

Youth Messenger

Special Issue:
Summer Youth
Conventions



***Baptism at
Hungarian Youth
Convention***



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Editorial

Opportunity Knocks

There are many old sayings about how the golden opportunity of a lifetime may come along only one time, when that opportunity knocks on our door just once. In spiritual matters, we know that God is actually quite generous in the gospel invitation being extended to each one of us—He may use lots of different ways to call us to the gospel feast. But we all have only one lifetime in which to make our decision for Christ, and only one precious, fleeting time of youth to lay a good foundation for building the best future and eternity for ourselves.

Those who grow up in Christian homes may not always realize or appreciate it, but every worship service, prayer meeting, and church youth gathering is really a golden opportunity to learn more of Heaven and its lifestyle.

“God is giving to the children and youth many opportunities of knowing His will, and of learning how to do that will. In the Sabbath school, in the services of the church, through the study of His Word in the home and in the school, He is constantly providing ways by which they may learn what is His purpose for the youth who accept Him. By an earnest study of the Word of God, dear youth, you may learn to distinguish between right and wrong, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”—*The Youth's Instructor*, April 7, 1908.

“You know not to what responsibility you may be called. You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will

have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith.

“Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused, and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 186.

“Our youth need to have a clearer understanding of what it means to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. . . . Only by making constant advancement can the youth fulfill God's purpose for them. As opportunities multiply and are improved, the experience will enlarge, and knowledge increase. The youth will become strong to bear responsibility, because they are constantly growing in happiness, in holiness, in usefulness.”—*The Columbia Union Visitor*, October 2, 1912.

This issue of the *Youth Messenger* brings news of some recent golden opportunities. It's about young people accepting these opportunities—grasping a chance to learn more about what it really means to be a victorious Christian reformer. So, the next time you are invited to a church youth convention, seminar—or even just a Sabbath worship service or prayer meeting, grab the chance! After all, you never know if it's the last time opportunity knocks.—*B. Monteiro*.

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Hungary '99

"Youth Ministry for Christ"

by David Zic—Virginia, USA

There are two basic things an international youth convention needs: young people from various nations and a willingness to study deeply the word of God. We are thankful to the Lord that we can report that both were present at the last international youth convention of the millennium.

From three continents and fifteen countries young people assembled to praise the Lord. Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, United States of America, and Yugoslavia were all represented at the meetings. Over 200 were present for the whole convention and over 500 during the weekend.

This convention was the third international youth congress hosted by the brethren from Hungary. The meetings were held at the property in Mogyorod, which is getting to be a well-known town to young people from around the world.

The meetings started August 16

and continued until August 24. Besides the many studies and meetings there was much opportunity for walks in nature. The outing on Sunday brought all the young people to a castle on a mountain overlooking the capital city of Budapest.

The feature which marked this camp meeting most was the unity which the young people displayed. Meals were shared in such a manner that young people from various parts of the world sat together to try and overcome the language barrier. Many people learned words in different languages, but since most of this was done over dinner, the words learned tended to be about food. To our Hungarian young people we say "tanyir, koshar, vilo, krumpir, yo."

Music played a big part in the program. There were many song services, and a large choir was formed. This choir, composed primarily of people who knew very little English, or no English at all, practiced almost every day, with a final large practice on Friday. Over 150

people sang in the choir (from all 15 countries), for the end of the Sabbath Service. They sang the song "In A Little While We're Going Home." The writer, as choir conductor, praised the Lord for giving such a diverse group of young people the gift of singing together. (Though of course as usual, the tenors could have been louder!) There were so many individual musical items that the young people's meeting was not sufficient, and the musical program continued well into the evening on Sabbath night.

But there was a reason all these young people came together, and that was to study the word of God. There were studies presented each day under the theme "Youth Ministry for Christ." All the studies were presented under this theme. For those who were not there, here is a brief synopsis of the specific topics presented:

Bro. Brian Jaksic from Australia presented most of the studies for the convention. We studied deeply the message of 1888. We learned that the message of Christ Our Righteousness has been given to us. We as young people must be the

messengers who show this light to the world. In all of our actions and in our characters, we portray whether or not we are the children of God. From the time of the General Conference in Minneapolis in 1888 till today that message has gone forward as found in Revelation 18:1-4. As the end draws nearer, we must make our stand either to follow the Lord and come out of Babylon, or to be partakers of her sins.

