

T. E. A. C. H.

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What a thrill it is to have the opportunity of helping others experience growth, development and maturity in their lives! I think that is the thing, above all else, that drew me to the work of this department. The acronym T. E. A. C. H. conveys our commitment as a department to helping you and your church move forward. There has never been a generation that has had greater access to resources for Training Teachers; Enriching Leaders; Affirming Successes; Challenging to Excellence; and Heading into Growth than ours. How fortunate we are to be alive now. What marvelous opportunities we have access to for reaching our God given potential and bringing glory to His name!

I thank the Lord for His commitment to stretching us and making us all that we can be for Him. He will open doors for us in big and little ways alike if we will obey Him and walk through them. God is a God of anticipation and expectation and, as His children, He fully intends to make us like Himself. He is future oriented, always looking toward a preferred future. He has never looked at difficult situations as they are and wrung His hands in defeat and despair. Expectation is a powerful thing. If we trust the Lord and believe that He has uniquely created us to make a difference with our lives we will continually expect Him to do great things in us and through us.

I read an article in Guideposts magazine this morning that challenged me tremendously. The story was written by Jack Kearney and was entitled - Expect the Best. Kearney was one of 17 children born to a couple whose only income came from sharecropping. They worked from sunup to nightfall picking cotton in the delta country of Arkansas. Still they lived in such poverty that they used brown paper bags as hats to protect the children from the sun as they worked. This couple did not have much to offer their children except their deep faith in God. They expected the Lord to bless their home and their children and He did.

These parents taught their children the value of gaining a good education. In fact their expectation was strong enough to influence fifteen out of the seventeen to seek college degrees. The children graduated from schools like Harvard, Yale, Vanderbilt, UCLA, Stanford, Brown, Syracuse, and the University of Arkansas. It wasn't always easy but they were raised with an expectation that would not allow them to accept failure or defeat.

When it came time to send the first child off to

college there wasn't enough tuition money even though the family had saved every penny possible. Several avenues of financing were explored but each seemed a dead end. Finally the entire family (12 at that time) was gathered into the kitchen and a prayer meeting was held. The father reminded the Lord of the way He had rescued Joseph from the pit. "Was that just a one time thing, Lord?" he asked.

The next day he set out in his old GMC pickup to call on a local landowner. He came back honking his horn. "That good man was just waiting for me," he said breathlessly, holding up a piece of paper. "I said I was going to send you children to college and could he help us get started and he asked me how much we needed and when I told him twelve hundred dollars he went inside and came back holding this check!"

What would happen in our churches if we stopped looking at our obstacles and failures and started anticipating the things our Father is expecting to do for us? What would happen if we stopped making excuses for our failures and got busy finding ways to turn them into successes? What would happen if we called some prayer meetings with our church families and sought the face of God until He
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gave us the wisdom and strength we need to accomplish His will?

I want God's blessing to return to our hearts, our homes, and our lives, I believe that we have allowed the devil to defeat us for far too long! It is time to rise up and get busy for Him. If we don't have the tools we need to do the work we are called to, let's get busy and get them. If we don't have the power of God on us the way we need to, let's admit it and get busy seeking Him until we do. He will keep His promise: "To build His Church and not allow the gates of hell to prevail against it." We must do our part as well. Will you join me in seeking Him until our hearts burn with His love? Will you join me in catching a fresh vision for souls and the coming of His kingdom?

Expecting Great Things,

Dan Harrison, Gen. C.E. Dept.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1993 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

REV. PAUL JAMES

Paul James, Senior Pastor of the Warsaw Wesleyan Church in Warsaw, Indiana, brings twenty years of experience to the pastorate. He has served at churches in North Carolina, Alabama, South Carolina, and now in Warsaw since 1986. He has a heart for evangelism and is continually studying church growth. Presently, he provides leadership and vision to a congregation that has grown from 180 to over 600 in six years. Paul and his wife, Susan, have three children.

