

Issue 30 **CHRIST FOR YOUTH**  
**NEWSLETTER**

January/February/March 1993



Greetings from  
Reverend Hicks,

We Christians need to learn how to put **FIRST THINGS FIRST!** Some how the carnal man always sees to it that what really counts, gets left behind. It belongs out **FRONT** - number one! God's Word clearly tells us what to put first in our lives. Here, again, is a stature of Truth from God's precious Word.



# Put What Counts in FRONT

From the Desk of...  
Rev. B. R. Hicks

## I. FIRST CLEANSE THE INSIDE

"Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse FIRST that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also" (Matt. 23:26).

To put something first means to put it ahead, to place it in front of everything else. If we want God to really bless our lives,

we are going to have to learn what must be placed first. Here the LORD uses a natural picture of cleansing a cup and a platter to teach us a spiritual Truth.

Obviously the inside is of first importance. If the vessel is clean on the inside, then whatever it contains will be clean also. For instance, if a cup is clean on the inside, then the water is drinkable even if the outside should be dirty.

We are vessels too, just like that cup and platter. God wants us to be clean inside FIRST. It is much easier to work on the outside. You can get baptized in water, you can join a church, you can sing in the choir or even teach Sunday School; but, if the inside is still "dirty" it is ALL contaminated by the vessel.

God looks at the heart. His first concern is the inner spiritual man. After the inside has been

cleansed, then cleanse the outside, that you may be a fit vessel for the Master's use. As a clean vessel, the LORD will fill you with Holy Ghost Water and Holy Ghost Word that others may drink and eat from your vessel.

## II. FIRST CAST OUT OWN BEAM

"Thou hypocrite, FIRST cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matt. 7:5).

All judgment belongs to the redemptive will of God. When He judges us, He does it in order to redeem us. But when we judge others, we do it to push them down and lift up ourselves. Take heed, for the same judgment that you mete out to others, will come back to you and judge you. We find it so easy to pass judgment on others, Strange isn't it, that when we judge others we use the small measuring stick, but when we judge our own selves, we use long measurements. In other words, we are so

demanding and exacting with others, whereas we are lenient and generous in our judgment of our own selves. Because of this tendency to judge others, which is in all of us, Jesus gave the above instruction in Matt. 7.

Again, He is concerned with FIRST things. Before any of us are fit to even venture a judgment on someone else, there is something we must do FIRST. A mote is but a small splinter, a twig or a straw, and a beam is a stick of timber. We are always more concerned about our brother's tiny splinter of flesh, when we ought to FIRST be concerned with the large sticks of timber of our own flesh.

In our study of spiritual building, we see in I Cor. 3, that there is building going on in the lives of God's people that is perishable. The wood, hay and stubble of fleshly building will be judged by fire and consumed-saved, yes, yet so as by fire." Because they have the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ they will be saved, yet they shall suffer the loss of all their

building, the works they have done in their Christian lives, because they were the works of the flesh and the product of pride and self-will.

The wood is clearly defined for us in Gal. 5, where we have the words of the flesh listed for us. The word wood means "a beam, timber, a cudgel, a club." These works of the flesh come out of our Pride of Redemption which is our way of redeeming ourselves. As we concentrate on the mote in our brother's eye, we fail to deal with the beam in our own. It is through hatred, wrath, strife, envying, and murder, that we club one another in the flesh. Little wonder, then, that Jesus emphasized that each one of us deal with his own beam FIRST.

It's a delicate matter to remove a small thing from another person's eye; it takes skill, gentleness and good eyesight. If the beams are remove from our own eyes, then our vision will be clear enough to help our brother with his problem. Then too, one who has

dealt with the beams, the timbers in his own carnal nature, will deal ever so gently with his brother. One sure sign that we are dealing with our own fleshly man and walking in the CRUCIFIED WAY, is that there is much mercy and understanding toward others. Beloved, by God's grace, let us deal with our own beams FIRST!

