

T. E. A. C. H.

June July 1993

Volume 1, Number 1

It is a privilege to introduce the latest venture of the C. E. Department. This newsletter will be printed four times each year and mailed to everyone presently on our departmental database.

The acronym T.E.A.C.H. was chosen to convey our commitment to several key areas we feel responsible for as a department.

- T - Train Teachers
- E - Enrich Leaders
- A - Affirm Successes
- C - Challenge to Excellence
- H - Head into Growth


We plan to consistently invest our energy and finances in these important areas. A teacher training program for equipping new teachers and enriching experienced teachers is presently in the planning stages. A lending library of resources for leaders is being expanded on a consistent basis. Letters of affirmation are going out regularly to the people who serve on the front lines of ministry. Tools such as books, tapes, conferences, conventions, etc. will all help us emphasize an ongoing commitment to excellence. The situation Sunday School is facing today is not unlike a situation the people of God faced in the O.T. In chapter six of the book of Judges the people of God have fallen prey to discouragement. In fact it would be fair to say that they had slipped beyond discouragement into despair. They had gotten their eyes off the Lord and onto the negative situations that surrounded them. The Lord dispatched an angel to deliver a rather shocking message to Gideon the son of Joash. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty soldier, the Lord is with you!" Gideon replied, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors have told us about - such as when God brought them out of Egypt?" The passage says the Lord turned to him and said, "I will make you strong! Go and save Israel from the Midianites! I am sending you!"

You know the rest of the story about the fleece, the confirmation, and the dynamic way God used Gideon to save the nation. It seems to me that there are many parallels between the O. T. account and our situation today. We like the people of God of this bygone day have gotten our eyes off Him and onto our difficulties. We have also fallen

victim to our share of discouragement if not despair. I believe God is anxious to raise us up and use us as He did Gideon to point the way to a better day for the people of God. I am confident that God never intended His people to hide in caves then or to withdraw from a lost world now. It is our responsibility to bring glory to His name. As the people of God we are to "be strong and do exploits." The day of Sunday School is not dead! We must remove our eyes from the obstacles and freshly see the opportunities He has placed before us. Gideon was just a plain fellow whom God chose to use in redirecting a nation back to Himself. I believe, in my heart, that God is in the process of placing His hand on ordinary people all across our denomination. If these people will obey His voice and follow His direction they will play a crucial role in moving us from fear, dread, and retreat back to confidence, boldness and conquest. I am excited about what I sense the Lord has begun! I look toward tomorrow with anticipation not apprehension. Will you join us in rebuilding the work of God through Christian Education?

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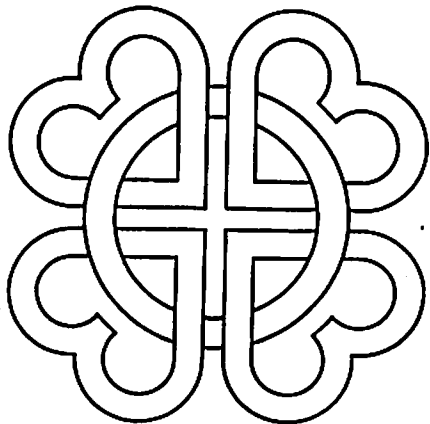
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*What a difference you've
made in my life!* 

A God-given vision is the very foundation for a God-pleasing junior high ministry. However a vision is one of those rare commodities that at once must form the building block of ministry while also develop through years of service. To love young people and view them through God's eyes for what they can become for Him is the starting point of vision. Nevertheless that is only the beginning.

Love is essential in a youth ministry, but an effective program can not be build on love alone. Youth workers must also instill a deep desire for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ within the hearts of young people. The attempt to instill this desire helps to define the shape of the vision.

What programs can be used to draw young people into a relationship with God? What strategies can be employed to reach this goal? A vital part of instilling desire in young people involves creating a "safe" atmosphere for them within the youth program. The youth ministry must allow young people to be themselves and be accepted for who and what they are before being challenged to be God's young men or women. A young person must feel free to share innermost doubts, fears, and feelings without the threat of immediate condemnation. Once these feelings are shared in this "safe" atmosphere, they can be dealt with one at a time. After all, what good is a vision if it never reaches a goal or accomplishes a purpose? What would be the use of planning if those plans remained dormant? Why minister to young people if we are not willing to do whatever it takes to help them achieve God's best for their lives? (Submitted by Rev. Gary Ingo, Assistant Pastor, Jefferson Church, Circleville, Ohio.)



