

Faith Of Our Youth

February 1996

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 3 Issue 1

It's A Miracle!

by Amy Swearingin

Listening to the radio not long ago, I heard an incredible story of a "miracle" in New Dehli, India.

Buddhists have long practiced the ritual of pouring milk over the mouths and faces of religious statues as an offering. Traditionally, the milk would run over the mouths of the statues and eventually drip to the ground leaving a big puddle of soured, curded milk by the days end. A few weeks ago, a particular statute was reported to literally "drink" the milk offered to it.

In an effort to witness and participate in the "miracle" themselves thousands of faithful Buddhists have pilgrimaged to the site of the statue. Milk has

been selling in record amounts and for up to ten times it's actual value in cities as far away as Calcutta. Entire national newspapers have been dedicated to the never before seen "miracle." Political leaders from India have traveled to New Dehli in an effort to catch a glimpse of the disappearing milk themselves.

Despite the hoopla scientists, chemists and geologist who have been studying the phenomenon staunchly defend their claim that there is no miracle. Instead, they say the rock from which the statue is made is porous and as a re-

sult soaks up the milk creating the illusion that the statue is drinking. The thousands of people who have been to see the "miracle" resist such an explanation. They are genuinely convinced a miracle is happening.

Millions of people every year are lured to mock religions. Hundreds of thousands mistake cleverly planned magic tricks for bona fide miracles. Deceptive "prophesies", staged healings, cultic sacrifices, claims of new revelations, and so on, lure people to believe otherwise obvious lies.

"Have you ever looked for and longed for God's inherent power in your life as a Christian?"

We probably think we could never be fooled by such nonsense. Few people believe in things they can not explain. Only radicals and fanatics believe in miracles, right?

Place yourself in Israel 2000 years ago. Everywhere you turn you hear of this guy named Jesus who claims to be the Christ. You keep hearing rumors of these amazing and unheard of miracles He is performing. Your curiosity gets the better of you and you decide to go check it out for yourself. Though you are interested you plan to keep your distance from Him. You don't want anyone to get the wrong idea and think you are one of His "brainwashed disciples." After all, plenty of other people have

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THE EXCEPTIONAL GENERATION

by Karen Spencer

Who is twice as likely as the general population to eat fast food? Whose rallying cry is seemingly summed up in the words of a popular bumper sticker, "Question Authority?" What group of people are described as "pessimistic underachievers" who are "lacking intellectual curiosity" and "still in search of its identity?"

38 million young men and women born between 1963 and 1977 have been lumped together to provide the answer to these questions: Generation X.

While perusing the current literature about this generation, I discovered that many researchers concluded that there is no Generation X, that the label is erroneous. The majority, however, argue that somebody bought Doc Martens, somebody watches MTV, somebody went to Lollapalooza, somebody pierced her bellybutton. Statistics show that most of the somebodies belong to the 18-33 year old group named above.

"Mislabeling entire generations only puts us on the defensive..."

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CHRISTIAN RESUME

by Lonnie McClintock

Can you reduce your life onto one page? Many, if not most, individuals attempt to accomplish this feat several times during their lives—on their resumes. A good resume should reflect one's life and career objectives, therefore, the process of creating one demands much thoughtful consideration (and a good memory). If all goes well, the effort expended will "pay off" in the form of a job.

Perhaps developing a Christian resume should also lead to a favorable result for those who follow God's word. Before encountering such a project, though, Christians should realize that the contents on the resume will not "earn" salvation. After all, Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8,9 that *"by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."* However, the same writer in 2 Corinthians 13: 5 asks that we examine ourselves to test whether we are in the faith. Since a typical resume contains several components (e.g., name, address, education, work experience and goals), the thought required in composing a well-drafted Christian version provides at least one means of such an examination.

Name. Each resume begins with a name for identification purposes. Faithful followers of Jesus can be identified in many ways, including disciples (Matt. 28:19); Christians (Acts 11:26); servants of a new covenant (2 Cor. 3:6); slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:18); and children of God (1 John 3:1,2). Appropriately, each of these names suggests that we are the Lord's (See Rom. 14: 8). As Paul wrote in Galatians 2: 20, *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me."* This passage explains why our names are identified with

Christ.

