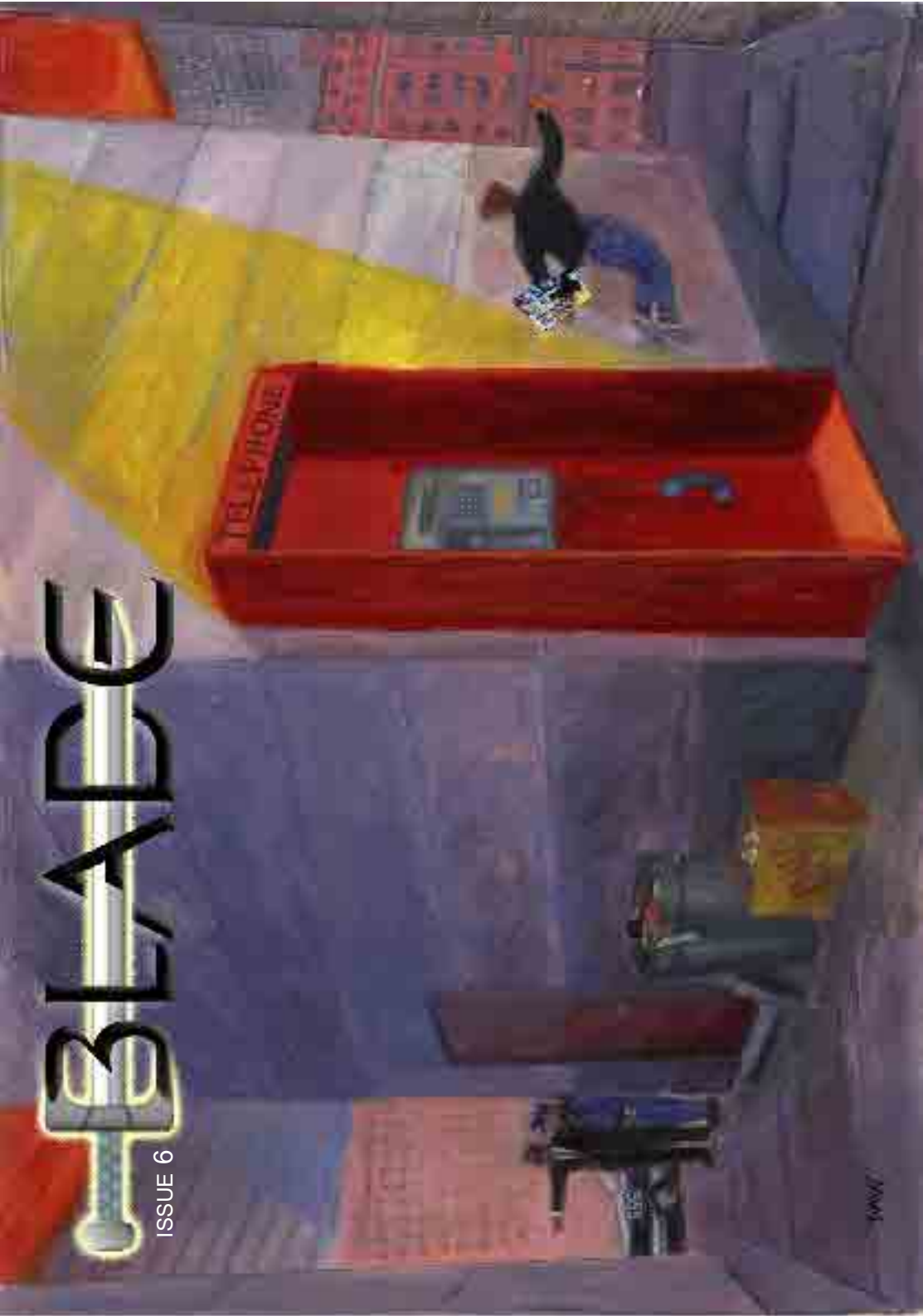


BLADE

ISSUE 6



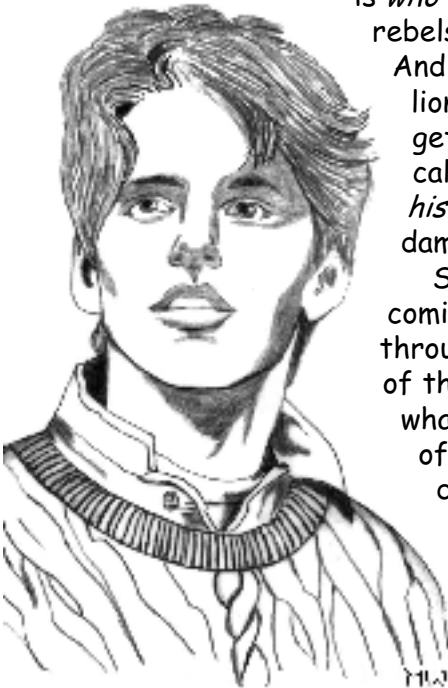
REBELS WITH A CAUSE

I know it's difficult sometimes to channel those feelings of rebellion and dissatisfaction that you feel, and you get into trouble for letting them show through. But it's *hard* to control it, isn't it? You know why? It's because I put it in you to rebel. But I put those feelings there for a *reason*. When teenagers like you are highly motivated to rebel against something and to fight for a cause, you're a very powerful force; you can really make things happen. Many of the revolutions that have taken place around the world have been backed and pushed through by young people. You guys are movers, rebels!

But there's *good* rebellion, and there's *bad* rebellion. The difference is *who* you're rebelling against. I have *My* rebels with a cause—fighting for *My* cause. And the Devil has *his*. He's staging a rebellion against *My* Kingdom, and is trying to get people to rebel against *Me*. But I'm calling *My* rebels to rebel against him and *his* kingdom, against his campaigns and the damage that he's trying to do on the Earth.

So when you feel that rebel in you coming out, and that it's just *gotta* break through, stop and ask *Me* how to direct all of that inner power of yours. I'll tell you what you can rebel against. There's plenty of evil in the world to rebel against, even devices and inroads of the Devil that he tries to put right into your own home.

That's the stuff to rebel against. Just ask *Me* which direction *My* rebellion is heading, 'cause I need you to be part of it!



Space

Travel

Those puny little rockets and space shuttles they have on Earth—they're so small and cramped. Of course, in the movies, you see all these big spaceships where people have comfortable rooms, nice chairs and big viewing screens. But *that's* just a movie, and it's not anywhere near that comfortable or fun for *real* astronauts.