### III. FIRST SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Here is a definite promise from the LORD. If we will seek FIRST our spiritual welfare, He promises to take care of our material needs. Too often we put the cart before the horse, and that's why the cart won't go anywhere. It is God's will to bless and meet our needs, both spiritually and materially, but we must operate according to God's order. His order is, put the spiritual out in front—put it FIRST. Spend more time over our spiritual needs

than we do about the material. If we will put the spiritual out in front, it will pull the natural blessings behind it.

"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat and the body more than raiment?... (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things: (Matt. 6:25,32).

What is your life? There is more to it than just the physical; you are an eternal soul. There is more at stake than just meat or raiment for the body. For these things we are not to take anxious thought, because we have a heavenly Father, and He knows all about our needs. If we will seek FIRST the spiritual things that pertain to the kingdom of God, our heavenly Father will take care of our material needs.

### IV. FIRST SEEK RECONCILIATION

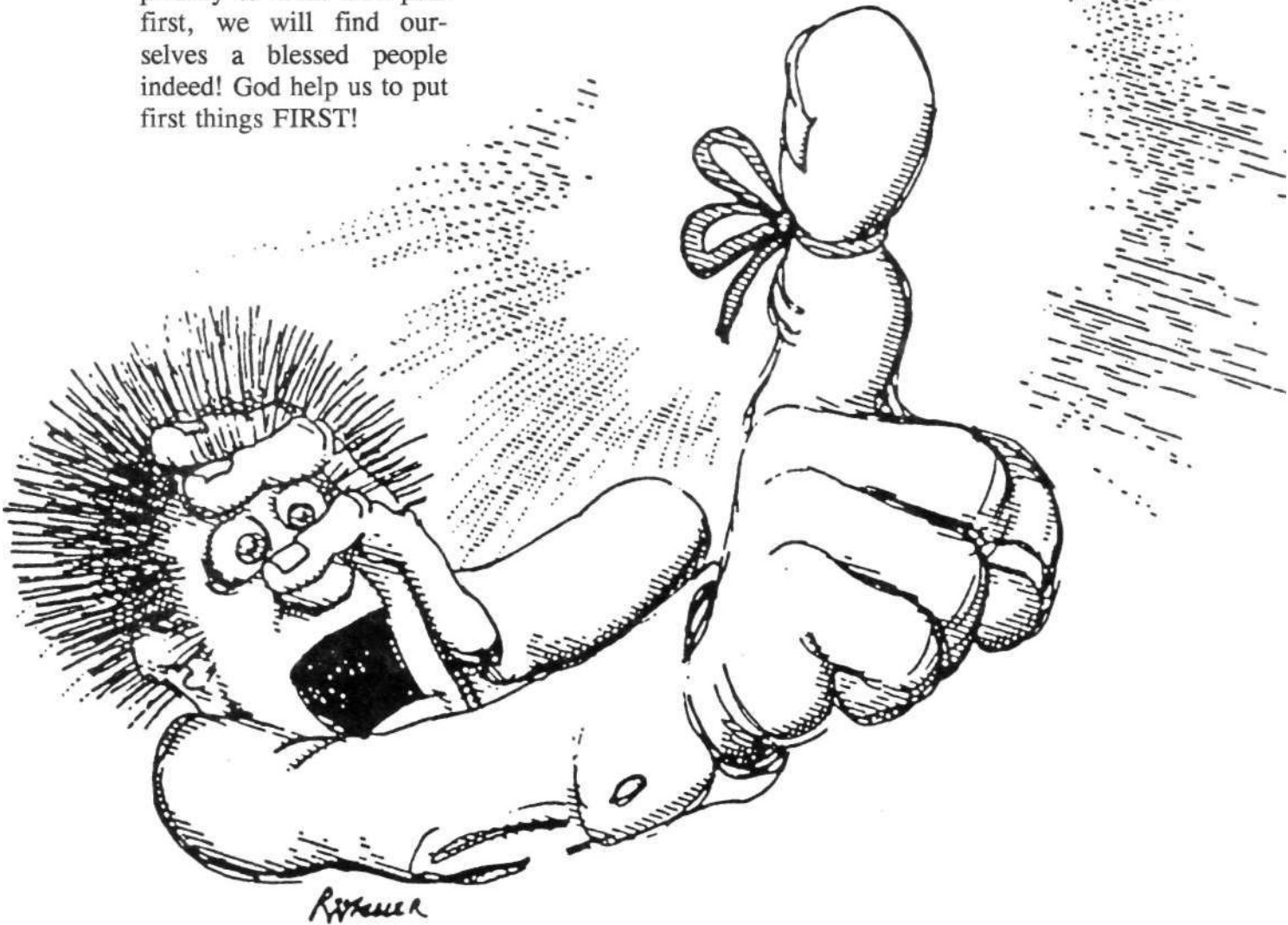
"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; FIRST be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Matt. 5:23,24).