Address. We share our address with Abraham, in a city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Heb. 11:8-10). Although we live in the world, we are not of the world (John 15:19). As the song relates, "This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through." Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20); in the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22); and in the new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13).

Education. Christians have bountiful sources of education. Paul instructs us in Ephesians 3:9,10 that the manifold wisdom of God is to be made known through the church. (Consequently, we

"A good resume should reflect one's life and career objectives, therefore, the process of creating one demands much thoughtful consideration."

should not forsake our own assembling together (Heb. 10:25). Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs also teach and admonish us (Col. 3:16). Finally, in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, we are reminded of the importance to Christian education in studying God's word: *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

Work Experience. We need to put our spiritual education to use by proving ourselves doers of the word (James 1: 22). On a general level, Christians are to present their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God (Rom. 12: 1); bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2); and endure suffering for Christ so as to glorify God (1 Pet. 4:16). On a specific level, James 1:27 states that we

need *"to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."* Jesus adds that He expects His sheep to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, invite the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and come to the imprisoned, as we would do so for Him (Matt. 25:31-40). In everything, then, Christians must remember that *"we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Eph. 2:10).

Goals. Finally, resumes include personal goals. Since pursuing after worldly endeavors is vanity, our purpose should be to fear God and keep His commandments (Eccl. 12: 13). Instead of placing our hope in the uncertainty of riches, we should put our hope in God (1 Tim. 6: 17). Our strategy is to forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead, and "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3: 13, 14). As heirs of God, we have the hope of everlasting life (Titus 3:7). As a result, our ambition is to be pleasing to Him (2 Cor. 5: 9).

Once the Christian resume is completed, unity should exist among the themes of the different components. That is, our goal will determine where we live, which will affect what we study, which will influence how we act, which will dictate how we identify ourselves (and how others will identify us). Hopefully, then, our resumes (and our examinations of our lives in Christ) will reveal that we are walking in a manner worthy of the call which we have received (Eph. 4: 1), so that our names may be written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21:27).



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EXCEPTIONAL (Continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, that is just the beginning of statistics describing Generation X. In their book *13th Gen* (for the thirteenth generation to grow up under the US flag), Neil Howe and Bill Strauss report that every day 13 youth commit suicide, 16 are murdered, 1000 become mothers, 100,000 bring guns to school, 2200 drop out of school, 500 begin using drugs, 1000 begin drinking alcohol, 3500 are assaulted, 630 are robbed, and 80 are raped. These figures do not help the plight of young people who feel they are grossly misrepresented in society.

Generation X characterizations and subsequent representations may even affect the attitudes and reputations of youth in the Church of Christ. Until an employer knows differently, he or she may assume that any Generation X person applying for a job is lazy, passive, and careless. Christians, however, are not to let the stigma of worldly happenings influence their psyche or behavior.

"I the Lord do not change" (Malachi 3:6). When we were younger, we learned about peer pressure and how to deal with it. At least in those scenarios we were given the choice of being able to walk away and not associate our name with a certain group or action. Mislabeling entire generations only puts us on the defensive—proving through faith and action that what "they" say is wrong. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), and in principle his followers are, too.

Because "he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless," (Ephesians 1:4) no matter what age we are or in what century we were born, we can be part of the "chosen generation" that Peter ad-

ressed (I Peter 2:9). Not conforming to the world's pattern is impossible to do when one actually fits the mold of the world. The responsibility of Christians is to take a firm stand against the devil's schemes that are rooted in rulers and authorities of this dark world (Ephesians 6:11-12).

We are so blessed that "the Father . . . does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). When we are baptized into Christ, we "put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27) and all the generations that he represents. Instead of having

people say, "Oh, you remind me of Kurt Cobain," we are privileged to be associated with such young people as Daniel, who did not defile himself with the lavish ways of Babylonian society, and Mary, who unquestioningly obeyed despite social stigma.