Bro. Jaksic also presented the history of the Reform Movement from 1888 onwards. The war question was also studied, and we were shown clearly from the word of God that we can have no part in the military machines of today. The conference was closed with an appeal by Bro. Jaksic that we continue the process of Reform in our lives and

Some of the Polish attendees



move ever closer to our goal of Christian perfection.

The morning topics were presented by the writer. These included the sanctuary message (including Aaron's rod and the pot of manna), the counsel of the true witness found in Revelation 3:18, and extremism, a study about the differences between



Some of the German attendees



← *Some of the people
from Yugoslavia and Croatia*



Our Hungarian hosts →



The Australians



Some of the Romanians ↓



← *Some of the
Ukrainian attendees*

principle and preference. Each of these topics was "heavy" as one brother put it. But those present took notes and will hopefully continue studying the same topics at home.

Doctor Dragan Ivanov from Yugoslavia gave a health study. The study was based on the principle that God wants to put us back in the condition we were at creation. In our fallen state we all tend to let our passions and emotions dictate our appetite and fitness. But we must overrule these lower passions to do the will of God. After the study, the young people wrote down questions for the doctor which were answered at the evening meeting. The questions ranged from contact lenses to eating goat cheese and everything in between.

Bro. Kraus from Australia presented a practical study on the needs of the true reformer. The issues of health, dress, and social relations were all covered. Other brethren and young people also presented many worship studies on various topics.

As you can see, the meetings were full of spiritual meat. The days were spent in deep study. When you look at the topics you notice that deep



Emerging from the Budapest subway on one of the outings

points of our faith were discussed. As the time grows short we no longer have time for baby food. Every opportunity that arise should be spent in getting to know the word of God better.

We thank the brothers and sisters from Hungary, especially the hard working young people and kitchen staff, for their hospitality and Christian kindness. They provided us with food and shelter in abundance.

For those who were at the convention, do continue to study the topics introduced there. The time will come when you will have to explain



Some of the Moldavians



The Italians



Preparing the grounds

the message of 1888 and the sanctuary message, as well as many other points of faith. Take the opportunity you have now to study them further.

To those who were not at the convention, ask yourself this: Could I explain the messages listed above to someone who did not know the truth? Would I be able to convince someone of my faith? If not, then start studying now, so that when the next youth convention rolls around, you can be a teacher helping others!



Author with head kitchen staff



Hungarian ministers on kitchen clean-up duty



Part 3

What Is Presumption?

How May It Involve Me?

.....

by Peter D. Lausevic—*Tennessee, U.S.A.*

[Emphasis supplied throughout]

In the last two issues of the *Youth Messenger*, we discussed the sin of presumption as a counterfeit of true faith and explained how often it is triggered by pride. Now, another question comes to mind:

What are some things that lead to presumption?

1) Doubt can lead a person to the sin of presumption, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23).

A serious warning was given by God through Ellen G. White, which she related to a man guilty of presumption: "Brother Hull, you were shown me under the soothing influence of a fascination which will prove fatal unless the spell is broken. You have parleyed with Satan, and reasoned with him, and tarried upon forbidden ground, and have exercised your mind in things which were too great for you, and **by indulging in doubts and unbelief**

have attracted evil angels around you, and driven from you the pure and holy angels of God. If you had steadfastly resisted Satan's suggestions and sought strength from God with a determined effort, you would have broken every fetter, driven back your spiritual foe, come closer to God, and triumphed in His name. I saw that **it was presumption in you to go forth to meet a spiritualist when you were yourself enshrouded and bewildered by clouds of unbelief.** You went to battle with Satan and his host without an armor, and have been grievously wounded, and are insensible to your wound. I greatly fear that the thunders and lightnings of Sinai would fail to move you. You are in Satan's easy chair and do not see your fearful condition and make an effort to escape. If you do not arouse and recover yourself from the snare of the devil, you must perish. The brethren and sisters would save you, but I saw that they could not. You have something to do; you have a desperate effort to make, or you

are lost. I saw that **those who are under the bewitching influence of spiritualism know it not. You have been charmed and mesmerized, yet you do not know it**, and therefore do not make the least effort to come to the light.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, pp. 428, 429.

