

T.E.A.C.H.

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WHY DO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

Have you ever wondered why we have a Christian Education convention? Have you ever questioned why we have Sunday School classes? As I have wrestled with these questions I have come to the conclusion that the bottom line of Christian education is a responsibility for building into the lives of men, women, boys and girls a solid base of biblical values.

America is experiencing an incredible disintegration from within. The value system that helped America become a strong nation was basically built on a solid Biblical foundation. But the past 20 or 30 years has witnessed a major regression in regard to the values our society clings to.

The state of morality in American society is moving to lower and lower levels each year. We have come to the place where it has been suggested that the moral behavior of national leaders is no longer a serious concern.

The Bible places a high value on honesty but our current culture has chosen to disregard this value and crime has become a serious problem at every level of our society. The Bible values a strong work ethic but over the past couple of decades we have seen that value criticized as Puritanical and old fashioned. The result is a declining economy accompanied with a standard of living that is tumbling as well. The Bible places a premium on the value of human life. Our society has taken the stance that the value of human life is open to debate in a case by case instance. Babies are routinely aborted and the elderly are regularly neglected when this mind set is followed to its natural end.

The listing of Biblical values that have been passively forsaken or aggressively attacked could go on and on but it becomes quite depressing. It is obvious to even a casual observer that our world is in trouble. Society has created problems for itself through the steady erosion of its value system that it cannot deal with.

How have we fallen so far so fast? I believe the sad fact is that the generation currently holding the most influence is largely ignorant of the Bible. Secular humanism and pagan philosophies are abounding in the emotional swirl rampant today. Because we presently have no clear cut or agreed upon value system each person does what he or she please. No nation to this point has been able to

survive this shift from corporate values to personal selfishness.

If it is true that our nation will rise or fall on its value system it is essential that we place a much higher premium on what we do in Sunday School. The only way a local church can be strong and healthy is by adhering to a Biblical standard for its values. If ever there was a time when Sunday School could be taken lightly that time has passed. A new generation is now in the process of formulating its base of values. If we let this generation slip through our fingers and come to adulthood with no moral or ethical foundation to live from American may not survive.

What a marvelous time to be a molder of men, women, boys and girls! Perhaps as never before those in the trenches of local church ministry can make a profound difference for God. If you are in the battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of those in your sphere of influence don't despair the battle can yet be won. It is time to saturate our efforts with prayer and wait before the Lord until the Holy Spirit equips us to do the work of ministry in a way that transforms our world for His glory. That is why we do Christian Education, isn't it?

Dan Harrison, C.E. Chairman

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Here are the results



The Christian Education Convention titled, "Clear Vision" took place on Saturday, September 18, 1993. The attendance was good with 346 people attending. Our General Session speakers did an excellent job of challenging us to catch a vision for the ministries that we are involved in.

Their transparency helped us to realize that both of them had a good understanding of where we are and where we're going in our ministries. The challenge they left us was not could we, but will we develop the vision God has for us.

Our workshop speakers also did an excellent job with the respective topics given to them. Their expertise in each of the areas produced a very positive response from those attending the workshops. In our survey taken that day 120 people responded with 114 people saying that the topics were relevant to what they needed. Under the suggested workshop topics, you gave us over 40 workshop topics that we will carefully consider as we plan next year's convention.

A special thank-you to Rev. Melvin Truex and the Faith Memorial staff for a job well done. The church plant at Faith Memorial provided a beautiful setting and location for the convention. The welcome on their new sign out front was a beautiful addition to a perfect day for everyone. Again, a heartfelt thanks to all the staff for their hard work.

We are already at work on the convention for next year. The information on topics, themes, speakers, and suggested changes from the survey are being taken into consideration. We are excited about what God is doing in the Christian Education Department of your church now and in the year to come. "He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we may ask or think." I hope to see you at Heritage Memorial Church for next year's convention on September 17, 1994.

Yours for Christ's Kingdom,
Kevin P. Behrer, Convention Chairman

(The C.E. Office has available for purchase sets of audio tapes from the convention as well as a video of the two general sessions. If you would be interested in any of these tapes, contact Cindy at (513) 695-0025. If you would like to borrow any of the tapes, they are also available in the Resource Library at the C.E. Office.)



