

The Magazine for Christian

June 1991
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Youth!

HEROES
OF
AFRICAN
TEENS

AFRICAN
POP
MUSIC

Africa!

BASKETBALL
IN ZIMBABWE

NELSON MANDELA



The magazine for Christian

Youth!

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The purpose of *Youth!* is to help teenagers develop Christian identity and live the Christian faith in their contemporary culture.



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FROM THE EDITOR



Mirror, Mirror

What do you look like? Don't look in a mirror. Just shut your eyes and picture your self. What are the details of your face? That's hard to remember! You need a mirror to help you see yourself clearly. The best mirrors are perfectly smooth so they can reflect reality as perfectly as possible.

If you don't like what you see when you look in the mirror, you've got a few choices. You can just walk away and forget the whole thing. You can take the time to groom your face, hair, and body into an image that pleases you. Or, you can take your shoe and smash any mirror that dares show your real face to you!

It's silly to blame a mirror for the way you look. The mirror is just doing what mirrors do. It feels good to like the person you see in the mirror. Still, you may be challenged or disappointed by what you see. You can deny, excuse, fix, or accept what you see. But as long as you look in the mirror, you're going to have to face the truth about yourself.

There are other mirrors besides the glass and silver kind. Your friends reflect your moods back to you. Your goals reflect your values. The music you choose is a mirror to your hopes and dreams. At a magazine workshop, the leader said that a magazine is like a mirror to the reader. He said that you will stay with a magazine that reflects back to you the person you are or want to be. If the magazine isn't *you*, if you don't see yourself or what you hope to be in it, you'll put it down.

What about the mirror called *The Magazine for Christian Youth!*? Do you see the person you are and hope to be when you open it up and take a look? Does it reflect the life of a growing committed Christian teenager? A good glass mirror tells the glaring truth. *Youth!* seeks to tell the truth in a loving, challenging, and hopeful way.

Look closely. For better or for worse, do you see any of your own attitudes in the articles about apartheid and South Africa? Do the Bible Breaks reflect your level of biblical knowledge? What part of you comes into view as you respond to the record reviews? When you look into the *Youth!* mirror you will be comforted or challenged, excited or angered by what you see. That depends a lot on what you expect to see and how much of yourself you want the mirror to reflect.

In Christ's love,

Chris

Whoever listens to the word but does not put it into practice is like a man who looks in a mirror and sees himself as he is. He takes a good look at himself and then goes away and at once forgets what he looks like. James 1:23-24

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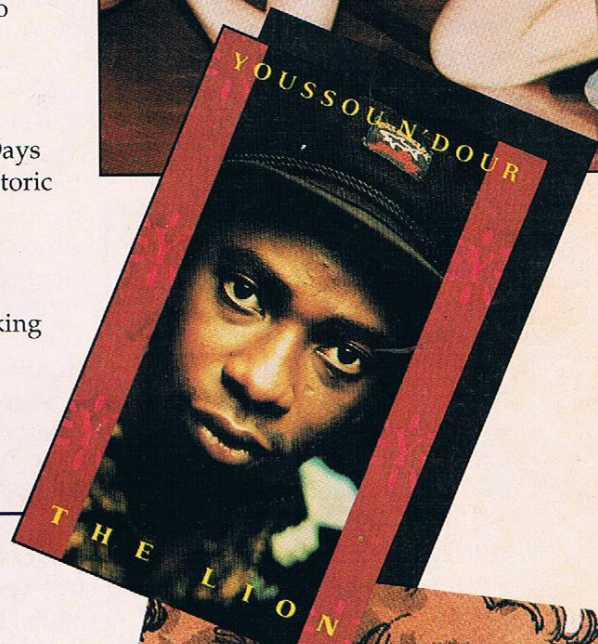
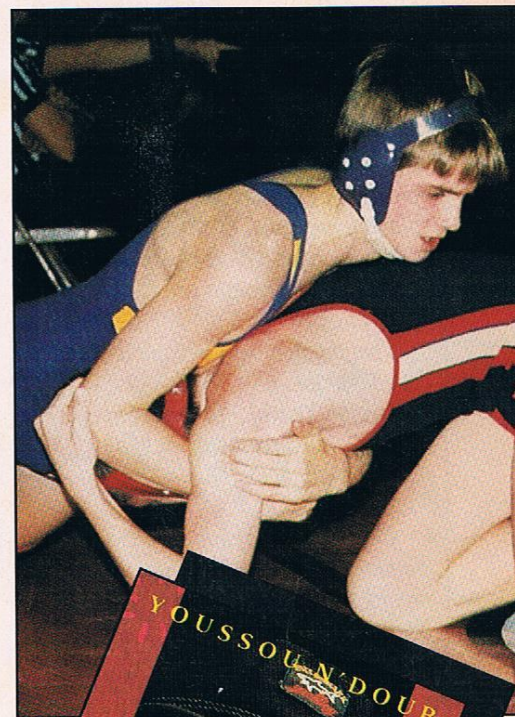
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Sound Advice