And let's not forget the man who could be described today as a drifter (Matthew 8:20) and a dreamer (John 17:20-21). Jesus did not take on the social culture of his day, either. None

of the folks in the time of Christ would have paused to talk with a Samaritan woman. Many of Jesus' miracles were so shocking that he was asked to leave certain regions (Luke 8:37). The Nazarenes, his hometown neighbors, showed even less courtesy (Luke 4:28-29).

We are called to present the same message of forgiveness and grace with the same fervor. Strive to show yourself as part of the generation that is not bound by time and trends. "His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:34).



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Melodies In our Hearts

by Louis Garb

"The Lord reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad!" (Ps.97:1). As

in this verse, many of the Psalms and other scriptures show God's desire for us to know a depth of feeling in our acknowledgement of Him. "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (Ps.95:1-2). Seeing that we are to "rejoice in the Lord" (Phil.3:1) it is reasonable that we need to express emotion. This a capacity that God does not want sealed off.

Many of us approach emotion with caution, wary of the powerful influence of feeling . . . not wanting our judgement to be skewed by mood. This is right. We are taught, ". . . gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, . . . as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts . . ." (IPet.1:13-14). Yet the admonition for sobriety does not negate emotion, rather it is subjugated to our work of appraising and accepting the things God has revealed. Thus emotion should be the result of an occurrence, like color that plays on the landscape because of the sun and its position coupled with the surroundings and atmospheric conditions. When we do evaluate, when we do appreciate the reality of God, feelings will surely follow. What is "godly sorrow" (II Cor.7-10) that brings us to repentance? It is the effect of seeing our sins in the light of God's goodness. Also, we ". . . greatly rejoice . . ." because God ". . . has begotten us again . . ." (Extracted from IPet.1:3-6). To suppress rightful feeling in the name of gravity is to limit the impact of God's mighty work in our lives. It's kind of like cutting off a leg, lest we indulge in the vanity of graceful movements.

The need to emote, to release feeling, is very strong in the nature of humanity. In the world, much abuse is demonstrated in this vein. People seek to escape the harsh realities of this

(See "Melodies" on page 6)

" . . . no matter
what age we are
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MIRACLE (Continued from page 1)

made wild claims of being the Christ in the past only to be proved wrong. Some of these self proclaimed christis even performed a few pretty amazing optical illusions which they passed off to gullible bystanders as miracles.

You pack your lunch and set out. It only takes you 20 minutes to find Jesus. He is not what you thought he would be, there is nothing special about him. No tattoos, no strange hair cut, no weird clothes just an ordinary looking man. You try to get a little closer so you can hear what he has to say but the crowd is huge! There are people everywhere. He is totally surrounded.

You sit down on a rock and open your sack lunch. A lady sits down beside you. Out of politeness you ask her, "So, what to you think about Jesus? Is He for real?" She turns to you and smiles and begins an incredible story.

She says, "I had been bleeding for twelve years straight. No one could help me. I had been to every doctor in town. I knew every specialist there was to know within a 30 mile radius. I had spent all my life savings searching for a cure. But, no matter where I went everyone said my condition was hopeless. Despite all my efforts I found no relief.

"A friend of mine told me about Jesus and all the miracles He had been doing. She said He had even raised people from the dead! I heard He was in the city today so I decided to go out and ask Him to help me. There were so

many people I knew there was no way I could ever get His attention. I decided to try and sneak by and get a touch of His clothes. I thought if I could just touch Him I would be healed; He is so powerful.

"I finally got my chance, I reached out and caught the hem of His cloak. Immediately my bleeding stopped and I felt in my body that I was freed from my suffering. All of a sudden Jesus turned around and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?' He said he felt POWER go out from him. I was really scared! I knew it was wrong of me to touch Him because it would make Him "unclean" by Jewish law. He kept looking around thought so I finally had to confess it was me who had touched Him. He looked straight at me. His eyes were so loving! It was as if He could see my very heart. He came to me and told me that my faith had made me well and that I could go away and not have to worry about bleeding anymore." (Mark 5: 29, 30)

"Wow!" All you can say to the lady is "wow." You stare at her a while longer not knowing what to say to such an incredible story. Your heart begins to beat a bit more quickly. You ask yourself, "Could this really be the Christ?"

