

County Community Action Unit.

# Good Kids? Sure! Plenty Of Them!

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By REV. JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

EAU GALLIE — I guess the stimulation for this column came from a question asked in a seminar on crime prevention in Orlando. My neighbor, Bill West, is state parole officer in this area and he asked me to go with him. The question came from an old man in the back of the room. "Why is it all we hear about is bad kids? Aren't there any good kids left?"

I don't remember the answer because I was busy formulating my own answer. You bet your life there are some good kids left. Some of them are good because their parents care enough to discipline them and show them through example to depend on God. Others are good in spite of their sorry parents. But there are a lot of good kids around.

Sure, the headlines shout about the kid who goes bad. But for every one that smokes pot, sniffs glue, gets drunk or steals . . . there are hundreds who go right and you never hear of it.

I THINK about a teen-age singing group from Titusville known as "The Minority." They sang at the Christian teen center, "The Sign of the Fish," in Eau Gallie a couple Saturday nights ago. Eight dynamic singers were touring the South to testify about their relationship with Jesus Christ. Good kids!

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## PERSPECTIVE

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But what really got me cranked up on this subject was a phone call last week. A female voice identified herself as an employe of a newspaper. She wanted me to subscribe to the paper for 13 weeks and the proceeds would go to a boys' club.

"But I don't need a subscription . . ." I tried to say. Instead, she began telling me about the club. In one county alone they picked up 2,000 boys off the streets to provide them wholesome recreation and adult counsel. In another they already had more than 300 members.

"BUT I don't need a subscri . . ." She interrupted: "What's wrong with you adults? I've called all afternoon and no one will help."

That did it. I am now the proud receiver of two paid subscriptions of the paper.

Then I began asking her questions since the pressure was off. She was from Cocoa. Age 13. Working with her were five other youngsters.

She said they had volunteered to work every afternoon after school and all day Saturday to raise money for the boys' club. They stay on the job telephoning people until 9 o'clock each night. "That is except Wednesday night," Marsha said. "Of course, I go to prayer meeting at the Nazarene Church that night."

**OF COURSE!** It adds up . . . kids who go to church can't help but get involved in good things — like raising money for a good cause.

Yes, mister, there are a lot of good kids left. A lot of them.

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