

# Faith Of Our Youth

October 1996

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 3 Issue 3

## Did God Use Evolution?

by Ariel & Anita Bown

**G**od created the world, but how? Did it take one week as is stated in Genesis one or did it take millions of years through an evolutionary process as many people, Theistic Evolutionists, would like to believe. Why do people prefer Theistic Evolution over one week creation? Either belief takes faith. Which faith is harder to believe?

Children growing up in our school system are no longer given the opportunity to hear both sides. Evolution is presented as fact without a balancing viewpoint. Our churches may not be providing the balancing viewpoint, either, so, where is the challenge for our young people to think? Believers in God, old and young, may compromise the truth due to ignorance as they are exposed to Evolution because they are not firmly grounded in a literal seven day creation.

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) proposed the idea that the Christian religion was a disconnected and unreal thing. He believed that there is no eternal, abiding, objective truth. He watered down the truth of the gospel. The response of the people over time was similar to the reaction of the Eagle told in the Eagle Story published by Basic Life Principles. Briefly told, the story is about an eagle who swoops down to his usual fishing spot and notices a large rock that had never been there before. Since it was something new, it was to be suspect of danger. He flew over it without stopping, and alighted on the top of a dead tree nearby. After a piercing scrutiny, he was convinced that the rock was a provision for his convenience. He sailed down and

(See "EVOLUTION" on page 2)

## As Bold as I Wanna Be

by Eric Owens

**T**he gray skies were thick and oppressive as it started to rain. A cold wind blew, swirling brush and debris down the near-deserted city street. From her window, she saw stormclouds lurking on the horizon ...creeping... deepening. Ever darker, ever imminent.

We really don't know what the weather was like, and it's immaterial-- for these were the conditions of her heart that day. The forecast: gloom and despair for an entire nation. A woman, if barely, with the weight of her and her people's destruction hanging in the balance. Waiting. Biding time for the inevitable, they prayed for a miracle. There was one hope... alone, Esther would have to approach the king.

We know the story to this point. The evil Haman plots the death and genocide of the righteous Jew, Mordecai, and those of his kind-- all because he would not pay an unrighteous man the honor of a king. Under false pretenses, the Medo-Persian ruler Xerxes has agreed to the obliteration of the Hebrew people in his land. Silver in the quantity of 375 tons is offered as bounty to those willing to carry out the plan. Poor Esther! There was less than a month to reverse a deadly decree that had gained widespread support. What a quandary. What poor odds.

The penalty for approaching the king without being summoned: certain death. The only exception to this rule was in the event that the royal scepter was extended in greeting.

It had been some time since the king had called for Esther. Perhaps this was not a good sign. Perhaps she had unknowingly displeased him. Perhaps he had already

discovered that she was one of the "conniving Jews." Perhaps. But there was no other way.

Though she was tentative from the onset, there probably is no greater Old Testament example of boldness exhibited than that of this young Jewess. Standing in the inner court enshrouded in her royal robes, Esther stood naked to the consequences that would soon befall her. "And if I perish, I perish," she is quoted as saying.

What was her drive? What gave her hope? What convinced her that she could make a difference-- to the point of changing the face of history, as she and her people knew it? There were several things that undoubtedly crossed Esther's mind as she prepared to meet the king.

Knowing that she had been chosen already, above all others, to become the queen of a vast empire must have given her certain faith. The man she was about to see was the one that had hand-picked her. Esther was the bride of the king. She had already gained acceptance once; and believing this, she approached the threshold of the king's hall to await the signal of access.

Esther's faith was rewarded. As the golden scepter rose by the king's hand, Esther stepped forth with increasing confidence to touch it. "I have obtained favor!" The queen MUST have been relieved to have made it this far. But she hadn't made her request, yet.

She was assured that she could have up to half of the kingdom. Hmm. I wonder how much kingdom 375 tons of silver would buy. Esther must have wondered, too.

The Jewess put the king off twice before finally pleading her case. There could be several reasons why this is so.