**"One in the
Bond of Love"**



MEDIA MINISTRY

VISION--THE PROCESS OF PASSING IT ON

A cassette program by Dr. John C. Maxwell where you will discover a comprehensive collection of six dynamic lessons on vision. You'll learn how to utilize your own internal visionary abilities to motivate others to action. By using this program hopefully you will be able to realize your dream by understanding how to pass it on! (Notebook with 6 cassette tapes).

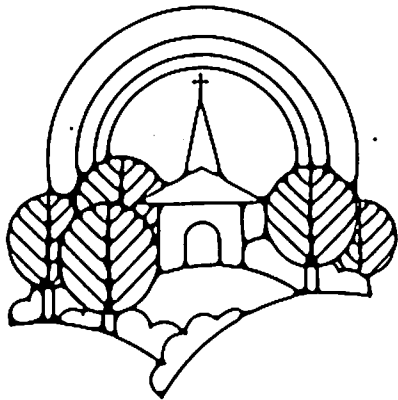
THE WEALTH OF THE CHURCH

Paul, in the book of Ephesians, portrays the model of what the church can and should look like. It is wealthy because of the power of the Holy Spirit unleashed in the believer's life. This seven cassette program by Dr. John C. Maxwell covers topics ranging from the position of the church, the privileges, the purpose, prayer, potential, the possibilities and the power of the church. (Seven cassette tapes)

LEARNING LEADERSHIP FROM LEADERS

Eight lessons and outlines for discipling your church board. Dr. John Maxwell teaches biblical principles from Old Testament leaders covering areas such as commitment, vision, attitude and obedience. Recorded live in Board Discipleship Sessions. (Eight cassette tapes with outlines)

All resources are available through the C.E. Department's Loan Library. To inquire about these or any other resources, please call (513)695-0025.



BROOKSIDE CHURCH..... A VISION BECOMING A REALITY

The Brookside Church in Chillicothe, OH was born out of a vision to reach the greater Chillicothe area with the gospel of Christ. The church was founded by Rev. Jack Norman, and under his leadership the church built a magnificent plant located on 31 acres of land. The vision was clear and the progress sure.

During the last two and one-half years, Rev. David Dean has served as the Senior Pastor of the church. The vision remains the same—to reach the greater Chillicothe area for Christ. The strategy has recently been focused on Ministry and Outreach. The church is experiencing growth in many ways. As a result of new ministries in evangelism, the church has grown numerically, taking in 52 members last year and 32 so far this year. As a result of new opportunities, people are growing in the Lord—what a joy it is to see young mature believers experience new spiritual growth through touching others in Christ.

As a result of new people, the finances and programs of the church are increasing dramatically. The church will soon be debt free, and plans are being laid to take the church into the 21st century. Truly the Brookside Church is...A Vision Becoming A Reality! (submitted by Rev. David Dean, Pastor, Chillicothe Brookside, Chillicothe, OH.)



BUS MINISTRY

In this day of modern conveniences and high tech transportation what makes a Bus Ministry successful? It takes many factors combined to make it work, but it must start somewhere!

Proverbs 29: 18A Where there is no vision, the people perish...Someone has to see the vision, they have to see the need. There are souls who may never be brought in. First there must be a team called of God into such a ministry; without a calling the ministry will never work. It

takes commitment to the cause, and consistency in being there, you must be reliable.

Next of course you need a bus. In our case we spotted one with a wheel chair hoist. It was obviously not in working order as it sat among weeds beside a house. A man in our church saw to the repairs, he now does the maintenance work.

Next the bus program. On Saturdays bus workers went to where the need was. Mobile home parks were the 1st stops. They placed hand bills on doors explaining the doctrine & ministries of the church: Food Panty, Operation Christmas, special S.S. Classes, Children & Jr. Church. Then visiting the surrounding houses where children were playing. Soon calls came in for rides & then they brought their friends, "God gave the increase".

