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ATT: KARL BRETTIG

JACOB'S LADDER

NEWSLETTER

SEPT. '73

AFTER JL WHAT?

Young people 'off the streets' and others over the past three years have had the opportunity to come to J.L. and talk over specific areas of concern and conflict in their lives. Counsellors and other committed Christian young people have sat down and listened to many young people from all walks of life, giving witness to their faith in Christ.

Perhaps for some JL is just a few hours each Friday and Saturday night. And it cannot be denied that much good, by God's grace and with his blessing, can be done in these hours. But I may be voicing the feeling of some workers at JL when I say that wonderful opportunities are open to us when we are able to visit the homes of some of the contacts made at JL and meet them on their home ground. To sit down with people in their own homes, in a billiard hall or anywhere else and talk with them, gaining their confidence outside JL, provides a challenge. The opportunity to talk with parents and brothers and sisters often places many things in their right perspective.

After JLi What? throws out a big challenge! We are fortunate in having a site which acts as a nucleus for our outreach work. People come to JL for various reasons and this is good, but when we move out amongst them, perhaps causing us inconvenience, we grow toward a more genuine concern for people.

Young people are at first surprised when you appear on their doorstep, but at the same time they feel very pleased in their own way. Regular follow-up visits bring groups closer together. Your next visit is expected by the young people and parents alike.

We have to be geared up for this outreach work, especially when Pastor Doug Kuhl comes to Adelaide to work with us. Note that he will work with us and not for us. One man cannot visit hundreds of young people but a team of workers at JL can. Will you take one contact under your care? What have been your feelings and experiences in your follow up work?

Only a few nights ago I was not up at JL because I was off colour. (I think he means that he was sick - Bd) At about 10 pm 5 lads came round to my place and we sat and talked for a while over a cup of coffee and biscuits. Their visit, the fact that they troubled to find my place (no small feat) and the opportunity to talk with them in another atmosphere still makes me pleased that I was home when they called. True, they got me out of bed, but this was no inconvenience at all. I was pleased to have them around and hope that it was the first of many visits to come.

After JLi What? Christ's saving love and concern for us as Christians makes us want to show and share this love with all people we come into contact with. Praise God who enables us to do it!

Doug Vogelsang

"SPIRITUAL DEPRESSION"

By Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

Its not really about 'spiritual depression' - its about us Christians and the hang-ups we cause for ourselves. Its especially relevant for people who want to share the love of Christ for others in word and action but somehow find that they're not doing it very well. The "willing spirit/weak flesh" kind of thing.

Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones was a medical practitioner for several years before he entered seminary but he's still managed to be a full-time minister for about 40 years. In that time the Lord has taught him lots about us Christians and the doubts, fears, trials and tribulations we bring on ourselves. Yes, that's right, we force them on ourselves because we fail to apply the principles Christ has given us through the gospels and the letters of St Paul directly to ourselves. Then we find that something turns out all wrong we begin to feel sorry for ourselves - we forget that God is in command of every little thing that happens to us and that he wants to put us right - his way.

"And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? - 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor loose courage when you're punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.'" (Hebrews 12.5-6)

There's lots more in this book which delves into the make-up of the Christian. Its loaded with helpful discussion which relates our problems to God's Word.

A friend recommended this book to me a year ago. Another friend bought it and handed it on to another friend who gave it to me which says something about Christian friendship.

So why don't you buy it - read it - and then hand it on and be a real friend.

Karl.

LOVE IS THERE

A star-filled night, a lonely sky,
Yet so much there, like a man
Wandering down a globe-filled road,
A lonely road, yet so long,
A lonely man, yet so strong,
His love is hidden, when will it show,
I don't know, I don't know....

It will appear like the moon,
And, in the same way, will be a boon,
To the world; it will light the way,
and make the road of life easier to follow.

Follow, follow Me was the call and is...
Will we heed it? Do we need it?
Say yes and satisfaction.
Say no and there is no action.