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June 1991



Getting to Know

by Wiebe Boer,
Cynthia Boer, and
Ruthie Koops

Boer Photo



Pirates of Penzance—one of our two plays last year

We are missionary kids (MKs), living in Nigeria, but don't get the wrong impression. We are not "holy rollers," and we are not that different from teenagers in North America. Our experiences as MKs have simply made us more aware of what's going on in the world; we tend to be conscious of more than just our city, state, or country.

And since Nigeria is in Africa, pictures of mud huts, jungles, exotic creatures, and loincloth-clad "natives" swinging from vines might come to mind. Yes, people living in the villages do live in mud houses and there are rainforests in the south of Nigeria. But there are no exotic creatures. There are animals in the zoos and game parks, but they aren't exotic. And we have never seen anyone wearing a loincloth or swinging on vines. The main purpose of this article is to let North American teenagers know how we live out here, because to most teens, MKs are distant mysteries.

Our City, Jos

Jos is a city of about half a million people, and it is located on a high plateau with an elevation of close to one mile above sea level. It isn't as modern as cities in the West, but it certainly isn't backwards

either. You will find lots of industry, good roads, cars, and other things needed in a city. You won't find any shopping malls, but there are markets and lots of stores in which, if you look hard, you could probably find anything you wanted.

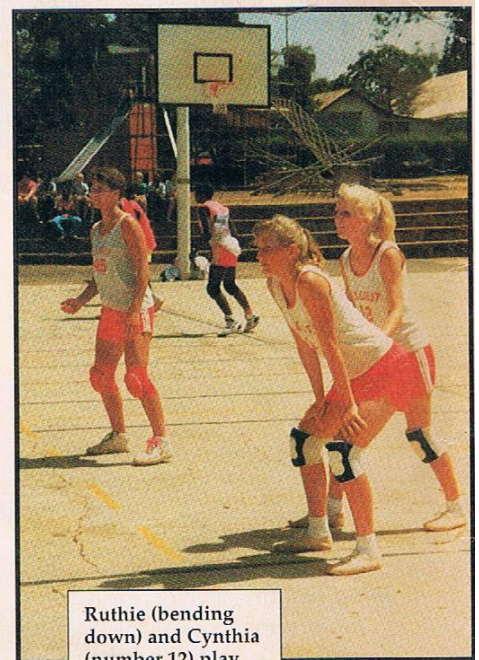
We (Wiebe and Cynthia) live in a four-bedroom bungalow on the Mountain View Compound (living quarters for missionaries of the Christian Reformed Church), half a mile away from our school, Hillcrest.

Our School, Hillcrest

Hillcrest is a big part of our lives out here. It is where we spend most of our time, since most of our close friends go there. The social life at Hillcrest tends to create extremely strong relationships. Outsiders and newcomers have often noticed this and have said that friendships here are often much more real than in North America. Probably the main reason for this is that the Hillcrest community is such a small one. Our school has around 450 kids from grades 1 to 12. These students represent a large variety of countries and a number of religions.

