. Then she began: 'Tommy, do you remember a few weeks ago when we

studied the Garden of Eden and how Adam and Eve disobeyed God? And do you remember that they couldn't live in the garden any longer because they did wrong and had to begin hard work with sickness and even one of their boys died?' Tommy's quick mind remembered all the story and he answered, 'Yes Mam.' Miss Bond continued, 'Well when man disobeyed God and gave up his little heaven here on earth, God decided to give man a second chance. God decided to let his son Jesus be born on this earth so that he could pay for the wrongs that man had done or would do. Also God began preparing a place in heaven for those who would accept his son and do right.'

Tommy's hand came up for another question. 'Yes, Tommy,' said Miss Bond. 'Do you mean that even if we accept God's son and live right that we will still have things happen to us and still die?' 'That's right, Tommy. The only way we can get from this earth to heaven is by dying. After Adam and Eve gave up their right to live in the beautiful garden, God never promised them that they would be free of troubles. In fact, he told them that they would have to work hard and have all kinds of problems lems. But boys and girls, there is one thing that I want you to remember. God has promised to help us through our problems if we will serve him.'

Miss Bond saw that they needed more teaching on this point so she stepped over to the bookcase and lifted a beautiful red rose from a vase. Then she continued her teaching. 'Now, boys and girls here is a beautiful rose. Jane, what do you see when you look at this rose?' After giving it a long look she replied, 'I see the beautiful red color and remember that it



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smells like perfume.' 'Alright Jim, what do you see?' 'I see the many petals and how they all hold together.' 'That's fine, Jim.' Now Miss Bond turns to Tommy, and asks what he sees. 'I see what Jane and Jim saw, but every time I see a rose I am also reminded of how they stick me with thorns.'

'Now, boys and girls, let's learn a lesson. A rose has both good and bad. But should we stop using them just because they have thorns? So in this life there are roses and thorns. But if we will do what is right and look to God for help in solving our problems, someday we will look back and understand.'

Miss Bond turned again to Tommy and said, 'Tommy, we are so sorry about what has happened to you. But remember that your parents loved Christ and tried hard to please him. We have a right to believe that they have gone to enjoy a beautiful place in heaven. What you need to do now is to believe that everything will work out and be a good boy and live for Christ all of your life that you someday may go to that place in heaven.'

Tommy listened to every word. He needed this class for he had become almost bitter because he did not understand. The first bell rang, but Tommy raised his hand to say one other thing before leaving the class. The teacher gave him permission to speak. 'Miss Bond, this will be my last Sunday here since my Grandpa is coming for me to live with him in the country. But I want you to know that I am going to try to do right wherever I am.'

Miss Bond could hardly hold back the tears, but she was very happy for she knew that Tommy would make it. As the class

(continued on page 21)



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William J. Schnell. This is a powerful warning to all who may be approached by the misnamed "Jehovah's Witnesses." It contains the live story and confessions of a converted Jehovah's Witness.

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Never mind the Joneses



WHO
ARE
THE
JONESES ?

Pat Beckham

Who are the Joneses? They are a strange species that always seems to have more than we do. They have nicer and larger homes, newer and more expensive automobiles, and always dress in the latest fashion while it seems we do well to eat properly pay our bills, and provide a shelter for our families.

Keeping up with the Joneses could become a real challenge to someone that was interested in their social status. We all know people like this. I know a lady that spends most of her time and energy trying to be something that she really isn't. She not only suffers but her family also. If the little girl next door takes music then her little girl must take music also, even though the child is not the least bit interested or talented. Should the people across the street trade cars it becomes necessary for this ladies family to trade cars also. This lady spends so much time conforming and trying to be like others she has lost her own identity. She is just bits and pieces of different Joneses.

This lady is just one in thousands in our society today. This has become the trend, the thing to do. Many men now hold down two jobs in order to support their families in the style to

which they have become accustomed. They never have any time to spend with their families because they are always working. In other words they have just become a means to an end and sometimes jeopardize their health while doing this.

What can we who would like to remain as individualist do to keep from conforming? First, we must realize that people can be wealthy in things besides material possessions. For example, a word of praise from a husband that enjoys home baked bread. A handful of grubby weeds from a child that appreciates the beauty of nature. A smile from a friend that you have helped during a crisis. Secondly, there are many riches to be had in this world that a price tag could never be placed upon.

We have to learn to accept things realistically and realize that if we use what we have to the best advantage and put other peoples welfare before our own we can remain individualist and be happy that we have done so. For a man is poor only-----

If he is without friends,

If he has low ideals,

If he has a guilty conscience,

If he has lost self-respect,

If his morals are questionable.

If he has lost his grip upon himself,

If he is selfish, uncharitable or cruel,

If he has forfeited his health,

If his mind and soul have been neglected,

If he has traded away his character for money,

If he has a disagreeable disposition that makes enemies or repels friends.

If making money has crowded out the cultivation of his spiritual life.

(Selected)



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SPIRITUALLY SAFE, AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY SAFE.

(Continued From Page 7 - What Have They Seen In Thine House?)

Under what conditions could this woman have said, "yes." Under what conditions could you and I answer yes? Only if our families are living the great principles laid down by Jesus. Do we practice and teach our children to live like Jesus? The most important sermon ever preached is the life parents live day by day before their children. The most impressive audiences ever assembled are young lives looking to parents for guidance. We fathers make sure that our children are clothed and fed daily, but what about their spiritual diet? How often do you have a family devotion? Is your family daily Bible readers? Some parents wonder how their children can grow up and have no interest in Christ. In too many cases Jesus is like a fairy tale that they lay aside at adulthood. If this is what Jesus means to us as parents, don't become alarmed when our children feel the same.

Finally if your house were to be inspected what would they see in your house? The answer is that God does inspect your house and He sees what you are. It is high time that we all have a spiritual house-cleaning and God will be pleased with what He finds in our house.

(Continued From Page 14 - Lake Village Church of Christ)

we amazed at the large amount of enthusiasm being shown over these effort by both the children and adults. Work continues in this and other areas of our over-all program.

The elders are continuing to work on a 37 point program which was initiated in November, 1965. Plans are being made for a new house for the preacher's family, and the next building project, which of necessity will be sometimes soon, is for a new auditorium to seat at least 350 people.

This congregation is led by the following elders: C. W. Tillman, T. B. Tillman, and W. R. Smith. Its deacons are: Ray Tillman, Alvin McHan, and James McAffry. Its Preacher: A. J. Arnold. Its has a membership of 66 and a budget of \$240.35 each week.

There have been two baptized, two restored, and three to place membership with the Lake Village church in the past two months.

(Continued From Page 17- A Little Boy's Problem)

marched out Tommy still missed his mother and dad, but he felt that he was ready now to begin life for himself. He was beginning to understand why his parents taught him to always let God help when in trouble. As he walked through the door, Miss Bond handed him the rose and said with a smile, 'Don't forget the rose.'

(In the next story we will follow Tommy as he moves to his grandparents' home in the country.)

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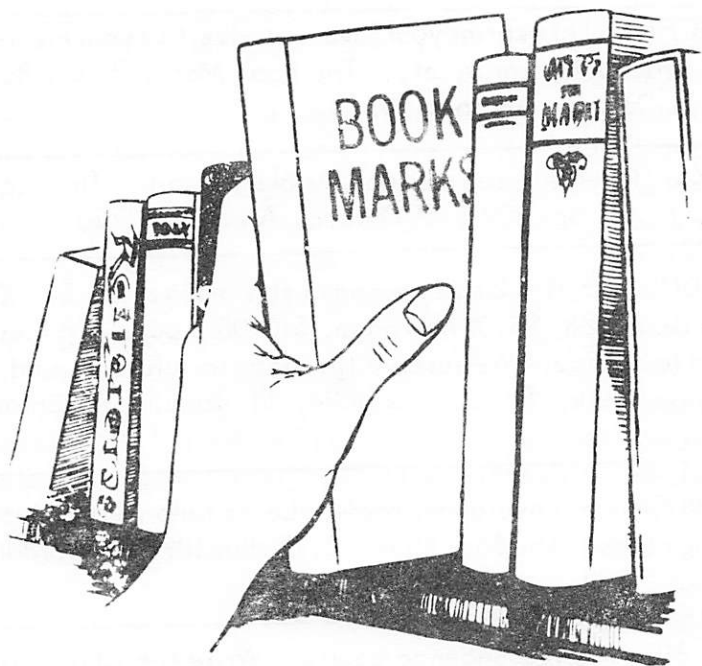
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I believe you will like his approach. The author has adopted very definite and sane principles of interpretation. His approach guarantees safety from the many fantastic and incongruous explanations that have been based upon the book. Hendriksen gets at the real meaning of John's wonderful book - After reading MORE THAN CONQUERORS I believe you will appreciate Revelation as you never have before.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS is a clear and lucid exposition of the book of Revelation. Gradually it unfolds the mysteries of the apocalypse until the Christian recognizes that we are "more than Conquerors through Christ who loved us." The reader upon completing the volume will face the chaotic world with the encouraging words still ringing in his ears, "Alleluia", for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." The price is \$3.50 from THE BOOK MARK, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730.

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ONE MUST:**

Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the Word (Heb. 11:6)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3)

Confess Christ before men (Matt. 10: 32, 33)

Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16) (Rom. 6:4; I Cor. 12:
13)



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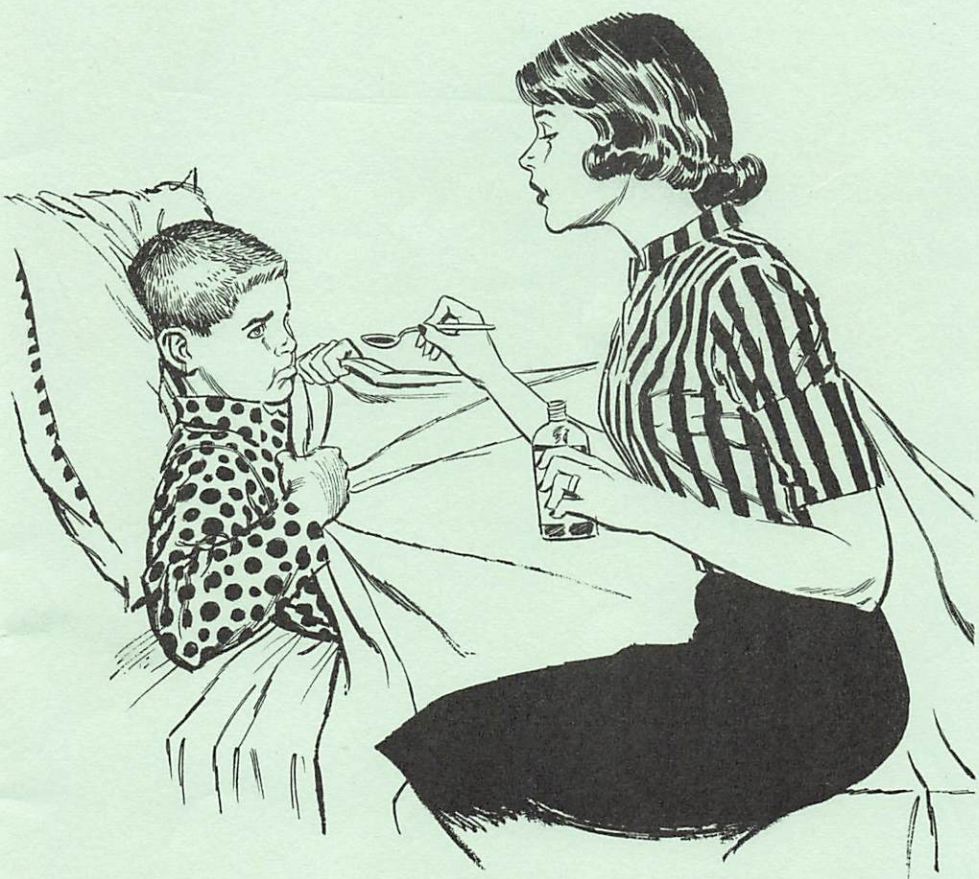
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Christian Family Magazine
P. O. Box 1094
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Magazine



Jan. - Feb. 1967

The CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE is published every two months to encourage families to put Christ in their homes and each individual to pattern his life after Him daily. Benny B. Bristow, editor, and Bill Beckham, assistant editor, publisher, and owner. SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: Write to Christian Family Magazine, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730. Please include your zip code. When sending change of address be sure to send old and new address. Subscription Rate: \$1 for 1 year. Send articles and poems typewritten and double-spaced to same address. Articles and poems are by the editor unless otherwise indicated.