But just wait till you see the spaceships we have up Here! They make the ones you see in the movies look like the toys they really are. We've got huge ships, ships for all sorts of purposes—and we use them a lot.

So if you have dreams about flying through space, discovering unknown worlds, or charting distant stars, don't lose hope. When it's your time to join us up Here, you'll be in for lots of excitement. We'll always be able to use another crew member, and you won't ever have to be worried that somebody else is going to take your place because you've gotten sick or something, or that you'll have to wait years and years for another chance to fly a mission. We're going to have all the time in the universe, and the whole universe will be ours to explore.





RICH

beyond your wildest dreams

You think you're poor? I want to let you in on a secret: You're rich beyond your wildest dreams. And those people who may *seem* to be rich are often some of the poorest people around. You may not have everything that you *want*, but you *do* have everything you *need*. And on top of that, you have *Me* and all of My promises.

I have a whole storehouse of wealth at your disposal in My Heavenly vaults, but the Devil tries to lie to you and tell you that there *aren't* any riches there, 'cause he wants you to just *forsake* what I have in store for you and go after his own cheap trinkets instead. He wants you to lose faith in My promises that I will supply all your needs and that whatever you ask in My name I will do. And he doesn't want you to believe that I really *am* preparing a place for you and that I have a crown and Heavenly rewards stored up for you.