The teachers mostly come from Europe and North America, but there are some Nigerians on the staff. The staff is provided by the twelve missionary organizations by and for whom the school was originally started. The

Boer Photo



Ruthie (bending down) and Cynthia (number 12) play on the varsity volleyball team at Hillcrest

Youth!

Missionary

high school is made up of about 100 kids. Hillcrest is the only school of its type in Nigeria. So the community is basically exclusively made up of Hillcresters. Since there aren't any other schools around with kids like us, we're stuck with each other all the time—before, during, and after school. This forces us to deal with the people around us, so we get to be close friends.

The closeness also creates problems that are typical all over the world: gossip and rumors. Everyone knows everyone else and they all think they should know everyone else's business. It does get tiring at times to hear silly rumors, but that's probably a problem with teenagers everywhere.

Our Recreation

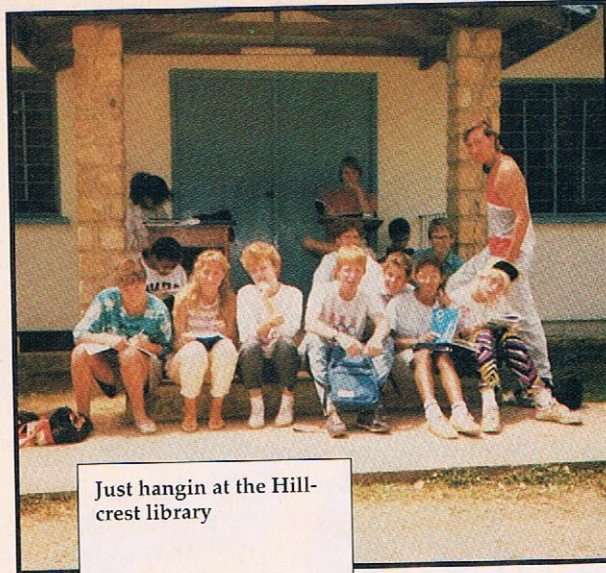
Many North Americans ask us what we do for fun. The school has a lot of functions that help create community spirit. Each high school class is responsible for putting on carnivals, plays, videos, craft sales, and banquets. Most functions help the

classes earn money for putting on the junior/senior banquet and for going on a trip at the end of the senior year.

There are a lot of different extra-curricular activities at school. Each year we play varsity volleyball, tennis, track and field, basketball, and soccer. We also have intramurals each week so everyone can to be involved with sports. Every year we hold a twelve-hour relay when a group of ten students and staff run all day to raise money for charity.

We have regular choir and band which meet during school. We also have a swing choir and a jazz band. Each year we put out the school's yearbook called *The Crest*. Every year we put on two plays, a high school play and a senior play.

Our other forms of recreation are somewhat limited. We only have two TV channels and no movie theaters, and the driving age is 18. On weekends we often have parties, just like North American ones, but we really don't have as much trouble with drugs, sex, and alcohol as they do in N.A. We listen to all the latest music; in fact we have a large



Just hangin at the Hill-
crest library

variety of music here because we get the latest songs from Europe, Jamaica and Nigeria as well as North America. And we watch videos. We show them in the school's video room or we rent recent videos to show at home.

Of course there's the occasional date. There isn't much informal dating here. If a guy and girl go on a date, it is assumed that they're going steady. Usually groups of friends are made up of guys and girls, so we're not exactly unfamiliar with people of the opposite sex.

Being an MK is a very special thing. We would not give up our experiences of living in Nigeria. MK's learn to have a very broad view of the world that God created, and we appreciate all the things that we have that many people around us could only dream of.

North American teens Wiebe Boer, Cynthia Boer, and Ruthie Koops have lived almost their entire lives in Nigeria..