How important is this matter of reconciliation between brethren! So much so, it must come FIRST before we come to bring a gift at the altar of the LORD. What is greater, the offering or mercy? As far as God is concerned, He does not want any gift or offering from us unless it is accompanied with mercy to others. Our gift is not acceptable to Him if we carry hatred and enmity against someone.

Before reconciliation can be attempted, we must first be reconciled ourselves. We must put away our enmity and hatred and wounded pride. Only then can we be in the position to help a brother to be at peace with ourselves. If a brother has ought against thee, go to him and seek r e c o n c i l i a t i o n . Reconciliation FIRST, then

bring the offering unto the LORD.

It is God's wisdom that puts what counts right up front. If we give priority to what God puts first, we will find ourselves a blessed people indeed! God help us to put first things **FIRST!**



Many people think that it is too early to start preparing for Youth Convention 1993, but it isn't. Starting early is smart planning. This year's dates are:

**YOUTH CONVENTION 1993**  
**August 12th 1993 through August 14th 1993.**

Don't forget and don't miss it.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear "Christ For Youth Newsletter":

I am so very glad that I had the opportunity and chance to write to you. I just wanted to write and let you all know what is happening and what is going to happen in Ft. Myers. We have a Youth Rally coming up February 27th. We all are looking forward to it. We will be getting our new church in a few weeks. We are so very excited about that. Now, for what has been happening down here: The services have been so powerful. It is like the Jacob Warriors' service. We just can't sit down. I don't know about anyone else, but I turned over a new leaf.

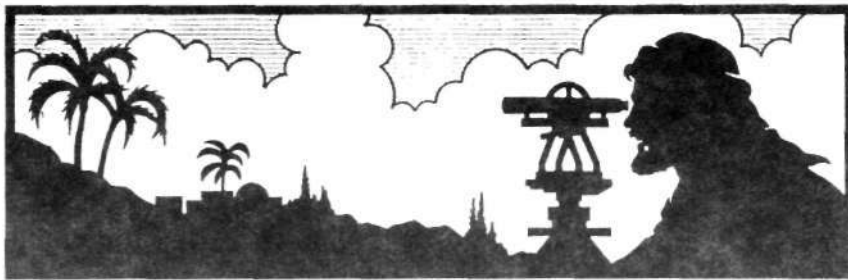
We are in the days now where we can't ride the fence. We are either in church or we aren't. I choose to be in and be in all the way! I don't care who is watching or what is going on behind me. I am going to get in. The way I look at it is; it does no good if you go to church, do nothing and then not break through. When you leave the way you came in, it does no good for you to go. You are just taking up chair space and that is something I don't want to do.

You guys are really doing a great job on the Newsletter; keep it up!

-L.G.