Hey, you're going to live in a city of gold! No one on Earth has *ever* lived in such comfort and luxury as *you're* going to live in. But you've got to believe it by faith. That's the golden thread that keeps us connected: your faith in My promises. I *promise* that you're going to be *so* rich compared to some of those wealthy people on Earth, that *their* riches are going to look like *ashes* next to yours!

So don't feel bad if you think you're missing out on some of the Devil's cheap, plastic fakes. His riches are temporal—only here today and gone tomorrow. But *My* riches are eternal—forever! You want to be rich? Stick around and see what I've got waiting for you!



Maturity is . . .

Although you still have a lot to learn, I've been pumping you with Word and training you for some time now. I know you're ready to take bigger steps of responsibility, so what do you say? Will you rise to the challenge of greater maturity? Taking on more responsibility is one of the quickest ways to grow and mature.



What *is* maturity? Let Me give you just a few practical examples—things that separate the men from the boys and the women from the girls. These are things that you're already starting to do to some degree or another, but the deeper you're willing to go with these things, the quicker you're going to grow and the more you're going to learn.

- ♥ Maturity is when you're witnessing, and you sincerely ask the Lord to help you to be a sample of His love; when you see that the person you're witnessing to is hungry, you make sure that they're going to get followed up on, either through the mail or by working out a way that someone can meet them again.
- ♥ Maturity is when you're not embarrassed to talk about the Word or to show your peers and brothers and sisters that you love Me.
- ♥ Maturity is when you don't just baby-sit your younger brothers and sisters and the other kids you take care of; you take the initiative to really pour into them and teach them what they need to know.
- ♥ Maturity is when there's a problem that you and others are trying to figure out, and you suggest to pray about it. Learning to come to Me with your problems and questions is absolutely the most important aspect of maturity and taking responsibility.



Those are just a few examples, but I'm sure you can think of more. I really do want to give you more responsibility. But as you can see from this list, responsibility isn't something that's just given. You've also got to take it.



Luke 2:52



I understand your desire to be popular and to have friends—*everyone* wants to be liked. But it can be very difficult to know what the balance is sometimes. There’s a verse, Luke 2:52, which really sums things up. It talks about how it was with *Me* when *I* was growing up on Earth. It says that I grew in stature, and in favor with both God and men.

Do you know what that verse means? It means that as I grew up and matured, I drew closer and closer to both God and My fellow men. First of all, I grew in favor with *God*, My Father, and *then* with those around me, My peers.

Even when I was young, My friends looked up to Me. They *knew* that the most important thing to Me was My relationship with My Heavenly Father, so they knew they could trust Me. Maybe there were others who seemed more popular, but people knew that *I* really cared about them and that I wasn’t false or hypocritical. When they were having a hard time or going through difficult things, they knew they could come to Me and share their hearts with Me.

I was always honest with My friends and peers, and I didn’t compromise when I knew something was wrong. Like the proverb says, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend.” People respected Me and they knew they could count on Me for a straight shot; they knew they’d get the truth from Me, in love.

So, if *you’re* concerned about being respected by your peers, Luke 2:52 really sums things up: Put your relationship with *Me* first, grow in favor with Me first, and then all these other things will be added to you.

Hey! They Got More!

Comparing! It can start with almost anything, because there are so many differences all around you. Everyone is unique, one of a kind, and *very* special. That's the way things are *supposed* to be, because that's the way I made them. But the Enemy tries to point out the differences in a way that stops you from seeing how good *you* have it. He just loves to poke you in the "I." "I don't have this." "I can't do that." "I... I... I!" Once you start listening to the Enemy, he'll hammer away, trying to tear down everything about you and your situation:

"Look! God didn't give you what you *need* in order to be happy! ... You'll *never* really be happy because of this ugly problem of yours. ... So God *does* make mistakes after all—you! ... Now why would God do that to you? Face it! He must not love you as much as He *says* He does. ... Oooh! Look what God gave *that* guy! He got more! How nice for him. How sad and too bad for you!"