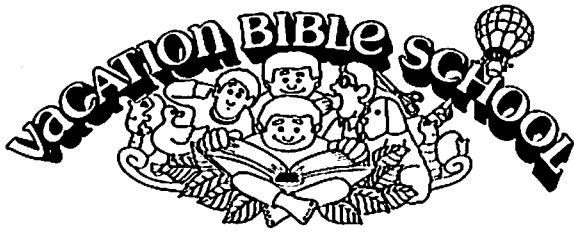
But still this is not enough, there must be something there when they arrive. With a 15 minute donut & juice time, children who would not have eaten otherwise, feel welcomed & cared for. The S. S. Opening: Songs & Prayer, A Birthday Basket with presents from the Dollar Store; also the highlight of the opening the "Secret Seat": A number pulled for each row of children, the winner of each row takes one hand to grab candy from a bin. S. S. & Bus promotions help encourage regulars to bring in new people. Childrens & Jr. Church have periodical programs during 11:00 church time to encourage relatives of bus riders to see their progress—thus getting them to hear God's Word.

It takes the whole church doing their part & being consistent. In these days when parents divorce, children live in one parent homes or even with other relatives, many times the only thing stable in their lives are those in their church. They come to depend on their teachers, they see those in the kitchen as caring for them, the bus workers as friends, their Pastor & men of the church as the fathers they don't have at home. They feel part of a Whole Family, worthwhile & accepted—just as they are. As "Gospel Seeds" are sown they can trust God & believe He gave His Son Jesus just for them.

Today we have 3 vehicles picking up folks. Our 1st bus now bring mentally & physically challenged people to church, another bus & van bring adults & children who couldn't come otherwise. It takes the efforts of everyone & God blesses & gives the increase.

Three years ago we were trying hard to have 100 in S. S., today we are close to 150! PRAISE GOD!!!! (relayed to us by Rev. Bob Leming, Pastor, CCCU, Montrose, MI)





The Value of V. B. S.

"Vacation Bible School is nothing but baby-sitting!" Boy, how my heart sinks every time I hear someone say that. I sincerely feel sadness for someone who thinks that way because I know they don't understand the value of V. B. S.

What is VBS anyway? Well to start with I know it is a summer Christian Education children's program that is older than I am. So I definitely believe it is bigger than its name. In fact, in the 90's perhaps we should consider giving it a new name, but never under any circumstances, can we afford to desert it. The long and short of it is this, Vacation Bible School or whatever you call it, means Children. In a day when statistics tell us that nearly 85% of our adult Christians were saved before the age of 18, VBS may very well be a more effective means of evangelism than revivals or campmeetings.

Someone needs to beat the drum for VBS and/or children's crusades and I am thankful for the many pastors and laypeople who do. These cheer leaders have taken a task that is often feared and dreaded by many and have led in great victories for Christ. I pray that Christian leaders across our denomination will join in one huge Pep Rally for children's crusades.

In the Bible Solomon writes, *Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing. Happy is the man who has many such arrows.* (Psalms 127:3&5; Good News Bible). The bible says, *Children are the real blessing.* As a pastor I realize that there are more things to do than I have time for, so I must always maximize my minutes. I want to focus my time and attention on those things which God blesses. Solomon in his wisdom says, "It is children!" I don't mean to throw another guilt-trip at you, I already know that guilt trips are *a dime-a-dozen*, but I do want to emphasize the value of children's works and especially summer crusades. The question could be as simple as this, "Are we doing what God is blessing?" This doesn't mean one has to put on a costume and *do a song & dance* (it wouldn't hurt), but it means one will need to make every effort to make it happen in the church.

In verse 5 Solomon uses another name for children. I've heard kids called monsters or holy terrors, but I never before heard them called *arrows*. It would seem Solomon is letting us in on a wonderful insight in regard to children. He calls children arrows. I know wherever you

have arrows you'll find an archer and a bow. An archer is one who knows how to carefully and skillfully handle, hold, aim, and release that arrow so it may hit the target. Hitting the bulls eye is in the hands of the archer and not the arrow. Occasionally one may find an arrow that is bent so that it will not hit the target, but the rule is it's all in the hands of the archer.

God has shown me that I, like the archer, have a noble and wonderful opportunity to aim young lives at the right targets. Satan and the world sure knows how to aim our young people in the wrong direction. I know that God has given the church some of the best archers since the days of Solomon. So whether your bow is leadership, story telling, drama, music, or whatever, let's fill our quivers with arrows of young lives to be released for God.

There are many other comparisons that can be drawn from Solomon's archer and arrow illustration, but the most important question for me is this, "What am I doing with the arrows God has given me?" A recent census indicates a large number of children are reaching Sunday School age. I know Satan will be ready for them and with God's help so will the church! (contributed from Rev. Paul Burgett, Senior Pastor, West Jefferson, OH.)