From The Editor's Pen



The cool, crisp mornings and the falling of leaves remind

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human problems. Instead, His Word assures us that this life will have its burdens to carry. But He has promised to help us carry the load. The apostle Paul gave this assurance, '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.' (Rom. 8:28) So if you are concerned about what a year may bring or that you may spoil it, just remember two things that will never fail: Make each day the best and always have God on your side. If these two be applied to each day, the year will

turn out well.

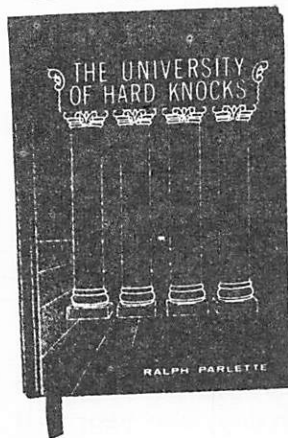
In Hallock's Illustrations we read of a college girl who, as she tacked the New Year calendar to the wall said: "It is going to be a beautiful year!" "How do you know?" asked her roommate. "Well," she replied, "a day isn't a long time, and I know it is going to be beautiful because I am going to take a day at a time and make it so, to see that every one of those 365 days get at least one beautiful thing in it through my efforts."

Her New Year motto might be, in the words of David, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Why do we heap huge mounds of years
Before us and behind,
And scorn the little days that pass
Like angels on the wind?

It is my hope and prayer that as the signs of the coming winter and the New Year appear, that each family will resolve to make this coming year the best and the happiest for your family through faithful Christian living.

I speak in behalf of the staff of this magazine in saying that we hope the issues of the "Christian Family Magazine" have helped to make your homes more Christian and truly happy.



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AN
AMERICAN
SOLDIER
SPEAKS



Rudy Shuffield*

As a whole, Americans live a far better life today than did the generations during the years of World Wars I, II, and the depression years. But we still have a war going on.

This war has been called a "war that is not a war", a "cold war", and a "police action".

Whatever it might be called it is still a blood spilling, life taking war that is far more serious and deadly in proportions than any war America has ever known.

To fulfill its obligations our government must take young men and train them to fight and kill. This is where "Uncle Sam" enters the lives of many young Christian men.

Many fathers consider it a "Disgrace" for their sons to be drafted, so they do a little fancy foot work, "Pull a few strings" and their sons mysteriously get deferments. A few of these may be valid but a majority are nothing but fraudulent claims which, if discovered, could lead to a fine or a prison term.

My dad served his time in the armed forces and when my call came, he was a little upset but I also feel that he is proud that I was both physically and mentally ready to go.

Only a fairly small percentage of men drafted into the



- ★ *Rudy Shuffield was born November 14, 1946 in Hot Springs,
- ★ Arkansas. He graduated from Lakeside High School and was employed by Bell Telephone Company before entering the army in
- ★ January of 1966. He received training at Fort Polk, Louisiana and Fort Mowmouth, New Jersey, and is now stationed at Cam Rank Bay
- ★ in Viet Nam.

service will ever see front line action because for every infantryman up front there must be at least six men behind the lines to furnish him with equipment, food, and medical aid to keep him fighting.

Because of this there are many opportunities for men to avoid actual combat even though there is an article in the forces "Code of Conduct" which states.....

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

Another article states.....

I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my GOD and the United States of America.

Included in this code are four other articles, each equally important as these two.

Christian young men who enter the armed forces, particularly the Army, will discover an entirely new way of life. Boys become MEN in the service because nothing is given that is not earned and nothing is taken that is deserved.

During my training I have noticed my own change into a stronger, healthier young man.

I have seen a few "irresponsible, juvenile delinquent, punks", as they would be known on the outside, change from rebellious teenagers into responsible, trustworthy soldiers merely because the army treated them just like everyone else. When everyone else worked they worked, when others rested they rested. I am proud to call several of these men my friends.

Young Christian men, without quotations around Christian, if raised in a true Christian atmosphere, again without quotations, can be greatly improved as far as their becoming responsible Christian adults, and, because of people and places they will see and remember, they will be better prepared to help carry out the work of the Lord.

The Armed Forces hold a lot in store for any young man, Christian, or otherwise.

—Pvt. Rudy K. Shuffield, United States Army, Viet Nam

FOR CHILDREN

TOMMY ENJOYS LIFE

Boys and girls, it's good to be back with you again for another story about a boy named Tommy. In our last story we left Tommy so happy since his Grandfather had just surprised him by giving him a beautiful pony. You can imagine how anxious Tommy was to get home and try out that pony. After Tommy had done his work, eaten the evening meal and had the devotion, he went to bed. But it became a little hard for him to go to sleep since he was so excited. However, he knew that it is important for boys and girls to get rest if they are to have good health and be strong to play the next day. So the quietness of the night and the darkness of his bedroom soon helped him creep away into sleep.



The next morning found him up bright and early doing his work and eating a good breakfast ready to ride the pony. He had wondered all the way home from the auction what to name the pony. Every name that came to his mind did not seem right, so he finally decided to wait until he got acquainted with him and a name would come. And this is the way it happened! After riding across the meadow a few times, Tommy discovered that if you loosen the reins slightly that he would fly through the air like lightening. What a thrill it was for Tommy to ride and feel the pony's little fat body so full of pep moving fast under him. The more he thought of this the more he felt that his name should be given for his speed. But the real thought came one evening when they had been for a ride and almost got caught in a storm. With fast speed they raced through the dark clouds, thunder and lightening. As they made it safely into the hall of the barn, Tommy saw a big streak of lightening and turned to the pony and said, 'that is it'. You are fast like lightening and Lightening is now your name! From this moment forward, Tommy and Lightening became the best of friends.

Tommy liked to pretend he was a cowboy riding herd on his large ranch with pastures of white faced cattle. The real thrill

came when Grandfather let him help with driving to the loading pens the cattle that were to be chosen to feed for the sale. Lightning seemed to know how to keep them all moving at once. Ever so often on Sunday one of his friends from his Bible class would spend the evening and they had fun with Lightning. At first Tommy didn't want to share his pony, but after remembering the many good lessons he had learned from the Bible and how he would be left out and neglected if his Grandparents had not cared for him, then it became a joy to share his good things with others.

Have you ever known boys and girls that were selfish? Did they look happy? No, in most cases they were sad boys and girls. But Tommy was not selfish, for he remembered that if Christ could give his life for others surely he could share too.

Tommy was getting old enough to ask many questions about life. One night as Grandfather was turning through his Bible looking for a chapter to study in family devotion, Tommy said, 'Grandfather, could I ask you a question?' Grandfather looked up from his Bible and answered, 'Sure, Son, as long as young people are asking questions to learn, it is good.' Tommy continued, 'I have wondered why we do not celebrate Christmas

where we attend church as Christ's birthday. One of my friends at school, Jim told me that where he goes to church teach that Christ was born on Christmas and they even have a program about this during church.'



Grandfather ran his fingers across his chin for a few seconds and answered, 'Tommy, I'm glad you asked that, because there is

a reason why we don't. But before giving this reason let me make something clear—we believe every word of the Bible about Christ being born and because we don't keep Christmas as his birthday, doesn't mean for a moment that we don't believe in Christ's birth. But the plain facts are that no one on earth knows the date Christ was born. Neither is there a scripture in

the whole Bible that gives us a command or example to even celebrate his birthday. The only thing that Jesus asked his followers to do was to remember his death by eating the bread and drinking the fruit of the vine in remembrance of his body and blood. And as you know, this we do every Lord's day.'

Grandfather could see that Tommy had a question, so he paused for him to speak. 'But Grandfather, if Christmas is not found in the Bible, where did it come from?' How pleased was Grandfather to see that his fine boy Tommy was growing up and wanting to learn. Grandfather raised his finger and said, 'Now we are getting to the heart of the question. Here in the back of my Bible I have a list of quotes from encyclopedia books. Some of the words are a bit hard for you, but I will try to sum up what they say.¹ They say that no one knows when Christ was born for neither the Bible or man's history gives the date. They tell us that there is no record that the early Christians during the first three centuries celebrated it, and that it was borrowed from the heathens, many years after Christ, who celebrated their sun god on December 25th.'

He continued as Tommy listened, 'this doesn't mean that we do not keep this as a National Holiday. It is a beautiful season of the year and it seems that man is drawn closer together more than any other time. But since, in this life, we want to do exactly what God commands in his Word, we do not keep this holiday as the birthday of Christ.'

Tommy smiled and said, 'Grandfather, you have been a great help to me.' And from this time forward, Tommy studied hard to find the truth on all subjects. For it would not be many more months until he would be old enough to become a Christian and be a worker in the church. Remember boys and girls that doing right will always make you happy and you will enjoy life.

—Editor, Benny Bristow

¹ COLLIER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA "It is impossible to determine the exact date of the birth of Christ, either from the evidence of the gospel, or from any sound tradition."

LINCOLN LIBRARY OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION "December 25 was already a festive day for the sun god Mithra and appealed to the Christians as an appropriate date to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the 'Light of the World'."

AMERICANA "The celebration was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, since the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth."





Is there a season for the spirit of giving? If there is such a thing as a season where people have the spirit of giving perhaps it would be in the month of December. Although I don't believe in such a season I will admit that December is a month when we notice and observe more outward expressions of such a spirit which without a doubt has been motivated by a love that has existed not only throughout the year but perhaps for many years. Of course this love has been expressed daily in many ways but we just didn't notice.

December is a month when we observe people spending a lot of time and effort shopping and trying to choose the right gifts to express their love. It is a season when you see men in awkward places. It reminds me of the old saying "As clumsy as a bull in a china closet". They are in a sea of feminine things, frills, laces, and bows, and they never seem to get past the over-anxious saleslady that holds all of those tiny bottles one at a time to your nose for you to try to decide which smells the best. Bottles so tiny, and oh, so expensive that you dare not try to hold them yourself.