The best solution to that kind of cruel attack is to fight back with a heart full of praise. Thank Me for the blessings you *do* have. Praise Me for everything you can think of that's good about you and your situation. Before you know it, you'll be able to see one good thing after another, and you'll realize that you don't have it so bad after all. And remember, there are a lot of things about the other person's situation that you probably don't fully understand. In the long run, things always have a way of balancing out.

So the next time Mr. D. tries to tell you that you should just crawl under a rock, instead, rock out! Jump up on THE Rock—Me! I love you, and I'll give you everything you need in order to be happy and fulfilled as you give your life to Me!



I'll Be Waiting

I love being around you and with you and in you and by you. I look forward to our times together, when you stop everything and put all other thoughts aside to think about Me.

I know it takes a bit of effort to push other thoughts out of your mind and to spend time with Me—to hear My voice or just to talk with Me. But it makes Me so happy when you do, and it gives you a special boost for the day too.

If your day seems dreary, or things just aren't going the right way no matter *what* you do, it's probably because you forgot to spend time with Me. You don't have to feel *bad* if you forget once in a while; you're still building a habit of coming to Me. But when you forget and you feel the difference, that should encourage you to try to forget less and less, and remember more and more. Though at first it may seem

like a sacrifice or a big effort, the things that I have to tell you will make any inconvenience on your part worth it all.

Thank you for loving Me and for taking the time to hear from Me. More precious than gold, silver, diamonds, jewels, gems and pearls are the Words that I give to you! I give My riches to anyone who comes to Me in faith. I'm not stingy; I give and give and give. Will you keep coming back for more? I'll be waiting!



Made in Heaven



Did you know that we have a lot of inventors in Heaven? And they're working to help you! Where did you think all the inspiration for those neat ideas and discoveries that man makes there on Earth come from? Like it says in My Word, every good gift and every perfect gift comes from up Here—from Me, the Father of lights. I even invented light! How 'bout that! So, all of those important inventions, and even the not-so-important ones, if it's something that's good and helpful, it was *first* invented up Here, in Heaven.

That's right! We've got a whole team of inventors Here. And it's their job to work with and inspire inventors on Earth, to help them come up with good ideas and things that will make life easier and better for you there.

Of course, up Here they can do a lot of things that could *never* be done on Earth, so the great challenge is trying to find ways to do things using only the

physical elements that are found on Earth. Like when they had to find a way to help man discover electricity, or invent the light bulb, or the telephone—they had to find ways to make it work on Earth, and then inspire someone there to give it a try.

So if you really have a craving to come up with a new idea, something that will make things better or quicker or easier, just give Me a call, and ask Me to send you one of My Heavenly helpers to inspire you with some good ideas.

And when you get up Here, if you like, you can even join one of My inventor workshops and become a member of the team. Besides coming up with ideas of how to make life easier and better on Earth, I also inspire different ones with ideas and creations for up Here, in Heaven—inventions, gadgets and decorations that can only exist in the spiritual realm. Here, there's no limit to the kinds of new ideas or things that can be invented.

The Wrong Road

“But! But! But!” Please don’t walk around like an old goat, butting everyone, everything, and every suggestion that crosses your path! That road you’re heading down, the road of stubbornness and being contrary, is definitely the wrong road to take. And



when you find yourself going down *that* road, you’ll soon find out that it’s also a very *difficult* road to travel.

Call it being “in the dumps,” or “out of the spirit,” or whatever you like, when you start going down that road of rebellion, it’s just like you’re going the wrong way down a very narrow one-way street—you don’t have to go very far before you find out that you’ve made a mistake. But once you’ve started, it’s not always that easy to back up and get yourself out of the mess you’re in, because unfortunately, as obvious as it may seem to everyone *else* around, it can be pretty hard on your pride to admit that *you’re* the one who’s in the wrong and going the wrong way. So now, you just keep

“butting” at everyone who tries to help you and warn you that you’re going the wrong direction.

If you don’t stop soon and get back on the right road and go in the right direction, you’re going to be running into a lot of trouble! So please, stop! No more “buts!” Just humble yourself and admit that you’ve been going the wrong way. I’m right here on the very next corner, just waiting for you to stop and ask for My help. I’ll stop everything else for you and direct the traffic and help you to get turned around and going the right way once again.