As mentioned in the previous articles, what is the difference between faith and presumption? “Faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. **Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.** Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

2) Another way that we can fall into presumption is by not living up to all the light we have. Jesus said of the Pharisees, “If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin” (John 15:22). We are responsible for all the light that God gives us. Again, the Spirit of Prophecy warned another individual: **“Again and again God has stretched out His hand to save you by showing you your duties and obligations. These duties change in character with the increase of light. When the light**

shines, making manifest and reproving the errors that were undiscovered, there must be a corresponding change in the life and character. The mistakes that are the natural result of blindness of mind are, when pointed out, no longer sins of ignorance or errors of judgment; but **unless there are decided reforms in accordance with the light given, they then become presumptuous sins.** The moral darkness that surrounds you will become more dense; your heart will become harder and harder, and you will be more offensive in the sight of God. You do not realize the great peril you are in, the danger there is that in your case the light will become entirely obscured, veiled in complete darkness. When the light is received and acted upon, you will be crucified to sin, being dead indeed unto the world, but alive to God. Your idols will be abandoned, and your example will be on the side of self-denial rather than that of self-indulgence.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 435, 436.

“With the Bible in our hands we ought all to know and practice the truth. But **some do not wish to change their faith or course of action, and argue that if they are only honest they will be saved. Such will be in great danger of committing the sin of presumption, of not living up to all the light they have.** Critical self-examination, united with a diligent searching of the Scriptures and earnest prayer, is essential, not that some way may be found to evade the cross, but that they may be led into all truth however much self-denial it may cost, and however inconvenient it may be to obey.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 22, 1880.

3) We can also become guilty of presumption by trying to excuse our

sins. This is a very dangerous practice. “One presumptuous act, one deed in disregard of God’s expressed will, lost for Adam his beautiful Eden home, and opened the floodgates of iniquity and woe upon our world; and yet men will declare that God is not particular, and does not require perfect obedience to His law. The precepts of Jehovah are as unchangeable as His eternal throne. **To excuse sin on the plea that God is lax in His government is dishonoring to the great Governor of the universe, and perilous to man.** It is an attempt to belittle His requirements, and to take away the force of law. Those who advocate such doctrine, place themselves in harmony with the first great rebel, and however high their professions of religion, Christ pronounces them ‘workers of iniquity.’ They are saying to the sinner, ‘It shall be well with thee in thy disobedience and transgression,’ as said the arch-deceiver in the garden of Eden.”—*Ibid.*, December 15, 1887.

4) In referring to the temptations presented to Christ, in *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 372, we are told that pride of display also leads to presumption. What did Christ teach us to pray regarding temptation? Most of us already know the answer: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matthew 6:13).

What type of sin is it to deliberately place ourselves in the way of temptation? “Often when Satan has failed of exciting distrust, he succeeds in leading us to **presumption.** If he can cause us to **place ourselves unnecessarily in the way of temptation**, he knows that the victory is his. God will preserve all who walk in the path of obedience; but to

depart from it is to venture on Satan’s ground. There we are sure to fall. The Saviour has bidden us, ‘Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation’ (Mark 14:38). **Meditation and prayer would keep us from rushing unbidden into the way of danger**, and thus we should be saved from many a defeat.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

How did Satan try to lead Christ into presumption? “Then was Jesus

.....

“Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.”

.....

led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. . . . Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:1, 2, 5–7).

