

# Faith Of Our Youth

February 1998

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 5 Issue 1

## HOLOGRAM CHRISTIANS

by Shane Lee

All the world is just a stage and we are merely players, pretenders and portrayers." This is a line that has Shakespearean origin that's used in a song by the band Rush. When looking at the world from a secular view this statement holds some truths. However we must be careful as Christians not fall into this trap. There are many things that plague the Christian life. A general lack of discipline is one of the worst.

Richard Taylor wrote in the Disciplined Life, "...respectable Christians that would be horrified at the thought of touching liquor, or indulging in gross immorality...are nevertheless undisciplined, and the fatal weakness is unmasked in the day of trial and adversity." There are many who don't do anything "wrong," but they don't do anything "right." Being Christian is a full time job that should not only consume us, but shape who we are. I Thes. 2:4 speaks of how we are here not to please man but God. That is why we are here, to please God.

God despises undisciplined behavior. The story of the prodigal son comes to mind. But that is a little different kind of discipline than what

(See "HOLOGRAM" on page 3)

## Wisdom of our Elders

by Marvin Ingle

Along with the "man after God's own heart," I can say, "I have been young, and now I am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." It has been my experience that when I took the advice of Christ—"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"—that all things worked for good (although there were times, I admit, that it seemed impossible for me to see how that could happen).

Setting your life on a course that brings the promise and the reality of eternal life is a decision only you can make; as Peter told those who cried "What shall we do?" at Pentecost, "Save yourselves from this undone generation". So each of you must do your own reading, your own studying, indeed, your own thinking; others may advise you, love you, counsel you, and teach you in the truth of God—but, in the final analyses, YOU decide whether or not you will follow Jesus. If the commitment is yours, the follow-up of obedience will be easier. Don't let someone persuade you to "go through the motions" for we are told every true Christian must be "fully persuaded in his own mind"; he must "obey FROM THE HEART that form of doctrine delivered to them" from Jesus.

Once you have conceived the word, taken it and kept it in your mind, you will, of course, be grateful, ready to repent of sin, willingly confess His name before men, and submit to bap-

(See "WISDOM" on page 2)

## Fourth Man In The Fire

by Jeffrey Allen

One of the great things about the bible is that you can always learn something new when studying it. That even goes for Bible stories that are taught to small children.

Even though the story may have been heard or read several times, there is usually a new slant or a new idea that appears that wasn't noticed before when studying that story again. One of my favorite stories from the Old Testament is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. This is a story that is often told to small children, but there are a lot of good lessons to be learned from this story for the young & old alike.

If you are curious of the details of this story, the scriptures record these events in Daniel, the third chapter. Most of us are familiar with the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: Three young Israelite men who were in captivity in Babylon who were forced to make a decision, forced to stand up for what they believed, and forced to decide who to serve, God or man. There are several lessons that are learned easily from this story such as: 1) serve no man or being other than God himself, 2) have faith in the Lord and he will be there for you. I'd like to examine a couple of other lessons that are also evident in this story.

For starters, think of the immense pressure that was on the three of them. We don't know exactly how many people

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## Wonderful Memories Will Last Through the Years

by Stephanie L. Moody

Two weeks of fellowship, rejoicing, and praise.

With love and laughter our hearts did raise.

Though meditating thought did bring on some tears,

Those wonderful memories will last through the years.

Encouragement we've received from many great men.

The actual number heard from is one more than ten.

From angels, family and the tried man,  
To priests, children and "I think I can.

To God we daily prayed and sang.

Enthusiastically our voices joyously rang.

Relationship, Kings and marriage were discussed those days,

Ephesians, flesh, spirit, and the seven churches ways.

Anger, steadfastness, and commitment were dealt with at night.

We even saw ourselves in a casket, quite a sobering sight.

Along with the study there was fun and games for all.

Bowling, skating, miniature golf, and basketball.

At the Y everyone was locked in real tight,

And, of course, one evening there was a water fight,

With balloons and buckets, oh, and don't forget

Wading pools are even better yet.

Wednesday night talent will be remembered long.

The show had jokes, skits, and a lot of song.

So, with two weeks of fellowship, rejoicing, and praise.

With love and laughter our hearts did raise.

