

WHAT'S UP?

by Matt Headley.

This article is written to inform you of activities that are coming up in our youth group.

November 1994:

There are only 2 events scheduled in November, but the first one is really big.

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Sunday, November 6      Teen Service

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On the first Sunday of the month we're taking over the night service and giving Pastor Jordan a break!

The Teen Service is an excellent chance to use your talent to praise God. After all, he was the one who gave it to you!

The last Teen Service was a success. Two of the biggest highlights were the choir, which sang "I Rather Have Jesus", and the skit performed. It took place in a courtroom and its theme was centered around this question, "Would there be enough evidence to convict you as a Christian?". The skit was a powerful, self-evaluating message. Hopefully this Teen Service will be just as good as the last one, and maybe even better!

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Friday, November 18      Teen Hayride

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At the time of this printing, Pastor Mark did not have details of where the hayride will be. He has one place in

mind, but he has not been able to get in touch with them.

*Details will be given out later.*

SWITCHING SCHOOLS.

by Jill Jordan.

This year I switched schools from Gloucester to Victory. My first week of school went very well. I was nervous about the first day, but when I got there things went really good. We had a half day Tuesday, a whole day Wednesday, and on Thursday and Friday our high school went on a retreat up to High Point Camp. On the retreat I became friends with many people. The retreat helped to unify our high school and it helps new people get to know everyone else. There were canoe races (YUCK!), capture the flag, and volleyball. Everyone had a great time even though we got home 2 hours late. I'm thankful to the Lord for sending me to Victory Christian School and I'm thankful for the friendliness of all of the people at Victory. I had a great first week at school!

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This article is written to answer some of the questions in the "Question Can".

Q= "How should you tell a brother or a sister in the Lord that they're doing something wrong to you without totally turning them off in some way?"

A= "The answer to this is quite simple. Matthew 18:15-20 gives a detailed plan on how to confront a Christian who has wronged you. Verse 15 is even more helpful. Confront them and talk with them in a caring manner. If you have true Christian brothers or sisters, they will understand. Make sure you humble yourself by prayer and Godly wisdom before you confront the person. If they apologize, forgive them (Matthew 18:21-22). Sometimes people do not realize they are offending you. If we want to pursue unity we need to find more biblical solutions to disunity problems. God sees and only he knows the outcome. Pray and seek His wisdom, then confront the person.

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Q= "What would you do if you are falling in love with a guy or girl that lives about 2 hours away and you know that he feels the same about you?"

A= "I would consider talking to the person that you are "falling in love" with. If he feels the same about you then both of you should maintain a relationship, but remember that you need to make sure that he is a Christian and has similar standards because saved and unsaved persons do not mix (Amos 3:3). Also, make sure that your relationship glorifies God (I Corinthians 10:31).

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Q= "What would you do if you were falling in love with a good friend (of the opposite sex of course)? Should you make your love known?"

A= "If you are "falling in love" with a good friend of the opposite sex see if they show any interest in you before you jump the gun. Don't just come out and tell them you "love" them. Get to know him/her first.

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\*\*\*\*\* If anyone has questions they need answered, leave them in the question can and they will be answered in a future addition of the newsletter. - THANK YOU!



9/5/94

Dear Pastor Mark and Youth Group,

The way I feel about the youth group is that there is no unity at all. I'm sorry for being so blunt but some people have their own clicks and just think that if they have friends in the youth group, everybody in the youth group does.

There are some people that don't even want to come out any more because of this but their Mom and Dad make them. How are we as Christians going to get more kids to come out and be accepted if we can't even accept one another? I don't mean that you have to be best friends with everybody because you do have your own best friends. I'm just saying that we should try to make everybody feel welcome and at home.

\*\*\* How come the unsaved treat me better than the saved?

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Dear Pastor Mark,

I personally think this youth group has a unity problem and that some of the friendliness portrayed (if any really) isn't genuine, but mostly a facade. I'm not saying that I'm perfect, but I really feel that being friendly and social to others isn't a priority to others, and it won't be until the Lord lays it on their heart and makes them miserable or they become friendless themselves. I've been praying about it but I'm not really seeing any improvement. I think we have more than our share of hypocrites. They say they're good Christians and walk with God, yet all they do when someone new (or old) comes in is turn their head to see if it's their best friend. People are more focused on having people all around them for security rather than doing the right thing and leaning on Christ. Now I know I'm probably going off on a tangent, but I have a head full. I'll stop for now. I'm doing my best, but I can't do it alone.



Dear Youth Group,

This isn't going to be a letter complaining about unity in our youth group, but rather a letter expressing my comments on this matter, and a couple of others. We've already complained too much and have done too little.

Is the problem of unity really just gossip and cliques? A few of us may have a problem with gossip, but certainly not all of us do. Are cliques really as bad as if we had 2 feet thick walls between each group of people talking after church and youth group? I don't see it that way. I see different, mixed groups talking each time.

I'm sure there are a couple of people just too shy to talk to others. Some of us don't know everyone's personality, and don't know what to talk about with them. Many of us don't see each other outside of the youth group and church.

I believe these problems are all included in one big problem we have all come to know as unity. You see, we are trying to think of an answer to solve the problem instantly, and for everyone.

Our problem lies within ourselves. We have to work on the bad qualities of our own personalities in order to conquer our deficiency of unity. We can't completely change our personalities of course, but in the future you'll look behind you and realize how far you've come. Trust me on this, it's a wonderful feeling!

I used to feel shy all the time. Just by forcing myself to talk to people, I now feel I am winning the battle against my shyness. I can now talk to anyone, and not feel shy most of the time. Now I hate it when I have nothing to talk about! I encourage you to work out your problem, and have God guide you through it!

In order to feel part of the youth group, you should get involved somehow! A little while ago, I was feeling kind of down about the youth group. I felt like it just wasn't anything special to me anymore. I felt like I didn't really belong to it. Then I started to write an article for the newsletter, and Pastor Mark reminded me of a way to use one of my interests and talents for the youth group. This really did make a difference! I feel I'm a part of the youth group again. If you aren't involved in anything, and you're feeling just like I did, get involved! Find your something to contribute, even if it takes a while to do so. You'll be glad you did!

We should be very thankful for the group that we have! Before my family and I came to this church, I visited a few youth group meetings at my old church. The members of that youth group were basically like brick walls! None of them really even tried to talk to me (except for the youth pastor of course). They weren't very friendly people. That single purpose is why we left that church. My parents wanted me to get involved in church and youth group.

Finally, you should come out to the activities as much as you can. They are fun, a great way to get involved, and a great way to get to know people.

You may not agree or want to do anything I have suggested in this letter, but I ask you to give some deep thought on what I have said.

Together, and individually, we can make this youth group some of the best times we have spent in our lives!