

Where, one Loie's and Eunice today  
 For the last two weeks, I have been to  
 Point, Mississippi, Birmingham, Alabama, Mont-  
 gomery and St. Louis, Missouri. In each of  
 these places, I try to observe the social,  
 economic, educational, political, and religious  
 climate of each community, and then I compare  
 them with San Diego. Sadly, the story  
 is the same everywhere.

I find this to be an age of a sense of  
 hopelessness, despair and utter cynicism.  
 The problems we face and must deal with  
 are monumental. Yes, we have always  
 had problems, but not of this magnitude.  
 These problems are gravest among our youth.

2 That is what led President Clinton to  
call, two weeks ago, "The Presidents' Summit  
Future for America. It was chaired by General  
Colin Powell and Co-chaired by former Presidents  
Bush, Carter, and Ford. The basic purpose  
of the Summit was to address the problems fac-  
ing our youth today and in the future.

What are some of these problems? *Topping the list is  
Crime & Violence  
after violent in  
Chicago.*

1. Many of our youth today do not expect to live to  
adulthood. Listen to the lyrics of our top songs -  
Some of the top artists - Tupac and

Who were killed in Las Vegas and Los Angeles - both had  
a note of death in their songs.

2. Suicide among our youth is at an all-time

3/ High. Violence is rampant. Even the KKK is saying, we don't have to do it, they are killing each other. Crime & violence is out of control (noted in Fragg/our own lives)

3. Drugs are killing our youth and adults  
4. Every day, 2,300 teenagers drop out of school  
5. About 10 million of our youth are without health insurance.

6. 3 million children are abused every year. Now total, it is estimated <sup>over</sup> 5 million children are considered at risk of leading unproductive lives as adults. The problems are easy to see. But how can we address them? The Summit in Phila. suggested the following goals or objectives for our youth.

a. An on-going relationship with a caring adult.

4 That's what Timothy had in his grand mother

Jois and mother Eunice. They cared about Timothy, provided the proper spiritual environment for him - a faith that even Paul admired.

b. safe places to learn and grow  
c. a healthy start | SOS | They need to be in church & church school

d. a marketable skill  
e. an opportunity for community service. Most of our youth today do not perform any home services, much less, any community service.

Our young people need to be encourage to acquire a life of service beyond themselves. Gaellie Robinson, whose 50 year celebration for breaking the color line in baseball we are observing this

2  
year, said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Our youth and we adults, need to learn the joy of giving. The pre-schoolers in our 505 schools begin their day singing - "Love is nothing unless you give it away." I believe you do that by helping others. We do not do it by handing

as our personal pronouns: Me, myself and I. As Christians we must be concerned about what's happening in our community and society in general.

We are facing a complete break down in moral values in our nation. Many of these values don't just apply to our youth, they reach across the spectrum.

6. The so-called sex revolution - ~~We see~~<sup>hear</sup> the case of safe sex - yet, it is being ignored by so many of our youth. Aids has even reached into the little hamlets of my home town, Haymarket. young man in St. Louis

2. We see the lessening of family values - the disintegration of the family creates a major problem. One out of two marriages end in divorce. With few exceptions it's the mother's responsibility to rear and care for the children. Four out of five children live in single-parent households. <sup>Two</sup>

It should not be the sole responsibility of that mother to rear these children. Timothy had his mother and also his grandmother Eunice to nurture him. Since Paul did not mention his

7  
father, ~~we~~ we could assume that Eunice  
was a ~~one~~ single-parent. yet, I believe  
that she had, not just her mother, but the whole  
Community to help her.

3. As Christians we should be concerned about  
the ethic breakdown in our nation.

(a) This breakdown can be seen in business, politics,  
Medicine and every other aspect of our lives.  
In medicine the question is raised as to who  
will decide when a person die - the doctor, judge,  
or ones family?

(b) Since a 63 year old lady gave birth to a  
baby - the question is how old is too old  
for a lady to give birth

(c) We have a crisis with babies having babies

I without any Parenting Skills. <sup>Don't just blame the girls -</sup>  
I could mention many other issues Compounding  
our society today, but you know them all.

The Challenges ahead of us are many, especially for us  
as Christians. The challenges facing us were aptly ad-  
dressed <sup>by</sup> that great Liberator Frederick Douglass, when  
he said, "Our destiny is largely in our own hands. If  
we find, we shall <sup>way</sup> to seek. If we succeed in  
the race of life, it must be by our own energies  
and our exertions. Others may clear the road,  
but we must go forward, or be left behind  
in the race of life."

If we remain poor and dependent, the riches  
of other men will not avail us. If we are



~~I~~ ~~you~~ ignorant, the intelligence of other men will do ~~us~~ but little for us. If we are foolish, the wisdom of other men will not guide us. If we are wasteful of time, and money, the economy of other men will only make our destitution the more disgraceful and hurtful."

Douglas words are very appropriate for us today. What does it say to us as Christians? It says that like Lois and Eunice, we must go beyond what is required of us, we must become Super-Christians. You can't achieve much by just being an average Christian. Jackie Robinson did not break that color-line by just being an average ~~base-~~ base-

10 hall player. He was a Super-player. Arthur Ashe was not just a Tennis player. He was a Super-player. We all know that Tiger Woods was not just a golfer - he is a Super-golfer.

We need Super-Christians today to meet the challenges of today.

What can we do as Christians to help turn around society? How are we as Christians going to address the needs of today? <sup>We must</sup> First and foremost as we're Lois and Eunice, become dedicated to our faith. Unlike too many of us, they knew in whom they believed and were persuaded that he would keep them until that day. | O & R dedication to him is the answer.

14 I am sure that the Challenges <sup>(address to young people)</sup> Facing Lois  
and Eunice during their period, yet, Timothy  
is a testimony to their Commitment to the  
God of their Faith and to Timothy their Son  
and Grandson.

For the members of this Church most of  
us are parents & grand parents. As were Lois  
and Eunice. But there are these women  
in this Church, as these must have been in  
the days of Timothy's early years, who have no  
children of their own, who stand with you  
in helping to guide the present generation.  
Today, I Challenge you, the members  
of this congregation to join with me  
in addressing the youth of our society who

12 have no safety net.

We are blessed in our congregation to have what it takes to help make a difference in our community. Our members do a lot of things to help a lot of people.

But is it time for us to evaluate our efforts. For example, our church and all of these groups we are attached to anxious to devote our efforts to the top 10% with our scholarships support. These youngsters do need our support. But what about the 90% who need even more support to make it. To keep from falling thru the safety net.

We must remember that when you raise the floor you raise the ceiling. When you help the bottom you help the rest of us."

13  
Many of our youngsters are in trouble because they feel a sense of hopelessness, despair and frustration. The Church needs to be helping these young people. All many of them need is a hand up, not one out. It's our Christian responsibility! That's what Christ has called us to do.

- Each of us should feel a sense of responsibility to reach out to the new-Church youth and adults in our communities.

- We can invite some one to join with us in our car as we come to church

- Each of us should pledge to become a mentor to some youngster - At least do what ~~what?~~

- Promise that you will start bringing someone

17 Things you can do:

1. Volunteer some time

A. Tutoring Program / C.C. of Home need you

B. Spend some time with a youth, not just once, but on a continual basis. Nancy

from time to time Take some of our young ladies to work with her so they can learn what its like in the world of work.

C. Begin the habit of bringing youngsters to Sunday School and Church.

D. Support The youth by getting them into our Scout Troop - not just

Members, we must welcome Super-X'ians / Ordinary X'ians -