## BIBLE SURVEY

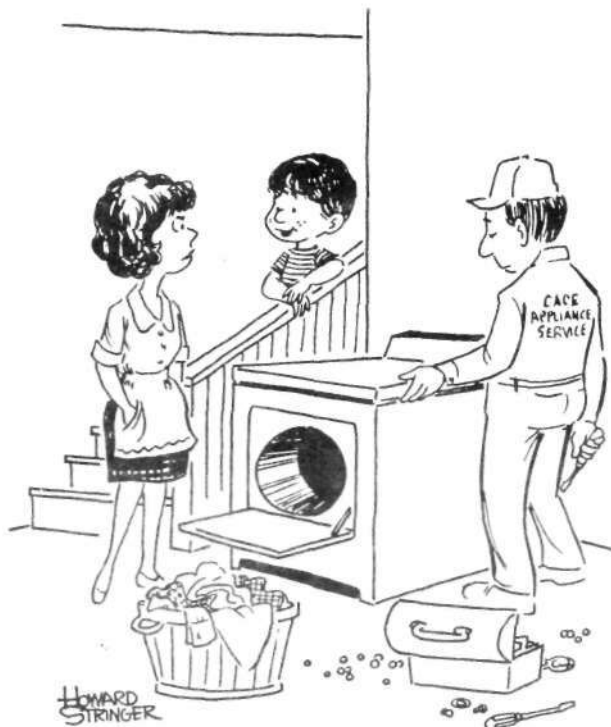
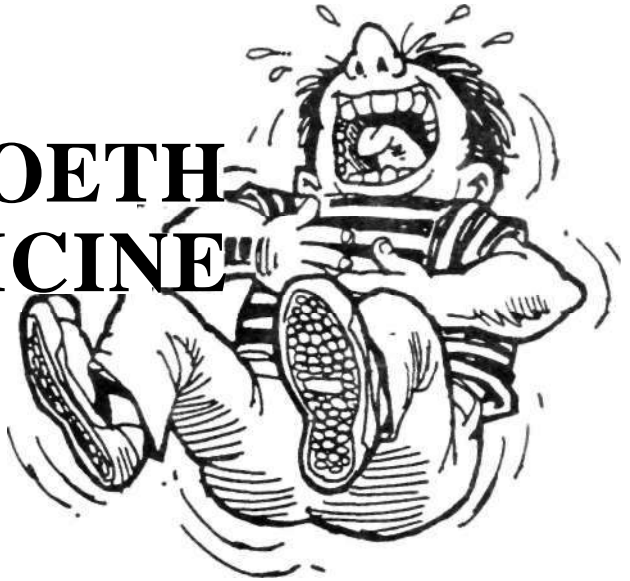


- 1.) Where do you find Christ as the Great Shepherd?
- 2.) Where do you find Christ as the Smiting Stone?
- 3.) Where do you find Christ as the Stronghold in the Day of Wrath?
- 4.) Where do you find Christ as the Ascended LORD?

Answers are found on page 11.

# PROVERBS 17:22

## "A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE"

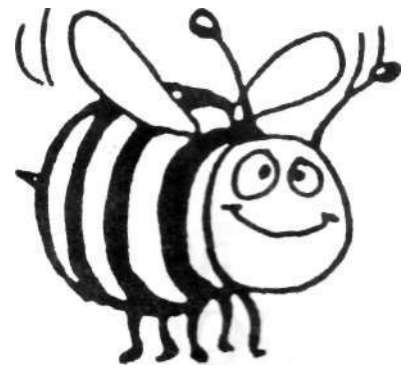


"JUST THINK—IF I HADNT PUT MY MARBLES IN THE DRYER, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN A CHANCE TO WITNESS TO THE REPAIR MAN."



"HOW LONG, OH, LORD, MUST I SUFFER UNDER THIS HEAVY-HANDED TASKMASTER. AN' THESE CHAINS OF BONDAGE?"