**GATHER
THE CHILDREN**

Our office recently received an interesting note from Springfield, OH on their new mission in outreach. Read on and see what they are doing.

Here at Woodside we are experiencing a new phenomenon...Outreach. Our outreach ministry averages 20-40 ranging in age from 5 thru adult. The percentage breaks down as follows: 20% adult, 40% children, 40% Jr. and Sr. Highers. They come in via Church bus, van and private autos's. We have mothers and children riding the bus together. Most of our teens come by their own cars. An increasing number of adults are riding the bus. They view it as free transportation with the best parking spot in the church parking lot! Because of this growth we have a huge Children's Church program. It has grown under the leadership our last director. She had developed a workable program for our kind of Church (urban) that works very well. The present leader was groomed by Janine to take her place.

Generally 1/3 of our worship attendance is Children's ministries. (story cont. on page 5)

(story cont. from page 4)

We think this is great and much with-in the guidelines of New Testament teaching to "Go out and get'em" (Paraphrased). Our Children's church is active and doing great. We love to be involved in continuing education.

--Our "thanks" to Rev. Tim Dotson for sharing this exciting ministry with us. Keep on with the great work!



The following article was submitted by Rev. Wyatt Buchanan, Pastor, Baker Street Church, Johnson City, NY.

When I was asked to write this article about the reason for the statistical increase in membership for the Johnson City church I again felt that uncomfortable sense of dread that I feel when someone enthusiastically says, "tell us how it happened". The scripture that comes to my mind is found in Psalms 127:1 where it says, "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it, except the Lord keep the city the watchmen waketh but in vain". Yet, while the Lord does His work, in supplying the vision, we must also do our work in disciplining and combing for prospects.

Growth factors seem to be an intangible that we are all looking for in our congregations. In Johnson City the Lord has truly given the church a vision to reach the changing demographics of third world minorities around us. In our community we have Vietnamese, Laotian, Kurdish, Honduran and Nigerian refugees whose exposure to Christ began many years ago in the refugee camps sponsored by World Relief. As they fled oppression in their homeland some were eventually settled in the six square blocks surrounding our church. These people are open to the gospel, and it is not unusual to have 25 or 30 show up for a church event. We have come to depend upon World Relief as a partner in ministry networking to help us hurdle the linguistic barriers.

While the vision was God's work, at the same time, our people became more open to working in the church to facilitate this fledging ministry. Interest in mentoring and disciplining these people increased as well as interest in the larger church ministry. Several people that

were viable candidates for membership decided to join as members with the local body and since that time have proven to be invaluable in our ministry.

However, with the flowing tides also comes the ebbs. One of our church's spiritual pioneers passed away just over a year ago. It was a tragic blow but his faithfulness to the church in it's tough times guaranteed that it would be alive today. I thank God that Brother David R. G. Clark lived to see the work flourish again. In other areas we have moved ahead and at other times we have fallen back, but the church is not a stasis.

Future plans for this summer include a multi-ethnic camp at Lily Lake for young people 12-19 years of age. Pray for this ministry that lives will be touched and we may harvest their souls before the devil does.





LET'S
READ A
BOOK

Leaders: The Strategies For Taking Charge by Warren Bennis & Burt Nanus. Bennis and Nanus contend that leadership goes beyond simply doing the right things. They present a four-fold strategy that involves the leader possessing a vision, communicating for change, being innovative, and empowering others. This insightful book will be a great asset to anyone aspiring to be a true leader.

To Dream Again by Robert Dale. This book proposes to help church leaders understand their congregations better. The health cycle model of organizing behavior developed in this book is one way to diagnose and bring vitality to congregations. This book is intended for ministers, lay leaders, church staff teams, interim pastors and pastor selection committees, for long range planning and mission committees, and for stagnated or stagnating churches who want to dream again.

Visionary Leadership by Burt Nanus. The great visionary leaders have been those who could develop a unique vision that attracts commitment, inspires people, revitalizes organizations, and mobilizes the resources needed to turn vision into reality. Nanus shows you the key to leadership and demonstrates how any leader can use a logical, step-by-step process to help create and implement a powerful new sense of direction in his organization. Although written from a secular perspective, this book is an indispensable guide for Christian leaders at all levels of leadership who seek to develop vision both in ministry and in their personal lives.

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