Though meditating thoughts did bring on some tears,

Those wonderful memories will last through the years



Vandalia, IA Church of Christ

*WISDOM (Continued from page 1)*

tism to be washed from your sins by the blood of Christ. As you were physically created by God: your mother, according to God's plan, provided the egg from which you came; your father, of course, fertilized that egg; and with God's help you were fashioned in the womb under your mother's heart. When she could no longer carry you, she was moved to cast you forth, and you were separated from her—and God "breathed into your nostrils the breath of life—and you became a living soul." Your mind, your spirit, and your body were just as God wanted them—to give a unique picture of Him on the earth. He has placed within you the potential to know and do many wonderful things; few of us know our real capacity for learning, for understanding, for wisdom, for feeling or for fruitful production—for glorifying Him.

A wise man once said, "Make it thy business to **know thyself**, which is the most difficult lesson in the world." Not many men **know** whether they are five-talent men, two-talent men, or one-talent men; but all must assuredly admit to the Creator and other men—they were not left out. Some discover their strengths and weaknesses by trial-and-error; others accept whatever their fellows tell them; and some imagine themselves to be somebody when they are really nobody. A very wise man provided the means by which we can think of ourselves as we ought: "There are four sorts of men:

- (1) *He who knows not and knows not he knows not; he is a fool—shun him.*
- (2) *He who knows not and knows he knows not; he is simple—teach him.*
- (3) *He who knows and knows not he knows; he is asleep—wake him.*
- (4) *He who knows and knows he knows; he is wise—follow him."*

David was a 4; He knew that with God's help, he had killed a lion and a bear (both beyond normal human performance: and, therefore, when he faced his Goliath, he could with all confidence predict his victory. He knew and knew that he knew, from whence his strength had come. We, too, can know and know that we know—but, because it is not of ourselves—and with all confidence be assured that "**with God**" all things are possible.

The world often challenges us to stand for what we believe or be destroyed. II Tim. 1:7... "God has not

given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

The three Hebrew children were commanded by Nebuchadnezzar the king, when they heard the music, to "fall down and worship the image: or "be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace," and they replied boldly and full of faith: "We are not careful to answer thee... If it be His will, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King, that **WE WILL NOT** serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." What courage! What faith! What confidence in their knowledge of God! What indignation at the very suggestion!

Joshua reminded Israel that each of them must choose for himself whether he would serve the Great God of Heaven—or the little gods of men's imagination and making. But he left no doubt in their minds about himself, by saying: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve;...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Paul promised us Christians—who dare to be a Daniel, who set our minds to serve the living God—Heb. 13:5... for He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, So that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what men shall do to me."

Ezra 7:10... "Ezra had prepared his heart; with three goals for his life: (1) "to seek the law of the Lord, (2) and to do it, and (3) to teach to Israel statutes and judgements." What a worthy ambition for anyone at any age.

Your bodies are constantly undergoing change, as a matter of fact, you are, indeed, a "new man" every seven years. During adolescence and early adulthood, one sometimes comes to think there's a revolution going on within him (Strangely enough, the Apostle Paul still had that warring inside him when he was an old man.) Remember that God made your body, and (with all the changes going on) He is preparing you for greater physical and spiritual fulfillment. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made." God knows the drives you have; He gave them to you to be used in honor to you and to Him.

But when we would do good, evil is always present; since Eve the devil is at our elbow, offering an alternative lifestyle. He desires to "sift us like wheat": As with Job, he might shake your faith by taking away all visible

(See "WISDOM" on page 3)

*"WISDOM" (Continued from page 2)*

means of support outside yourself. And when he finds that doesn't work, he will strike you through your own flesh—hoping by that means to turn your mind "to curse God." But Job knew he was God's servant: one who fears God; an upright man, who avoided all kinds of evil—and, with God's help could bring his body into subjection—and so declared, "E'en thought He slay me, yet will I trust Him!"

The world is full of temptations—the means of working on our bodies and minds, even through legitimate appetites, for things outside the boundaries of God and generally-accepted decency. If you know the truth of God, when these things raise their ugly heads to draw you away, do as Jesus did when He was tempted: Recall what God said about it, and throw it right back at the devil's face—and God promises, "He (the devil) will flee from you." To do so is to escape the guilt and humiliation that comes with all sin; to gain the respect of your fellows; and, more importantly, to know the satisfaction of having walked with God. Keep yourself PURE; save your clean body for that someone special; and know the thrill of sharing yourself with another who is clean and pure—of the same mind and judgment—and be heirs together of the grace of life.

