

RELIGION

Young Life trains this year's hopefuls for leadership

by **Brianne Taylor**
staff writer

Two weeks ago, Young Life training began preparing students for leadership at area high schools Shelby, Crest and Kings Mountain.

Approximately 15 students are attending the fall sessions and hope to take on leadership positions in February.

Young Life, an international Christian organization that reaches about 30 countries, has existed in Cleveland County for 50 years.

Organized as a club that meets once a week, Young Life offers skits, songs,

games and a "club talk" that shares the message of Christ with high school students.

The training sessions, led by Sid Bradsher and Nicole Howard, meet once a week for a little over a semester and focus on a variety of issues.

The sessions are designed to train students for Christian leadership.

Beginning with a study on great leaders in the Bible, the training moves on to consider the students' personal beliefs and why they believe as they do.

The history of Young Life is also explained so that its purpose and origins will be understood and the new leaders can see what is expected of them.

Andy Smith, a sophomore who went through training last year, said leaders "hang out with the kids, lead the studies, talk to them, just to be a friend."

"Young Life is about building relationships with the kids. It's getting to know high school students on their own turf," said Howard.

Relationships built in training are also important. "The students get to be close with others in the training class and that helps us when they become leaders because they already know each other," said Howard.

Walter Miller, a trainee, said, "I'm getting to know people better, and it's showing me areas I need to work on."

Once they become leaders high school visits and club meetings will always present new opportunities for them.

"It's different every day. You don't know what you're going to do, who you're going to meet. Every day is a challenge, you just have to depend on God," Smith said.

Miller shared that in high school Young Life helped him both spiritually and socially.

He now wishes to return the favor. "It's a good way to reach teenagers; sometimes that's hard for churches to do. I'm really looking forward to being a leader because I know what impact it has on youth," he said.

Inspirational Thoughts...

It's an ache that lives inside of each of us. Buried in the darkness of our souls and covered by layers of doubts, uncertainties and fears.

All the years of pain have made us turn a deaf ear to its tender voice; the empty tomb of knowledge has made us believe it isn't there.

But it lives. That silent longing for something beautiful and perfect, something secure and brilliantly strong. Something intangible and impossible to grasp with our desperate hands.

We catch a glimpse of it sometimes, if we allow our shell-shocked eyes to take in the colors of our world.

The way the light plays in endless, contemplative eyes or the inner wrenching at the starkness of white snow and black trees.

It's in the power of a touch — hands clasped and the warmth of happy tears. The way a simple smile can tear away all the world's violence in a second.

The longing for something true and good and forever flawless, the voice of the mightiest rivers and the purity of an innocent child, all clean and lovely as a newly-opened flower. So perfect we ache at its beauty.

It's there, for a moment, on our breath as we dare to form the whisper ... God.

-Anonymous

BSU prepares students for ministry here and abroad

by **Mary Gettys**
staff writer

Eleven people attended the Baptist Student Union fall conference at Ridgecrest in Black Mountain, NC on Sept. 26-28.

The theme for the weekend was "I'm here. What now, God?" and the BSU emphasis for all colleges this year is "Breaking Down the Barriers that Exist on Our Campuses."

Beginning with Becky Stone, a storyteller, and followed by Nancy Hastings Sehested, these messages were delivered.

David Moore and Jim McCoy added to the experience by worshipping with the students through music.

BSU participants also engaged in three of 30 seminars offered and covered a wide range of topics.

This time allowed the students to learn

about areas of individual interest.

Students felt that the message was presented very effectively throughout the weekend.

"The speaker was right down on our level. The storyteller was fabulous. She had all of us riveted to the seats," remarked Daniel Pentecost.

Pentecost said the main point that he learned from the conference was that "sometimes you just have to shut up and listen to God."

Ten of the students trained at the fall conference will have an opportunity to work in ministry outside the state of North Carolina.

Funds for this opportunity were decided upon at the BSU business meeting and will be provided from the budget.

Nine other students will also be selected and funded to work in areas of the state and in foreign missions.

Daily Devotions

JESUS WAS A MAN OF FAITH...
HOW CAN WE BE FAITHFUL?

Friday, Oct. 7

Nehemiah 9:8

Just as Abraham was faithful we should have a heart that is faithful to God. How faithful has your heart been today?

Saturday, Oct. 8

I Corinthians 4:2

Remember that being faithful is not simply a nice thing for us to do — it is required of all stewards of the Lord.

Sunday, Oct. 9

Revelation 17:4

We are chosen, called and appointed to be faithful. It is something God wants from us, not something that we decided to be for Him.

Monday, Oct. 10

James 2:17-18

The faithful show their faith. Faith in action can become our daily witness.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Romans 3:27

Although we may want others to know how faithful we are to God, these two qualities (faithfulness and boastfulness) directly oppose each other. We don't need to boast — God knows our hearts.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

I John 5:4

Overcome the world today as you walk in faith. Born again in Christ, we already know we have the victory over this world.

Thursday, Oct. 13

Hebrews 10:23

Profess your faith. Let others see how

unwavering it is, and, in result, see a reflection of the faithfulness of Christ.

JESUS WAS A MAN OF HOPE...
HOW CAN WE BE HOPEFUL?

Friday, Oct. 14

Hebrews 6:19

Anchor your soul to the hope that you have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Is your hope strong enough to anchor to?

Saturday, Oct. 15

Psalms 119:116 & Romans 5:5

Don't be ashamed to have hope. Let others see the hope that you have — it is the hope they are looking for.

Sunday, Oct. 16

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in the hope that you have — it is not only your right but your duty as a Christian.

Monday, Oct. 17

Job 11:18 & Proverbs 10:28

We should allow the security and gladness to give us comfort. Remember this at the end of a stressful day.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Psalms 31:24 & 8:24-25

Draw encouragement from the strength given you and the assurance of that which is unseen.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

Galatians 5:5

Realize that your hope is a gift from God — not a chore.

Thursday, Oct. 20

Colossians 12:3

Remember to show both faith and hope in your daily walk as you are a tangible reflection of Jesus Christ himself.

Bible Trivia:

In the 176 verses of Psalm 119, every verse contains a reference to God's word, statutes, promises, decrees, laws, ways or commands -- except for two verses.

What are they?

The first person with the correct answer will receive a prize.

Write to campus box 5682.

Last week's Bible trivia answer: The passage that mentions a fly in ointment is found in Ecclesiastes 10:1.