## Special Column

## A three-fold vision

As just a young fella I spent the first eight years of my working days as a photographic printer. This naturally led me to become a camera enthusiast. To me, one of the most amazing facets of photography was watching a professional photographer use the latest equipment with his wide selection of lenses. I soon learned that the heart of the camera was in the quality of the lens.

I found that they used a minimum of three basic lenses a portrait lens for close—ups, a standard lens for the average photograph, and a telephoto lens for the long range shots. I have since become persuaded that these should be standard equipment for every Awana Leader.

No, I am not recommending that a leader should be a camera fanatic, but comparable to a photographer viewing people through a lens, we should have a three-fold vision as we view the boys and girls of our club through our spirituals lenses.

The Word of God teaches that without a vision the people perish. So often club leaders are prone to see their club only through their close—up lens. This is an important and necessary view, but is only half the picture. When you stand before the boys and girls in your club next week, allow the Lord to equip you with a long range lens as well as with the other lenses. Look at every boy and girl in the view of then years from now, should our Lord tarry that long.

I was reminded again of that truth last week. A man whom I hadn't seen for twenty years approached me after a church service. I last saw him as a nine-year-old in Pals. At that time I was not the least bit aware that any impression was being made on this young life. How wrong I was! He told me that he had not forgotten the leaders who had proclaimed the Word of God and who so patiently had taken an interest in his life. We need to claim and believe anew Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my Word be, that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