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"I want to let you know how much Pam and I enjoyed the "C" Group that you folks planned for us. Our room was great, meal terrific, book at the right price, and speaker superb! Our hearts were challenged and renewed by the materials presented. Thank you for the invitation to be a part of the group. We also enjoyed the Christian Education Convention." Dan Jordan, Xenia CCCU, Xenia, Ohio.

ph

ATTENTION PASTORS AND S.S. SUPERINTENDENTS



If you were unable to attend the C.E. Convention we would like to let you know that we have available from the Christian Education Department a complimentary book for you. *Seize The Day* is a book directed to the hearts and minds of all of us who share a common passion to be a part of a thriving church. It is not a matter of gifts or talents, location or population base. It's a matter of the heart. To receive your free copy of H. C. Wilson's book *Seize The Day* please call Cindy at (513) 695-0025.



"WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP"

This seminar was divided into three sections: What is leadership?, What are spiritual gifts?, and What do I do now? In session #1, we explored temperament and personality traits of an effective leader. Each lady took the Kiersey-Bates inventory sorter and looked at profiles which she decoded. In Session #2 a discussion of spiritual gifts was followed by a spiritual gifts profile. Dorothy Walls shared with the group what a difference the inventory had made in her life and ministry. In Session #3, the information from the preceding sessions was collected and synthesized to achieve a self-profile. From there, a Bible study ensued with the ladies seeking and finding women who were leaders and their qualities. It was stressed to the ladies that God's ministry can only go forward when we are open and obedient to His calling. A challenge was put forth to them to seek His will and then do it. (Thank you to Connie Bowman for sharing her notes with us on her workshop during the C.E. Convention. Connie is a member of the Winchester CCCU, Winchester, Ohio.)



"VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION"

How often have you heard the cry go out for someone to help in a ministry in your church? Those who hear and respond to our cries for help are the lifeblood of ministry today. On our mission fields the missionaries in many cases could not carry the load without those who volunteer. Unfortunately, the mistake we often make is asking someone to do a job just for the sake of getting it done. We sometimes do not consider whether or not that person really has a passion to do the job or if they are gifted. Often we put more on the willing volunteer because we feel they could do a good job. In many cases that person is overworked (too many jobs already), underpaid (little or no affirmation) and very soon burned out.

If I learned anything at all in preparing and teaching the sessions for the C.E. Convention in "Recruiting Volunteers for Ministry" it is that there are many wounded soldiers in the battle right now that are due for

some rest and relaxation. As we shared together their hearts were broken for their people, yet the load threatened to overwhelm them.

If you are a volunteer in action today, let me encourage you to keep an active devotional life-when fatigue and discouragement come that is your greatest weapon. Your commander-in-chief is adequate to win the battle in your behalf, so don't try to carry out your mission on your own. Also, accept our grateful thanks for your commitment to ministry. We don't appreciate enough those who labor week after week on the battlefields claiming souls for the Savior. Volunteers - we love and appreciate you! (We appreciate Marilyn Roades for writing this article and for leading this workshop at the '93 C. E. Convention. Marilyn is the Lay Ministry director at Winchester CCCU.)



"GETTING EXCITED ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL"

We might start by asking the question, "Why get excited about Sunday School?" I believe the answer lies in the fact that if we are not excited about Sunday School, then unsaved people who attend Sunday School classes will not be convinced that serving Jesus is the greatest thing that can happen to a person. The excited Sunday School does not find it hard to witness about Jesus and His saving grace, nor do they have any trouble inviting unsaved people to Sunday School. They realize that a great number of people are saved through the outreach of Sunday School. It is a time when the unsaved can learn of the saving power of Christ in a relaxed atmosphere, and God is able to bring conviction to their hearts right in Sunday School class.

The power of Christ is not limited by a set pattern if Sunday School is exciting. People can come into the class anticipating the Holy Spirit to move and convict the sinner and encourage the believer. The excitement must not be fake or put on; it must come from a heart that is burning with love for the Master and a heart full of compassion for lost humanity. The unsaved person can sense whether it is true excitement or "manufactured." We must always keep in mind that our excitement level is our responsibility to maintain and that it only takes a spark to start a spiritual fire. Genuine excitement can start that fire. It is time that we as individuals say to ourselves and to God, "Start the excitement in me." (Sent to us by David Hopkins, West Portsmouth, OH. David was a convention workshop speaker this year. Thanks David for sharing with us again!)