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perched upon it. Then he saw a large fish lying on the grass. He considered again. The wise Eagle peered suspiciously everywhere. Everything was as it should be. So he hopped down, clutched the fish in his sharp claws, and was about to fly away when he caught sight of another fish, and yet another. But across the lake, the sharp eyes of a cunning trapper studied every move which the Eagle made. This trapper had been offered a large sum of money to capture an eagle alive. He was a crafty and experienced trapper, and he knew that this wise monarch of the sky would not be snared any ordinary means. The trapper repeated this scenario until the Eagle was no longer suspicious and then he added a net for the unsuspecting bird and then after the bird found the net to be no threat the bait was set and the bird was caught. People and unsuspecting Christians have been caught similarly by the trap of theistic evolution set by the wily and motivated trapper, Satan.

The early chapters of Genesis were frequently referred to by every New Testament writer and Jesus Christ Himself. If one believes in Jesus, he must also believe what he says. In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus refers to the creation of the world several times. He stated God created male and female, and how a man is to cleave to his wife and they become one flesh. He tells of the righteous Abel as well and of Noah and the flood. In Acts 14:15 Paul and Barnabas refer to the creation as fact. Acts 17:24 states, "The God who made the world and everything in it, is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us." Paul again refers to creation in Romans 1:20, stating "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Theistic Evolution is an attempt to limit God's power in the creative process giving God extra time perhaps to think how he is going to form life. Man tends to think of the limitations of his own mind and abilities and has difficulty conceiving of the idea that God has no such limitations. II Peter 3:3-5 states, First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's

word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water."

Other writers refer to the creation as if the recorded events in Genesis were commonly accepted. Timothy in I Timothy 2:13 says, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve." chapter 4:4 "For everything God created is good." There are references to the events in Genesis in James, in I and II Peter, I John, Jude and Revelation.

The writers of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude, have all referred to the events surrounding creation. As one reads verse after verse one realizes that the authors could not help referring to the truth of creation or referring to the early chapters of Genesis.

Theistic Evolution has many theories that begin with the uncritical acceptance of various aspects of evolution and then reinterprets Genesis to force it to accommodate evolution. Most of these reinterpretations of Genesis contradict other parts of Scripture.

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*"Man tends to think of the limitations of his own mind and abilities and has difficulty conceiving of the idea that God has no such limitations."*

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Supposedly, Genesis contains two conflicting creation accounts. It does contain two descriptions, the first is chronological, while the second is from man's perspective. Even Christ, who in a single sentence mentioned both descriptions, knew that they referred to the same creation event. Evolutionist claim matter proceed mind. Genesis 1-2 says the creator, using supernatural events, brought forth the heavenly bodies, the earth and life. Paul, the apostle supports Genesis in telling the Corinthian church that God gives all things, seeds, animals, birds, man and even heavenly bodies like the sun, moon and stars the kind of body that he has determined. In Colossians 1:16, 17 it says "For by him (Christ) all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities. All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together." God's mind definitely preceded matter.

It has been said that space, time and matter are eternal, that time existed before things were created. Yet, we know that there was a beginning. Time began at the

Creation. Evolutionists say the earth slowly formed in the presence of sunlight. Genesis 1:2 - 3 states on the first day, the earth was formed in darkness. Soon afterwards, but before the sun and stars were made, light was created. Have you heard the claim that the earth initially had a hot, molten surface? That millions of years later, water-chemically locked in the earth's interior-oozed out. Gen 1:2 tells readers that the earth had a liquid water surface on the first day; therefore, the earth was relatively cool at the beginning. Evolutionists believe the present is the key to the past; that, presently observable natural processes explain all past events. This principle, called uniformitarianism, underlies much of geology. That is a false theory. I believe the Biblical recording of the events where God has worked suddenly, as He did during the Creation, the fall, the flood and the dispersion at Babel. No natural process on the earth approaches the flood in its extent, power, destruction, and duration.

A common theory we have all heard is that the first animals were microscopic, single-celled creatures. Genesis 1:20-21 allows no such interpretation. "And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

One could be easily swayed to consider the possibility that the six creation "days" were really six ages, but if one thinks about it, to survive, plants need the sun and animals—especially insects. They were all created within three days of each other. Had it taken much longer, plants could not have survived. Evolutionists claim all organisms have a common ancestor. Therefore, there were continuous transitions among all plants and animals. However, the Bible states in Genesis that there are permanent discontinuities between the many different "kinds" of life. Each kind will produce after itself. They also claim many plants and animals became extinct before man evolved, yet Adam named all the different kinds of cattle, birds, and beasts of the field.

