

Getting it together

Cynicism isn't the best way

Most of what I write tends towards the practical and the realistic; and that gives a misleading picture of who I really am.

By

BOB TRENZ,

Ph.D.



The truth is that I believe in Santa Claus. I am a romantic idealist who believes in the vast power of love. I'm convinced there is an inner essence in all human beings which is honest, kind, and wise. And I know that the world is a benign place to live, that nature has given us all we need in order to be happy.

To a lot of people, these statements sound unrealistic, naive, and probably a little immature. They go against the grain of what is often called "realism"—the belief that life is a harsh jungle. But that's a belief that I call cynicism, and I don't think it's very real at all.

STILL, AT TIMES, it seems as if

cynicism is the prevailing religion of our day. It permeates our media and our conversations. We are immersed in governmental warnings that almost everything is dangerous to our health.

We are encouraged to hide behind stronger locks, bigger pills, and louder smoke alarms. Our friends can hardly wait to gossip with us about their

neighbor's latest fight or about the horrible thing that happened to Linda when her car broke down. As kids, we were taught by our parents and teachers to approach life with caution. Our childish trust was discouraged, and we replaced it with paranoia and toughness. We gradually came to believe that the bad guys often win, that deceit and hurtfulness are often necessary evils in this evil world.

Rather than seeing ourselves as friendly partners with nature and our fellows, we began to believe that we are all adversaries, competing for limited resources.

Because we fear the pain of disappointment, we have learned not to hope. Because we are hopeless, we have looked for confirmations of our cynicism. And when we have found

them, we have dwelt upon them and magnified them.

I KNOW IT doesn't make sense that anyone would want so much to believe in the cruelty of the world. But if you have ever tried to talk a cynic out of his hopelessness you know, what a tenacious belief it is.

Yet, it is a belief that even the most fervent cynic would gladly give up if he could. For, everybody really wants to believe in Santa Claus. Everybody wants a world in which good guys win, virtue is rewarded, and love conquers all.

How do we get it? By firmly, relentlessly insisting on it.

But, unlike the starry-eyed toddler who sleeps while he's waiting for Santa Claus to visit, you've got to stay awake. For, anyone can be a disappointed dreamer; but being a successful idealist takes an active, purposeful effort.

Making your high ideals become real is only possible when you have learned to become a master of practicalities as well as dreams. And, first of all, that demands mastery of yourself.

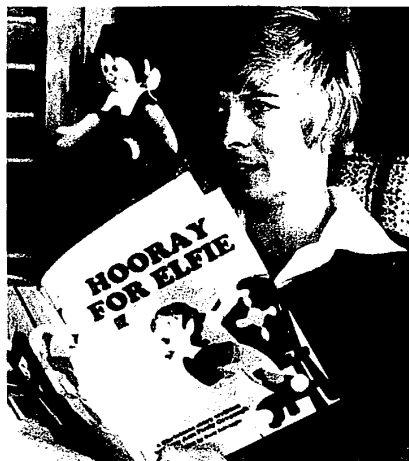
Mainly that means overcoming your fears and your discouragement. It means replacing timidly with courage and commitment. It means hard, practical work. It means being sure that your own thoughts and behavior reflect your ideals.

INSTEAD OF LOOKING for hidden competitive motives in the behavior of others, the idealist looks for the best in everybody he contacts. Instead of being discouraged by events that don't seem to confirm his idealism, he takes adversity on as a challenge, an opportunity to grow, to become even more capable at making his ideals real.

The practicing idealist replaces fear with a confidence in himself and in the world around him. He replaces an irritable temper with patient expectation, the calm conviction that he will soon understand the basic good intention and benign nature of the frustrating circumstances.

In short, believing in Santa Claus is a lot more than passive hopefulness. It's a lot more than just believing. But, if it really works, then isn't it actually very practical?

Bob Trenz is a psychologist and marriage counselor in Rochester. Questions for Dr. Trenz may be sent to P.O. Box 64, Rochester 48063.



Jaycees selling book

Elfie, created by Mary Ann Pauly Cavanagh, is the hero of a new children's Christmas book being sold by the Troy Jaycees to raise money for community service projects. Ms. Cavanagh adds writing of the book to her roles as wife, mother and registered nurse.

Catholic leaders sought

The Catholic Youth Organization is seeking nominees for the annual Ed Crowe Award, given to volunteers who have served at least two years in such CYO programs as athletics, scouting, teen and young adult programs, social services and parish community programs. Ed Crowe plaques will be presented to the successful nominees as a

highlight of the 11th annual CYO volunteer awards dinner at the Raleigh House on Sunday, April 9.

At that time the CYO will also bestow the Msgr. Markley Award upon a priest who has made outstanding contributions to success of the organization and the Joe Glaser Award upon a member of the board of directors who has pro-

vided exceptional service to the agency.