"SUPERINTENDING FOR SUCCESS"

by Dr. Dan Tipton

How do you "get a handle" on the task of superintending a Sunday School? This seminar session addressed the prerequisites for success before moving on to the specifics of determining the mission, vision and goals for Sunday School superintendents. Practical guidelines for conceptualizing the job and creating realistic goals all unfolded in this session. You can be a success if you first clearly understand where you are headed and what really needs doing. (To hear more from Dr. Tipton on this topic contact the C.E. Office for the audio tape from this session of the C. E. Convention. Please call (513) 695-0025 and ask for Cindy.)



No Time to Train Teachers?

Today's life in the fast lane makes it almost impossible to schedule teacher training. These concentrated training tapes sum up the essentials of effective teaching in 15 minute bites, making them perfect for teachers on the move. Topics included are discipline, how to talk to children about salvation, understanding children and how to converse with children. Each set comes with two 15 minute audiotapes.

15 Minute Teacher Training-Series 1

Young Children, Ages 2-5

15 Minute Teacher Training-Series 2

Children, Grades 1-6

Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It

by: Thom & Joani Schultz

There's no shortage of teaching in the church. But there is an alarming shortage of learning. Explore 10 keys to help unlock learning in your church. You'll find tested, solid, creative approaches that focus on learning, not teaching in this book and video. If your concerned about education in your church, use this resource. It will serve as a springboard for launching conversation about the state of Christian Education in your church. (Book or Video available)

You Can Be An Effective S.S. Superintendent

by: Kenneth O. Ganel. This book describes how a general superintendent can lead his Sunday School better, by seeing and meeting more of its needs.

****Call the C.E. Office at (513) 695-0025 to view any of these materials. Ask for Cindy.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RALLY

March 18, 1994

7:30 P.M.

"YOU CAN DO IT!"

Remember the days of the Reap Rally, when over 4,000 of us gathered at Vets Memorial in Columbus to be challenged by God for evangelism. Well the spirit of those days is back!

To promote this spirit the Christian Education Department is sponsoring a special rally. We have rented Heritage Temple on South High in Columbus (W.C.D. camp location) for March 18. We in the C.E. Department are committed to encouraging and training our people in the work of evangelism and discipleship.

The theme for our first C.E. Rally is *"You Can Do It!"* No one in the country can better address this theme, than our guest speaker, nationally known evangelist David Ring of Orlando, Florida. You may have seen David Ring as a guest on Jerry Farwell's Old Time Gospel Hour. He has also appeared on the 700 Club and has spoken at numerous conferences, youth rallies and state conventions.

David Ring was born with cerebral palsy and presents a powerful testimony of how the love of Jesus Christ transformed him "a cerebral palsy victim into a cerebral palsy victor."

Empowered by Jesus Christ, David has overcome extreme physical and emotional obstacles to become a messenger of the gospel. In 1971, he was called by God into the ministry and he entered full-time evangelism in 1973.

The C.E. Board's greatest hope is that this rally will be both a time of inspiration and dedication for the people of our churches. God has given us a wonderful opportunity to share His message of grace and forgiveness to a broken and hurting world. So, with Christ we are their hope and God wants you to know that, *"You Can Do It!"* (Paul Burgett - Rally Coordinator)

RECRUIT

RECEIVE

RETAIN

RELEASE



RECRUITING YOUR CHURCH

by: Dr. Dan Tipton

Church history reveals that the church is effective when it has been able to adapt its message to the needs of those it serves. Today's effective churches relate their ministry to where people live life and in terms they can understand. Ineffectiveness occurs when the church fails to concentrate its ministry on the felt needs of people.

An effectiveness crisis may be described in cause and effect terms. A symptom of ineffectiveness is the lack of fruitfulness in the spiritual life of the body of Christ. Results are not achieved through the collective efforts of the congregation. Members in the church fail to adequately apply biblical truth to the problems of everyday life. Consequently, it is possible for a church to know its ultimate aims, but still not be productive.

The cause of this problem is very basic. The church proclaims a message or initiates a program. Though it harmonizes well with the content of the mission, it may have little or no relation to the struggles and interests of the everyday life of the church's constituency. The cause of ineffectiveness is frequently the failure of the church to focus its ministry at points where it can produce the most good. Ascertaining the felt need of both Christians and those who are non-Christians may prove to be a formidable task.