REV. DWIGHT L. MASON

Dwight Mason is in his first pastorate at Sugarcreek Free Methodist Church, Sugarcreek, Ohio having served there since 1985. When he first began to minister, the morning worship service was averaging 75 people. Currently they are running three morning worship services and are averaging 500 people each Sunday. Dwight has a deep burden for lost people and a great passion for lay ministry. He and his wife, Patty have 1 son and are expecting a second child early next year.

PRAISES FROM THE PAST In 1949 well-known public figures shared how Sunday School had been important in their lives. Their comments ring true four decades later.

ROY ROGERS

"I'm sure glad you're going to Sunday School, and I hope you're learning just as much about the Bible as you possibly can. There isn't any better guidepost for the right trail of life."

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

1993 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONVENTION

CLEAR VISION

SEPTEMBER 18, 1993

Faith Memorial Church, Lancaster, Ohio

SPEAKERS

Rev. Paul James

Rev. Dwight Mason

SEMINARS

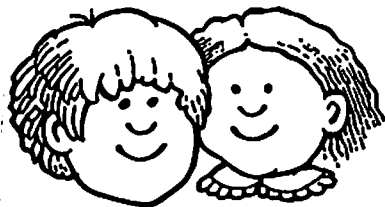
- *Superintend with Success
- *Ladies in Leadership
- *Sunday School Alternatives
- *Youth Vision
- *A.F.G.'s
- *Assertive Discipline
- *Media/Communication (Newsletters)

GENERAL SESSION TOPICS

The Process of a Godly Vision

- *Catch It
- *Comprehend It
- *Cast It
- *Claim It

This convention will offer many opportunities for you to glean a wealth of practical and useable information. Please don't miss out on your best chance this year to gain this valuable training.



NURSERY BABIES
by Karen Thatcher Hughes

So, you have agreed to take on the Twos and Threes Class in Sunday School? Congratulations, you have accepted one of the most rewarding and exciting opportunities of your life! No, it isn't or shouldn't be just playtime for these active toddlers. You have an opportunity to build a strong spiritual foundation in these young lives. Spiritual foundation? In a two-year-old! Am I kidding? Absolutely not. Twos and Threes (we call them Nursery Babies at our church) are so ready and eager to learn and experience everything. Let's give them the Lord.

It's a real challenge to plan a five-minute lesson that will impact a young child's life. The key, of course, is to have short, focused activities throughout your Sunday School hour that refer to the same repeated phrase or theme each week: "God made the world" or "Jesus is my good friend" or "God takes care of me." Activities of approximately five minutes each should include singing, prayer and offering, lesson or story time and a stretching time.

Do you have more in your Sunday School teacher's book to share than you actually get done? Why not extend your Sunday School hour into the worship service and offer a nutritious snack, short playtime (no more than 15 minutes), singing and stretch. Use the same story time from Sunday School (remember, repetition and routine are the key), add in a color and/or craft time and you've got it! You will be surprised at how grateful your parents are. It's very difficult to enjoy the adult service with a toddler crawling all over the pews, but many parents are reluctant to send them to a nursery to "just play". You can provide a valuable alternative!

Recruit some extra teachers for your worship hour. You can do on-the-job training by asking each one to help you out for a few weeks and then gradually wean yourself away from this part of the service.

The biggest challenge you may face in teaching Nursery Babies is how to get them to stay in your class without a parent and without crying. We use a four-week approach: The first Sunday, the child may just want to visit in the classroom for a short time (with one parent or grandparent). The second Sunday, encourage the child and parent to stay. The third Sunday, the child should be lovingly but firmly encouraged to sit in his own chair, with Mom or Dad close by. The fourth Sunday, meet the child and parent at the door and take the child to the table or learning area. The parent leaves. If you can distract the child and keep him busy, he will probably make it through

the entire classtime. It helps a lot if you have an assistant to hold the child on their lap, to provide "cuddles" and assurance so that you can concentrate on the class at large (non-related grandparents and senior citizens are especially good at this). If the child is screaming loud enough to wake Lazarus after five minutes, take him back to his parents and encourage them to start again the next week. After a few weeks, the child will be bouncing into the room by himself! Of course, we all know there are going to be exceptions!

