

# Faith Of Our Youth

June 1997

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 4 Issue 2

## Wisdom of our Elders

by Nora Lee Ingle

### WHAT IS OUR PRIME OF LIFE?

One of the best parts of Sunday dinner at Grandma's is pushing back the plates, putting elbows on the table (or in the lap) and joining in conversation. This is not only a feast; it is an education!

I remember one such event: We were discussing the "prime of life." My father, who was by then a grandpa, said "I feel as if I am in the prime of my life . . . the children are raised and not a one have been a disgrace to mother and me."

"But Dad," said my older brother, Bob, "I feel as if I am in the prime of my life. I have a good job, am married and waiting for a family."

A sister who had small children disagreed with both of them for she felt like her stage in life was the best of all. My mind went in a different direction. I felt like I was in the prime of my life. I was a teen, had a good job and a diamond ring. The point is, there isn't a best time in life, we just need to enjoy the moment.

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.*

*For if they fall, the one will lift*

*(See "WOOE" on page 3)*

# "WOOE"

for

# "FOOY"

If that doesn't attract your attention, nothing will. It's our way of announcing that a new feature is being added to FOOY. It's called WOOE and it precedes FOOY. FOOY is nurtured and strengthened by WOOE. Actually, FOOY aged and matured becomes WOOE.

You're saying, "What in the world is WOOE? The answer is the title of the new feature on the left. "Wisdom of our Elders" encompasses the valuable insight of an august class of people who have already been where youth is and now occupy a place where youth will be shortly. It should be readily apparent that the "elders" referred to are not officers of the church, but those men and women who by reason of age have traversed the hills and valleys of life and by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

First, speaking to youth, we encourage you to develop an awareness of the value of the wisdom your elders have to offer. Like a pearl of great price, seek out their wisdom regarding their observations on living a Christian life in a wicked world. Each encounter with your elders will make you wiser in ways you cannot imagine. Sure our modern world has many new inventions the elders did not encounter, however, their allurements to sin were driven by the same fleshly nature as yours. It has not changed. Their stories reflect the essence of human struggle between the forces of right and wrong. Elders offer a

*(See "FOOY VIEWS" on page 6)*

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## ALMOST THERE, YET, FAR AWAY

by  
*Stephanie Lynn Moody*

Almost there, yet, far away.  
A loney soul in a struggle  
between two ways.  
She's caught in lifelong juggle.

All her life she's had a choice  
to follow the devil  
or to obey God's voice.  
Those are two very different levels.

To do what is right,  
or all that is wrong.  
A heart that is bright,  
or a weariness long.

Does she want God's eternal life and hope?  
A chance to feel happy inside?  
With God she would be able to cope  
with all of life's troublesome tides.

The other choice would lead to death forever.  
A very sorrowful state.  
For if she goes this way she will probably never  
enter through the golden gates.

Satan works in ways she doesn't know.  
The devil has power over all.  
He will torment and tempt her in ways that don't show,  
and prepare her for a great fall.

God's power is greater  
for He gives us strength to overcome  
all of temptation's craters  
which add up to quite a sum.

God is love!  
There's no evil in Him.  
He sent His son down from above.  
The soul's hope is no longer dim.

This girl is becoming old in years.  
She still has not chosen the way of the right.  
Her struggle has caused her strife and tears.  
Thought many have shown her the way to the light.

She's come so close to doing God's will,  
and accepting Him and His way.  
Then she gets stubborn and Satan prepares for the kill.  
She's almost there, yet, far away.

◆◆◆  
1550 20th Ave  
St. Charles, IA 50240

## Dangers of Dancing

by *Brandon Lee*

**T**here are many topics which are heavily debated within society and within the church. They include abortion, consumption of alcohol, what kind of vocabulary violates Col. 3:18, and dancing. Dancing is the subject I would like to focus on. This subject is one that people seem to hold a strong opinion on, one way or the other. However upon further review of God's word it seems God's will on this subject is rather clear.

What is meant by dancing? Where does God draw the line? Webster defines dancing as "to move through a set series of movements usually to music." Before we look at dancing today, and how we should view it, let's look back in history. Since man began to record history dancing has been associated with war, hunting, marriage, and even some religious ceremonies.

Dancing has grown out of three human reactions 1) the desire to imitate beasts and birds, 2) the desire to express emotion by gestures, 3) social impulses.

In the past dancing has been closely connected with worship. People sought to express through bodily movement praise and penitence. Upon reading (Judg 11:34, Ps. 68:24) it seems that instruments may have been associated with dancing.

Over time the Hebrew people developed their own type of dancing associated with worship. It was characterized by three distinguishing features:

- 1 - The sexes never intermingled in it, except where pagan influences were involved (Ex. 32:19).
- 2 - Usually dancing was done by women, with one leading. (Ex. 15:20,21).
- 3 - Dancing usually took place out of doors.

As Christians today should we take part in dancing? Many people say dancing is alright, because the Old Testament says David danced. I assure you that his dancing was nothing like the dancing of today. In Galatians 5 we as Christians are told to avoid lasciviousness. Although people would argue otherwise, I find it hard to involve yourself in dancing without giving in to the sinful desires that Paul speaks of. In Matt. 14 Herod's judgement was clearly affected by a lascivious dance. After the dance was performed he said he would give her whatever she wanted.