Victory promised

In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted and was victorious on three great points: Appetite, presumption, and love of the world. The temptations which we also face are likewise based on these three points. It is not usually that hard for us to see when we are being tempted on appetite or love of the world. But presumption can be a little more subtle:

"The sin of presumption lies close beside the virtue of perfect faith and confidence in God. Satan flattered himself that he could take advantage of the humanity of Christ to urge Him **over the line of trust to presumption**. Upon this point many souls are wrecked. **Satan tried to deceive Christ through flattery**. He admitted that Christ was right in the wilderness in His faith and confidence that God was His Father, under the most trying circumstances. He then urged Christ to give him one more proof of His entire dependence upon God, one more evidence of His faith that He was the Son of God, by casting Himself from the Temple. He told Christ that if He was indeed the Son of God He had nothing to fear; for angels were at hand to uphold Him. Satan gave evidence that he understood the Scriptures by the use he made of them."—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 282.

Young people, beware of those who may try to trick you by flattery! Some may even place Scripture texts as bait in their trap. But whatever they may try, do you remember the promise that we can claim? "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also

make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Conclusion

How can we avoid the sin of presumption in its various forms? **"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.** The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38). How do we do this? "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

"We need to study the character of the motives that prompt us to action in the light of the law of God, in order that we may be made aware of our deficiencies; but while the human agent may see his sins, he is not to become discouraged, although he finds himself condemned by the precepts of righteousness. He is to see and to realize the sinfulness of sin, to repent, and to have faith in Christ as his personal Saviour. It is never safe for us to feel that we are possessed of virtues, and that we may congratulate ourselves on our excellences of character, and our present state of purity and piety. **David often triumphed in God, and yet he dwelt much upon his own unworthiness and sinfulness.** His conscience was not asleep or dead. 'My sin,' he cries, 'is ever before me' (Psalm 51:3). He did not flatter himself that sin was a matter with which he had nothing to do, and that should not concern him. As he saw the depths of deceit in his heart, he was deeply disgusted with himself, and prayed that God would keep him back by his power from the presumptuous sins, and cleanse him from secret faults.

"It is not safe for us to close our eyes and harden our conscience so that we shall not see or realize our sins. We need to cherish the instruction we have had in regard to the hateful character of sin, in order that we may truly confess and forsake our sins. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9). Are you willing to be cleansed from all unrighteousness? Is it your purpose to press forward, but not in your own human strength, toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus? **Keep the fear of the Lord always before you.** Your only hope is in making Jesus your counselor."—*The Youth's Instructor*, July 5, 1894.

"Under the old covenant, there were many offenses of a daring, presumptuous character, for which there was no atonement specified by law. In the new and better covenant, Christ has fulfilled the law for the transgressors of law, if they receive Him by faith as a personal Saviour. 'As many as received *him*, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.' Mercy and forgiveness are the reward of all who come to Christ trusting in His merits to take away their sins. In the better covenant we are cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ."—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 931. [Author's italics.]

"Joseph bore the test of character in adversity, and the gold was undimmed by prosperity. He showed the same sacred regard for God's will when he stood next the throne as when in a prisoner's cell. Joseph carried his religion everywhere, and this was the secret of his unwavering fidelity. As representative men you must have the all-pervading power of true godliness. I tell you, in the fear of God, your path is beset by dangers which you do not see and do not realize. You must hide in Jesus. You are unsafe unless you hold the hand of Christ. **You must guard against everything like presumption and cherish that spirit that would suffer rather than sin.** No victory you can gain will be so precious as that gained over self."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 544.