"Good purposes combined with good acts produce some pretty miraculous outcomes"

Do you understand the total faith this woman displayed? To me, the woman in this story demonstrated ultimate faith in Christ's ability to work a miracle in her life. Not only was it against Jewish law for her to touch someone while she was bleeding (lest she make them unclean) but she did so in a public place! She truly trusted Him completely. She trusted Christ to do for her what no one else had been able to do, heal her. Do you trust God to heal you of your most vile and consuming diseases? Do you trust Him as completely as this woman did? Do you believe He can work a miracle in your life?

Think for a moment about how Christ accomplished the miracle mentioned above. Did you notice the word used to describe how the miracle was

achieved? The word was **POWER**. The Greek word used to represent the type of power Christ had is *dunamis*, which means "inherent power." As a footnote, the Greek work for miracles comes from the stem word for power, *dunameis*, which means "from God's power; powers inherent in Christ."

Have you ever looked for and longed for God's inherent power in your life as a Christian? Has it alluded you? Do you believe God can and will use such an awesome display of power in your life? Let me share with you a single verse. This verse calms my mind. This verse soothes my soul. This verse brings me peace. I believe it guarantees us the power of God in our lives today. Be assured there are several other verses which explain God's power at work in us (i.e. Eph. 1:18-20, II Pet. 1:3) but the following verse sums up the message well.

Paul told the Thessalonians in his second letter to them that he constantly prayed for them so that "*our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith (1:11)*." Paul gave a reason for such a promise in verse 12, "*so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Did you catch the promise? Don't miss it! It really said, "*... He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*" Believe it. Trust it. Rely on it.

God works through our faith to fulfill every good purpose and act. You may be wondering how He accomplishes such a thing. Here is the answer: by His **POWER**! The same power used to turn the water into wine, the same power used to allow Peter walk on water, the same power used to raise Lazarus from the dead. God uses the exact same power in our lives today that He use in Israel 2000 years ago. Rest assured God's promise is true. Every good purpose and act, when prompted by faith, will be victorious. Good purposes combined with good acts produce some pretty miraculous outcomes.

So, have you seen any good miracles lately?



HERE AND THERE

MURRAY ROAD - Ben Morris is undergoing interviews to be accepted at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for their radiography program. He's busy with debate tournaments, when the weather doesn't cancel them and is still busy with the band. John Morris is still at UMKC working on his degree and working on his evangelist skills. Rob Landes is working in the nursing field.

SERVICE (Continued from page 6)

you found out that your friend really had doctored the card so you could win, how would your relationship change? Even more importantly, as you move into a relationship that brings you a wife/husband, it will make decisions about what you might have to tell her/him a whole lot easier.

Honesty before God and men will also provide an unbroken relationship with God. The Psalmist noted that only those that walk blameless, do what is righteous, and speak truthfully from the heart will dwell in His sanctuary (Ps. 15:1-2). God's standard of honesty will provide a sense of accomplishment. Just like your friend cheating for you robbed you of a clean sense of accomplishment, being honest will drive home that sense of praise we all desire. Our honesty will provide a reputation of integrity. Though we don't often talk about it our integrity is very important to us. "A good name is more desirable than great riches, to be esteemed is better than silver and gold" (Pr. 22:1). Finally honesty provides for trust in relationships. When the "preacher" said that "the heart of her husband trusts in her" (Pr. 31:11), he was talking about one of the greatest blessing in this world. I know because I experience it!

Young people, I prayerfully encourage you to consider your honesty. It makes life worth the living. You find joy in the effort. It is both right and rewarding. A final thought for your consideration, "If you tell me the truth all the time I can believe you all the time. But if you only tell me the truth some of the time, I can't believe you any of the time."