Anybody may nominate any parish workers who meet the requirements. Last year, 115 volunteers received this praise. Nomination forms and further information may be obtained now from the CYO central office, 305 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, or call 932-7172.

Personal financing in OU class

Personal finance for CPAs and their clients will be the subject of the professional program to be offered Saturday, Jan. 14, by the CPA Center for Continuing Education at Oakland University. Sid Mitra, a professor of economics and management at Oakland University, will conduct the program in mastering the techniques of effective financial planning. Eight qualifying hours for state CPA re-licen-

Moral perspectives

Society needs exposure to different religions

A friend tells a story about his Jewishly who once lived in a largely Jewish neighborhood. He is a Christian cleric, but his name sounds Jewish. Assuming they were Jewish, the public school teacher gave their son a leading part in a Hanukkah play.

The parents were a little bit surprised, but also pleased, for they felt it would be a good thing for their child to learn about another religion.

Today the school might expect a protest from the parents, or the principal would not allow a play about a religious custom in the first place.

We have become too sensitive about people's rights not to be exposed to other religious and cultural practices. Recently I heard about a report that a principal of a public school made a ruling that there would be no singing of Christmas carols this year. One of the teachers said she would have carols in her classroom regardless of his rule.

SUCH A RULING is absurd for it

cultural heritages. Are we moving toward a "rootless" society where all public functions will avoid any reference to moral and religious customs and roots?

Are we unwilling to recognize the great power and value of a pluralistic society? Will we give in to those who will protest the religious and cultural observance until nothing is left but commercially-oriented celebrations which are rootless?

Racially and religiously, our society has not yet learned to affirm all cultures and religions. We need to see that each enriches the whole and helps us to better understand the nature of the whole world in which we live.

A narrow legal, religious or political view will not help us to survive or thrive in a world of many rich and wonderful cultures and religions.

For a public school principal to outlaw a rich cultural and religious heritage of any kind is to deny the larger vision of the world we live in.