Photo News



New Zealand strings



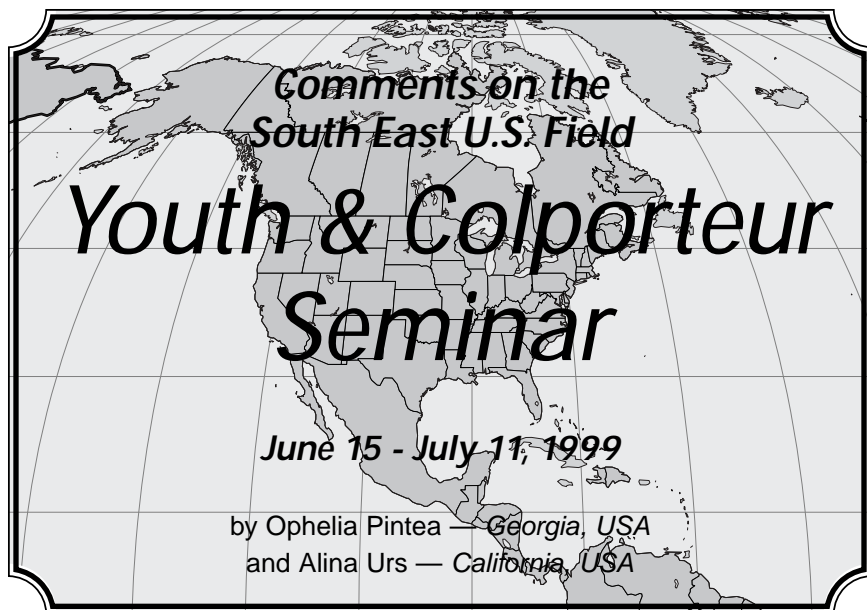
Baptism in New Zealand



Brother Jaksic's "hotel" in Papua New Guinea



Some of our brethren in Papua New Guinea



Dear Brethren,
Greetings to you with 1 Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." As the people of God, we must develop an in-depth knowledge of the Scriptures, thus being prepared to readily answer any and all questions concerning the reasons for our faith. The main purpose for the 1999 Bible Seminar held in Georgia was to prepare our youth for the great work of spreading the gospel.

The first part of the seminar began at Hard Labor Creek State Park, a name that perfectly describes the busy schedule we all had to adopt. We will try to describe the wonderful experiences we all shared. However, we would also like to leave a little room for curiosity. For after all, you should all attend next year's seminar and experience the amazing blessings firsthand!

Our typical day began at the sound of the bell, ruthlessly waking up all students at 6:00 a.m. After morning worship and breakfast, students were separated into two groups: the adult, and youth seminar classes. Bro. Benjamin Burec taught the adult class, which focused on the importance of the Sabbath school. Students received instructions on how to efficiently study the quarterly and then how to properly teach it to others. The final test was to put all they had learned into practice.

The youth seminar class, consisting of 22 students, was taught by Bro. Peter Lausevic. We were fortunate enough to be part of this class, so we can more easily convey to you the lessons and activities that filled our days with fun.

With the grace of God and the aid of His Holy Spirit, we were able to cover many aspects of our beliefs by digging through the treasures found in the word of God. We tackled topics such as "Ribbon of Blue,"

which explained our stand on dress reform, "Nailed to His Cross," a study focusing on the eternal existence of God's law, and "Can We Be Perfect?" where we learned that Matthew 5:48 was not just a verse to look at, but a solemn command given to us by our dear Saviour.

After ten days at Hard Labor Creek State Park, we packed up all our belongings and headed towards Carrollton, GA, where we began Phase II of our seminar, designed especially for the youth. Our schedule now changed just a bit when our afternoon classes were replaced by canvassing—an activity that surely put our knowledge of the scriptures to the test. Bro. Fernando Flores was in charge of training us in the ways of a successful colporteur. We also had the experienced Bro. Devai in our midst, who patiently advised us in many ways. Our main motto was "The Colporteur Never Loses." True, it can be said that we were all

a bit hesitant in beginning such an overwhelming task. But as each passing day brought along its numerous experiences, our uneasiness turned into a burning desire to meet more people. We went from door to door, reaching the highways and byways with the word of God. Hundreds of precious souls were met with a "thus saith the Lord" for the first time. Many people were craving for Bible studies, while others could not wait to slam the door in our faces. But no matter how bad a day had gone, we all realized that one soul was worth it all. Each day, as the sun began to set low in the horizon, we gathered together to share and learn from the different experiences. Needless to say, after only two weeks of canvassing, we were met with the unmistakable fact that there is still a colossal work to be done. Brethren, we barely touched the tip of the iceberg! Every city in every state and country must



be enlightened with the truth and it is up to you and me to let the light shine forth.