# DEAR AUNT



Dear Aunt Bea:

I have a question for you: I started writing this guy last year. We actually met at Youth Convention. Well, we wrote and called each other regularly. Then all of a sudden, he wasn't answering my letters and he stopped calling. So, I wrote him a nice letter and told him if I said anything to offend him I was sorry. He still didn't write. So, I wrote him another letter that I wasn't going to write or call anymore. I was done. Now, all of a sudden, he is calling and writing again almost every day. I really don't think this relationship is meant to be. I feel funny about it. I really don't want anything to do with him even though he is in the Crucified Way and I am too. I want someone in the Crucified Way, but I don't think it is him. So how can I tell him nicely to quite pestering me?

Sincerely,  
Wondering



Dear Wondering,

If you feel checked in the Spirit about this young man, then follow the leading of the Spirit. Send one last letter explaining your true feelings. Explain that you do not wish to write or converse with him.

Pray before you write your letter and ask God to place the right words in your heart, not to hurt, but just to terminate his pestering.

As the Word says in Ephesians 4:15....speaking the truth in love....

Love,  
Aunt Bea

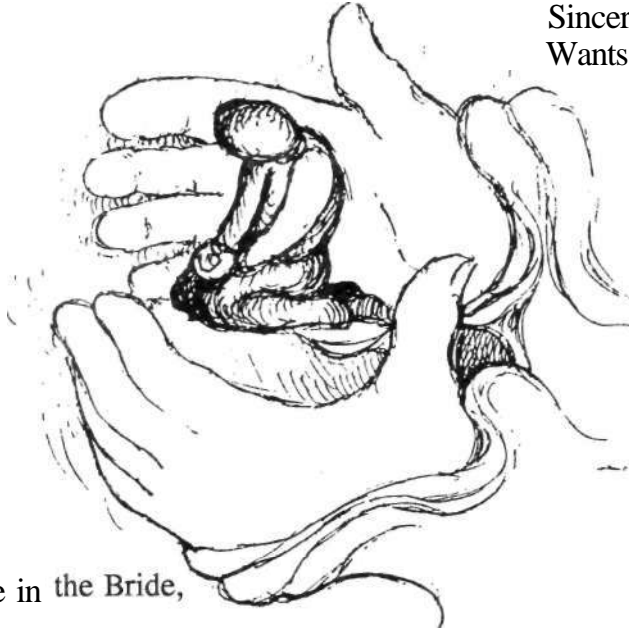
Dear Aunt Bea,

You have told your testimony of how, as a young person, you submitted your life completely and unconditionally to the LORD.

My question is: How do I, as a young person, come to this point and make this choice of ultimate, unconditional surrender? When will I truly say from the bottom of my heart, "I am not my own, I am bought with a price, I'm yours LORD"?

I know the LORD is coming soon and I want to be in the Bride.

Sincerely,  
Wants to be in the Bride



Dear Wants to be in the Bride,

Always remember that all flowers do not bloom at the same time of the year. We must be patient, allowing God to work in us His Perfect Will. If we are faithful to use all the tools the LORD has given us to work with, the Blood of Jesus, the Fire of the Holy Ghost and the Waters of His Name, Death & Life, then He will be faithful to bring us to the place of unconditional surrender. Don't give up.

Love,  
Aunt Bea

# In the Name of Love



Dear Aunt Bea,

What is the most highest will of the LORD when dating? Specifically speaking, at what age should a young man and Lady double date and single date? I'm anxiously awaiting your answer.

Sincerely,  
Anxious to Date.

Dear Anxious to Date,

Growing up into adolescence is an exciting time of one's journey through this life. Dating is no exception. It should be entered into with a lot of prayer, Bible checking, leading of the LORD Jesus and respect to parents judgment.

Double dating is an excellent way to begin your dating years. This gives a protection that you need, yet allows you to have fun while getting to know your friend.

The HOLY GHOST has witnesses that the time to start dating is 16 years of age. Responsibility and maturity also play a big part when parents are considering to allow their teenager to start dating even at 16.

