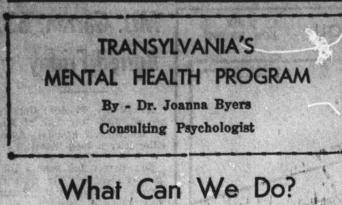
PAGE EIGHT



As we think about how the community can give emotional support to a family who has suffered a series of difficult times I'd like to present what happened in another community.

The family was composed, of husband and wife, three sons and two daughters. The husband was working and because the wife was an excellent manager they were living fairly well on his income of \$125.00 a week. Then things began to happen. The youngest child, a girl, developed leukemia and the first time of trouble continued over a period of 17 months until her death. During this time, the child was in and out of the hospital, here was the need for many blood donations for transfusions and of course, heavy medical expenses.

About three months after the death of this child the wife's moher became ill and suffered a lingering illness for a seven month period which ended in her death. A few months later another child was born and this child had the mongolian signs and was severe-ly retarded. Things seemed to settle down for a few months and then the husband had a heart attack which hospitalized him and kept him from work for an eighteen month period. When he returned to work it was on a limited schedule which curtailed his earning power.

This series of troubling times covered a period of a little over five years. In this time the oldest boy had reached Jr. College, the second one was ready to graduate from High School and the daughter was ready to enter adolescence. This family could have fallen apart in these circumstances, but it didn't! One of the reasons was that during these years they had the support of friends, members of their church congregation, employers and the community.

Now it is one thing to fix a meal for a friend at a time of emergency, or to baby sit for a friend when there is a need. It is easy to give sympathy and counsel to a friend at a time of sorrow — but five years of support! This is a long time to cover. Yet this family



was given continued support over this long period of time. In talking with some of the people who helped out in the first emergency, each said that he or she had not felt burdened. Why? Because many people were helping and because one group took the respon-sibility of organizing the help that was of-fered. During the succeeding trials this family suffered, new people helped, old friends gave their support again and over the years the family held intact.

Let's look at some of the help that can be offered. Some people prepared meals at times when the girl had to be taken to the hospital. Other people baby - sat so the mother and father could visit or so the wife could be with the husband during his hospitalization. There were hundreds of people who gave blood to the blood bank to replace that used. And most of all there was a group of friends and fellow church members who gave continuing, loving care and emotional support to the family. In other words the community showed this family that it cared what happened to them.

Within recent months I have heard of families in our area who are in such a series of difficulties. Is your church group, club or organization planning to give support over a long period of time? What are ways you can help some family to know that this community cares what happens to it? I would appreciate hearing from vou about this. Write your comments to the Mental Health Program Box 666, Brevard, N. C. 28712.

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Landers Infant Rosman Class Of 1945 To Hold **Buried Friday Reunion At Camp Straus Sat.**

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Richard Eugene Landers, the infant son of Lawrence F. Landers and Betty E. Landers, expired at Margaret Pardee hospital in Hendersonville on July 14th. Smokey Sayes

Survivors are the parents; the maternal graudparents Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carver of Horse Shoe; and the paternal grandparents; Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Landers, of Horse Shoe.

Graveside services were held July 16th at 2:00 p.m. in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Reverend Joe Medford officiated.

The Annual Reunion of the 1945 Graduating Class of Ros-man High School will con-reme at Camp Straus, Satur-lay, July 25, between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. for a business neeting and fish fry.

The fish will be furnished and prepared by Harold Owen of New Ellington, S. C. Beulah Raxter will make slaw and hush puppies. Each class member will bring a covered dish and a beverage. The meal will be served about 4:00 nm. about 4:00 p.m.

Class President Wayne Harmon urges all class mem-bers to attend.

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25, at Holly Springs in Macon County at the Community Cen-ter, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All relatives and friends are invited. The Angel family and quartet from Haywood County will be present. Weaver Elliott is the president.

The annual Elliott family re-

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1971



THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES, BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

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