



## "Youth and The Program of The Church"

By Rev. W. L. Fernley\*

In thinking of Youth and their place in the church one is forced to consider the fact that unless the Young People have a place in the program of the Church, the Church would soon fail to exist. I am suggesting that, for this reason, viz. according to statistics three-quarters of the present day church congregations consist of young people. If young people are not influenced and afforded a place of Christian activity within the boundary of the church we will discover that other organizations will take them and put them to work.

Christian young people need the church and the church needs them. There are many reasons for this but we shall name only three.

Firstly, Young People have a **Vision**. Spiritual eyesight sees beyond the physical view. Jesus speaking to His Disciples (who were mainly young men) said, "Behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Here they were given a spiritual picture of the world of men who were waiting and ready to be reaped for the Kingdom of God. In the main God calls young people to the harvest fields. It is to them that He grants a vision of what is to be done and if their eyesight is focused correctly they see it clearly, and step forth to gather.

Secondly, Young People have a **Voice**. In general they can make themselves heard and oftentimes very effectively. History tells us that the course of this world has been changed often by young people lifting up their voices for God. The Spiritual Giants of the Faith have been mostly young people with sound principles and great faith in God who have wielded the Sword of Truth and Justice, and so have brought to pass great and noble acts that have brought about Spiritual changes in the Christian Church. Young people, who have not counted their lives dear unto themselves, have gone forth to blaze trails of Love and Devotion across this dark universe. Some of them are dead yet speak.

Thirdly, Young People have a **Value**. I have often wondered what Jesus thought of the young man that came to Him with Life's greatest Question, "What shall I do that I may inherit Eternal Life?" After Jesus told him to go and sell all that he had and give to the poor, and then follow Him—the young man went away very sorrowful for he had great possessions. That this man would have been valuable to Jesus Christ and His program is indisputable. The record tells us that Jesus looking upon him loved him, suggesting a real heart concern for this young man. His worth to the cause of Jesus Christ was of untold value. A young man with the where-with-all to do wonderful things for God—yet he went away.

Might I ask you a pointed personal question, "Have you a **Vision**, a **Voice**, and a **Value** for the Cause of Jesus Christ? If so He needs you, the Church needs you, the world needs you. Young People, hear the **Challenge**, heed the **Call** and go forth to work in the ripened soul grain of this present world. May we go forth to do as the song writer suggests:

## AFRICA REPORTS

P. O. Box 116,  
Piet Retief,  
South Africa

Dear Young People in Canada:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on Mount Calvary for us all, and saved us from our sins.

We the young people in South Africa are praising the Lord for He has opened the way for us to have our own leaders, to help us in our work.

We give our thanks to Mr. Glendon Kierstead, who with some young people sent our request to the old people. We also thank Mr. H. Mdlalose, of Paulpietersburg, who is interested in Sunday School work, and in the improvement of our work.

The first meeting chose the following officers:

1. The leader—Miss Mary Campbell.  
Assistant—Mrs. J. Bembe.
2. Chairman—Miss Mina Nkosi.  
Assistant—Mr. Daniel Mthethwa.
3. Advisor—Mr. Harold Kierstead.
4. Secretary—Mr. Zacharia Linda.  
Assistant—Miss Manasia Ndlangamandla.
5. Treasurer—Mr. Shadrack Ndlangamandla.

These officers were changed after a year. Now we have new officers for this year. However, some officers were not changed. The meeting decided that they should carry on in their positions.

This organization we have formed seems to be working nicely, because we have chosen our own leaders, not as in the past, when the old people gave us anyone to organize our meetings. We were spoon fed, but now we can help ourselves. We trust the Lord will make us grow in His love.

In our last meeting, we suggested about making Youth Camps here in South Africa. We will appreciate your prayers, as this matter goes to the old people's meeting. We hope that the Lord will give us wisdom and strength in all that we do.

We praise God for calling even young people to do His service. He has opened the eyes of many people to see that not only old people are called to work for the Lord but boys and girls to tell others.

We thank the Lord for a few of us who are in training as teachers and nurses. It is a pleasure to know that these boys and girls have given their lives to the Lord Jesus so that as they go out to teach and to nurse the sick, His name might be glorified.

Wishing you God's best in your work.

Yours in Christ,  
The Young People in South Africa,  
(Miss) M. N. Ndlangamandla,  
Secretary

"To serve the present age  
My calling to fulfill;  
Oh may it all my powers engage  
To do my Master's Will.

\* Editor, Y. P. Page, 1949-1953.

## YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH

By Rev. Karl Gorman

"Jesus saith, . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

One glance at the map of the world will show that the bulk of the world's population neither knows the truth, nor enjoys the freedom it brings, nor shares in the hope it gives.

This is true because the masses do not know Jesus. Even in the so-called "Christian" lands many only know "about" Him, rather than know Him by a personal experience of salvation.

We are protestants. The term originated in Germany when fourteen cities made a league to resist the decrees of the Diet of Worms which condemned the great reformer, Martin Luther. Their "protest" was published in April, 1529.

Note the following points of protest:

1. The infallibility of the Pope as supreme head of the church on earth.
2. The Roman Catholic Mass or the doctrine that in Communion the actual body and blood of Jesus are present.
3. Confession to a priest.
4. Doctrine of purgatory.
5. Idols (images) in churches.
6. They wanted the Bible in the language and hands of the common people.

Our religious heritage was purchased with the blood of thousands of people who died under persecution because of their "Protestant" faith.

Only in North America and in Northern Europe is Protestantism the predominant religion.

By way of contrast, Roman Catholicism is predominant in South America and Southern Europe.

The millions of Asia and Africa are likewise enslaved by the false cults of Hinduism, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, and Animism.

Added to the list is Atheistic Communism which has engulfed entire nations and threatens the free world.

Vital Christianity is the only answer to these forms of evil. We as Young People have been invested with the truth of the Gospel. We are challenged by God to go to the aid of those who still are groping in darkness, superstition, and sin.

## BARKER'S POINT REPORTS

Dear Young People:

We feel that a report from our society would be in order at this time.

Our Young People's meeting generally consists of a Bible study or a Bible quiz. At certain times we have a special speaker. The spirit of the meetings is good.

We have just finished a special week-end of youth meetings with Rev. Ronald Morehouse as speaker. He brought very encouraging messages to the young.

We were sorry that there were no visible results from this effort but trust and pray that we shall yet see fruit.

Yours in Him,  
Elizabeth Saunders