So learn to be responsible and mature. Being responsible is keeping appointments on time, having regular routines of keeping your room clean and doing your household chores and having strong commitment to be morally clean. Don't rush through adolescence as it's a special time of your life - Enjoy it!



Love,  
Aunt Bea



### Higher and Higher

I'm learning to sail, higher and higher.  
I am ascending on wings of desire.  
My Love for the Bridegroom glows like a fire  
And lifts me up, higher and higher.

Gravity's held me close to this earth.  
I've felt its grip, even since birth.  
But I'm getting set free by the Blood and the Fire.  
My spirit and soul's going higher and higher.

I'm learning to sail, higher and higher.  
Inspired by the voice of the Heavenly Choir.  
They sing of a City, clothed in white attire,  
And I hear the call, "Come higher and higher."

# THE CREATOR

Never thank the creation,  
Always thank its CREATOR.  
He's the one that died for us,  
our LORD and SAVIOR.  
He made all creation,  
by His mighty hand.  
He created all of us,  
now we should take a stand.



Elesia Marie Knudsen  
Augsburg, Germany

*Augsburg, Germany*

## BIBLE SURVEY ANSWERS:

1.) Psalm 23 2.) Dan. 2:34 3.) Nahum 1:7 4.) Acts 1:8,9

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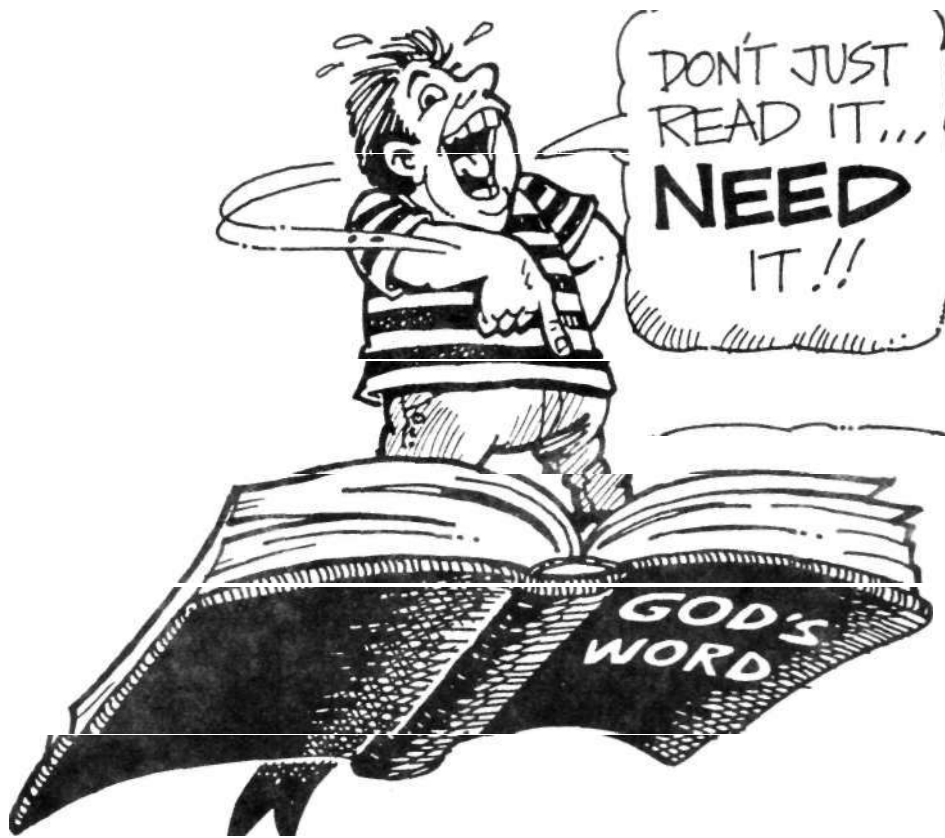
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## ' ' GIVE THANKS:

Write us and let us know what God is doing special in your life.  
Send your letters to: