

Abide

Volume 1, Issue 1

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT: The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of other youths, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material for this publication will be edited with this goal in mind. THE EDITORS

A Christian Journal For Youth? A Letter from the Editor.

Does anyone know where to find a journal for **youth**? There are several good, Christian magazines for young ladies. Contemporary magazines that are designed for young men exist, but they can hardly be called Christian. It is very difficult to find any publication that really focuses on how to live a holy, Christ-centered youth. We have decided to start one.

We have chosen to publish a journal because a journal is, more or less, a periodical that is designed to give many people the chance to share their ideas or experiences. We also chose a journal because we do not think it would be wise for us (the editors) to be constantly getting up and preaching to others. In addition, it takes too long for us to write and edit enough high-quality material to publish on any regular basis. We do

not want to begin a periodical and have to cancel issues or add material that we feel is low-grade in order to publish on time. We want to provide a platform for youth to share their visions and burdens. We are ready to collect, edit, and publish the ideas and testimonies of youth. The purpose of this issue is to measure the amount of interest in a Christian journal for youth. If we get a favorable response, we will try to publish an issue every month or two. In order for us to publish 6-12 issues a year, we will need the readers to submit personal testimonies, papers they have written, or powerful messages that they have read. We would then carefully read over all the material received and accept, reject, or revise the material. Any changes would be cleared with the original author, and then we would publish

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A LIFE OF CONSTANT TRIUMPH

- Zac Poonen-

God's will for our lives is CONSTANT VICTORY. This is clearly taught in a number of Scriptures.

Consider just a few...

"Thanks be to God Who ALWAYS leads us in His triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14)

"In ALL THESE THINGS we overwhelmingly conquer through Him Who loves us" (Rom. 8:37)

"I am writing these things to you that YOU MAY NOT SIN" (1 John 2:1)

In spite of these and other Scriptures, it is still a difficult task to convince many believers that God wants them to live victorious lives.

If we take Scripture just as it is written and believe it simply, as a little child, then this message will come through to us clearly. But if we rely on our reason, we may find many convincing arguments why such a life is not possible in this evil world. Many unbelieving believers will then add their testimony to what our reason tells us. And then we will convince ourselves that a victorious life is not possible in this world.

Unless we are convinced first of all that God wants us to live in contin-

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A Christian Journal For Youth?

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it.

We will be working on a faith basis and will not be taking subscriptions. Therefore, if you are not interested in receiving this journal, please let us know. We will provide a mailing address and an email address so you can contact us. If you know of someone who would like to receive this journal, we would be happy to receive their name and mailing address. We have established several guidelines to govern the content of this journal.

The purpose of this journal is to encourage and promote spiritual growth in the Lord. We have purposed to focus on becoming true 'Christians'- followers of Christ. The term 'Christian' originally meant 'a follower of Christ'. Modern people understand it as 'a believer of Christ'. We hope to present messages, testimonies, and books that will help youth accomplish this vision. So many youth think of Christianity as something they do when they get older, or a standard that they adhere to; we wish to present a different and exciting way to look at Christianity. We want to learn about the Christianity that works. The Christianity that works will do more than save men from hell; it will enable people to live above sin. It will empower them, by the Holy Spirit, to live in **constant** fellowship with Jesus Christ. (It took me many years to realize this principle. I do not mean understand- I cannot do that very well yet!☺). We will call this process 'Abiding in Christ'. Great men of the faith have also called it: 'total surrender' and 'walking in the Spirit'. We are planning to spend several months discussing this sub-

ject.

This Journal is not a platform for doctrinal debate. We do not intend to directly discuss major doctrinal differences. We do not prohibit all discussion of these subjects, but the discussion must be from experience. One can argue doctrine, but how does one argue with a testimony? For example: Suppose a young man was struggling with doubts about his salvation. If believing in the doctrine of eternal security helped him resolve this struggle; then, a testimony that discusses this **is acceptable only** if the focus is on the growth and peace that result from the belief and not on the belief itself.

This journal will not endeavor to introduce another program or formula that will 'magically' produce a deeper relationship with Christ. We will present suggestions and testimonies about the things God has used in our lives, but we do not wish to set down regulations. Following Christ is a relationship we build, **not** a code of conduct or a set of standards that we must uphold. We want to encourage other youth to mature in Christ, not to form codes or standards based on the methods or practices of other maturing Christians.

For these reasons, and with these guidelines, we embark on the production of this journal. Are **you** interested in this journal? ED

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How to Contact Us:

We want stuff from **you!** If you would like to submit a testimony, a hymn history, an article you have written, or some material you have read, you can contact us using any of the following options:

For general suggestions and inquires:
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We are able to receive email or standard mail. If possible, please have material typed out. We suggest these approximate maximum word counts:
Testimonies- 1200 words or 2.5 pages typed.
Book Review- 1000 words, about 2 pages typed.
Articles or biographies- up to 3000 words, 5 pages typed.
Hymn History or story- 500 words or one page typed.

We will consider all submissions, although we reserve the right to select and edit them. For more information on this subject contact Josiah. ED

Hymn Histories: Abide With Me

Our first hymn is fittingly titled 'Abide with Me'. Written by Henry Francis Lyte, it expresses his deepest longings. He was born on June 1, 1793 in Ednam Scotland, and orphaned when he was young. Henry was extremely poor, but he managed to get a good education. Although Henry planned to be a doctor, he later decided that the ministry was a "worthwhile profession." He served in several small

"It so impressed me that I fully surrendered my heart and life to the Lord, and my ministry felt the impact."

parishes and finally moved to Devonshire, England, where he was to minister for the next 23 or 24 years.

The story of this hymn began when he was summoned to the deathbed of a fellow pastor to give spiritual counsel and encouragement. When he got there, he found he did not have a real Christian hope to offer his friend. As they talked with each other, they realized, to their grief, that they had been 'blind, leaders of the blind.' The two friends sought the Lord for forgiveness and assurance of their own salvation! Lyte emerged a new man from this experience. He later said: "It so impressed me that I fully surrendered my heart and life to the Lord, and my ministry felt the impact." The memories from this experience helped inspire him to write this hymn. Although some have suggested that he may have written the song shortly after this event, most historians agree that it was written 27 years later, as Henry prepared to leave for France.

By 1847, Lyte had contracted tuberculosis. He was advised by a doctor to seek a southern climate. On September 4, despite protests from his friends, he gave a final sermon to his congregation. With tears, he

challenged his audience to holier living. His text was Luke 24:29- 'Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.' "Oh Brethren," he said, "I stand here before you today, as alive from the dead, if I may hope to impress upon you, and get you to prepare for that solemn hour which must come to all. I plead with you to become acquainted with the changeless Christ and His death."

That night he wrote "Abide with Me". It culminates his life-changing experience, his passionate prayer for God's presence, and his deep awareness of his own inadequacies. 'Abide with Me' gives an accurate picture of how we must come to view our relationship with God- One of total trust, and total reliance. A short time later, a seizure left him dead in Nice, France with the words "Joy, Peace" on his lips. AR

Resources:

Hymn Histories by Alfred B. Smith
Better Music Publications, Inc.
Treasury of Great Hymns by Guye Johnson
Bob Jones University Press

Andrew Rocke, 16, lives in Hortonville, Wisconsin. He has 9 brothers and sisters. He enjoys writing hymns and studying hymn histories.

Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away:
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me.*

*Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free,
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.*

*Come not in terrors, as the King of kings;
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, and abide with me.*

*Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee;
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me!*

*I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is Death's sting? where, Grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Henry Francis Lyte, circa 1847

Any Ideas For This Page?

We want your input! Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to see here? Do you have a neat story or testimony about how a certain song or hymn has touched your life? Send it to us! We are looking for hymns that mean a lot to you, express the desire for a deeper walk with God, or communicate a willingness to follow His leading. You can also send us any other information you may have on an already published hymn history. We will save space for such addends! If you submit a hymn history or a story of your personal experience with a hymn, aim for a word length of 500 words. ED



"Let every thing that has breath Praise the LORD."

BRUCHKO: Bruce Olson, Missionary to the Motilones

Welcome to the first biography review! The purpose of this section is to encourage youth in their walk with God by reviewing the lives of men and woman who have been mightily used by God in their youth. Men and women who have surrendered and dedicated their entire life to God that they might be used for *His* glory, honor, and praise, and for the furtherance of *His* kingdom. These men and woman who had a passion for lost souls which, in some cases, led them across the world to preach the gospel to those who had never heard it. This is by no means a complete review. At best, this brief overview is only meant to give you a taste and make you want to get the biography and dig deeper! Information on obtaining the complete work will be included at the end of the review. If you have any biographies you would like to recommend or would like to submit a review, **please** send the name of the book or person, or a copy of your review to the address listed for your responses. We **value** your input!

Bruce Olson was born in 1942 in rural Minnesota. Although both of his parents were strong Lutherans, and he had attended church since a small child, being confirmed at age 14, he was not satisfied. Life seemed empty, vain, and meaningless- and oh, how true, life *is* meaningless and empty without Christ! He had been reading his Bible for years but mostly in the Old Testament. Now, in this time of searching, he began reading in the New Testament. He felt something was missing in his church and his home and was confused who his God really was. One night on his bed, as he was reading in the book of John, he suddenly read this verse *"For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was*

lost." Hope flared in his heart as he remembered another verse he had read: *"If thou shalt...believe in thine heart that God hath raised him (Christ) from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* For the first time in his life, he felt led to pray to this Jesus he had heard so little about. And there on his bed, in brokenness, he prayed a simple prayer to this Jesus, confessing his sin and asking the Lord to change him and save him. Suddenly his soul was flooded with peace! Peace that nothing in this world can give- it was alive, and was making him alive! Here was a boy who had never heard the gospel, and from simply reading the Bible with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, was saved. What a wonderful God we serve!

Shortly after this time, his best friend was also saved, and he invited Bruce to visit his church. There, for the first time, he saw true Christians, and he began attending that church in addition to the Lutheran church, where he still went to please his Mother. Therefore, every Sunday, as soon as the Lutheran service was over, he walked 5 miles to his friend's church. He also attended the mid-week prayer service and the Bible study meetings held several times a week. His experience was misunderstood and mocked by his family, his pastor, and his friends from the Lutheran church. One cold, windy night, after barely making it the 5 miles home from church, he found the door locked. Figuring his parents had forgotten he was out, he rang the doorbell, and called to his father, who was too light a sleeper to not hear. His father wouldn't respond, and he was forced to walk 2 miles back to his friend's house, where he slept for the night. This happened several more times throughout the rest of the time he was at home, along with several other forms of persecution.

When he was 16, the church he attended held a missionary conference and had a number of missionaries speak. For the first time, he felt very strongly called by God to be a missionary. This was a disruption to his peaceful dream of being a Linguistic Professor. Slowly God changed his heart, until he clearly knew God had called him to be a missionary to South America. He applied to a well-

known mission board, but, after waiting for a reply for some time, he was rejected. He was very discouraged and felt like giving up, but he could not shake the call God had placed on his life. Finally,

he got a passport and visa and decided to go without a mission board. He was given enough money for his plane ticket, and seventy dollars for expenses. With this, he left for Venezuela, South America, at the age of 19.

He arrived in Caracas, the capitol city of Venezuela, not knowing a word of Spanish. He knew Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Sanskrit, but not a word of Spanish! Sometimes he thought God wasn't very practical! God knew what he was doing, however, as was clearly seen in the months and years to come. For the next year, he moved around and lived with different college students, even teaching English for a short time in a college. During this time, he traveled with a doctor and stayed in an Indian village in the jungle for 3 weeks. While at a college, he heard about an unreached tribe called the Motilones. The only contact they had with civilization was in the form of spears and arrows. He

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"Peace that nothing in this world can give- it was alive, and was making him alive!"

BRUCHKO: Bruce Olson*(Continued from page 4)*

felt God telling him to take the Gospel to these Indians, and took his first journey into the jungle on foot with a pack mule. The first tribe he contacted, however, was the Yuko's; a less powerful and smaller tribe than the Motilones. It was months before he talked one of the warriors from the Yuko's into taking him to the fierce Motilones.

Once he got to the Motilones however, he was shot in the leg with an arrow and almost killed. Then, he almost died from hepatitis and continually faced sickness and discomfort. He also faced the arduous task of learning their language and culture before he could clearly present the gospel. However, this was a small price to pay as he was rewarded for his efforts by seeing God's Spirit sweep through the tribe as hundreds of Motilones were saved, much of the Bible was printed in their language, and the Motilones themselves began taking the gospel to former enemy tribes like the Yukos and others in the regions beyond. Later, as the Motilones progressed, they started schools to teach the people to read; health and dental clinics. They also started agricultural centers to teach the people to raise cattle, dairy cows, and modern crops, thus eliminating the months of hunger when no wild fruits were available. All of the schools, clinics, and agricultural centers were run by Motilones that left the jungle to further their education.

There is many exciting stories that space does not permit me to share, but as I said earlier, this is only a brief overview, and I highly recommend you get the book and read them for yourself. The name of the book is "Bruchko", and was written by himself. It is available from most Christian bookstores, or you can order directly from the publisher "**Creation House**" toll free at: 1-800-559-5750. -T.J.G.

THE CRY OF MY HEART

*To be conformed to Thy image dear Jesus,
Is all that my spirit doth need,
To empty of doubts and of worries
On only Thy likeness to feed.*

*Farewell to this world's frail comfort,
No more of its lust and its strife;
Lead on, oh my dear blessed Jesus,
I'll fight for the good and the right.*

*Dear Jesus, Thy presence I covet,
Lead on in Thy Spirit of truth,
Send Thy Holy Spirit upon me,
While still I am yet in my youth.*

*Tho' this world grows yet but the darker,
I almost seem lost in the night,
Yet, through the dark shadows I see Thee,
Lead on in Thy Spirit of Light.*

*I'll follow Thee through the dark valley,
And through the deep waters I'll swim,
If only Thy presence will guide me:
Yet, let Thy bright light grow not dim.*

*Oh Jesus, my Savior I love Thee!
I know that thou truly art mine,
And when I shall leave this frail body,
In Thy blessed kingdom, I'll shine!*

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Tyler Griffin, age 17, lives in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. He is the oldest of 6 children. He enjoys working with his Dad and brother in their woodworking shop, and caring for their large family gardens. He also enjoys reading biographies of men who have been on fire for God devotional books such as ones by Andrew Murray, and most of all, the Word of God.

The Life of Abiding

Are you wondering where the inspiration for "Abide" came from? Two sources: Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray and the Gospel of John, chapter 15. We will discuss Andrew Murray's book in a future issue. Here, I want to present John 15:4-9

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine; neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches: He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have I loved you: abide in My love." (NKJV)

I hope to present a series of verses that describe a life of abiding in Christ. JD

Josiah Roche, 18, writes from his home in Hortonville, Wisconsin.

A Life of Triumph- Zac Poonen*(Continued from page 1)*

ous victory, we will never be able to have faith for such a life. Everything in the Christian life is utterly dependent on faith. And faith is based on the revelation that God has given us in His Word.

Even if you have lived in defeat for many years, it makes no difference. If only you can see this truth of a

life of constant victory clearly in God's Word, it would be the first step towards a victorious life.

Editor's Note: The best way to let Satan have his way is to do nothing.

"The Secrets of Victory." Copyright - Zac Poonen Used by permission. *Zac Poonen lives in India, where he has faithfully preached the word of God for several decades.*

ABIDE

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In This Issue...

*“One thing I do, forgetting those things
which are behind and reaching forward to
those things which are ahead, I press toward
the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Therefore, let us mature.”*

Philippians 3:13b-15a

*“And now, little children, abide in Him... that
we may have confidence and not be
ashamed at His coming.” 1 John 2:28*