Stay strong. Love the Lord.

In HIS Service,
Dan Green

TOPEKA - Christy Kuhn just went to a regional piano competition and got a 1 rating! Ryan Landes is cheering on the basketball team. Angie Meeks is at Emporia trying to decide on a direction for her studies. Thomas Kuhn just finished wrestling and is getting ready for math competition. Emily is playing basketball and playing the clarinet.

VANDALIA - Matt Clark is planning on going to Iowa State next year, working at McD's and preparing for an adventurous ski trip in mountainous Iowa! He says they are looking forward to the time when the meetings begin in the spring. Derek Ingle is playing basketball and making a few trips to mid-Missouri. Amy Duckstein has been a cheerleader and is now driving when her parents will turn lose of the car.

PRINCE ROAD - Kelly Hartman is into basketball. Brian Tutterow and Jessica Thompson announced their engagement last week (1/28/96). Brad Tutterow is still pursuing a pharmacy career. Nathan Cooper is in his first year of pre-med. Amy Thompson moved there last fall and is attending college in the area. Dane Hartman is playing basketball. Wendy and Abby Woody just finished the school play "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" Wendy played Snoopy and Abby played Lucy. Wendy is also writing sports articles for her local news-

paper and Abby is getting ready for track as well as being elected Freshman Class President. Karen Spencer was up interviewing for a teaching position where Bill teaches.

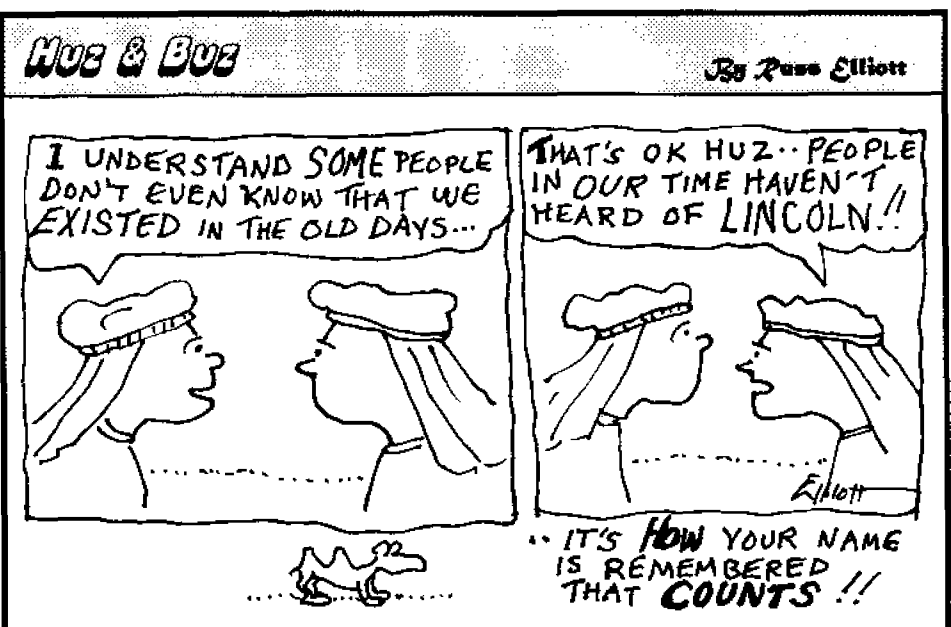
INDIANAPOLIS - Mark Long is working out in the weight room to be ready for the football season next year! Justin Dowdy is looking forward to playing baseball. Jillian Craft just finished the basketball season.

OTTAWA - Kevin Morton was playing trumpet but has added the French horn to his repertoire. He's planning on going to KU next year and major in computer engineering.

GRAND HAVEN - Brandon Buchanan has finished up the basketball season and he said it is still snowing up there!

PLEASANT HILL - Ryan Ingle is working at the big Mc D's and attending college for some free hours as part of his high school curriculum. Jennifer Price is playing volleyball.