With classes in the morning and canvassing in the afternoon, one would presume that our evenings, at least, were left for leisure and relaxation. Well, not quite! You see, one of our first assignments was to prepare a Bible study. Each student was assigned a specific topic for which much research was required. Indeed, the temptation to procrastinate lurked around the camp, ready to snatch any student from his diligent studies. Yet, aside from the occasional slip-up, we were all dedicated to finding as much as we could about our topics. The endless nights of looking up Bible texts and Spirit of Prophecy quotes, however, was not entirely the hardest task, but definitely the most time consuming. Finally, each student was responsible for presenting his or her topic either for morning or evening wor-

ship. Personally, this was the hardest thing to do. But praise the Lord, we all did very well in our presentations and we learned much from each one.

Precious were the moments of our 1999 Bible Seminar. We spent four weeks together, yet it seems to have been but a twinkling of an eye. There was laughter, there were tears, bonds were formed, and lessons learned. However, most importantly, we were able to draw nearer, still nearer to our Lord and Saviour. We were able to partake of the Bread of Life, and learn of His divine nature. And finally, we were able to learn the correct methods of leading others to Christ, so that they may also experience the wonderful peace He has to offer. May the Lord bless each and every one of us in our daily walk with Him, and may we aid in the spreading of the gospel so that we may hasten His soon—yes, very soon—coming. Amen. 🌿



Warm friendships formed

South East U.S. Field Youth Convention

“CHOICES, CHALLENGES, AND CHANGES”

by Anita Leon & Sarah Cheever

— Florida, USA



At the aquarium

For those of you who did not come to the South East Youth Convention from July 11–18, 1999, in Harrison, Tennessee, USA, you really missed a blessing. We do not know about most *Youth Messenger* readers, but sometimes we as young people do not find sermons very interesting. At the Youth Convention though, it was different.

We looked forward to all the studies that we were going to have. We are going to try to summarize everything and tell you a little about the topics we found most interesting.

“Dare to Be Different” was very interesting. This topic was a challenge to the youth to be different in the swelling tide of peer pressure. An example that Bro. Jonathan Tyler



Choir practice

gave was of Daniel—how he stood up for what he believed even though it could have meant death.

Another interesting one was “Choosing Your Profession Before Marriage.” Why should you choose your profession before marriage, and how can you decide what profession you will undertake? One piece of advice given was that you should first determine your capabilities. For example, if you and math do not click, do not become an accountant. One question to be asked when deciding your profession is “Does it glorify God?” If it does not, then you should look for another profession.

“In Style With Jesus” was another topic that we really enjoyed. This was about dress reform—what we are supposed to wear, why we are to wear what we wear, and so on. But the way Sis. Linda Kiker presented it was totally different from how we usually hear it. One of the things that she discussed was about how what

we wear protects us, the girls especially. One example she gave was with the split skirts. When they’re split, it’s as if you are playing “peek-a-boo” with your legs and the boys. “Now you see it, now you don’t.” After a while it starts to become a temptation for them. She spoke more about the dress of girls than she did about the guys, but the same rules applied to them, she said.

“The Sounds of Music” was a very interesting one also. Bro. Nathan Tyler explained how certain types of music were wrong to listen to and how to tell which kinds were good and which ones should be put in the recycle bin. He drew two circles and divided them both into three parts: PARTS OF THE BODY: Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical. PARTS OF MUSIC: Melody, Harmony, and Rhythm.

He said that melody affected the spiritual part of the body, harmony affected the emotional part, and

rhythm affected the physical part. Then he said that the parts of music should be balanced. He compared music to food. When you season the food, you try not to put in too much salt, right? Well it’s the same with music. Not too much rhythm, or harmony, or melody. If you can taste the salt (rhythm), you have too much. He had us listen to some samples of music and a few of us were asked to get up and come to the front to keep time for him so that the others would be able to know the rhythm. Then we all had to tell him whether the sample was trash or not.

One study that we know everyone enjoyed was “Choosing Your Life Partner.” In it Bro. Peter Lausevic discussed how to choose your partner, how to correctly start a relationship, and how to maintain a pure life during the relationship and after marriage. He also answered questions

that some people had concerning this topic. Questions like “Is sex a sin?”, “Is it right to date?”, “Is it OK to kiss before you get married?”, “Can you marry someone of another race?”, and “Can you marry someone of another religion?” One twelve-year-old asked “Is sex before marriage a sin?” Bro. Peter answered all these questions, and there were others that people asked throughout the course of the study that he also answered. This study was so interesting that after an hour and a half had gone by, he still had plenty left to discuss so he asked us if we wanted to continue and the answer was a unanimous YES! We went on for another half hour. I don’t think any of us will soon forget what we learned and discussed.