Don't even date someone you wouldn't want to marry; many have just "gone out" with a man "a few times"—but have awakened to the realization they have become emotionally, psychologically, and, yes, sometimes even physically tied to him; and do not have the will power, as Joseph did, to flee. And so have found themselves entangle in a web from which neither can escape without great damage. The great Apostle to the Gentiles commands all who would live godly lives: (II Cor. 6) "Do not be yoked together (and how can you be more yoked than in marriage?) with unbelievers." And he reasons thus: (NIV) "What do wickedness and righteousness have in common? What fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?" To ask these questions, is to answer with a resounding, "NOTHING!!!" So why would a Christian man put his soul at risk, and tempt God, by becoming involved with a child of the world? An ounce of prevention here is certainly worth a pound of cure.

Start pursuing your career goals as early as possible—every day you procrastinate on the decision, or pursuing it,

serve as a handicap or loss in your winning the prize. Know what you want; do it with all your might; give it you BEST shot. If you discover it is "not for you", pull out, and try another avenue. Solomon said, "There is nothing better for a man than that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor...this is a gift from God." Eccles. 2:24, 5:19.

In like manner, set for yourself spiritual goals—always just beyond your reach—to keep you striving for the mastery. If you can dream of someday being an elder (and all of us know we need more good leadership in the church), study God's requirements for that position, put your shoulder to the task early (like NOW), and fulfill a good work for God. But if you can't be a leader, be assured there's always openings for good followers. Good follower are scarce; perhaps that's why Jesus kept asking men to follow Him, instead of asking them to lead for Him. To aspire to leadership in the church, the first goal should be to train yourself in skills of a follower.

Take advantage of every opportunity to walk with great men and women of God; observe their modus operandi—mimic their thought processes and their actions; their faith follow—knowing the end of their conversation. A bankroll of knowledge and wisdom gained early in life will serve you well all the days God gives you on earth. Learning and thinking are both hard work; they must be reviewed constantly; engaged in with regularity; and put into practice or they'll rightly be branded "mental gymnastics; and, as bodily exercise does, profit little. Don't involve yourself in these things that take you away from the fellowship of your brethren; that deny you the chance to KNOW God—not merely know about Him; activities that for you are premature because of your age, experiences, or station in life.

Finally, "Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass...Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." (Ps. 37)



Evangelist of the Church

Member of

Vandalia, IA Church of Christ

*"HOLOGRAM" (Continued from page 1)*

I'm mentioning. I'm not speaking of blowing all our money or living in gluttony. I'm speaking of just not being as good a Christians as we should be. Maybe we should read and study our bibles more. Maybe we should go see the sick and elderly. Maybe we should refrain from laughing at the jokes at school and work that are inappropriate. I don't know what you need to improve in your life and you don't know what I need to improve in mine. But if you think that there is nothing that needs improving you are gravely mistaken.

The title and opening line of this article deals with what occurs when undisciplined behavior continues. That being hypocrisy. Hypocrisy literally means "actor". When we are paying lip service to the Church we are mocking God and that is a serious thing to do. We are to be

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**"I say to you that  
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contributing factor  
to sin."**

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ambassadors to the world for God and you better believe that the world is watching.

I'd like to relay a story that I'm in no way proud of, but illustrates a good point. Over this last summer I was involved with the remodeling of the K-Mart (now Big K) that I work at. I was on the yellow team, which consisted of three other members and a team leader. I worked 40 hours a week with these four people for ten weeks. So I obviously got to know my fellow yellow team members well. One day I was talking to a guy, who was telling me a story of how as a child had broken something of his fathers. His father became very upset and yelled and cussed at my colleague. Knowing that my father is in church work he said "I doubt you father does that." To which I replied, "Get mad?" "No, I mean I doubt you

(See "HOLOGRAM" on page 4)

## News & Notes

Compiled by  
Dan Huff

### Report from California

The Long Beach youth has been doing many things...the most recent was the baptism of Erin Craig. Erin has been attending our congregation with her boyfriend (now fiancée), Brad McKenzie (the son of Doug McKenzie, one of the elders in our church), for several years now.

Just last Sunday night, (February 1, 1998) Brad baptized his future wife in our baptistry at the Long Beach building. We are all thrilled to have a great friend become a sister.

### Notes from Oregon

The young adults in Sutherlin are in their third year of Teen Study led by Carl Hunter. The study includes both teenagers at the church and teens from the community.

Shauna, Jessi, and Amos Hunter are all active members of the Sutherlin Jazz Choir. Shauna and Jessi teach children's class in church, and Amos leads songs, teaches lessons, and directs communion.