For most stores, sales are greater this month than any other month in the year. Many people save all year for this occasion, others go in debt for a year. It is a joint effort for mom and dad to prepare for the children, grandmas, grandpas, in-laws, and out-laws. And here is where all funds available are exhausted. But the wife has learned to prepare for this and all year long she has done without personal things that she really needed, and squeezed the old family budget, regularly, so she could buy that gift she knew was wanted by that one who is so near and dear to her heart. The husband too, has learned to

prepare, perhaps all year he has saved a little from his lunch money and passed up coffee breaks and when he went to buy that much needed pair of shoes or other necessities he selected a cheaper pair or quality so he would have the means to express his love for his wife, so near and dear to him. And you know what happens then? He becomes extravagant when he goes to choose that gift, and usually buys something his wife doesn't want or have any need for whatsoever. But she readily accepts it, very much so, because she knows it is an expression of love from the one who has already completely given himself to her. These gifts were not given to receive but to express an existing love.

Giving is a yardstick that measures our love. Finite man cannot begin to measure the love God had for him. A love so great that he gave His only Son. Certainly we had no right to demand it of Him. We did not or cannot in any way earn it. It was a gift. A gift that expressed His great love for man. There is no greater love than the giving of a righteous Son, an only son for a sinful man. God did not give to receive He gave to express His great love for man. (John 3:16). An infinite God, creator of all things, has no need for gifts from man. But He knows that when you give yourself to Him completely, because of love, that that love will be expressed in word and deed at every opportunity. I believe it is impossible to separate love and giving.

MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Man at his best is a selfish creature and in many cases after three score and ten years he has not fully realized that there is more of everything good in giving than in receiving.

As I look back over the years to my childhood I remember when people began to buy radios in our community. It took a special table, a two tier, one to hold all of the batteries, big, little, wet, and dry cell, with red, yellow, and black wires, and the top tier for the radio. The antenna or air line was so high it would snag a modern day jet bomber on a low flying maneuver. The neighbors would meet on Friday and Saturday nights in the home with the new radio to hear programs like Lum and Abner, Jack Benny, The Screaming Door, Baby Snooks, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. (Do you recall these

programs of yesteryear?) Well, anyway a new toy was on the market, Charlie McCarthy. You wound him up and he would walk and open and close his mouth as if he was talking. My sister bought one as a gift for me for some occasion. She bought it several weeks before she planned to give it to me. As a child I enjoyed this gift very much but now I can look back and know that those who gave the gift received more pleasure from it than I. During the weeks before I received the gift there seemed to be a big family secret with one member left out, Me! I would see my mother or sister laughing and look around to see what was so funny and catch dad acting like Charlie McCarthy, taking short steps and working his mouth but not saying anything. I couldn't figure what it was all about until I received the gift.

Yes, a simple illustration but the basic facts are there. When giving is motivated by love it is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

Certainly giving is a grace we must grow in. Give it some serious thought, pray about it, and let that love be expressed in word and deed. Let the world know you love God and Jesus. Let your family know you love them. Don't take them for granted. Tell them you love them and show them that you mean it by being interested in what they are interested in, be kind, understanding, courteous, and forgiving. Do you open the car door for your wife or do you let her catch the car on the run? Be interested in your fellowman's welfare.

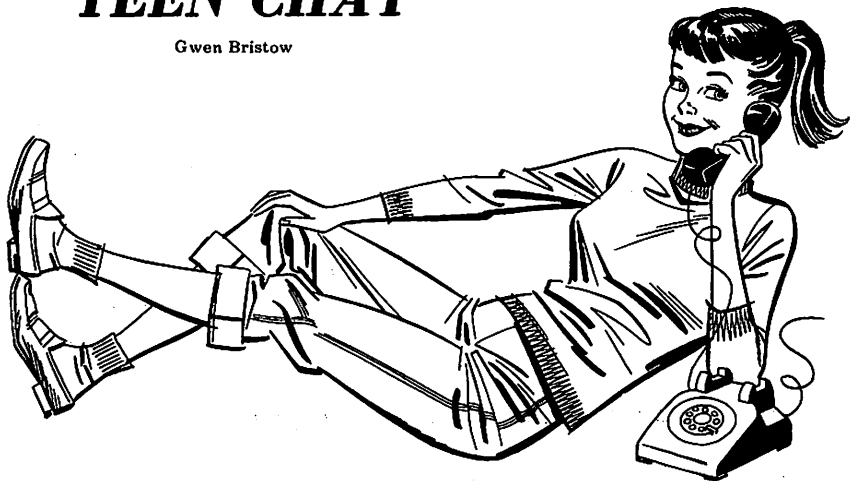
I believe it is possible to have a love so great that giving becomes spontaneous as the need arises.

Once a young woman risk her life and dashed into the path of a speeding car to save the life of a child. A man who saw it was commending her with many words about what a noble thing she had done. The young woman looked confused and as she turned to leave he heard her say, "he was my son".

The judgment scene in Matthew twenty-five, Jesus reminds the righteous of some giving they had done but did not remember. Yes it is possible to have a love so great that giving becomes a part of us. May this be our goal as individuals and may God grant us the wisdom and power to achieve this goal of great love. A great love for God first, and man second.

TEEN CHAT

Gwen Bristow



RECIPE FOR FRIENDS

"Going once, going twice, going three times, and Sold," exclaims an Auctioneer as he offers each item for sale. Most everything in this life can be bought at some price, but true friendship cannot be purchased. We can be sure that this world, without friends, would be a desolate place in which to live. Yet, we find hundreds of lonely unhappy teen-agers who commit suicide yearly who don't seem to find life worth living; who felt they were all alone with too many burdens to bear. When reading of such events in our newspapers, one can't help from wondering if these persons had even one friend or if they were ever a friend to someone else.

To be a true Christian means friendliness. Friendship is a precious thing—too precious to be taken so lightly by our fast moving time. No boy or girl can be an Island, isolated from the world to stand alone. That is what friends are worth—to share with us the happy events of our life, and be there to bring us comfort and assurance when the going gets rough.

"The best way to have a friend, is to be a friend." But do you make the mistake of being selfish or self centered and making no effort to be of service to others? How many of you find yourself all wrapped up in a small group or "click" not letting

others come in to be a part of your own private little world? And are you letting yourself become stagnant with the same little group and not finding new friends? To have true friends is not a matter of chance, but it is due to your own character and actions that draw others to you. If you don't possess this magnetism or need to improve it, then it is hoped that the following recipe will assist you in broadening FRIENDSHIP:

First, cream well a cup of friendliness to those about you who seem to go unnoticed or undesired by others. Who knows, you may discover a jewel among the group—a true loyal companion for life. Remember that Christ searched forth always to those who seemed rejected.

Next, stir in a handful of kindness to those who may act unfriendly, shy, or even rude. Often a person's unfriendliness or rudeness may be a deep personal problem that could be helped if only someone would show an interest in them. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). Last having someone to talk to can certainly help to ease the mind's burdens and help one to try and improve their personality.

Tenderly mix well 'two Cups of Love' to those who appear to be your enemies. Christ says, "pray for those that despitefully use you". (This requires love and is probably the hardest task in using this recipe). It is an easy thing to love those who already love you, but the true test comes when it's loving those who have hurt you by words or acts.

Next, blend this all together with a dash of Loyalty to everyone. Prove to them you can be trusted not to reveal secrets and personal confidences that they want kept. Talebearing is a destructive weapon.

Last, sprinkle generously lots and lots of understanding and a forgiving nature. Who can say 'I am perfect.'? Regardless of age, every one will make mistakes and continue to have faults. "A friend is someone who knows your faults

and goes right on liking you, while trying to influence you to do what is right.

Now bake this in a moderately warm heart for the rest of your life, and it will make a guaranteed product—**FRIENDS** for a life time.

It has been said that "A FRIEND IS A PRESENT YOU GIVE YOURSELF". Then why not during the coming New Year give yourself this precious gift?

JOE WAS A GOOD FELLOW

He provided well for his family. He was a good father and husband. He paid his debts and gave to charity. He was fair in his business dealings. He was a good citizen. He left his family with a comfortable income and a good home.

There were many flowers and lots of friends. The preacher made a nice talk about Joe's good qualities, but he didn't have much to say about Joe's hereafter. You see, Joe was not a Christian. Religion was "for little children, or perhaps women," but not for him. So Joe ignored God in his life; he didn't obey His will; he didn't talk to Him; he made no effort to become a Christian, or to worship and serve as a Christian should. If there was a hereafter, he trusted in his own goodness to carry him through.

He had no promise that it would. He just figured it out that way.

But Joe was guilty of sin, even as you and I. There were some things that he did when he was younger that he didn't like to think about, and he tried to avoid those mistakes since then. But those sins were committed and they injured others and himself, and the sins and the injuries still stand on Joe's record.

He was much like Cornelius, who in some respects was better than Joe (Acts 10:1,2). But the goodness of Cornelius was not enough to save him. He, too, had to hear words whereby he and his house could be saved (Acts 11:14). Neither Joe nor Cornelius could be saved without Christ, for Jesus himself said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Joe could have put his faith in Christ, repented of his sins and been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). He could have been forgiven by the Son of God who gave His life for that very purpose, to forgive and blot out, for those that obey Him, the sins that mortals cannot correct. But he didn't. He just figured out a way of his own,* and now he is gone -- gone to meet his Maker, the one he ignored all his life. Joe had provided for almost everything except the main thing.

Well, it is all over for Joe. But at the funeral there were other Joes and Harrys and Petes and Sues and Marthas and Janes just like him who some day will attend their own funerals. Will they be ready? It all depends on what they do about it now. "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12)

(selected)

MEET YOUR BRETHREN



MAUL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST by D. C. DuBois

The Maul Road Church of Christ in Camden, Arkansas has a colorful history. On August 1, 1965 many dreams became realities when they moved into a new structure at 1425 Maul Road valued in excess of \$175,000.00. Their history however begins long before this.

In October of 1920, the first meeting of the church of Christ in the city of Camden was held in the borrowed facilities of a Jewish Synagogue. Brother R. L. Collie delivered the first sermon to approximately twenty people and the work of the Lord's church in this South Arkansas city was begun.

There followed a period of labor and real sacrifice for the stalwart saints who composed that first group. Nothing came easy. Money was scarce, and encouragement was weak. Their tears and efforts however bore fruit.

The Catholic Church in Camden was moving to a new location about this time and their facilities were purchased at 347 Madison Avenue for the sum of \$2,000.00. Here the church met for a time with Bro. Williford W. Heflin serving as the first located preacher.

In 1926 the frame structure of the old building purchased from the Catholics was dismantled and a new brick building was

erected in the same location at a cost of \$10,000.00. This building was constructed by Reynolds and Son, Contractors in Camden. During the time the building was being dismantled the church met in the Ouachita County Courthouse.

On July 10, 1927 the opening services were held in the new building. J. N. Armstrong, then president of Harding College, was speaker for the occasion. James E. Laird of Arkansas Christian Orphans Home of Ft. Smith spoke that night. Also present that day in behalf of the city was Luther Ellison, secretary of the Camden Chamber of Commerce and Curtis H. Hurley, editor of the Evening News. It was a big day, and brethren came from far and near.

The church labored at this location for many years assisting others in many places; making its mark in the passing pages of history. The name of the Madison Street Church of Christ came to be known by brethren far and near. A host of some of the best known and best loved men in the brotherhood stood in her pulpit at one time or another in meetings or local work. Many of their names are remembered and many long since passed from memory because of the lack of recorded history. It is for this reason, for fear of slighting some, that their names are not given. All were loved and did their part.