BOLIVAR - Sarah Cummings is in her senior year and plans to go to Des Moines for college next year. She's involved in the band and the school play. Jarred Van Egdom is at Drake college in Des Moines.



"In His Service"

It's the eighteenth hole and you have a chance to finally beat your best friend. You can tell that you did it! You win, 41 to 49! Not only did you beat him, but you wiped the face of the Putt-Putt course with him!!!! A couple of days later, as you are re-telling the story for the hundredth time, your friend casually drops a hint that he doctored the scores, on purpose. At this point what are your emotions? That illustrates what I would like to share with you in this session.

In a recent survey of "Christian youth," 66% admitted that they had lied to a "parent, teacher, or other adult person" in the last three months, and 60% of them said they had lied to a friend or peer in the last three months. On top of that, 52% tend to believe that "lying is sometimes necessary." Back to our beginning story. Was the issue that you would beat your best friend at all costs? Even if he cheated you still won, is that enough? We know it's not, because we want to win "fair and square." On the other hand, your friend was just protecting you. He was aware of how bad you wanted to beat him and decided to give you a small gift -You win! No big deal. None of that plays right because we have this internal sense of right and wrong. Where does it come from? Is it just a nuisance thing?

God has always placed a premium on honesty. He took dishonesty real seriously when Achan took some gold, silver, and clothes (Read Josh. 7). God gave the Ten Commandments which included; "You shall not steal, give false testimony, deceive one another, defraud or rob your neighbor." He didn't take lightly to Ananias and Sapphira's lying to the Holy Spirit (Read Acts 5). The Apostle Paul continued with telling us to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully with our neighbor" (Eph. 4:25).

He further warned us that "swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1Cor. 6:10).

"What's all the hassle about," you might say. "It ain't no big deal!" And yet God seems to take it very seriously. Have you wondered why? Essentially, it goes to the very core of who God is. If He is not honest, then He is nothing! The Book is full of this philosophy. Moses said, "He is the rock, His work is perfect . . . a God of truth and without iniquity and right is He" (Deut. 32:4). Paul called Him the "God that does not

"If you tell me the truth all the time I can believe you all the time. But if you only tell me the truth some of the time, I can't believe you any of the time."

lie" (Tit. 1:2). The Hebrew writer implies that if God makes a promise you can count on it because "it is impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18). Finally Paul says that "God must be true, and every man be a liar" (Rm. 3:4). You see, for God, lying, dishonesty, etc. is a direct affront to His holy nature. And He takes that personally!

However, before we begin to think that God just has an axe to grind, let's see if there is a method in his love! Once again God has set a standard so he can protect us and provide for us. A standard of honesty will protect us from guilt. Guilt is one of the most powerful emotions that we have. Unfortunately it can eat us up. David said, "My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear" (Ps. 38:4). Honesty can also protect us from shame. In the '88 Olympics there were two crowned "the fastest human beings." One was "Flo-Jo," Florence Griffith Joyner. Her fame lives on. The other one was Ben Johnson. His fame turned to shame when he failed a drug test after the race. Honesty can also protect us from a cycle of deceit. From your own experience you probably know that there is no such thing as one little lie! Finally, honesty will protect you from ruined relationships. Back to our beginning story - if

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MELODIES (Continued from page 3)

pressure cooker called life through alcohol, drugs, the endless reel of movies and entertainment, theatrical religion (with it's stage strutting, tear jerking, hallelujah shouting performers) etc. All of these have strong emotional currents. God has also provided a means of release which is for the sake of producing an emotional experience unto His praise and our edification. It is singing. When the scripture says; "*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord . . .*", it declares God's provision for us to escape the burdens of life. This is not the abandonment of responsibility, rather it is entering a state of fulfillment where truth is expressed in the unique mode of singing, where emotion can readily soar.