A lonely room
Filled with love is not lonely.
A lonely sky
Filled with the moon...
A lonely garden
Filled with the fragrance of a rose;
A lonely world
Filled with love..... Who knows?

Peter Lean.

A SPIRITUAL DETECTIVE!

The Christian has to be a spiritual detective wherever he is to catch the signs of need!

Is it a waste of time to hold services at the McNally Training Center and to talk with the guys there? It's a matter of attitudes:- some see them as no-good kids and not worth bothering with while others see them as potential members of Christ's kingdom and part of the church's untapped resources.

Is it possible for Christians today after seeing and hearing the awful effects of sin in people's lives to pass by on the other side? Do we have the eye to see the potential in the untapped generation? The good Samaritan had an eye that penetrated the surface. He saw the possibility of rescue. What do we see? Immoral vagrants? Disobedient Children? Unclean loafers? Yes, all that, but what else? Do you see the possibility of chosen vessels for the Lord among them?

Some of the types which we wouldn't go out of our way to help Jesus deliberately sought out. Take the woman of Samaria whom he encountered at the well. Jesus crossed ethnic lines and social barriers to talk with her. She had 5 husbands and was not married to the man with whom she was currently living. Yet Jesus took time to sit down and talk with this outcast. Remember the crook Zacchaeus? He was hidden in a tree trying to get a glimpse of Jesus as he passed by. But Jesus looked up and saw him. Even more astonishingly he invited himself to stay at his home.

Christians are often deceived by appearances. They are impressed by how bad others look and assume that their hard appearance mean that they have a hard heart. We must not assume that these young fellows are not interested in what we have to say. Many of them put on a front appearing to be hard, tough and indifferent. They are simply trying to maintain the image they have constructed for themselves. Our job is to penetrate that facade and find the real person underneath.

At first I felt afraid of these kids but I soon found that apart from their gang they are lonely and insecure. More than anything they want love and attention.

So let's be detectives for Christ. Join us every 2nd Sunday of the month at 11 am at McNally's. If you can't make it then please pray for us. If anyone is able to open their homes for a weekend for one of these guys then it is very much appreciated, especially by those whose families are no longer interested in them. Ask a manager for details.

Leonore.

NEWS & VIEWS

Welcome home! Mal & Lyn Pech have safely arrived back from their trip to God's own country.

The Australian Scripture Union has organised a two day seminar (or should we say 'two night' seminar) on youth work. Michael Eastman from Great Britain will be leading seminars on "Youth scene in the U.K. and working at the frontiers" and "Getting through to non-academic kids" and Jack Sparks from U.S.A. will lead seminars on "Youth scene in the U.S. and working underground" and "Methods of evangelism for the student scene (secondary and tertiary)". These will be held at The Auditorium, Adelaide Building Centre, 47 South Tce, Adelaide starting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, 16th & 17th October 1973.

You must register before hand so get a form from any manager. The cost is \$2.50 or \$2 for students. The last day for enrolments is Monday 8th October so hurry!!!

The next McNally Service is on Sunday 8th Sept at 11 am. Please come if you're able. Whether you can come or not please pray for this venture. Next month's service will be at 11 am on the 14th.

By the way "God's own country" is New Zealand!!! (I realise that all well travelled Australians are aware of this but I thought that it'd only be fair to inform the rest of you!!!)

The studies in Basic Youth Conflicts series with Pastor Teasie continuing on Wednesday 12th and 19th of this month. All who wish to attend are most welcome, even if you didn't go to the earlier sessions. They're held from 8 - 10 at Jacob's Ladder.

Jacob's Ladder is planning to expand its activities in the future. Pastor Doug Kuhl will be arriving after Christmas to work with us. If you have any ideas for other activities and programmes we could be engaged in - in fact if you have any ideas at all - please see the managers.

One final thought - this is going to cost money!!!
Can we do it????

P.P.S. Keep making a real BIG effort to turn up by 7.30 when you work at J.L. Many thanks!