By DAVID E. STRONG, Fellowship United Methodist Church

A SHOCKING social study by an education professor, Dr. Edward Wynne, at the University of Illinois, shows how suburban schools and environment isolate children from diversity. Prejudice, delinquency and self-destruction results. Our children grow up finding it hard to relate to a real and diverse world. Our children learn that religious and cultural "roots" are considered irrelevant.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>HOLY CROSS Greek Orthodox Church 25225 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills, 477-1677 Rev. S.J. Anthony, Th.B., Priest 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy English Service Eucharist follows before.</p>	<p>The Orchard United Methodist Church 30450 Farmington Road (West of I-96) Morning Worship 9:30 and 11 a.m. Church School & Nursery 676-6820 Ministers: Robert L.S. Brown James P. Thomas</p>	<p>Bloomfield Hills Christian Church The Community House 380 Sunbeam, Birmingham Sunday 10:10 A.M. Bible School 9:00 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Praise Service Wednesday 7:15 P.M. Bible Study 851-8516</p>	<p>ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 355 W. Maple Birmingham CHRISTMAS EVE-DECEMBER 24, 1977 7:00 P.M. Family Carol Ecumenist 9:00 P.M. Festival Choral Eucharist (St. James Choir) 11:00 P.M. Festival Choral Eucharist (St. James Choir) CHRISTMAS DAY-DECEMBER 25, 1977 10:00 A.M. Choral Eucharist (Chapel St. Choir)</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH United Methodist at Franklin's Village Green services at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Bible Study at both services Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. 7 & 8th Grades Adult Education at 10:15 a.m. Family Hour at 10:15 a.m. Minister: Sun. School Minister Frank B. Clark Adult Ed. Minister J. Chesler Shelton</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Birmingham, U.C.C. Woodward at Cranbrook Bloomfield Hills MI 4-5111 Worship and Church School: 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Minister: Rev. Charles O. Erickson Minister of Education: Rev. Alvin V. Walker</p>	<p>NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14 Mile and Lusher Roads Morning Worship Sun. 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Pastors: L.J. Farnham, E.W. Ows Phone: 642-0200</p>	<p>FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH 2626 Maple Rd. Farmington Hills Rev. Raymond P. Vento, Pastor Sun. 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sun. School, Nursery, 7:45 P.M. Song Service, Test. Service at each month. At All Welcome</p>																
<p>Farmington Hills Baptist On Middlebelt Road Between 12 & 13 Mile Rds. Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m. Family Night—Wed. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Fred G. Ferris—Pastor 851-0310 Rev. Gerald Weitz, Assistant Pastor A CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST CHURCH</p>	<p>EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 22423 Lusher Road (West of I-96) Phone: 357-1848 9:30 A.M. Church School 10:45 A.M. The Service The Rev. L. Alden Erickson</p>	<p>First Baptist Church Bates and White, Birmingham Mich. Robert G. Middleton, Minister David W. Sarna, Clerk Glen H. Joseph, Jr., Secretary Church School 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11:00 A.M.</p>	<p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church 3330 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills ENZO M. TUCCHI, PASTOR 474-9209 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH A.L.C. 5631 North Adams Road Sun. 8:15-Matins Communion on Sunday 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 MORNING WORSHIP COMMUNION IN SUNDAY First W. Maclean, Pastor Diane F. Scriber, Pastor MI 6-5041 MI 6-5124</p>	<p>St. Andrew Lutheran Church LCA 2229 Farmington Rd. Farmington Hills, Mich. 477-1818 Worship Services: Sun. 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m. Pastor: Rev. James M. Gault Phone: 477-1818</p>	<p>Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:15 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. — Wed. 7:45 P.M. Lectures: 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. Lectures: 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Principle of Peace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 12 Mile & Farmington Roads Behind Crowley's The Rev. R. A. Saint Pierre—pastor Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:45 A.M. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:45 A.M. Church Phone: 553-3380</p>	<p>NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 11111 W. MYRTLE CHURCH 11111 W. 14th Mile, N.W. 11111 W. 14th Mile, N.W. SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. Star and Church School at 10:30 Rector John C. Fiederburg</p>	<p>CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia Pastor Gerald Fisher 474-3444 9 a.m. First Worship Service 8:30 a.m. Youth Services 10:15 a.m. The Church School 7 p.m. Sunday Evening Service 11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship 7:30 p.m. Wed. Evening Service Ministry Provided at All Services</p>	<p>COVENANT BAPTIST Sunday you are cordially invited to share in the first service at our newly completed sanctuary. Church School 9:45 Worship 11 AM & 6:30 PM 6800 W. Maple Rd. W. Bloomfield, Mich 48023 14 Mile W. of Orchard Lk. Rd. 850-9111</p>	<p>THE RENAISSANCE A guest musical group with an exciting new sound and a variety of music that knows no generation gap. Two services Christmas Eve - 5:30 & 7:30 p.m., preceded by half-hour concerts - 5:00 & 7:00 (No Wednesday night School of Christian Education Dec. 28) Family Devotion 6 p.m. Classes & Choirs 7 p.m. Activities for all ages 9:30 Sunday School of Christian Education Dec. 28) Broadcast WJUZ-FM 10.5 Nursery Provided at All Services</p>	<p>First Church of God Farmington Hills 28775 Farmington Road Pastor: Paul H. Vavra, Jr., Pastor Phone: 476-5151 Church School Mornings 9:45-11:00 Evening Service Wednesday Prayer 7:00</p>	<p>1128 West Maple Road Birmingham, Mich. Sunday Service at 11 A.M.</p>	<p>ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 165 E. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills 12 mi. W. of Orchard 333-8233 Minister: Dr. Roger Ireson Church School: 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11:00 A.M. Pastors Class - 10 A.M. - New Testament</p>	<p>Birk in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN 3340 W. Long Lake Rd. Rosa H. Goolch Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE Maple at Inlander SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:15 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. — Wed. 7:45 P.M. Lectures: 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. Lectures: 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m. — 10:00-11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>North Congregational Church 26275 Northwestern Highway near Lusher Southfield Mich. Phone EL 6-1660 Dec. 24th Christmas Eve service at 7 PM with music by the Choral Choir and soloists singing lullaby carols. Rev. Paul H. Vavra, Jr., Pastor Dr. Harry M. Langford, Music Dir.</p>	<p>Beverly Hills United Methodist Church 3000 W. 14 Mile at Progress 644-7777 Church School 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Church School Ministry Adult Service</p>	<p>Ward United Methodist Church of Livonia Farmington Road & Six Mile Road 422-1150 Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. "What Star Do You Follow?" Dr. Bayfield L. Hess 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>FARMINGTON HILLS CHRISTIAN CENTER Drake Rd. at Freedom Farmington Hills Mich 48024 Phone: 478-1511 REV. EDWARD LOHMEYER, PASTOR Christmas Services Sat. Dec. 24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve An Old Fashioned Christmas Sunday, Dec. 25 10:00 AM Combined Worship & Sunday School "Yuletide - Mistletoe and CHRIST" is the pastor's message 3:30 PM Channel 62 TV Christmas Telecast 8:00 PM Farmington Hills Christmas Yuletide starts in Jan. Watch for special services "Our Wish, Joy, you" A MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p>	<p>First Methodist Church 1589 West Maple at Pleasant Farmington Hills Mich 48024 Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beeven Harold E. Weemhoff Worship Services 8:30, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Church School 9:30 and 11 a.m. Nursery Care Provided</p>	<p>Salem United Church of Christ 28775 Farmington Road Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. Worship Service at 10:15 A.M. Fellowship 8:30-9:00 Church Office GR 4-4830 Carl H. Schultz, Minister</p>	<p>St. John American Lutheran Church 23225 GR Road Farmington Hills Phone: 477-1818 Worship Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Nursery Provided</p>