MIKE D.

The Mystery of Life

Don't you like mysteries—piecing together all the clues of what's already happened and trying to figure out what's going to happen next? It's challenging and it stirs you up and gets you thinking. Well, guess what? *Life* is a mystery. I guess I don't really have to tell *you* that, because I know you've got lots of questions about the future. "What's going to happen to me next?" "Am I going to be able to make it through the heavy things that are going to be happening in the future?" "How much time do we have left?" "Am I going to have any close friends when we go to our new field?" "Am I going to fall in love?" "Will they love me in return?" "What kind of opportunities am I going to have as I get older?" These are all things that make life exciting and challenging.

In some ways, life is a little bit like reading a book. You've got to take it one page at a time. When you're reading chapter 12, there's really no way of knowing what's going to happen in chapter 13, much less in chapter 20, unless in your curiosity you skip ahead to find out how things are going to turn out. But in *real* life, although you'd probably like to sometimes, you can't do that. I know that all of that uncertainty and mystery can sometimes make the future look a little scary. But although things might be a real mystery to *you*, they're not to *Me*. I'm the *Author* of the story, and I know what's coming up ahead, so stay close to *Me*.

Life can be lots of fun if you'll just look at each new day as a challenge—a mystery that's about to be discovered. No matter what happens (and this is the Author of the story speaking), there *is* going to be a happy ending. Everything *will* work out; all the pieces of your life will fit together; and the mystery will be solved. So don't ever worry about it. Just learn the lessons and overcome the hurdles one by one, and you'll enjoy each new page and each chapter as it comes.



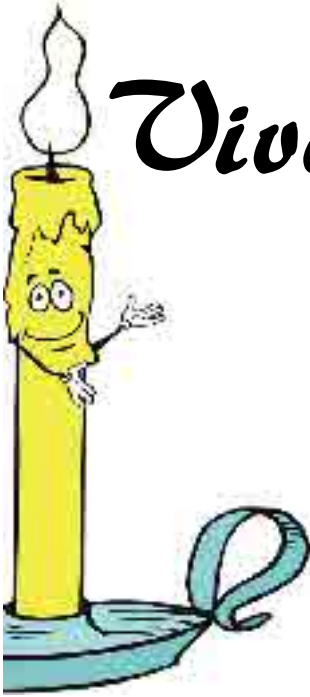


There's a door. Open it. What's on the other side? People. They want to be your friends, your companions—and there are lots of them. The stories that you read from them in *linkUP*, those are fact. They're not just made-up. You can link up with *all* these people—*anyone* who has come Here to be with Me in Heaven. Like Joan of Arc! She's Here, and she wants to help you. There are so many others, too.

When many of these dear ones were there on Earth, the world didn't deserve or appreciate them, but they're the finest friends and companions that you could ever ask for, the most beautiful, loving people you could ever meet. They can be

your spirit helpers. They can be there by your side and whisper sweet words of love and encouragement in your ears. At those times when you feel like you're totally surrounded by superficiality, or when people don't seem to understand you, just open the door and let Me come to talk to you or send you these, your spirit helpers.

You think that's crazy, or that others will think *you're* crazy? Where do you think all the souls who have ever lived since the beginning of time are? They've all passed on through that door to the spirit world! Where do you think your great-grandparents and your great-great-grandparents are? *Everyone* that has ever lived—



Vive la différence

The difference between boys and girls is a little like the difference between a candle and an oil lamp. If you're trying to understand someone from the opposite sex, why don't you try looking at it like that? Although one is very *different* from the other, in many ways, they're also a lot *alike*. Each has its own special function, uniqueness, and importance, and yet they're both the same in that they give light and comfort to others.

You can't expect those of the opposite sex to react or relate to things the same way *you* do. They won't! Watch them and learn from their reactions, and understand that that's just the way they are. Don't try to make them be like *you*. And don't make fun of them, either, for being so different! Be *glad* that they're different! As the French say, "Vive la différence!" In other words, "Long live variety!" It makes life fun and keeps things interesting.