### News from Kansas

Kristy Morton is now a sophomore at Ottawa High School. She's running cross country this year and doing really well. She has finished in the top 10 at several meets now. Ottawa is ranked #1 in the Huron League and they are looking to go undefeated.

Matt Morton played 7th grade football this year for Ottawa Middle School. He played quarterback.

I don't really know much else. I'm in my 2nd year here at KU as a Computer Science major. Christy Kuhn is at K-State for her first year and is a music major.

### Word from Missouri

Neil Ross from the Excelsior Springs congregation writes, "I have been teaching the teenage class for the past couple of months, and that has been a wonderful experience for me, you would have to ask the class members to see if they got anything out of it."

"We have been continuing our singings at the nursing home once a month, and I must say that the support of our young people has helped that effort greatly."

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Note: Sent your news & notes items to Dan Huff, 925 South Ave. F201, Springfield, MO 65806, or [dhuff@lakeozarks.net](mailto:dhuff@lakeozarks.net).

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There are several good web pages on the internet that are worth your visit. These are some of them:

**FOOY Online** by Ariel Bown:  
<http://members.aol.com/ddeis1234/index.html>

(Includes the last three issues of FOOY)

**Bread of Life** by Dan Huff:  
<http://www.lakeozarks.net/~dhuff/bol.htm>

(Includes Gospel Message On-line!)

"HOLOGRAM" (Continued from page 3)  
father cusses." "No one in my family cusses," I retorted rather proud of my Christian home. But the next three words that my co-worker said gave me a sensation that I have never felt before and wish upon none.

"Just you, huh?"

I literally stood speechless long enough that he asked me if I was okay. I can not put into words the emotion I felt at that moment. Sitting at my computer right now typing this, my heart is thumping in my chest. The only thing that comes to mind is when Peter heard the cock crow twice and looked across the garden to see Jesus staring at him. Here I was trying to establish the separation of my household from the world, and he said "Just you huh?". He didn't even think anything of it. He didn't look down on me, he just saw me as one just like him.

I submit to you, that story is a story of a hologram Christian. I didn't even know that I had cussed around him. I don't cuss at home, or church or anything. But I was undisciplined, I was weak, and I fell. I say to you that being undisciplined is the major contributing factor to sin. We can not afford to be "merely players, pretender, and portrayers." Likewise we can not afford to be "Hologram Christians."



Smart Road Church of Christ

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**Living Waters** by Charles Fry  
<http://users.aol.com/cafry/livwat/index.html>

(With connections to several other good sites.)

**Tikvah** by Louis Garbi  
<http://www.lakeozarks.net/~tikvah/>

(New songs on-line)

"FIRE" (Continued from page 1)

ple were present in Nebuchadnezzar's court at the time of this story, but there were obviously several high ranking Babylonian officials present. Plus we know from the scriptures that there were several instruments playing during the time that the people were to bow down, so you know that the volume was probably quite high when all these instruments were playing at once. Place yourself in their shoes among the nation's elite government officials and try to imagine the temptation that they were facing. All they had to do was bow down to this statue and life would return to normal, the music would stop, and the scrutiny would be lifted. That would have been the easy way out, but they chose to stand up for what was right; they chose to overcome temptation. Isn't it a shame today what small things cause us to stumble. Metaphorically speaking, we are asked many times in our lives to bow down to something else other than God. Do we stand up to the pressure or do we bow down our knees to the idol. We must realize that anything placed ahead of God in our lives becomes an idol to us.

Another lesson taken from this story is that God blessed them (with deliverance) **after** they made the decision to serve him. They decided not to bow down to the idol made of gold and choose God as their only master. Because they chose God over the idol, God delivered them from the fiery furnace that awaited them. Do you think God would have spared them if they would have bowed down to the idol, but Nebuchadnezzar decided to torch them anyway for the trouble? Probably not! This has been a constant theme throughout the bible. Naaman was cured of leprosy only after dipping seven times in the river Jordan. The Children of Israel had their first born spared from the death angel only after they did exactly what God told them to do and spread the blood on their door posts. So many times today, people expect God's blessings before they obey his commands. God, please give me this and this and then if I get it, I'll serve and follow you. This is simply not the way it works. Do you expect God's blessings? Do you expect to go to heaven? Then what have you done for him lately! God expects us to love him above all others and if we don't adhere to that, then we really have no business expecting his blessings.