Now, those of you who did not attend, not only missed out on the blessings received from the meet-



At the top of the incline railway

ings, but missed out on a lot of fun which we had during the activities.

One place we went to was Ruby Falls, which is the "Jewel of Lookout Mountain." The 145-foot flowing waterfall is located over 11,000 feet inside Lookout Mountain. In order to get to it we had to take an elevator that took us 260 feet underground. Our guide said that we were down as far as the Empire State Building is tall. We passed through the Lookout Mountain Caverns on our way to the

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"Dare to Be Different" was very interesting. This topic was a challenge to the youth to be different in the swelling tide of peer pressure.

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falls and saw many stalactite and stalagmite formations that were very interesting. Our favorite formations were the "Dinosaur Foot," "Angels' Wings", "Beehives", and the "Steak and Potatoes." When we got to the waterfall, we looked up to see the top of the falls—and we mean we looked way up. The guide said that they don't know where the water comes from or where it goes, but whenever it rains they can see that the waterfall has received more water. We were told

not to drink of the water from the falls because it had much more magnesium than any laxative, so we didn't. On the way out, the guide allowed us to stop and sing a couple of songs. One song that we sang was "Seek Ye First." We sounded pretty good even if we do say so ourselves. One guide we met by the elevators, which would take us up to ground level, said they could hear us singing and they were not even close to where we were at that time.

We got a chance to experience the thrill of riding "America's Most Amazing Mile" as the incline ascended historic Lookout Mountain. Chattanooga and the surrounding mountains and valleys came alive as the trolley-style railcar carried us cloud-high. The breathtaking grade of the track—72.7% near the top—gives the incline the unique distinction of being the steepest passenger railway in the world. We often wondered what would happen if the cable broke and the railcar took off down the mountain. What a ride that would be! Once at the top, we were able to see a few states. If we had been there on a clear day, we would have been able to see six states. After we had seen enough of this, we went to visit Point Park. Point Park is the location where the famous "Battle Above the Clouds" was fought in 1863. We even got to stand on the bluff where General Ulysses S. Grant stood.

Another place we went was the Tennessee Aquarium. It was pretty neat. They have about 9,000 animals, some of which were snakes, alligators, sharks, turtles, jellyfish, and of course, fish. Then we went down to the corner and crossed the street to see an Imax film at the Aquarium's six-story, Imax 3D Theater. The film was a documentary about some of the creatures of


the ocean—about their habitats and some of their unusual habits. Pretty interesting, if you ask us.

Now, after we had finished our studies and completed our activities for the day, you can imagine how hungry we must have been. And we are very thankful that we had such good cooks who prepared several healthy and very appetizing dishes for us. We got a lot of our energies from the delicious food that we ate.

Apart from the fun we had during the activities, and the food that we enjoyed, several wonderful things happened that we would like to share with you. It was surprising how many people attended. During the week we had nearly 70 people, but by the time the weekend came we had over 90 people attending. Many of these came from different states and even different countries! Some came from California, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Ken-

tucky, Maryland, Texas, Louisiana, Canada, and we even had some coming from Brazil and the Philippines.

All of us made many new friends and enjoyed the time we spent with them. When the Youth Convention came to an end we were really sad to go our separate ways. And next year we hope to see them all again and meet new people.

On Sabbath, July 17, after the sermon, Bro. Peter gave the call for those who wanted to dedicate their hearts to the Lord to come forward. More than half of the people went up. Most were young people, but a few adults went forward also. Bro. Peter had a special prayer with us and we hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will work in our lives. And we also pray that next year more young people will attend and experience such a wonderful encounter with the Lord. 





Beware of the Current

Oh, youth, beware of the current—

The current of folly and sin.

Approach not its farthest circle,

Lest you reach the abyss within;

Far worse than the shriek of the dying

That rings from the Norway coast,

Is the wail of a perishing soul,

At last and forever lost.

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