So the next time you don't understand why those of the opposite sex are reacting the way they are, just chalk it up to the way I *made* them to be. That'll solve a lot of problems, and it'll help you to be more tolerant and understand-



.....
entire generations,
entire nations, every-
one you ever read
about from the 1800s,
1700s, 1600s, all the
way back to Cre-
ation—have *all* passed
on to the other side.
And many of them
are right Here with
Me.

So who's crazy, huh?
Just open the door, and
you'll see that not only
do *I* love you, but all of
these wonderful, loving
spirits in Heaven love
you, too. It's not crazy!
We're all here for you.
You're not alone.

In a League of Your Own



I know that witnessing can be pretty tough sometimes, and that some people are hard for you to approach—especially other young people. Sometimes it's humbling to be a witness and a missionary to your peers. It can really kill your pride. Although you may *want* to

witness to them, and know that you should, it can be hard to even just get up the courage to walk up to them and offer them a tract or a poster.

Maybe it's just that you're shy, especially around big groups of people. I understand how you feel; crowds can sure make you feel

uncomfortable sometimes. When people are in a group, they can tend to act so cool, proud, together and uninterested. If you let it, it can really make you feel out of place or like you're just not in their league.

Let Me tell you something, though. You're *not* in their league. You're in a league of your own! No matter how they might be acting, if they don't know *Me*, if they're not part of *My* group, they're not nearly as cool as *you* are! Remember that, and it'll take away some of that hesitation, and help you to step out by faith and go up to them.

You have something that they don't have—something they *need*.

In no way are you inferior to them. When you face up to them with conviction and sincerity, if they're honest, they might very well admit that what they see in you is really cool, and that they'd like to have it too.

Just stand strong, and look them in the eyes. Even if they can tell that it must have been a little embarrassing for you to come up to them, but you did it anyway without flinching, they'll respect that, and it could make the difference in helping them to be willing to humble themselves a little bit too and accept what you have to give them.

BECOMING ONE

I want to use you to reach these people who are so needy. Thank you for forsaking your own will and setting aside your own personal wants and desires in order to give it your all and become one to reach them. I promise that I will more than repay.

As you humble yourself to learn their language and customs, you'll find a fascinating culture and a people who think and live so differently, it'll be a challenge to truly be one with them. Eating their food and dressing like them is one thing, but to truly *understand* them it takes a miracle from My hand.

I want you to enjoy yourself and have fun, and that's why I'm asking this of you. I knew that this would be a key to your fulfillment and happiness. I knew that once I was able to get you and your family there, if you'd take these steps to become one, then you'd find what it was you've been looking for.

This is it! *Love* these people and make the commitment to do anything and everything to reach them, and you'll find your niche, that special situation I've prepared just for you, and a sense of belonging. *This* is what will make you happy. I call you to be My missionary.



Getting Started

Hearing from Me is very simple. It's just like making a phone call. Do you remember some of the first times you did that? You were a little nervous and you weren't exactly sure how to go about making the call or what you should say to the person on the other end. But now you've done it plenty of times, and it's much easier. Sometimes, every now and then, you can still get a little nervous, wondering if you've said the right thing. But overall, you're more comfortable with it than you were at first, right?

It's the same with hearing from Me. At first, you might be nervous, wondering if you can really hear from Me or not, or if your channel is clear enough. I understand that sometimes it's hard for you. But it's not because you don't have a clear enough channel. It's the Devil trying to *stop* you and *hinder* you and make you feel nervous. When that happens, just pray, and ask Me to help you. Resist the Devil and he'll flee. Rebuke him, and call on Me to help you. Then just get quiet and don't let anything else distract you.

Some things may look too *big* to ask Me about, and if you really *don't* have the faith for it, then ask someone else to hear from Me *for* you. But if you ask Me to give you the faith, I will. Please don't worry. You may just be getting started, but that's okay. Everyone has to start sometime.