Nixa, MO Church of Christ

## Melodies in our Hearts by Louis Garbi

### Teaching One Another

The Lord commanded; "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col3:16) Songs are a powerful vehicle for learning. Through a song an emotional value is attached to words. This lifts the message into a realm of immediate experience. It tends to plant itself in our memory. How many of us have listened to a song which we should have avoided, only to have it buzz in our consciousness like a pesky fly? Happily, we can remember so easily a cheerful song, a love song, and a meaningful hymn. It is this invocation of memory which makes a song an effective aid to teaching. Though a song cannot replace concerted study, it can deeply anchor the basic things we need to know.

The Bible mentions three ways in which the truth is promoted through song: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We find examples of these patterns in the book of Psalms. The psalm, as exemplified in the Bible, often expresses a meditation on a theme, or an offering of prayer. The 32nd is a discourse on the mercy of God. The 51st is a plea for mercy. Thus in a psalm, we contemplate God and our approach to Him. Strong's Greek lexicon defines the hymn as an ode or celebration. It exalts a matter. For example, the 133rd exalts the fellowship of brethren in the Lord. The 119th Psalm makes a statement glorifying the Lord's help. So a hymn would glorify a truth. A spiritual song falls into the category of what we sometimes call 'praise music'. It is defined as an ode or chant. There is often a repetition of words as we see in Ps.136 and 150. It is difficult for me to absolutely delineate these categories of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, because they blend together. I would summarize a psalm as a meditation, a hymn as an exaltation of a truth, and a spiritual song as an offering of praise. Through these approaches, God has given us a means to learn and enjoy the truth.

*"It is the Lord's purpose that we should edify one another in truth."*

Because a song can be so effective, we should take care with the words we write and sing. It is the Lord's purpose that we should edify one another in truth. Like offering a prayer, we often use our own words, our own way of putting things. Yet, as in all things, we must use

(See MELODIES on page 6)

### HUE & BUE

by Ray Elliott



## Peer Pressure

by Christopher Davenport

**C**ome on just try it,"  
"it won't hurt  
you—trust me."

These are common sayings to a teenage mind. How do teenagers deal with the pressures of Jr. High and even High school life?

Church helped me to overcome the people who taunt and torment. During the past two months I've been a teachers aide in the 3-6 grade class. We have been studying about the man of lawlessness. I thought it was a perfect example of peer pressure.

In 2 Thess 2:4, it reads: "He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, and even sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

What this verse is saying to me is that we should be ready for the kind of people who can deceive us and trick us to do evil. We should be alert to withstand the powers of Satan.

During my two years of high school so far I've heard about it all: "Come on man it's just a cigarette," "Do it, if you don't your not cool."

That brings me to another topic, branching off of peer pressure. "What is your meaning to the word "COOL?" To me "cool" is having the power to stand up to the type that pressure you to do things.

In conclusion, I'd like to post another verse: 2 Thess 2:15 "So then brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter."

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Bakersfield, CA Church of Christ

## An Elder's Letter

by Murray Linn

**B**rother Murray Linn, a member of the church in Martinsville, IN, wrote to the editor reminiscing about having visited the Ozark congregation in 1950 and the fact that during his 50 years of Christian service he has visited or worked with about 80 congregations from Virginia to Japan. He has taught youth groups and finds a general attitude of "it can't or won't happen to me." Here is his short story for our consideration.

### "Prepare For The Unexpected"

In the early summer of 1950 I was working at a good job in a television factory and was buying a fine car. Life was grand and during vacation time we took a long trip west as far as Oklahoma. The idea that war would break out in Korea or anywhere else wasn't even thought of! But on June 25th of that year my life changed.

I was called to serve four years in the USAF as a jet fighter mechanic, including time in Korea and Japan. It was an interesting experience, although I would rather have been "back home." But I found comfort in **Christian** friends both in the USA and abroad, some of which I still contact. My point in this brief account is although you may plan sometimes events will change. Build a "fortress of faith" so whatever comes your way you will stand!

God Bless!

Murray Linn

◆◆◆  
Martinsville, IN Church of Christ

MELODIES (Continued from page 5)

the Bible as our source material. In a song, this would be a direct quotation of the scriptures, or an idea extrapolated from the scriptures. Each has its advantages and difficulties. A direct quotation is always safe. The singer can have no doubt about its truth, even though he may wonder at the meaning. Also, through the process of singing, the verse is easily remembered. The difficulty in using a quote from the Bible is that it will not always follow the conventions of meter. This is especially true if the song is set up to have consecutive verses which follow the identical melodic and rhythmic pattern for each verse. You can always take a quotation and tailor the music to fit the accented structure of the words, but there will not likely be a repetitive pattern. To compose music which follows the quotation is both a challenge and a reward. You can see how well this is done in John Morris' rendition of Ps.71:1-3. The alternative to quoting the scriptures is to write our own verses. This is akin to the liberty of self expression in prayer. There is also the advantage of being able to structure the meter. The problem with this method is the problem of paraphrasing. Unless we are very careful, we can let our own sentiments and ideas get in the way of what the Lord has revealed. Yet, when the lyrics are thoughtfully composed, we are enriched by a heartfelt rendition of the truth. Direct quotation of scripture and our own writing are both valid in making a song to glorify God.