They say, no one established the seven-day week. It was culturally derived. Mark 2:27 tells us that God established the seven-day week for man's benefit. It reminds us of his activity and rest during the creation week. Another way some may rationalize theistic evolution is to say that the genealogies listed from Adam to Joseph contain many gaps. Each gap may span centuries. However, the genealogies from Adam to Joseph are tightly linked since each patriarch's age is given when the next named patriarch was born. Therefore, more time cannot be inserted between patriarchs.

(See "EVOLUTION" on page 4)

**"BOLD"** (Continued from page 1)

Maybe she didn't feel the time was right. Maybe she wanted to give Haman opportunity to tighten the noose around his own neck... Maybe she just lost her nerve.

But the stakes were too high for that. Due to the gravity of the situation, Esther had to be forthright and impassioned-- her life depended on that. Finally, the boldness found Esther and carried her petition to the ears of the king. "WHO WOULD PRESUME TO DO THIS?!" stormed the king. "A foe and an enemy, is this wicked Haman!" the queen replied back.

It took heartache and tears. Many anxious moments had passed since the first revelation of Haman's wicked scheme to annihilate the Israeli nation; but he was now dead-- upon the gallows he had designed for the righteous one. Ironic. Fitting.

The plan was undone, the people were saved. Nice story.

Who is the Haman of this age? The vile deceiver, executor of the Just? Whose pride leads him to commit abominations in the eyes of all the peoples and God? Who imagines he would make a better king than THE King?! . . . Speak, Judas. (Mat. 26:25) "Surely, it is not I."

*Oh, yes. Yes, it is.*

As surely as Haman erected the gallows, I laid hold of the cross. But I did not lead the Just One around the city upon the king's horse, doined in royal attire, proclaiming, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor!" (Es. 6:11) Nor did I fail to follow through with my plan. Instead, I drove Him out of the city on foot, with the weight of my sin and the cross on His back. I dressed Him up like a king, then stripped Him completely. I gouged Him. I slapped Him. I spit on Him. I fulfilled the proclamation of another: "...But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief..." (Isa 53:10) Thus, it was done to the Man whom the Lord desired to honor. . . . Honor?

What a pathway to honor. I'd rather be Haman, wouldn't you? Except, we weren't weak like he was-- we finished what we started. And it didn't take 375 tons, but just 30 shekels of silver.

There were others like us present on the day of Pentecost after we had dishonored the Honorable in such a horrible fashion (Acts 2). They had settled back into their normal lives, some having already forgotten about the commotion concerning that Nazarene called "Jesus". All he'd done was cause trouble, anyway. Today was a day to put such matters to rest. Today was a day of feasting. Today, they thought, was a day to get closer to God.

*How right they were.*

Around 9 o'clock in the morning, some fishermen from Galilee stood in their midst. The locals believed them to be drunk; yet others recognized that they spoke, miraculously, each in the visitors' native tongues. They told a tale about the Man, Jesus-- how the prophets had foretold of His coming, and how God had hinged the entire plan of redemption on Him. It was almost lulling; except for the fact that this was the Man we had treated so mercilessly... And the more they talked, the more

*"Touching the cross of Christ should instill us with confidence. We HAVE obtained God's favor!!"*

credible became their story. The more imminent seemed the Jews' doom. The more apparent the Death of humankind became.

As each looked at another, there was nothing as far as the eye could see, but the convicted faces of murderers. A sea of Haman. And, Jew or not, . . . we were there. (Rom 3:9-18)

What's worse, is that they realized they had put to death their one, real shot at Salvation. There would be no more prophets to prepare the way, for the Way had come-- and the Way had gone. Gloom and despair. Drink it up, Haman. Your plan had just turned against you.

In an instant, we had all become Esther-- on the other side of a plan that committed us all to death and damnation. "MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?!" . . . Hearts pierced, . . . as though with the spear driven through the Master's side. Bleeding.