As I said, you have accepted the most exciting challenge in the church! Remember to pray for your little ones each week, and pray for yourself as well, that God will use you in His plan to help build a strong foundation for your church's future!

(Thank you to Karen Hughes for her encouraging words on nursery babies. Karen is a member of the Winchester CCCU in Winchester, OH)

*Praise
the Lord
Oh my soul!*

MORE PRAISES FROM THE PAST.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, 34th PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

"The lessons I learned in my Sunday Schools days are ones that I've never forgotten. I'm glad to greet the Sunday School pupils of today - I know you'll be the leaders of tomorrow."


THOMAS E. DEWEY, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, 1943

"The lessons I learned in Sunday School have stayed with me all through my life. They will last longer than any other lessons - and do the most good - because they are the eternal truths by which we all must live."

WALT DISNEY

"Observation and experience tell me that the boys and girls who attend Sunday School enjoy an advantage over other youngsters not so fortunate which lasts throughout a lifetime. In my own case, the lessons learned there have played a very big part in shaping the kind of entertainment associated with my name and in my whole personal, family and business life."

(Article offered by David C. Cook Publishing Co., 850 N. Grove, Elgin, Il. 60120)



MEDIA MINISTRY

Special Ministries for Caring Churches

Robert E. Korth, Editor

This book tells the stories of 17 different ministries in which churches are successfully serving people with specialized needs. *Your* church can do the same work. The writers of this book are people who are actually doing the work of these ministries and they can show you how. Many of these ideas began when just one or two people in the congregation had an experience with a certain problem and found ways that their church could or couldn't help them.

"Evangelism Expressions"

by Dr. John C. Maxwell

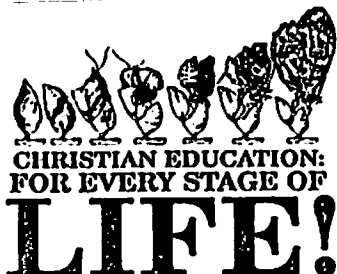
This eight cassette tape package has eleven messages and outlines to help you prepare your heart for soul-winning. By using these outlines and scriptures you will more clearly see God's plan in your lives and in the life of your churches.

"Ushers and Greeters"

by Dr. John C. Maxwell

Experts agree that the first four minutes of any encounter establishes the tone for the rest of the relationship. That is why the first impression your church makes on the people who visit each Sunday is vital to its growth. This program discusses many topics for helping your church to effectively greet your visitors. Program contains three audio cassettes with outlines so you can begin or enhance your own usher and greeter ministry.

(All of the above resources are available through the C.E. Lending Library. If you are interested in any of these please contact our office at (513) 695-0025.)



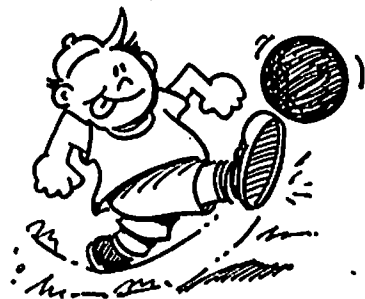
WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRANDPARENTS!



Kingston Church of Christ in Christian Union found some real pep to add to its Spring Sunday School promotion this year. We went to a four week format of Friends' Day, Resurrection Day, Pastor Appreciation Day and Grandparents' Day. The first three days showed an increase in attendance of approximately 10 to 12 on the average, but then came some inspired grandchildren and an inspired Sunday School Superintendent, Carol Carper, and her husband Hank Carper. Hank and Carol decided to take Polaroid pictures of the grandparents and make a special display for that day. Our attendance increased by twenty to twenty-five for that day. The pictures were a great success! There is nothing like the love of Jesus shining through the hearts of children and their grandmas and grandpas.

Thanks to the Christian Education Board for their concern and hard work on our behalf. God is surely blessing us as we work together.