This raises the question of how the church determines where people have problem recognition or felt need. The Scripture gives examples of the value in starting at points of felt need. This is demonstrated in Christ's relationship with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) and with the woman at the well (John 4:5-30). Paul utilized this same principle when he preached to the Athenians concerning the unknown God. The church must be guided by more than opinions of what felt need is if it is to follow scriptural examples of effectiveness. Finding the problems and felt needs is an important key to growth for the church.

One important tool used to determine felt need is properly segmenting a congregation or the potential congregation into ministry groups. Segmentation means breaking the total church into homogeneous subgroups. The aim is to subdivide the total into groups which have significant similarities in needs. This can be done in broad categories such as geographical distribution, social-economic factors, age and sex factors, or cultural context.

In more specific categories subgroups may include such items as occupation, education level, family influences and reference groups. When a subgroup has been identified, it can be appealed with a specialized ministry effort.



RECEIVING OUR FRIENDS

You have worked long and hard to get your friend to attend your Sunday School class. You have prayed for them, loved them, served them and invited them. The day you have waited for has finally arrived. It is Friend Day and they are with you. You are overjoyed and have no doubt that your friend is going to have a positive experience. Why are you so sure? The answer is quite simple. Your Sunday School class has prepared in advance for the arrival of your guest.

What has such preparation included? First of all, it has included prayer. Your class has prayed for your friend and your class room has become the most prayed for place in your church. Prayer for people and prayer for places produce powerful results. Second of all, it has included polish. Your class has cleaned, scrubbed and painted and has prepared a clean, well lighted place for your guest. Last of all, it has included a plan to be personable. Smiles, laughter, and love will greet your guest upon their arrival. They will be called by name, affirmed, and made to feel wanted. A little preparation in these areas will produce tremendous results as we receive new people into the fellowship of Sunday School. (Thank you to Rev. Lonnie Potts for his thoughts on receiving our friends into a Sunday School class. We can all use these simple ideas without very much effort.)



RETAINING OUR WORSHIPERS

Understanding what might be going through a person's head on their first visit is critical to keeping them in the ongoing fellowship of the church. Put yourself in the shoes of a first time visitor. You aren't aware of the proper parking pattern. You don't know what lies beyond the front door. You don't know where or when to enter for Sunday School or worship.

To keep people after their initial visit you must deal with several critical issues. (continued on pg. 6)

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It is important to be aware of their concern about acceptance/rejection. It is critical to never give them the impression this is a place where guests are embarrassed or exposed. Perhaps most of all it is extremely important to make them feel wanted and needed.

If they feel their basic needs can be cared for by your church family they will continue coming. The basic questions they are asking include: Do these people really care about me? Will they take the time to really understand me? Will they accept me, warts and all? Will they love me unconditionally?

As far as many unchurched people are concerned the only real differences in most churches is the way they treat people. Don't ever forget you are in the people business. People are the only thing that God is going to salvage from this planet. People are the only part of creation that Christ was willing to die to redeem. Make ministering to them and meeting their needs your number one priority and God will bless your efforts. (by Dan Harrison)

RELEASING
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
FOR MINISTRY



Every believer has one or more spiritual gifts.

These gifts are listed throughout the New Testament, but especially Romans 12; I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. A gift is a specific capacity or function connected to the work of ministry. The gifts of the Spirit are designed to equip every Christian for service in and through the Body of Christ. If every believer will develop and use his gifts the Church will have an effective and well-rounded ministry far reaching in its outreach to lost people. Spiritual gifts as developed and used by individual believers are the way God has chosen to transmit His love to a lost and dying world.

If you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, I would encourage you to find out. Your giftedness and the passion of your heart may provide an outlet for ministry you never thought possible. To determine one's passion, we often pose the question to our church family, "If time and money were not a consideration and you could not fail, what area of ministry would you chose to work in?" We have been able to fit people into areas of ministry by letting them share their passion; then see how that passion fits their spiritual giftedness and temperament. My prayer is that you will be of service to the Lord and His Church by starting today to develop and use the gifts God has planted within you. (We thank Marilyn Roades for sharing the ministry that is happening at Winchester CCCU. Their method of releasing spiritual gifts is working!)