In 1963 serious plans began to be made to construct another building. This was necessary because of growth, but room was limited at that location. For this reason the decision was made to build at another location on Maul Road where the church had purchased two and one-half acres of land some time before. Mr. John B. Abbott of El Dorado, Arkansas was employed as architect and designer.

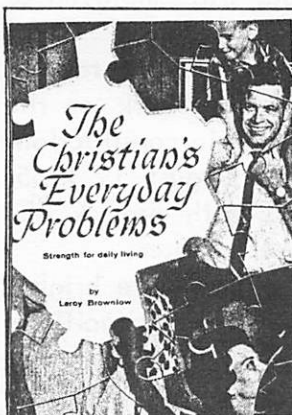
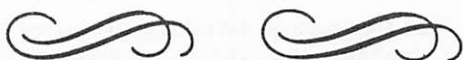
On September 11, 1964 a contract was awarded to Mr. Leon Shankle, local contractor in Camden and work on the building was begun. Eleven months were taken in construction. The church moved into its new location on August 1, 1965. Open house was held September 5, 1965 with Bro. V. E. Howard, nationally known evangelist as guest speaker.

The prospects for the church at Maul Road are bright. Growth has been experienced. Their new plant offers facilities with which to work. The new building has an auditorium that will seat five hundred people, and is carpeted from wall to

wall. It has fifteen classrooms, nursery, preacher's study, library and conference room, secretarial office and a kitchen. One of the classrooms is a large room which serves for utility purposes as needed by the church.

The Maul Road Church is making long range plans which include support of a mission program all their own, as well as facilities for the care of orphan children. They are engaged in an active program of visitation and personal work which is promising and bearing fruit. In cooperation with the Cullendale Church of Christ and the Church of Christ which meets at Stephens, Arkansas they are presently helping to conduct the daily radio program "Sound Doctrine" over Radio Station KAMD, 91 on your dial each day, Monday through Friday at 2:00 P.M.

The work of the church is under the supervision of F. D. Fincher, A. F. Byrd, and J. D. Reaves who are elders. These men are assisted by Leo Graham, Hershel Speer, and Walter Ainsworth who are deacons. D. C. DuBois is their local evangelist. Brother DuBois has been with the church since the beginning of their building program in 1963, and is one of the speakers on the radio program.



THE CHRISTIAN'S EVERYDAY PROBLEMS

By Leroy Brownlow. A series of studies on our daily problems and their solutions. Practical lessons dealing with man's needs seven days a week. Aware of the growing pressures and complications of life, we have felt it very timely to present to the Bible-studying public this series of studies. Designed for all Bible classes of men women and young people. Each chapter has a review exercise. Limp binding \$1 each, \$11 dozen. Order from THE BOOK MARK, P.O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Ark. 71730

RESTORING BROKEN HOMES

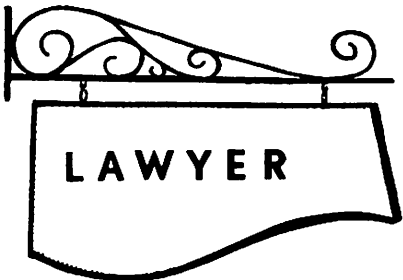
We are living in a fast moving society which often creates pressures that later in our lives cause great regrets. Young people are thrown together in the experiences of dating, and

the pressures of society say to them— get married! In too many cases, couples follow suit without ever stopping to consider the seriousness of marriage and the home. Also, society has loose ideals about divorce. If it doesn't work out we can always get a divorce,



is the modern cry. Some think of breaking marriages as they think of breaking up with a dating partner. But the couples that marry and find themselves facing divorce, learn the hard way, that the cry of society is wrong. For in many cases, children enter the relationship, and this makes the problem more acute.

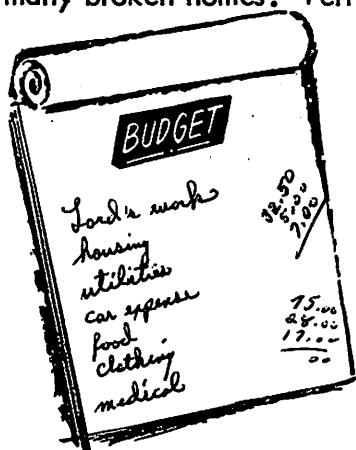
Therefore, many who marry thinking they can get a divorce if it doesn't work out, learn that they must save their marriage. At this point, they visit a marriage counselor or their minister wanting help in restoring their marriage. Perhaps you are ready to ask whether or not such advisors are always successful? The answer is 'No', but on the other hand, I am happy to say that many marriages are saved! In fact, there are couples happily married today that at one time had given up all hopes.



When a couple seeks help, there is one thing they must have if they save their marriage—each party must WANT to save the marriage. If this is lacking, the odds are against them. May we talk about three rules that I personally suggest when trying to save a broken home. There are others, but these seem to have been my greatest help:

I. SET UP A FAMILY BUDGET — BE FAIR WITH EACH OTHER

Many of the authorities tell us that money is at the root of many broken homes. Perhaps the wife is accustomed to more



spending and higher living since father has had years to accumulate and advance in his work. However, her young husband must work himself up in life and it requires all the money just for the essentials. Or the husband may feel that since he earns the check at work and the wife just stays at home seeing to things, that he is entitled to most of the money. Or they may be trying to live above their means by too

much credit spending, expensive sports, hobbies, and etc. These are only a few of the many problems that arise from money.

Now friends, there is no magic formula that will solve all of these problems. There is not a Witch that can wiggle her nose and puff them all away. But there are two principles that will help if applied—set up a family budget and be fair with each other. The reason why some people think money grows on trees is because they never realize its value or where it is spent. Each couple or family should sit down together and figure out what must be spent first for essentials. One can get fairly accurate estimates of such things as utilities, medical, housing, insurance, church contribution, car and expense, food, clothing, and allowances. Then if there is money left, the whole family can plan its use together. This budget will total a certain amount each week that should be considered already spent

and should never be borrowed. A family that does not have to worry about whether or not they can meet the essential bills, has a better chance for happiness. When bills are paid, there is a good feeling that comes from being honest and respected by the community.

Being fair with each other is just another way of saying—practice the golden rule.

II. DO THINGS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

How sad it is to see a husband and wife that live separate lives and leave their children loose to make it on their own. A house that is divided will not stand. The father and mother should set an example of unity and togetherness before their children. How can we expect our children to get along if we can't ourselves. This does not mean that a family will not have disagreements—yes, even some arguments, but these should be guarded against as much as possible. I tell my children when they get mad at each other that for every minute they are mad, they lose 60 seconds of happiness.

Have you ever seen a heated argument accomplish anything? Usually the parties angry will not even admit truths and are far from being humble. Then instead of fighting together, do things together and enjoy life as a family.



III. BECOME A RELIGIOUS FAMILY

Now we come to the last and greatest help in restoring a broken home—become a religious family. True religion and

families compliment each other. In fact, in the majority of cases when a marriage is on the rocks, one or both of the parties have not practiced true Christianity. What usually precedes a divorce? The answer, loss of tempers, fighting, cruelty, cursing and bad name calling, selfishness, inconsiderate, dishonesty and in some cases unfaithfulness, even to the point of adultery. Can't we all see that this is just the opposite of Christianity? Two people who are Christians will calmly discuss their problems without uncontrollable tempers, fighting, cursing, and name calling. Their surrendered life to Christ will cause them to resist temptations of unfaithfulness. These will not dissolve all difficulties, but they will prepare those concerned to sincerely meet their problems and begin working them out.

Then too, being Christian involves much of your time in serving others. It gives you something worthwhile to do together. Some marriages fail because the couples feel that they are wasting their lives. The wife will say, 'I am no more than a slave or maid—all I ever do is just work for this family.' The man may say, 'My only lot in life is just to bring home the money—work seems to be my middle name.' Christianity causes man to glorify God by helping others in need, both physical and spiritual,



and gives one a genuine hope of an eternal bliss with God. Yes, being a religious family will help restore a broken home.

But someone says, 'I tried religion and it

didn't help. May we ask such a person if they really gave their all to Christ? Or did they just have enough religion to make them miserable? We are talking about a completely surrendered life—all the way for Christ. This is the kind of Christianity that will help you. Why not then consider your lives as a team, working, playing and worshipping together and this will truly be a step in restoring or preventing a broken home.

—Benny Bristow

—Editor

An open letter to my husband.....



“UNTO THEE I BRING”

Pat Beckham

December 25, 1949 our first real holiday together. All the gifts were distributed but there was no gift for me. How disappointing, but then from behind the sofa you pulled a large package beautifully wrapped and handed it to me. After opening several inner packages I finally came to THE package and inside was a beautiful gold wristwatch. I had never owned a wristwatch and since it was a present from you it was doubly treasured.

Many times since that first holiday together I have remembered back, still with a thrill. But, all of our holidays have not been such happy ones. Some have been spent in sickness, sorrow and grief, but we have always been together.

As this holiday season draws nearer I have let my mind wander back over the past seventeen years to see what I have brought you.

I feel sure that you know I have brought all the love a woman could possess for a man to you. I feel that many times this love has sustained us but I have also brought many other things. I have brought sorrow to you when I have been ill. I have brought laughter over some small prank. I have brought disappointment when I fell short of what you expected from me. I have brought joy and delight when I have accomplished things we both knew I was capable of doing. I have brought tears when I failed to accomplish things I really wanted to do. I have brought pain to you when I was in pain for our lives have become so intermingled that we are no longer complete, one without the other. You are my better self, for when things don't go right I know that you will soon make it so.

What will December 25, 1966 bring? We surely don't know but as long as we are together let come what may. For unto thee I shall always bring my love.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning has stated so eloquently my

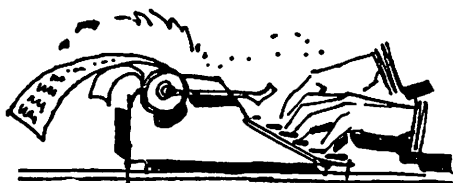
feelings for you that I shall add her poem to my letter.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and Ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's
faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, — I love thee with the
breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! — and, if God
choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

Happy holiday,
Pat



Favorite poems.....

HOME

They say "Home is where the heart is".

I say:

It's where a mother stills her baby in the middle of the night.

It's where bright kitchen curtains filter thru the light.

It's where love is always present in a special sort of way.

It's where prayers are said at bedtime and the dawning of the day.

It's where little hurts are mended before they grow enough,

to break the ties of love and thereby fix a gulf,

that separates man from man, and also man from God.

Well, I guess HOME is where the heart is,

If that heart is with God.

— Violet Cook





Charles Jackson*

BIBLE

LANDS

1966

On June 27, 1966 I assembled with fourteen others for the first time in the TWA lounge at Kennedy International Airport in New York City to begin a four and one-half week tour of the Bible lands. We boarded a jet plane and made a night flight across the Atlantic to London. In mentioning the places visited, we will be limited to only a word or two. Books have been written concerning similar tours but it is our intention to be concise and to the point.

London is rich in history and a joy to visit. Trafalgar Square, Pall Mall, Piccadilly Circus are busy business sections in the heart of town. Hyde Park is very green and much used especially during the lunch hour. And it is indeed safe at night. The precision drill of the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace was colorful. Though it was in the middle of summer, it was very cool and winter clothing was worn by all except tourist. Average temperature was about 55 degrees.