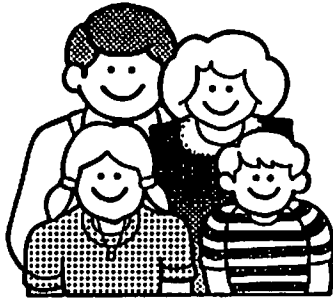
(Thank you to the Kingston Church and Pastor Jim Pollard for sharing this story with us. Grandparents are important to all of us and we appreciate this idea for showing them how we feel. Do you have an event you would like to share? Tell us about it! Give us a call at (513) 695-0025.)



"Would you take my place for a minute?" a fourth grader asked me. I jumped right in. I may be 64 and the senior pastor, but I love VBS and a good game of kickball.

It was a great game, too, right up to the minute the ball and my knee connected, and I tore some ligaments.

I hobble a bit now, but I'm getting better. I'd do it all over again. I don't think there is such a thing as a pastor getting too involved in Christian education. These kids are our future.--Bob Keckler, Fort Wayne, Indiana. (Used by permission from David C. Cook Pub. Co., Elgin IL 60120).



LINCOLN HEIGHTS "FRIEND DAY"

It had been two months of hard work and preparation for this morning that was geared to bring in one hundred fifty people for our "Friend Day." We had established a committee of three men to be our own "Valet Parking Attendants" to show our visitors that we consider them special. Our office had developed a visitors packet that included information about the ministry of Lincoln Heights Church and also a visitors card along with a letter of greeting from the pastor. So there we stood, next to our bulletin board covered with close to seventy five commitment cards brought in by our congregation with those who promised to come, and watched it rain. It was less than perfect conditions to go to church. The parking attendants stood with umbrellas and we waited. The gospel group "Sons of Grace" was setting up for the service as just a few trickled in.

I was thinking that maybe January 24th was going to be a "learning experience" when all of a sudden people were coming in every parking entrance. That day eighty eight cars filled our parking lots and two hundred thirty four people sat or stood in our sanctuary or foyer. God had blessed our church in a way that only He could! We'll never forget "Friend Day." Like Elijah with the wet wood, God blessed us despite the wet roof because of prayer and faith.

(Congratulations to the Lincoln Heights church in Mansfield, OH on such a successful "Friend Day". Our thanks go out to Rev. Bruce Morrison, Jr. who contributed this story. If you have a special joy you would like to share, contact Cindy at the C.E. Office at (513) 695-0025. We'd love to hear from your church!)



KEEP IN TOUCH.

This section will be devoted to you, the readers, who have questions, needs or wants, or an answer for a fellow Christian who has a concern. We hope to provide you with "Want Ads" and "For Sale" items as we become aware of them. If you have any items, let us know and we'll

be happy to pass the word along.

Also we do need the S. S. Superintendents to be sure and let us know of staff changes within your Sunday School. This will help us a great deal when it comes to mailings. If you would like to pass along this newsletter to a friend, that would be great. We'd like to reach as many people as we can. Also, any suggestions you may have or things you would like to see highlighted would be appreciated. We'll use our resources to find out the information for you.



LET'S READ A BOOK

20/20 VISION

by Dale Galloway

This best-seller has emerged as a primary text for churches that want to provide maximum pastoral care for their people. Galloway presents a comprehensive and practical treatment of the principles used to build their 6,000 member congregation using cell groups led by lay pastors. 20/20 VISION provides a model of church structure and dynamics for the church that wants to be on the cutting-edge well into the 21st century.

THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

by Stephen Covey

What sets the leader of excellence apart from the leader who performs well enough to keep his/her position? Covey present these seven habits not as a "quick fix" but rather as a step-by-step pathway for building into the fabric of our character the principles for achieving personal and professional excellence. This outstanding book is especially helpful in guiding a person to develop a personal mission and purpose statement that will establish the foundations for effective leadership.

TEACHING TO CHANGE LIVES

by Howard Hendricks

Why is it that although Christians have the most vital message to teach the world, many have such a difficult time communicating it? Hendricks has learned that the style in which one communicates a message greatly determines the way in which it is received. He has formulated seven proven principles that will make your teaching style come alive. Whether you are sharing the gospel, teaching a Bible study, or a class of third graders, this text will heighten your awareness of your audience and polish your technique. (This book is available in the Resource Lending Library at the CE Office, (513) 695-0025.)