All of God's children have varying degrees of understanding, and differing levels of conviction. As a result, a song which may seem very good to one, may be a misdemeanor to another. It does not violate the will of God to be forbearing in matters such as this. (See Eph. 4:1-3) This will work if we strive to choose and to write songs which are true to His word. The Word of God has to be preeminent if we teach and admonish one another through song.

I am offering one of my own songs for your testing. It is adapted from Ps. 20:7-9. Most of it is a direct quotation from the NKJV. I use the word 'adapted' because there is a place where I adjusted the quote to fit the music. I hope you enjoy it to the glory of God.

◆◆◆  
Evangelist of the Church  
Eldon, MO Church of Christ

# Songs of our Youth

## Psalm 20:7-9

Music: L. Garbi

Lyrics: Adapted

Some trust in cha - ri - ots, and some trust in hors - es, but  
we will re - mem - ber the name of the LORD our God. They have bowed down, and  
they have fall - en, but we have ris - en, and we \_\_\_\_\_ stand up - right.  
Save \_\_\_\_\_ LORD. May the king ans - wer us. Save \_\_\_\_\_ LORD. Ans - wer when we call.  
LORD. \_\_\_\_\_ LORD. \_\_\_\_\_  
LORD. \_\_\_\_\_

*Near-the-End Music*

# "FOOY" Views

I'm going to let the following writing speak for itself. This is a moving tribute which exemplifies faith of our youth being touched by faith and wisdom of our elders.

—DRS—

## FOND MEMORIES OF AUNT LORRAINE

by Marvin Smith

Do you ever wonder about your legacy?

Prior to attending a graveside service, I pondered the legacy of my aunt, Lorraine Birdsell. She had led a "typical Christian life." She loved the Lord and accepted HIM in her life as a teen. She and her late husband Alfred had raised believing children. She was a good neighbor. In order to make ends meet, she ran a small daycare out of her home. She had always been active in her church. She loved her children and grandchildren. She dealt with the challenges of the life in a Christian manner. An ordinary Christian life.

But things change with time. The small church that we all worshiped God

together was gone. Their family had lived in Kansas, Wyoming, and in later years Washington so the community roots were somewhat segmented. The kids were scattered from Maryland to Washington with stops in Colorado and Michigan. She had moved from the wilds of Montesano, WA back to her roots in Beloit, Kansas. For a variety of reasons I expected only a handful of family and friends to pay their last respects to Aunt Lorraine.

When I arrived at the final resting site at the McCleary Cemetery, I saw the expected 4 children and the family friend that accompanied her body to Washington state. A couple of preachers (Carl Hunter & Lee Wright) rolled in. Most of the first guests to arrive were the expected cast of characters. Former roommates, old family friends—all were expected. Then one by one, strangers began to arrive. Young adults, perhaps as many as ten or fifteen. Full of life, yet appropriately somber. I wondered whether they had the right event. But my cousins seemed to recognize them.

It was later that I found out that

the unexpected visitors were "Lorraine's kids." Not her children (Joyce, Warren, Betty, Suzette, or Lanny), but her day care kids. They had come to honor a Christian woman who had a significant impact on their lives. A lady that had given them love and affection during the early years of their lives. As I recall, Lorraine's Kids were offspring of local politicians, physicians—but most were ordinary people.

The life lesson that Loraine taught me was our legacy as Christians is that we should do what we are called to do in this life with love, affection, and passionately. It is out of the ordinary that an extraordinary impact can be made. Lorraine's witness to her Lord was powerful. I saw it on the faces of all her kids.

Most of us are not going to write an important book or become famous for an invention or make any memorable impression on the world. But if we conduct our ordinary vocations in a manner that honors God and proclaims Christ—that is our significance. We can make the ordinary, extraordinary. I believe that is one legacy of Lorraine Birdsell.

# Faith of our Youth

FOOY Online: <http://members.aol.com/ddeis1234/index.html>

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