June 30 we landed in the "Eternal City" of Rome. To know Rome is to know the genesis of Western civilization. Rome today is divided into three parts, Pagan, Christian, and Modern Rome. From this city Rome ruled her vast empire from Britain



*Charles T. Jackson was born June 14, 1936 in Dierks, Arkansas. He attended Dierks Public Schools and is a graduate of Harding College with a major in Bible. He is married to the former Mary Kathryn Reid and they are the parents of two sons. Charles worked with the Church in Murfreesboro, Arkansas for over four years and has been with the College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, Arkansas since October 1965.

to India for 500 years. Here Julius Caesar's body was cremated and Mark Antony gave his funeral oration. One can stand at Titus' arch and read the story depicted in sculptures of his victory over the city of the Jews. Ancient Rome's largest and best known building is the Colosseum, built in 80 A.D. Here the death of thousands of beasts, pagan gladiators, and Christian martyrs were witnessed by emperors and populace until 404 A.D. ending a 600 year tradition.

Dominating the city of Athens is the Acropolis. On the summit stands the ruins of "the world's most perfect building"—the Parthenon, temple of Athen's patron goddess, Athena. Most of these buildings to be seen on this rock mountain date back to the golden age of Greece—the age of Pericles—about 430 B.C. A lower hill borders the Acropolis on the west including the Areopagus or Mar's Hill scene of Paul's famous sermon (Acts 17). At the base of the Acropolis to the south is the theatre of Dionysius in which the great tragedies and comedies of classical Greece were enacted.

Corinth is reached by a 40 mile scenic drive along the seacoast and across the canal. To be seen in ruins is the market place where idol's meat was sold, the "Bema" where Paul was brought before Gallio concerning a city disturbance.

In Cairo one seems in another world; indeed it is—the Moslem world. Egyptian history revolves around two political centers: Memphis, twelve miles from Cairo, was the capital of lower Egypt while Thebes was captial of upper (south) Egypt. The greatest Pharaohs were rulers of both lower and upper Egypt. Here, after being buried in the sands for centuries, may be seen the statues of Rameses II. The huge sphinx of alabaster has the body of a lion and the head of Pharaoh. The most important cemetery in Egypt lies two miles distant. The Pyramids were simply tombs of the Pharaohs. Of the three Giza pyramids the largest is the tomb of Cheops (2690 B.C.) built with meticulous precision and, until recently the largest structure ever erected by man. It took 100,000 men 20 years to build. It stands 450 feet high and covers 13 acres. It's purpose was to preserve the king's mummy.

July 6, late afternoon, we departed by means of desert taxi for Suez on the Red Sea. After an overnight in Suez or Suz as the city is called, we crossed the Suez canal by chain

ferry and drove across sandy desert toward Mount Sinai. Half way to Mt. Sinai we stopped for lunch at the Feran Oasis in the middle of the wilderness which also is the site where Israel fought the Amalekites. We stayed at St. Catherine's Monastery for some three days. Early one morning camels were hired and we began the ascent of the mountain, however, we walked the last half up Moses' Mount. It's highest peak is 8,500 feet.

Beirut is an ancient Phoenician port town and now the chief commercial city of Lebanon. Large ocean-going ships dock here and cargo is shipped overland to all points east. In Beirut we found the American University, the largest American institution of learning outside the U.S.A.

Down the Mediterranean coastline southward is Tyre. Under Solomon we hear of Israel's taking part in maritime trade. This of course required relations with King Hiram of Tyre, who furnished Solomon's trading fleet with expert Phoenician seamen; it was also Hiram who supplied him with cedar wood and artisans for his building projects. Nearby is Sidon.

Northward is Byblos or Gebal as called by the Phoenicians. Our word "Bible" is derived from Biblos and our word "paper" is derived from papyrus, both came from this ancient city. From this seaport city Hiram sent material that went into the construction of the Temple of Solomon.

In North Lebanon and opposite the isle of Cyprus is Ugarit or Ras Shamra. A great library was discovered here between the temples of Baal and Dagon. These clay tablets date from the 15th century B.C. One rite is mentioned in the Ras Shamra tablets in which the seething of a kid in milk is prescribed as an item in the magical technique for producing early rains. This procedure is prohibited by the Jews in Exodus 23:19, 34:26.

Antioch of Syris (now in Turkey) was once known as the "Queen of the East". It is located on the Orontes River, about 21 miles from the sea. Today Antioch is a quiet, backward city of 30,000. Antioch in New Testament days experienced many "firsts". The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. None of her former self remains, this city of Paul that was once the meeting place of all civilizations and the third city of the Roman Empire.

From Beirut, across the Lebanese mountains to the east lies

the ancient city of Baalbeck. The ancient temples here took ten generations of slaves numbering 100,000 to build. Outside the ancient temples, where sacrifices were offered to pagan gods, barefooted children carry small lambs in their arms and boys hold camels with a rope looking for camera-carrying tourist who want atmosphere for a picture. The columns of the Temple of Jupiter, which dominate the Baalbeck of today, are 60 feet high. They were quarried in Egypt long ago and came to this place.....how, no one knows. Three stones in the temple are the biggest ever used by man in building, each weighing about 750 tons. The other two temples at Baalbeck are of Bacchus and Venus. Baalbeck was constructed about the second century A.D.

Damascus shows the wear of many centuries and rightly so for it is one of the world's oldest cities. It is an oasis in the desert watered by the Abanah and Pharpar rivers rising at the foot of Mt. Hermon which is always snow-capped. Our hotel was on the bank of the Abanah. We know Damascus best as the place of Saul's conversion. We visited the street called Straight which is about two miles long and lined with bazaars selling silver and leather goods. We toured a Damascus linen and brocade factory and on this same street tradition says Judas lived with whom Paul stayed for three days. A Mosque was visited which supposedly housed the body of John the Baptist.

Traveling south of the east side of the Jordan we came to Amman, Jordan, the capitol of the Heshemite Kingdom. Amman is on what was the "kings highway", a route that by tradition was in use in Abraham's day. Turning west we came to the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea, which is 1292 feet below sea level. After a night at the Dead Sea Hotel our bus carried us 255 miles south through ancient Moabite country to the rock city of Petra. Riding horses through a two mile gap in a mountain one enters a valley encircled by mountains that have 7,000 known caves plus numerous tombs and temples. Petra is believed to have been inhabited at one time by the Amorites, Edomites, and Moabites. But the beautiful carvings of stone were done by an Arab tribe known as Nabathaeans. It is considered the eighth wonder of the world.

Returning northward we stopped to experience Moses' view

of the Promised Land from Mount Nebo. One can only see a small portion of the lower Jordan valley and the Dead Sea.

At the northwest corner of the Dead Sea up from the flat shoreline are the ruins of rock buildings which made up the Essene community. It is believed the people wrote and later hid the well known Dead Sea Scrolls. The hills to the west of the community are honeycombed with caves which have produced hundreds of scrolls and fragments.

Twelve miles away is Jericho, the city of the palms, and well named for it has many date palms growing along the streets. Here we saw the spring which Elijah turned from bitter to sweet, a portion of an ancient wall and tower dating back to Israel's day. In the background can be seen the traditional mountain of temptation into which Jesus was driven by the Spirit following his baptism in the Jordan which is only about five miles away.

After wandering through what was Palestine for weeks and knowing the appointed day you are to arrive in Jerusalem and when the time comes to begin ascending the hills to the elevated city of the Jews, one becomes a bit excited. After a brief visit only two miles away in Bethany and Lazarus' tomb, the bus reached the top of the Mount of Olives and laid out to the west was most all of Jerusalem to be seen at once. Jerusalem dates back more than two milleniums B.C. and is over thirty miles east of the Mediterranean Sea and twenty miles west of the north end of the Dead Sea. Set high on the hills of Judah access to the city is hampered by deep ravines except on the north. To the east is the ridge of Olivet from which our Lord ascended to heaven, the eastern valley is Kidron, the western is now called Wadial-Rababi and was probably the valley of Hinnon. Biblical sites inside the city are too numerous to name. Perhaps among the next interesting are the traditional sites of Golgotha, the Garden Tomb, the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa or way of sorrow which Jesus traveled from Pilate's court to the place of crucifixion. Nothing remains of the Temple except some foundation stones and a few stones that were later used in building a wall, now called the Wailing Wall.

Only about six miles south of Jerusalem is the little town

of Bethlehem. Here we saw the tomb of Rachel and on the outskirts of town was suggested to us the shepherd's field and the field of Boaz. On further south we came to Hebron where Abraham lived so long and here was the Cave of Machpelah, the burial place of Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph and Leah. Nearby were "Abraham's Oaks" where the angels announced to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son.

Turning north again, we came to Jacob's well from which Jesus drank. It is 120 feet deep and is good to drink. Farther north is Shechem and the city of Samaria. Here is the ruined ivory palace of Ahab and Jezebel. Before reaching the Sea of Galilee, we passed through the valley of Jezreel, Maggido, the city of Nain, Cana, and Nazareth. The Sea of Galilee is a perfectly clear body of water and is quite cold. Capernaum and Magadala lie in ruins on her banks.

As time was running out we began to make our way south again along the coast of the Mediterranean passing through Caesarea, the home of the first gentile convert, spending a night in Haifa, the most modern and industrialized city in Israel. At Tel Aviv (which is ancient Joppa) myself and two other fellow-travelers board a plane for Paris for a brief two-day visit and then across the Atlantic again homeward.

Traveling through the Bible Lands was a tremendous experience to say the least. I can readily see that my trip will be a useful tool in studying the Bible. It gives one perspective and the places visited serve as nails on which to hang events that one reads about in the Scriptures. And, like so many other things, one has difficulty imparting his experiences to another. Every Bible student needs to go himself.



A Circle of Love

HE DREW A CIRCLE that shut me out . . . Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout . . . But love and I had the wit to win . . . We drew a circle that took him in.

—*Author Unknown*

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TO:

CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Magazine



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The CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAGAZINE is published every two months to encourage families to put Christ in their homes and each individual to pattern his life after Him daily. Benny B. Bristow, editor, and Bill Beckham, assistant editor, publisher, and owner. SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: Write to Christian Family Magazine, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730. Please include your zip code. When sending change of address be sure to send old and new address. Subscription Rate: \$1 for 1 year. Send articles and poems typewritten and double-spaced to same address. Articles and poems are by the editor unless otherwise indicated.

From

The

Editor's



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you. She looked him in the eye and said, "Well Pa, I'm tired of you too!" Wouldn't you say this was a case of misun-

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*Our editor of the Christian Family Magazine, Benny Bristow, was born Dec. 23, 1932 at Lynn, Ark. He attended college at Harding, Tyler Jr. College, and Louisiana Tech, working toward a double degree in Bible and elementary education. He has worked full time with congregations of the Lord's church in Ind., Tex., La., and at the present time with the Hillsboro St. Church in El Dorado, Ark. In 1956 at Winnsboro, Tex., Bro. Bristow's family and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Susie Shaw, bought 118 acres of wooded land and founded Camp Deer Run Youth Encampment. The summer of 1959 he directed the first session of camp and served as President of the Board of Directors until 1962. He has written camp and Bible School literature in addition to several books, the most recent being a Wed. night studybook "Traveling With Paul." After working with young people during years of preaching and being the father of two daughters he finds it a pleasure writing and selecting articles for this magazine.

derstanding?