The song for this issue "How Long?", is the result of the combined effort of Dan Huff and John Morris. Dan lives in Eldon, MO and is preparing to be an evangelist. He has this to say about singing; "I found that days when work was heavy and getting me down, that singing and humming spiritual songs to myself helped to keep me focused on who I was, and Who was in control, thus lifting my spirit, and brightening my day! As James 5:13 says; 'Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise' (NIV). For me it is anyone who wants to be happy . . . let him sing songs of praise."

John Morris is a brother from Lee's Summit MO. His immediate goal is to graduate from UMKC with a B.A. in communications. In the longer range, he desires to do the work of an evangelist. He spoke of his love for music through a question he had previously considered; "If you knew you had to lose sight or hearing, which would it be? Personally, I would rather lose my sight . . . no matter what happens, I will always have music. It praises God, and to have a talent in that area is a great blessing." You can see that both of these brothers prize this gift from God. Their song bears it out.



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"Songs of our Youth"

HOW LONG WILL IT BE?

Lyrics: Dan Huff

Music: John Morris

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *mp*. The lyrics are: "Lord, how long must I wait? For I'm grow - ing weak and faint. This world grows more wick - ed day by day, and we must show them the way. Lord, I long to see you and your Son. Lord, I long to hear you say, 'Well done!' How long will it be, 'til hea - ven I see? Lord, how long will it be?"

1 Lord, how long must I wait? For I'm grow - ing weak and faint. This

9 world grows more wick - ed day by day, and we must show them the way. Lord, I

17 long to see you and your Son. Lord, I long to hear you say, "Well done!" How

25 long will it be, 'til hea - ven I see? Lord, how long will it be?

Brothers Music

"FOOY" Views

Being a "pillar" in the house of God should be the ultimate earthly goal of every Christian. But "pillars", like diamonds, are rare. Both require the proper combination of material, time and response to pressure to be valuable.

Considering the time factor of mortal life, becoming a "pillar" requires starting early while individual characteristics are pliable and easily moulded into the form of a "pillar." This allows time for the form to be "fired" in the oven of life—by experiences or hardships—until tempered with strength and stability as a "reputed" pillar.

Every young man and woman has the potential to develop into a "pillar" of unique significance in the Lord's temple. The first and most important requirement is your "want-to."

Without a doubt, the church needs "pillars" of various sizes, strengths and positions. Some are needed in obvious places of leadership, while others, equally important, are needed in incon-

spicuous roles. All "pillars" are not alike, some are large, some are small, some provide support in the center and some maintain stability on the edges. Yet all "pillars" have one characteristic in common, they are settled and strong and provide stability, balance and support for the whole building that is fitly framed together with them.

My Dear young people, I challenge you to make an early commitment to develop "pillar" characteristics that will serve you well in future roles as a mother, father, teacher, preacher, elder, or, greatest of all, as servant of all.



FOOY NOTES: A big FOOY welcome to "Huz and Buz" the brothers from Ur. A special thanks to Russ Elliott for submitting the initial cartoon for this new feature. Now, young artist, you know what they look like, so I expect you to provide some good teaching cartoons for future issues of FOOY.

Readers, the first six issues of FOOY has introduced approximately 12-15 young authors contributing good edifying lessons, songs and poems for us all. If you have en-

joyed reading the articles and poems and singing the songs, write the authors a short note of thanks and encouragement.

I am most grateful to each one for their excellent efforts. I see emerging shapes and designs of future "pillars" in various stages of development. We must encourage development to continue, by supporting them in their experiences and trials in the tempering process.

I know there are many others with the ability to compose good lessons, songs, sketches, or poems. You are encouraged to invest your talents to increase the profitability for "HIM" who made the initial deposit. The interest earned on active accounts is compounded daily, but buried talents are of no "interest" to anyone. Don't bury them!

Encourage young talents in your congregation to submit their work for publication so all may benefit.

Thanks to the congregations and individuals that are helping the Ozark church to print and distribute FOOY. It is our desire that souls will be saved and eventually moulded into much needed "pillars" for support of the church in the 21st Century.

— DRS —

Faith of our Youth

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