There are many forms of dancing and I will not try to list them all.

However upon looking into God's word it's clear that he objects to many of the things dancing can bring. As Christians we must look to God for guidance, and not try to cross the lines God has drawn.

◆◆◆  
13210 Harris Road  
Greenwood, MO 64034

"WOOE" (Continued from page 1)  
up his fellow; but woe to him that  
is alone when he falleth, for he  
hath no another to help him up."

—Eccl. 4: 9, 10—

Sometimes it takes a lifetime  
to realize that each person is not an  
island to himself. Each of us

*"Wake up in  
the morning  
with a prayer on  
your lips. Have  
a prayerful atti-  
tude all day and  
let God be the  
guard of the  
night."*

needs someone to lean upon during  
weighty times. As tiny tots, then  
adolescents, we have mom and dad,  
but as we mature we must learn to  
be an adult, a Christian adult. We  
must listen carefully and prayer-  
fully to those in authority who have  
with more experience.

When one marries, the couple  
works together. Mom and dad are  
no longer head of those young peo-  
ple, but don't forget them with your  
love. The husband is head of the  
house. Modern times try to demote  
the husband of his duties.

I found out during the past two  
months how wonderful it is to have  
a helper. My husband of 52 years  
helped to convert our garage into a  
dining room with a Victorian flair.  
"This is a lot of togetherness," he  
said as we struggled to hang wall-  
paper! That's a job that can't be  
done alone, it takes team work.  
When I think of teamwork I am  
reminded of sporting events such as  
football, baseball, basketball and  
others . . . one person can't be the  
team. It takes cooperation to be  
successful and play a good game.

My husband and I were mar-  
ried when we were "near 19". We  
were nearly penniless but made do  
with what was at hand. We didn't  
go into debt for new furniture.  
That came after a few years, a  
piece at a time. I would have to say  
the most difficult part of our mar-  
riage, for me, was the lack of  
money. It was difficult for me to  
see that money coming in usually  
went for re-investment, in our case,  
for farm equipment or paying the  
"vet" bill. It hardly left enough for  
food and money for the collection  
plate; and there had to be money  
figured in for gas to take us to  
worship services 10 miles away,  
three times a week. Needless to  
say, most of our clothes were hand-  
me-downs or sewn on my treadle  
sewing machine.

My husband was not only  
head of the house but was my  
"balance wheel" and comforter.  
We did have moments when we  
disagreed but tried not to get nasty.  
Children need to know that mom  
and dad aren't going to get a di-  
vorce just because they disagree,  
and young folks need to see a fair  
settlement based on tolerance and  
love.

One reason our financial life  
was strained was because of the  
economy of the "times." We "lived  
by" a hold-over statement from  
World War II: Our motto was, use  
it up, wear it out, make it do, or do  
without.

We made it through lean times  
and good times. Our grocery bill  
wasn't so high; we had a garden,  
chickens, and our own meat.

Those early years were happy  
times. We laughed easily and en-  
tertained alot, after all, the Lord  
told us to be hospitable. Having  
other young couples over to help  
mix and churn a freezer of ice  
cream was entertainment, at least,  
in summer time. Popcorn and a  
glass of water were treats when  
folks stopped by unexpected. We,  
also, served Sunday dinner to  
church friends using fresh farm  
produce such as milk, cream, eggs,  
vegetables, and meat. While the  
children played, the men might dis-

(See "WOOE" on page 4)

## Tough Faith

by Callie Stanley

**H**e that loveth father or  
mother more than Me is  
not worthy of Me: and  
he that loveth son or  
daughter more than Me  
is not worthy of Me."

—Matthew 10:37—

These words are undoubtedly fa-  
miliar to most of you. Christ speaks  
these words to His disciples after  
declaring that He brings a sword, not  
peace, and that families will be divided  
because of Him. As the child of a man  
who reared me in the church only to  
forsake it almost three years ago, these  
words have a special meaning to me.

*"Choose you  
this day whom  
ye will serve"*

For those who share my situation, and  
even for those who do not, I want my  
words to serve as a reminder that devo-  
tion to God must come before  
*everything*—even our family.

What Christ demands in Matthew  
10:37 is full, absolute obedience to  
Him. He uses the illustration of a  
divided family to impart the impor-  
tance of complete devotion; no pain  
exists comparable to watching a parent  
or child blindly stumble down the road  
to condemnation. It leads to a gamut of  
emotions: anger, bitterness, frustra-  
tion, sadness, and even despair. If  
Christ would demand that one experi-  
ence such pain, its cause must be in-  
credibly important to Him. He de-  
clares repeatedly that no one can walk  
the fence: "he that is not with Me is  
against Me" (Matthew 12:30). If  
one's devotion to Christ is mediocre, it  
is absolutely worthless and has no  
merit in the eyes of God. Likewise, no  
one can serve both God and the world

(See "TOUGH" on page 5)