Have you ever told your children that they could not do a certain thing and when they asked you why not, you told them simply because you said they couldn't? Are we to exercise authority over our children just because we can? Do they understand such a reason? Many youth have turned away mad at their parents and whispered bad things to themselves, because no real reason was given. Yet on the other hand, have you ever said 'No' to your children and explained with love and sincerity why you said 'No' and they walked away disappointed, but at least they knew why you said 'No'?

Doctors tell us that children are born with needs and continue to have them until death. Oh how disappointing it is when these needs are not met. Our children have a need to be understood. Not just at times when parents are especially sentimental, nor just when children are inactive due to illness, but at each living moment of their lives. Let's take more time with our children and try harder to understand their needs, and we will be surprised how easy it will become to understand each other.



PRACTICAL RULES

For a Happy Married Life

Never both be angry at once.

Never talk AT one another, either alone or in company.

Never speak loudly to one another unless the house is on fire.

Let each one strive to yield oftenest to the wishes of the other.

Let self-denial be the daily aim and practice of each.

Never taunt with a past mistake.

Neglect the whole world besides rather than one another.

Never make a remark at the expense of each other.

Never part for a day without loving words to think of during absence.

Never meet without a loving welcome.

Never let the sun go down upon any anger or grievance.

Never forget the happy hours of early love.

Never forget that marriage is ordained of God, and that his blessing alone can make it what it should be.

FOR CHILDREN

TOMMY AND THE BIG SURPRISE

The days and nights have rushed by and here it is time to learn more about a good boy named Tommy and his faithful grandparents. In our last story, we left Tommy and his grandfather at the Auction Barn where Tommy was bubbling over with joy because Grandfather had promised him a surprise. Do you remember how it feels to know that you are going to receive a surprise? Do you remember how thrilling it is when your eyes



first see the surprise? Then you will know what is happening to Tommy.

As they pulled into the parking lot of the Auction Barn, Tommy's eyes saw trucks in every direction filled with all types of animals, cows were bawling, sheep bleating, and hogs squealing as each farmer awaited his turn to back up to the loading chute. Grandfather got in line and while waiting his turn, went around to check the two fine hogs he was marketing. They were so fat and fine that they reminded Tommy of the hogs he had seen at the stock show during his first year of 4-H Club work. Grandpa shouldn't have any trouble selling them since they were so nice. As they passed a little time together, Tommy asked, 'Grandfather, why do you make them so fat and pretty before selling? Wouldn't they

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buy just any kind?' Grandfather thought for a moment and then answered, 'Yes, son, they will buy anything that walks so long as it is not diseased, but there are at least two reasons why I try to bring the best. First of all, what is worth doing at all is worth doing right. The reason why so many people in life are unhappy is because they can't live with themselves. Do you know son, when we are the most pleased with ourselves?' Tommy couldn't answer right away and Grandfather continued, 'when we know we have done our best. You should never attend Sunday School without really knowing your lesson, you should never leave for school until you have really prepared. The idea of people saying, 'I don't care' will ruin the world. Tommy, you just watch the buyers from the Slaughterhouse sit up and take notice when these two hogs walk into the ring. Now I don't say this to boast, but to show you that anyone can be pleased and happy if only they will do their best.' Tommy remembered a slogan that his 4-H teacher quoted and all boys had to memorize, I WILL DO THE BEST I CAN, WITH WHAT I HAVE, WHERE I AM, TODAY. Suddenly these words had real meaning.

But while they were so busy talking, the trucks ahead had disappeared and it was near their time to unload. The next few minutes found them unloading, parking the truck, and taking their seats for the auction. Grandfather had made Tommy forget the surprise for a few minutes, but all of a sudden it came through his mind and he could hardly wait.

Finally it began. Some baby pigs came through and Tommy wondered if the surprise might be pigs, but they were sold and this was not the surprise. They were followed by many, many others including Grandfathers and after this came the cattle, sheep, and goats but still no surprise.

All of a sudden it happened! Tommy's eyes got larger as a beautiful shetland pony stepped into the ring wearing a beautiful saddle, bridle and martingale to match. These were made of hand-carved leather and trimmed with reflectors that sparkled like diamonds. His body was a beautiful reddish brown with a long hanging blonde mane and stocking feet to match. This little pony was prancing around the ring with his

head high in the air like a circus performer. Up until now the Auctioneer had found his work routine, but now it became a pleasure to sell this pony.

Tommy wasn't sure that this was the surprise, but oh how he hoped. The price climbed higher and higher as the bidding began. Finally the bidding got down to Grandfather and another man seated across the ring. When Grandfather would bid, the man would raise him. Tommy noticed a boy about his age seated by the man and he wondered if he too wanted the pony.

After the bidding climbed very high, Grandfather asked the auctioneer to hold up for a moment. Tommy became a bit shaky and Grandfather turned to Tommy and said, 'Son, this is the surprise that I wanted for you, but it looks like the man across from us wants it for his boy. Do you think we should out bid him?' This put Tommy on the spot. His first thoughts were that I want this pony and I don't care about that boy. Then he remembered the golden rule. 'Grandfather, would you talk to the man and if his boy really wants the pony, we'll let him go, but if not, I sure would like to have him.' Grandfather apologized to the Auctioneer for taking so long and asked for another minute. He walked across the ring and talked for a while to the man. Tommy waited with emotions that wanted to laugh and cry. Finally, Grandfather came back and said, 'Tommy, the boy already has a pony and this man is bidding just for profit.' Tommy's heart leaped inside as Grandfather made the final bid. The Auctioneer tapped on the stand with his gavel and smiled a big smile as he said, 'Sold to the little boy with the big blue eyes'.

At these words, Tommy leaped with joy, grabbed his grandfather around the neck for a big hug. As they turned the truck toward home with this prize in the back, Tommy told grandfather that this was the happiest day of his life.



"Ideas are very much like children. Your own are very wonderful."

A FATHER'S TORMENT

Richard E. Stephens

You stand at the fresh mound of sod as the light rain falls gently on your face. It is impossible for anyone to know which stands the most upon your brow; The rain or the tears that flow freely down your face. The preacher has spoken his last words and the small tearful group begins to depart from the graveside. You see others crying and weeping openly but surely their pain over this departed being will never touch the depth to which yours now pierces. You face the cold marble headstone and the realization falls full upon you as an iron weight and you grow cold as you read the inscription and realize the truth:

YOUR SON IS GONE.

He was not yet a man. Even you have only recently reached the heights of adulthood. He was only a child. He was a child in a never ending world of fantasy revolving



completely around you and his mother. He loved you so much. He was your very own and your most prized possession. But with this thought, as in the past three days since his death, comes the forever present pain of remembrance of your brief span of time with your son. It was a span of less than ten years

in length and yet a lifetime without it would have been incomplete. It passed so quickly. You were always looking toward and planning for a 'future' together that now would never come to pass. The present slipping like a thief into the past and time passed so quickly. There never seemed to be enough time left for him. This span of time with your son

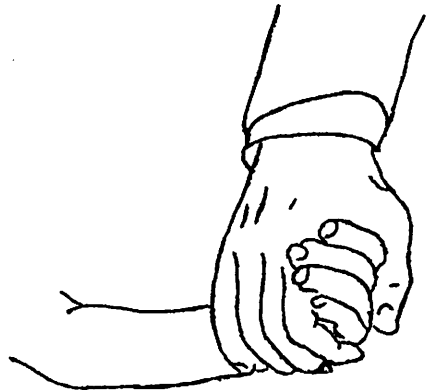
could never be recalled and yet it can never be forgotten. Again comes the pain of remembering.

The pain of remembering the time he came to you full of life and vigor begging you to go out in the back yard with him and "play baseball with me dad". But you were too tired. You had not read the paper yet. A good program was about to come on the television set. He turned away so hurt. But he did it so quietly that you hardly even noticed and only now, when you can do nothing to change it or make it up to him, do you recall it. It hurts you now. Why had you not cared? Why had you not taken the time? There is no consolation in the fact that you thought there would be other times. He is gone: gone forever; and there will be no more pleas to "play baseball with me, dad" The glove and the bat are silent monuments to the fact that you "didn't have time".

The pain of remembering the time he came to you with his new pair of shoes. He was so happy and proud yet the article you were reading was so interesting that you only paid little attention to them and you only half noticed as he walked away, feeling rejected by the one he loved so dearly for only a scrap of newspaper that would be worthless tomorrow. Strange, you can't even recall the day of this incident nor the news that was so interesting but you CAN RECALL the son that will never come to you with a new pair of shoes, proud and happy to show his father his new gift. He is gone; gone forever.

The pain of remembering his first haircut. You were too busy and were not there. It didn't seem so important then but now—now he will never again enter a barberchair. Now it seems so important. Now it is too late. Now he is gone.

The pain of remembering his first day in



school. You were out of town on a business trip and he had to wait so patiently until you came home over the weekend so he could tell you of all of the joy and anticipation that filled his little heart. But as you came in and he ran up and threw his arms around you, you shoved him away, for you had lost an important business deal and now your son must forever lock within his little heart the joys he longed so much to share with his father. This moment: never to be forgotten and never to be corrected.

Remember the day your son ran down the driveway swinging his arms and skipping to an imaginary beat and he came to meet you as you returned from the business trip. He cried, "Hello daddy", and you replied to his loving warmth "Get out of the drive before you get hurt." The skipping stopped and the joy drained from his heart as a very hurt little boy turned back to the neighbor children to play with. He had missed you so much and he loved you so. Just this one time couldn't you have scolded him later about running too near the car? A moment: Never to be corrected and never to be forgotten.

The pain of recalling the night he would not eat his supper and you had to send him to bed early. He fought this and you had to spank him. He cried for such a long time that night but eventually fell silent. Several hours later, as you walked past his bedroom a small voice from within nearly broke your heart as he showed the awesome power of his love when he quietly begged you to come in and "kiss me 'nite daddy."

Now as you look at the marble marker you can see: He was only a child. How could you have been so foolish to have lost this time with your son? How could you have been so foolish as to measure him by the yardstick of your own years? How could you have failed to know the value of a moment of time with your son? He was just a boy; a little boy. But now it was too late to tell him of your love. It was too late to show him your love. Too late to play ball with him. Too late.

As you leave the cemetery you see another father scolding his son for getting grass stain on his pants. He's doing it right

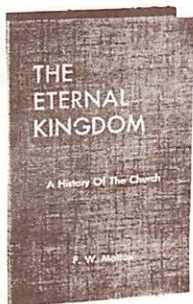
in front of all of his little friends. Oh, how that must hurt the little chap's pride. If only the father could realize the great blessing of that son. If only, if only for just a moment he could feel the pain that is in your heart from the loss of a son. But, alas, we do not realize what we have until it is lost.

Do you fathers and mothers appreciate your sons and daughters? If tomorrow they were called back to God would you stand beside their graves with the pain or remembrance that this father had? Or could you say "Father, into my hands you placed a son. I gave him my love. He returned it a hundred fold. I gave him my time. He returned it a hundred fold. I have no regrets. To You he has returned but to me remains a lifetime of happy memories."