There was one hope... Alone, each would have to approach God to gain an audience and air out his plea. (Phi 2:12; Ga 6:5)

*Alone. Just like Esther.*

How could one hope to approach the Throne after such reproach?

While some argue as to the validity of Esther's book as a part of the "canon", my

argument is as to which facet of the story is most valuable to me as I strive to get closer to my God? I must turn to Ephesians 3:11-12: "...This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in Whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him." True, in ESTHER there is no overt mention of God or prayer...but I see this passage demonstrated by her, like no one else in Scripture.

*The secret to getting closer to God.*

We approach His Throne, clothed with humility from God's royal wardrobe. (1Pe 5:5-7) We approach; not out of right, but because He picked us before we had even forsaken our Haman ways. (Ro 5:8-10) This should give certain faith--being found worthy enough to be picked by Him for forgiveness and inclusion in His wonderful plan. To be part of the Kingdom. After all, are we not the bride of the King?! (Rev 3:12, 21:2)

Ah, but there is a catch. Approaching God to be acknowledged by Him means certain death.

Reaching to touch His Scepter, you notice it is not made of gold, but of weather-beaten wood. No embedded gems, but nails. Not forged by the furnace of man, but through the blood, sweat, and tears of God. To touch God's Scepter is to touch Christ on the cross. Certain death... "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with... (for) if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him." (Rom 6:6&8).

As Haman was hung on the gallows he'd intended for Mordecai, our carnal man must be hung on the cross intended for Christ. True... we intended it for Him, but it was meant for us all.

*Ironic. Fitting.*

Touching the cross of Christ should instill us with confidence. We HAVE obtained God's favor!! He established our access to Him through Jesus. Knowing this, experiencing this, shouldn't THIS give us the boldness we need to make our requests known to Him?

You've received your life back again, and God has a half Kingdom's worth of blessings yet to give you. (Ro 8:17; He 11:6; Ja 1:5,6) Will you ask, or pace outside the inner court? How close do you want to get to God? How bold do you wanna be??

Read Esther. Know Esther.

*BE Esther.*



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## Reaching the Goal

by  
Shauna Michelle Hunter

Running against the wind  
And going against the grain  
The hurdles that we face just seem  
too tall

Having to run to win  
Biting away the pain  
Sometimes it seems we won't make it  
at all

But all around us lives  
A power beyond compare  
He gives us strength superior to the  
rest

And with His strength he gives  
Every breath of air  
To help us face and battle every test



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### "Evolution" (Continued from page 2)

For a billion years, millions of species have slowly improved and become more complex, right? Wrong. Genesis 1:31 tells us that right after the creation, God saw all He had made and it was very good. Since then, things have deteriorated, for example in Genesis 3:16-19 childbearing pains increased due to Eve's sin and the ground was cursed due to Adam's sin.

Psalms 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of his hands." The Bible proudly proclaims that God created the earth. Not using millions of years; but, only one short and wondrous week. By trying to make Evolution compatible with Christianity, Theistic Evolutionists are robbing God of the glory He deserves.

#### Bibliography:

In The Beginning: Compelling Evidence For Creation and The Flood. By Walt Brown.  
The Eagle Story. Published by Basic Life Principals.



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## In His Service

Taking on the possibility that I might be dating myself, the Boomer generation, of which I am a part, faced a much different society than you "young whipper snappers." I can remember going to my Grandma's and Grandpa's farm for the holidays and having a great time playing with my many cousins, and listening to the stories of my aunts and uncles. It was rare for there to be any mention of divorce, troubles in marriages, or family problems. I was well grown before I knew that some of our family had been married once before. In fact, 80% of us grew up in an "intact" families (the same parents that bore the children also raised them). In contrast you folks born in the 80's only have about a 50% chance of spending all of your childhood with your original parents. So how you define family is somewhat different than how I might define it. For a moment, let's look at God's standard for families and marriage.

In the beginning God devised a wonderful plan. Man and woman would combine to make a family and they would be suited for each other physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. They would become one! Christ further cemented this idea when he said, "What God has put together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19:6). The Apostle Paul said, "A wife must not separate from her husband . . . and a husband must not divorce his wife" (1 Cor. 7:10,11). But that was just the beginning! For the children that came from that union he directed them to honor their father and mother (Ex. 20:12), and to obey them (Eph. 6:1). He just as strongly told parents to train (Duet. 4:9), teach them in the way of the Lord (Deut. 31:13), not exasperate them (Eph. 6:4). It's beginning to look like God's standard is for 100% commitment to each other and to the family.

The principle that God wants us to see about marriage and family may be found back at the beginning, "a man will . . . be united to his wife and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). God values unity. Unity is what Jesus prayed for. Unity with His

Father, Unity between his followers, and Unity with His Bride, the Church! Indeed in this generation, you can have a powerful witness if you build your marriage and family relationships on the unity of God. Unity is a part of God's nature and character. Jesus stressed over and over again, "I and the Father are one" (Jn. 10:30). May your marriages and families be such that they reflect the unity of God.

God has set the standard high because he has much to protect you from and much to provide you. God wants to protect you from disillusionment. Increasingly you see and know about those that decide to live together outside of marriage to see "if it's going to work." Unfortunately there are those that profess to be Christians that are also trying that. What man is discovering, is that God knew what He was talking about. Most live-in couples last only 1.3 years together, many times breaking up before the

marriage ceremony takes place. And the women in those relationships are 66 times more likely to suffer from assault from their "lover" than wives are from husbands. God's standard provides for a sense of fulfillment. Sure, dishes and clothes still get dirty, children put a big stress on you, and married life is complex and sometimes confusing. But when a man and woman unite and become one flesh they can experience a unity that can weather any storm.

However, life doesn't always go that way. If you were raised in that kind of situation, know that God himself has promised to be the "Father of the

fatherless and a judge for the widows" (Ps. 68:5). And there should be another place of healing and stability God would have for us - in His Church. Young people help make it an example of a living, healthy, thriving family that can be a blessing to those that struggle in this world.

Stay strong.  
Love the Lord.

*Dan Green*

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*"Indeed in this generation, you can have a powerful witness if you build your marriage and family relationships on the unity of God."*

# FOOY News

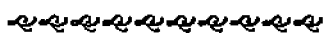
## Future Families of Faith

Steve Proudfit & Cerine Mitchell  
December 21, 1996

Jeremy Morris & Michelle Martin  
January 4, 1997

John Morris & Amber Sparks  
Summer 1997

Brian Tutterrow & Jessica Thompson  
Summer 1997



## Future FOOY News

Future items of news and notes may be submitted to Jeremy Morris by E-mail or to the FOOY snailmail address on the back page. Also, Jeremy is facilitator of an excellent "Verse of the Day" discussion group by E-mail. If you would like to become part of the group sent your e-mail address to Jeremy at:

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## JOURNAL OF FAITH VOLUME II

Volume Two is planned for mid 1997. It is currently being written and compiled by the writers and editor. Notice will be given when the publication date is nearer.



## TALKS ON TAPE

Cassette audio tapes of talks given during the October weekend meeting in Ozark, MO are available. Richard Riggins and Rick Sparks discussed some of the history of the Church during the 20th Century.

Phil Reynolds presented a lesson concerning the Internet and its possible effect on the Church in the Twenty-First Century.

I will be glad to send you the tapes for the cost of the tapes and postage.

Please contact Dwain R. Stoops, 401 E. Mt. Vernon, Nixa, MO 65714 to place your order.



# Melodies in our Hearts

There are many occasions for the children of God to sing. A song may be on our breath as we do a chore. There may be a lilting tune come to our mind when we are happy, or a hymn of comfort when we are troubled. The scripture says, Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13) In every occasion, if it is to the glory of God, songs effectively touch and convict those who listen.

The heart buoyed up through hopeful song not only helps the singer, but can have a positive effect upon the hearer. Paul & Silas apparently found strength when they prayed and sang in the miserable conditions of prison. This wasn't just whistling in the dark, it was the work of God. This was a contributing factor to the other prisoners staying put when the doors were shaken open. Undoubtedly, they heard of the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, and the of the power of His Anointed One, as grace wafted upon the prayer and song of Paul & Silas. The captives heard voices of hope, and a witness of truth.

They were listening. In time gone by, slaves in America would shoulder their burden in the fields with long, steady song, often giving glory to God. To this day these work songs are inspirational. Even in the softness of luxury, the spirit is stirred by their power. How many times have we been touched by a mother's song to her child, or appreciated the cheerful song of a busy soul? Whether in the Lord or in the world, a song is a powerful communicator.

*"How many times have we been touched by a mother's song to her child, or appreciated the cheerful song of a busy soul?"*

Songs emerge because we have heard them sung before. However, have you had the experience of a song coming unbidden from your own heart? Maybe it is a synthesis derived from other music you have heard, but the blending, and most importantly, the spirit are yours. Usually, this occurs

during times of focused intensity, whether it be joy, sorrow, or stress. Sometimes we find solace in developing a song to the glory of God. Whatever the prompting, song is not bound by the constraints of a specified structure, like counterpoint and harmony. It is forwarded by the experience of our lives.

(See MELODIES on page 6)

## HUE & BOZ

By Chad Shaffer



Remember... God does not let Satan tempt us past our own abilities.

*MELODIES (Continued from page 5)*

Refinements can come later, but the raw communication is the point. This is what touches the heart. Even many classical composers have studied at length the folk songs of their native lands in order to find the basis for rich compositions. Thanks be to God that He has seen fit to let us, as His children, speak and teach through song. Our Father gives us the privilege to draw melodies from the wells of our lives to carry His truth to one another and to the world.

**Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.  
Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,  
And a two edged sword in their hand,  
To execute vengeance on the nations,  
And punishments on the peoples;  
To bind their kings with chains,  
And their nobles with fetters of iron;  
To execute on them the written judgment -  
This honor have all His saints.  
Praise the LORD!**

**Psalms 149:5-9**

The featured song for this issue is called "Make Me Sensitive." It was written by Carl Hunter, an evangelist currently working in the area of Sutherlin, Oregon. He has sent this statement about himself and his love for music:

"I grew up in Oregon, partly in Portland and partly outside of Prineville, a ranching community. I attended Portland Community College and Brigham Young University. Became a Christian in 1977, at age 18.

Married Peggy Varcoe, high school sweetheart, in 1978. We have four children: Shauna, 16; Jessi, 14; AJ, 13; Rochelle, 6. Worked many different jobs, including receiving for Albertsons Foods and sales/delivery for Schwans Foods. Started helping evangelists in 1988 and was appointed in 1990 by the elders at Bakersfield CA. I have helped churches in Colorado and Oregon, and have worked with Charles Fry, Jay Graham and Keith Owens.

I write my best music when coming out of periods of discouragement. I dream of writing hundreds of songs before my life is completed. I enjoy creating something useful, pleasant and enjoyable."

May God bless Carl in this objective. I think you will find that "Make Me Sensitive" is useful, pleasant, and enjoyable. Xerox it, sing it and share it with others.



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eventually they realize that a great friendship can be developed.

Friendship is sometimes a difficult relationship because of differences between friends. Those differences can get in the way of friendship. The hardest thing to bear is losing a friend, especially a Christian friend. It would break my heart to lose any of my friends in Christ. They all are so very important to me. The best friends are Christian friends. "We all make mistakes," my greatest friend told me. But I don't want to make the mistake of losing any Christian friend.

When you look at a yellow rose, what do you see? Do you see a rose? Or do you see its beauty? I see a symbol of friendship. My dad once told me that the red rose is for love, the white rose is for purity, and the yellow rose represents friendship. Choose to be God's friend, He is the perfect friend. He wants to see you living your life for Him and loving Him.



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## *The Everlasting Friend*

*by Sunrise Irene Decena*

**F**riendship. What does that word mean to you? Does it mean a close friend? Does it mean an important relationship? Or is it just a word that starts with "f" and ends with "d"? As for myself, the word "friendship" means sharing and having a relationship where there is honesty, loyalty, understanding, laughter, trust, love, and great memories shared with a special friend or person. What exactly is a friend? From my point of view, my good friends have all and more of these great qualities.

I believe that every single person in this world goes through life with one special friend: the friend that is always there for you, no matter what. The friend that has always come through for you at any time. The friend who is always caring, loving, who understands you, listens to what you have to say and even if they are busy is there to comfort you. To them, you always matter, and they never let you down.

Although there will always be fights between you and that special friend, you know that everything will work out soon. Anytime you are without your friend, you always have a feeling in your heart that they are thinking about you and wishing they were with you. A special friend will change your life and touch your heart. You always know that friendship will last for many years to come.

Believe it or not, there is a greater friend than this. This friend has been your friend even before you were born. This friend is right there next to you every second of your life. The greatest friend you can ever have is God, our Father in heaven. He is true and will never turn His back on you. He even gave His Son's life for your sins. Do you know any earthly friend that will give their life for yours?

God is the perfect friend. He wants everyone to live with Him in heaven. But not everyone has accepted His great friendship. I feel that those people have lost a lot. Friendship with God is a commitment of living your life for Him. Sometimes people don't realize when they've found their special friend, but

# Songs of our Youth

## Make Me Sensitive

Lyrics: C. Hunter

Music: C. Hunter

1  
Lord, you know just how to lead, — but my eyes don't al-ways see the way. —

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "1 Lord, you know just how to lead, — but my eyes don't al-ways see the way. —". The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature.

5  
Lord, I feel your Spir - it move, — but my lips don't know the words to say.

5  
The second system of music continues the vocal and piano lines. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "5 Lord, I feel your Spir - it move, — but my lips don't know the words to say.". The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature.

8  
Make me sen - si-tive — to see the truth. — May I know your will — through and through. —

8  
The third system of music continues the vocal and piano lines. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "8 Make me sen - si-tive — to see the truth. — May I know your will — through and through. —". The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature.

12  
May my heart, mind, and bod-y be in tune. — Make me sen - si-tive to fol-low you.

12  
The fourth system of music concludes the vocal and piano lines. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "12 May my heart, mind, and bod-y be in tune. — Make me sen - si-tive to fol-low you.". The piano accompaniment begins with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature.

# "FOOY" Views

**W**elcome Jeremiah (Jeremy) Morris to the FOOY staff as co-editor. He will be searching for authors of articles, poems, and other appropriate material of faith for publication in future issues of FOOY.

Jeremy is a dedicated, energetic, minister for the Master. Many enjoy his "Verse of the Day" e-mail discussion group during the school year. He will be completing his education as a crime lab technician in the spring of 97. He and Michelle Martin plan to be wed in January 97 and, if work permits, make their home in the Springfield/Ozark, Missouri area. He is a member of the Ozark church. Jeremy and Michelle are a welcomed addition to our family.

All you young folk, sent Jeremy your writings and become a part of the FOOY family. One of our evangelist commented to me the other day on how he enjoyed and looked forward to reading the inspiring words of our young Christians.

Ariel Bown, Shauna Hunter, Chad Shaffer, and Sunrise Irene Decena are

four young members of the church who have submitted excellent thoughts in an article, poem, cartoon, and article. Check them out and let them know we appreciate their efforts.

The FOOY staff is continually looking for new ways to reach and encourage the spiritual talents of the youth of the Church. We started with articles and have since included poems, songs, and drawings illustrating the knowledge and faith of our younger.

There is a lot of emphasize in our schools to train our young to develop technical and social communication skills, but it's up to their Christian elder's, (meaning both women and men) to help them develop their spiritual communication skills. To this end FOOY is dedicated.

*Dwain R. Stoops*



### *From Jeremy's View*

For many of the older generation, each issue of "Faith of our Youth"

brings new hope of the Church's future. Although we all have faith that the Church will never fail, it gives the older peace knowing that there are young willing to serve the Lord. With all of this attention put upon our generation, we must not forget on essential fact—they are the elder and we the younger. A gray head and wrinkled face are dual signs of age and wisdom. A master archer does not make a bow from a newly cut tree; rather, he uses aged wood which has strength and durability. There is wisdom in that gray head and we, the younger generation, must seek it.

The zeal of the youth must push and encourage the older. But the wisdom of the older must temper the younger. The older are commanded to teach the younger, so we should listen. Although ignorant of the Internet, present day fads, or the music of our generation, these Christians have walked the road of Christianity with all of its trials and burdens. Let us hear the wisdom of the ages and aged.

*Jeremy Morris*

## Faith of our Youth

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