Into your hands God has placed a sacred trust. The trust of a child or children. It is probably the greatest responsibility as well as the greatest blessing you will ever have. They must have your deepest love, sincerity, devotion, and honesty. They are in your care! **WON'T YOU TRULY CARE?** (Reprinted from the Gospel Vidette).



"If you live as though Christ never died, you will die as though He never lived."



THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

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TEEN CHAT



Gwen Bristow*

CANDY FILLED SACKS

"In loving memory of the only grandfather I ever knew"

Yesterday, Papa, (we all called him) was laid to rest on a hillside in the early afternoon of a beautiful May day. Memories have flooded my whole mind since the word came to me of this unexpected death. Memories of my childhood—all I have now to remember. "Precious Memories How They Linger!"

As a child, it was a very special occasion to have him come to visit. I waited so eagerly and anxiously looking up East Road hoping to see the ole black coupe coming. (Not very many folks had a car just like his.) I can still hear the ole 'toot - toot' of the horn which said to me - "I'm here, come and see me"! To a child, this was a grand sound. He met me with open outstretched arms, first a big squeeze and then a smack right on my lips. Sometimes he missed because



*Gwen Shaw Bristow was born July 7, 1937. Graduated as a National Honor Student and selected in Who's Who of American Schools at Haynesville High School, Haynesville, La. She attended Harding College where she met and married Benny Bristow. They are the parents of two daughters. She began her great interest in teenagers in 1956 with the church at Winnsboro, Tex. She has taught classes and worked hours at Camp Deer Run for the benefit of youth in East Tex. Scores of young people have been entertained in her home. Over the years she has worked in Teacher Training Classes and Youth Day Programs in Tex., La., and Ark. Recently, Gospel Advocate Co. published and released her new book "From Pigtailed to Wedding Bells" which is designed as a study course or good reading material for teenage girls. She now writes and serves as editor of the Teen-Chat column of this magazine.

I was busy squirming or hunting for the sack of candies that he never seemed to forget. (I wish I knew how much of that stuff I consumed.) I can remember on some occasions when I had a 'sweet-rash' all over me and wasn't suppose to eat anything sweet, but someway and somehow Papa managed to see that my sweet-tooth was satisfied regardless of the rash.

A SACK OF CANDY — how insignificant it may seem or sound, but now it is a part of me. A part of the past.

There are so many memories that he and I shared together: The first experience of making homemade biscuits in his country kitchen. (What a mess I make and you can guess dear reader, who cleaned it all up and laughed about our experience—yes, Papa) and all our fishing sprees from perch fishing and even down to the ole crawfish hole. I can still see him baiting my hook and spitting his tobacco juice on every bait to bring me "fisherman's good luck". It was such a childlike pleasure to bring home a catch and fry them for our supper.

There were backyard picnics (can't really recall what items we ate, but do vividly remember the fresh country eggs boiled in a tin can on an open fire.) Yes, all memories that I now share with my children that are so pleasant.

This morning as I dusted the ole fashion glass candy dish which sets on the coffee table in my own home, its contents of red and white striped peppermints stirred up the memories of my past, and caused me to pen these words. Candy to a child is sweet—now it is sweet to me in memory.

With children of my own, the candy dish lid often clatters as little hands reach in to have their sweet-tooth satisfied. I hoped they too, could have enjoyed and experienced the candy filled sacks from Papa - but time and circumstances didn't permit it. For now and always their sacks will be empty as Papa isn't with us anymore.

Let me urge each of you teenagers, to realize now how much your grandparents mean to you while they are still living. Notice the word—GRANDparents. They are so grand in many ways and don't forget to show them and tell them how much you love them.

MEET YOUR BRETHREN



WALNUT STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
Mrs. A. J. Rhodes

The Walnut Street Church of Christ in Hope, Arkansas, is similar in nature to other churches of Christ throughout the world. Its faithful members are striving to carry the gospel to the vast majority of lost souls, to live Christ-like in a difficult world, and to keep pace with the ever challenging means of 'sowing the seed' of the kingdom.

We are led in this endeavor by a very capable minister of Christ, Milton H. Peebles. He came to labor with this congregation in June of 1963, and the church has witnessed a steady growth since his coming. Bro. Peebles is not only known throughout this area as an excellent minister, but is recognized as an outstanding leader in the field of education. He has served as superintendent of schools at Saratoga, Arkansas, for the past 25 years. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of Harding College.

The congregation has a membership of 148 at this time. This number includes 28 charter members who can well remember its first meeting on February 19, 1950, in the old W. O. W. Hall in downtown Hope.

We continued meeting in the Hall until construction of a

new building was completed in August of 1951. This building, located at 819 South Walnut Street, present day location, was built at an estimated cost of \$23,000.00. Building Bonds were issued in accordance with the Broadway Plan of church financing and have now all been retired. It consists of an auditorium with seating capacity of approximately 250, an office, nursery, and 6 class rooms.

Dedication of the building was September 9, 1951, with Bro. Lynn Browning, the congregation's first minister, coming back to do the honors. Bro. A. T. Oliver was working with the church as its regular minister at this time, having come here in November 1950, and continued until 1954. Three others served in this capacity from 1954 until 1963, when our present minister Bro. Peebles came to work with us.

It was indeed a dark day in March of 1962 when this building was practically destroyed by fire originating from a faulty floor furnace. As the firemen worked diligently to bring the fire under control, many of the members gathered and watched in stunned amazement as smoke and flames soared skyward. All of us knew the building being destroyed was not the church; so arrangements were quickly made for our mid-week Bible study that night in the W.O.W. building. I feel safe in saying that all the members present for that Bible study had a renewed faith and a burning desire to continue the work of this congregation for our Lord.

Arrangements were made for us to meet in the chapel of Oakcrest Funeral Home until reconstruction of the building was completed, which was about three months. Although inconvenient, there was not a single service discontinued due to the fire.

We are very fortunate in having numbered among our membership nine school teachers. For the past two summers these teachers have been called upon to conduct our Vacation Bible School and have done a wonderful job. The VBS has been well attended in the past and we are looking forward to an even better one this year.

In addition to our regular worship services on Sunday and Wednesday night, Bro. Peebles has a radio program, "Thoughts

for Sunday", over radio station KXAR every Sunday morning. We are helping to support a missionary in South Africa and are sending a monthly contribution to the Herald of Truth.

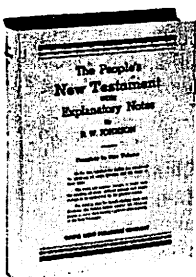
In the field of benevolent work, a monthly contribution is sent to the Southern Christian Home in Morrilton, Arkansas. We have assisted several families whose homes have been destroyed by fire in this area, and some who have had extreme sickness. It is our prayer that we will continually have a ready fund and willing hands to assist any who are in need, especially those of the household of faith.

A building site has been purchased in one of the new residential sections of Hope and construction of a new home for the preacher is soon to begin.

In December 1965, the brethren set up a budget for the coming year that would require an average weekly contribution of \$400.00. The members of this congregation have been so blessed that an amount well above this average has been attained. We here at Walnut Street are looking forward to greater accomplishments in the realm of Christian living than ever before.



"A man in a small town had been paying \$15 a week for his board, and his appetite constantly increased. Finally, his landlady saw that she must either quit or raise her boarder's rate. One day, after watching him feverishly devour plateful after plateful, she picked up her courage and said, "Mr. Castle, I shall have to raise your board to \$20." The man looked up with a start. Then, with an expression of utter consternation, he said, "Oh, Mrs. Smith, don't do that! It's all I can do now to eat \$15 worth."



THE PEOPLE'S NEW TESTAMENT WITH NOTES

B. W. Johnson. This commentary meets the general demand for a commentary on the entire New Testament with notes complete enough to make the meaning clear, and yet concise enough to come in a practical size. The King James and the Revised Version (1891 Revision) are both given on all passages, with explanatory notes and many other helps. Here is a commentary designed for general, popular use. \$5 each. Send order to : THE BOOK MARK, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Ark., 71730.



Pat Beckham*

SEPTEMBER SONG

Calm down mothers, those bells you hear are not in your head. Those are school bells ringing. Yes, school is back in full swing again and now we have the opportunity to do all the things we planned to do during the summer but just never got around to doing.

I realize all of us won't have all of our children in school but those that do have six full hours every day five days a week at our disposal to do with as we wish. I know some of this time must be spent on our homes and for doing things that will make our family comfortable but not the ENTIRE six hours. What with all the modern conveniences we now have the largest home can be kept running well on much less time than this.

Can't we spend part of each day doing something we really want to do? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Take a long nap.
2. Curl up with a good book.
3. Watch television.
4. Play bridge.
5. Go to a good movie.



*Pat Beckham (Mrs. Bill Beckham) wife, mother, and teacher. She was reared in a Christian home the daughter of Mrs. Mae Thomas of Texarkana, Texas, and the late Homer Thomas, an elder in the Lord's church who influenced many for good by the life he lived daily. Pat holds a BSE degree and is now doing graduate work at Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas. A dedicated teacher who is very much interested in all phases of education. She is a teacher in the public schools and a regular Bible class. She serves on the educational committee for the intermediate department of a local congregation, and is first vice-president of the local chapter of Associated Women for Harding College. We are grateful that she finds time to share with us some of her ideas in these religious articles.

Although there is nothing wrong with any of the suggestions above and doing these things occasionally for relaxation is good but check the following suggestions to see if these wouldn't be more rewarding:

1. Visit a sick friend.
2. Set up a cottage class with a non-Christian friend.
3. Visit an invalid or shut-in that seldom gets visited.
4. Bake a cake or casserole for a family with a new baby.
5. Take care of a neighbors children while she runs an errand.

Can you think of a better way that we could spend our time than in doing for others? We will never become Christ-like until we learn to put the welfare of others before our own. The trick is absorption — total absorption in something or someone outside ourselves. It's the only way. It's a must. Begin doing this now!

“Worry is like a rocking chair -- it keeps you busy but it doesn't get you anywhere.”

“Sunday is the first day of the week because all the other days are week days.”

HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR HOME?

Your home and loved ones are sacred to you, and you would protect them with your life. Nothing but the best you can provide is good enough for them.

But -- are you protecting them from the emptiness of a non-spiritual life -- from the coldness of death without hope -- from the prospect of an eternity without heaven?

You can give them the best in Christian influence and training ONLY when you encourage them to read -- and read with them -- the Bible, and bring them regularly to Bible study and worship. You can not only protect their souls for eternity; you can give them a life of rich fullness and genuine, wholesome happiness they will never forget. How important is YOUR home?

Won't you begin now to study the Book of God, and worship regularly at the Church of Christ? (selected)

Children Learn What They Live

Dorothy Law Nolte

- If a child lives with criticism he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with fear he learns to be apprehensive.
- If a child lives with pity he learns to feel sorry for himself.
- If a child lives with ridicule he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with jealousy he learns what envy is.
- If a child lives with shame he learns to feel guilty.

- If a child lives with encouragement he learns to be confident.
- If a child lives with tolerance he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with praise he learns to be appreciative.
- If a child lives with acceptance he learns to love.
- If a child lives with approval he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with recognition he learns that it is good to have a goal.
- If a child lives with sharing he learns about generosity.
- If a child lives with honesty and fairness he learns what truth and justice are.
- If a child lives with security he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.
- If a child lives with friendliness he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.
- If you live with serenity your child will live with peace of mind.

FLOWERS THAT NEVER FADE Leroy Brownlow

Beautifully bound in white cloth with gold letters. An ideal gift for the shutin. Some chapter subjects are: "A Light Unto My Path," This Troubled World, Strength to Endure Suffering, "Be of Good Cheer," Poems that Strengthen, A Father's Prayer, etc. Packed in gift box, \$2.50 each. Send order to: THE BOOK MARK, P. O. Box 1094, El Dorado, Ark, 71730.

PROBLEM CHILDREN

Those of us who have had the blessed privilege of having children and working to rear them toward Christian adults, know that it is a great pleasure. Especially when we are able to succeed and see them become faithful adults to Christ and society. A man told me once after I had baptized his fine twin teenage boys, that they could never do anything more important to him and that he was prouder of them for taking this step than any other thing they would accomplish in life. Parents truly reach their zenith of pleasure when their children 'turn out right.' But dear friends, there is another side to the coin. For every elated heart, there are thousands bleeding a steady death over problem children. Someone has rightly said that problem children can be divided into three classes—Deformed, Deprived, and Pampered. A close-up of each of these may help.

DEFORMED

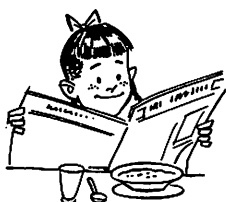
This is often a problem handed to parents at birth and the cause may not ever be removed. However, each parent with a deformed child should first seek medical help to determine if there be any cure or help. After this has been accomplished, if it is learned that such is permanent, so much of the burden can be alleviated by manifesting the proper attitude and facing the facts. Determine what your child's possibilities are, and set out to make him the best. Learn to set his goals according to his capabilities and don't feel cheated when he doesn't come up to a normal child. It has been said that all humans are sick in some way, but some are more obvious than others. Senator Dirksen once quoted a man who said that most of the work of the world is done by people who are sick. Read some case histories of what others have done with the same problem and you will be surprised. Parents are builders and moulders of human clay, but we must learn to work with the clay God gives us.

Regardless of your child's deformity, you can usually look around and see someone else in worse circumstances. Most of

us have known children with what appeared to be perfect bodies, but grew up deformed in disposition personality, and living. Turn your child's deformity into a blessing. For please remember, all the worry, wishing and complaining in the world will not change that which can not be changed. But worry and anxiety cheat and rob your child of his God given possibilities. Helen Keller once said: 'Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.'

DEPRIVED

When we think of the word deprived in the light of children, it becomes a very damaging word. To some people a deprived child is one that has not been able to keep up with the Joneses! Or one that had to be reared on a low income



or was not able to live in the most expensive house, but this is not what really counts. My brother, sister and I were reared when times were hard. We landed right in the big middle of the depression and its aftermath, but do you think this concerned us so much? While our parents

were concerning themselves about the future and the bare necessities of life, we were out playing and enjoying life to the fullest and never remember skipping a meal. Our toys were not always store bought, but we used everything from a block of wood to a bucket lid. But all of this did not harm us. In fact, we probably learned some good lessons of appreciation and gratitude. We were not deprived because we had parents that were Christian in attitude and were on the job to see that we did right. When the doors of worship were opened, rain or shine we were there. When the school bell rang for school, we left the fields to get an education.



But dear reader, this is not always the case. There are

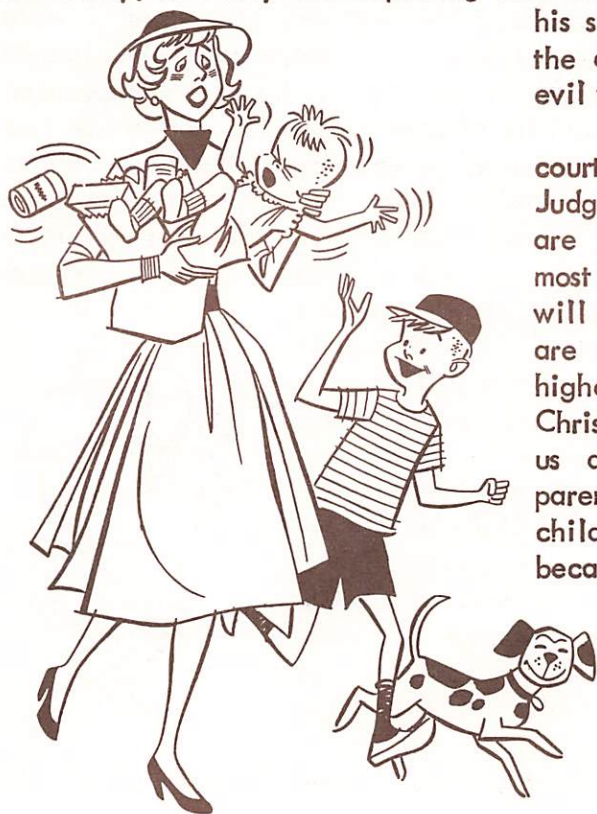
children that appear to have everything from a financial standpoint, but they really have nothing. For they do not have the real love of their parents—love enough to invite Christ into their home and lives. Such parents bring living souls into the world and let them make it on their own, and since environment is a big factor in the life of children, they often grow up to be starved of spiritual values.

Just think of how many children whose parents are not Christians. Think of the children who do not faithfully attend Bible classes—who never heard their mother or daddy pray in their home—who hear fussing and fighting every moment they are home. Did you ever hear of parents that let their little children smoke from their cigarettes? One father boasted that his little boy loved beer as much as he and that he just had to make him not drink it so often. They think these little tricks are funny, but they are depriving that child of a chance for

his soul to be right in the coming years of an evil world.

Go to the Juvenile courts and ask the Judges what children are really giving the most trouble and they will tell you those who are deprived of the higher way of life—Christianity. God help us all not to be a parent that caused our child to lose his soul, because we deprived him of the important things of life.

PAMPERED
Have you ever



visited a family that had a child so unruly that when you left you remarked how that child was spoiled? There is nothing so pleasant as a well disciplined child, and nothing so nauseating as one that has no respect for parents. How often we personally wish to administer to the undisciplined a dose of woodshed tonic.

God intended that each of his creation have it's responsibility in life. And as long as nature is functioning properly, we say that all is well. But oh how disturbing it becomes when nature turns from its natural path. Likewise, God reveals in his word the responsibility of each member of a Christian family. The husband is to love his wife, the wife is to be in subjection, and the children are to obey their parents in the Lord for this is right. Now, if all members of a family are doing their God given part, the 'pampered problem' will not arise.

But the child that is made to never want for anything—never appreciates anything. All humans need to earn the right to stand on their own feet, and learn to face their problems in each level of life. We are not suggesting that parents neglect their children, but that they through discipline and responsibility teach them the true value of life. Set the standards for your children high and see that they reach them. Let your children meet their tasks, and let them know that when they have done their best and still need help you are standing by ready.

“A RECEET FOR WASHING CLOTHES”

Build fire in back yard to het kettle of rain water. Set the tub so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert. Shave one hole cake lie sope in bilin water. Sort things, make 3 piles, 1 pile white, 1 pile cullard, 1 pile briches and rags. Stur flour in cold water to smooth, then thin down with bilin water. Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard then bile. Rub cullard but dont bile just rench and starch. Take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then, rench, blew, and starch. Spread tea towels on grass. Hang old rags on fence. Pore rench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. Turn tubs down. Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with side combs, brew cup of tea, set and rest and rock a spell and count your blessings. (selected)



Bill Beckham*

“A Fool Such As I”

He who believes there is no God is a fool (Psalms 14:1). If we do not keep all of God's commandments to the best of our ability it is a sign of unbelief. James said "we show our faith or belief by our works" (James 2:18). In the last part of the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew our Lord depicts a very vivid scene of the judgment, people are separated one from another, the righteous from the unrighteous. It reveals, without a doubt, that there will be some who stand with the unrighteous who have worshipped God in public as he has instructed and have given into the church treasury as they have been prospered and yet will be condemned to everlasting punishment because they have failed to do benevolent work.

A grave mistake is being made by many who think we are doing more benevolent work than ever before. I recently had the opportunity to observe the results of a survey of budgets of a large number of congregations scattered across the country. It revealed that 20% were doing no benevolent work at all, 41% spent more on utilities to heat and light a building than on benevolent work, and the 39% who spent more on benevolent work than on utilities fell in the category of very little more.



*Bill Beckham is employed by an oil company, and devotes his spare time to being assistant editor and publisher of the Christian Family Magazine. He has a deep rooted belief that the best citizen any community or nation could have is the individual who lives the Christian life daily and encourages others to do the same. He readily admits that his capabilities are very limited but strives to find his limits and mark the spots because he knows opportunity plus ability equals responsibility in the sight of God.

The New Testament teaches many things and I think we are overlooking a few very important ones. That a group can unite in a special collection for the material needs of the poor. That helping the needy brings about better relations and creates a bond of love. That when those in NEED receive help, the giver is benefitted and the receiver is benefitted, and God is glorified. This does not mean when a man has had sickness and his insurance has run out that we are to give to keep him from cashing stock or withdrawing from his savings account so he can maintain his state of luxurious living. Certainly this will not glorify God. It is a sad thing to see someone trying to substitute benevolence for sympathy.

All benevolent work should be done in the name of our Lord, either as his church or as a disciple of His. Many times benevolent work could not be done unless it was done through the church treasury. Most of the time this is the best way to do it but it does not exclude the necessity of the individual doing benevolent work as a disciple of Christ. Many times benevolence is the avenue we must travel to rescue a soul from Satan and bring it to the Lord.

In the first century benevolence was done by individual disciples of Christ and by disciples as a group. The Apostles, elders, and disciples all were interested in this work.

In case someone says, "We never see anyone in need today," Jesus says, "your eyes are not open because the poor are with you always," (yes, even in LBJ's Great Society). I recently learned of a boy who wanted to attend college in a Christian environment so badly that he lived on one can of dog food a week, but a Christian had her eyes open and she provided food for this needy boy. The woman and the boy both benefitted and God was glorified.

As a child of God I am steward over all the good things He has given me. As an individual I have the responsibility of using these blessings in the right way. Paul assured the individual who contributed into the treasury for the poor saints in Jerusalem that the destination of every penny be known (II Cor. 8:20-21). And as an individual, regardless of where I give, so long as it is in the name of Christ for the right

cause, I have the responsibility of knowing what it is to be used for so I can have the assurance when I stand as an individual before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords on that great day of judgment that Jesus will not say to me "depart from me you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was hungry and you gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink: I was a stranger and you took me not in, naked, and you clothed me not: Sick, and in prison, and you visited me not." Explaining that when I failed to do it to the least of my fellowman I failed to do it to Him. The individual who is in this position on the judgment day can truly say there never was "A Fool Such As I".

WHY PLAN FOR ONLY THE FIRST 100 YEARS?

Those who plan for the future are wise. This planning includes training, education, the building of a family and a home, and investments in the necessities of life. A good life cannot be attained without careful planning.

But why plan for only the first 100 years? Most of us will depart this life before that time. Then we shall enter an eternal life and there we shall live forever.

What plans have we made for eternal life? What treasurers have we laid up in heaven? Whose directions have we followed?

The Bible is God's guide book from earth to heaven. "Narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it." Matthew 7:14.

Let us be wise enough to make long range plans for this life and the eternal life to come. Let us follow the directions of God's guide book. (selected)

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