

T.E.A.C.H.

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Revisiting T.E.A.C.H.

Dan Harrison
C. E. Chairman

What a thrill it is to have the opportunity of helping others experience growth, development and maturity in their living! It was this opportunity that drew me to this department and it is this privilege that continues as the driving force behind all that we attempt to accomplish.

The acronym T.E.A.C.H. conveys our commitment to helping you and your church reach a greater measure of your potential. You may be asking yourself what does T.E.A.C.H. stand for? If you were on the mailing list for the first issue of this newsletter in June/July 1993 you might remember we defined it as **T**raining Teachers; **E**nriching Leaders; **A**ffirming Successes; **C**hallenging to Excellence; and **H**eading into Growth.

The C.E. Department has worked hard to provide assistance and support to all those across our denomination who are involved with Christian education. We have given serious effort to building lines of communication that enable us to be in touch with those on the front lines of ministry. We have and will continue to make every investment possible that will allow local church leaders to be equipped to fulfill the Great Commission.

We believe in the potential of each of our churches to make an eternal difference in their communities and spheres of ministry influence. God has sovereignly chosen to bring each of these churches into existence to make a difference for Him. There are no unimportant or insignificant churches or places of ministry. You matter to Him and you matter to us. Our denomination is made up largely of smaller churches located in smaller communities. That is a fact but it need not be a depressing fact that immobilizes us and leaves us in a state of despair.

If God is still God He can use anyone, anywhere, to accomplish His purposes. It really doesn't matter what size your church is or where it is located until you make up your mind to do something significant for Him. I know of churches in large cities that are dying and I know of

churches in out of the way places that are dying as well. I am aware of churches that are thriving in small rural communities and I am also aware of churches in bulging urban centers that are being blessed of God.

Churches die, no matter where they are located, when they care more about themselves than the unchurched that are all around them. Churches die, no matter where they are located, when they are living more in the past than in the present and the future. When we no longer have eyes that see the spiritual needs of those we cross paths with each day we cease to be useful in the coming of His kingdom. When we no longer hear the voice of His Holy Spirit directing us we fail to be at the right place, at the right time, saying the right thing to the right person. There is no explanation for the sorry state America is in today except that churches have failed in the Great Commission. There is no acceptable excuse for ever neglecting or abandoning the lost men, women, boys and girls that Christ has placed in our care.

You must understand that it really is not a big deal to God if your church never grows. He doesn't care how many noses you can count on Sunday. The only thing He cares about is the eternal welfare of souls. Are the ministries of your church producing converts? (cont. on pg. 2)

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Are you producing disciples that take seriously the Great Commandment and the Great Commission? If not, why not? If not, what are you willing to do differently so that you can?

I want to close with an illustration from Winnie the Pooh. One day, while standing on a bridge, Winnie the Pooh noticed Eeyore, the donkey, floating below on the river. Pooh yelled down, "Did you fall into the river, Eeyore?" "Yes, silly of me wasn't it?" replied Eeyore. "Is the water cold today?" asked Pooh. "Yes, the dampness, you know," said Eeyore. "You really ought to be more careful!" warned Pooh. "Thanks," responded Eeyore. After a moment of silence Eeyore asked, "Pooh, if it wouldn't be to much bother, would you mind rescuing me?"

All around our church live people who desperately need to be rescued. Some are facing meaninglessness that makes it difficult for them to face another day. Others are battling brokenness and emptiness that threaten their very existence. Multitudes try to escape the scourge of low self-esteem. These all wait for someone who will reach out to them in love and share a word of hope and encouragement. They need a church that will believe in them enough to do something more than point out the tragedy of their condition. In fact their eternal souls depend on a congregation willing to take whatever risks necessary to lead them into a relationship with God through faith in Christ. Can they count on you?



1996 Christian Education Rally

The Christian Education Rally is scheduled for March 15, 1996 at Heritage Temple, 2295 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio. The prospects look great for having a nationally known singing group who will provide a time of spiritual uplift and inspiration.

We also have been able to secure Rev. Keith Drury as the speaker for the evening. Keith was raised in Pennsylvania as a preacher's kid and graduated from United Wesleyan College in Allentown, PA. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary as an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church, having pastored two churches in Pennsylvania before joining the Wesleyan Church Denominational Headquarters. He is currently the Director of Local Church Education where he is leading a "revolution of discipleship" in Sunday School and small groups with the focus on leading people to deeper commitment.

Keith resides with his wife, Sharon, on a country "mini farm" near Indianapolis and is the father of two boys - David, a ministerial student at Indiana Wesleyan Univer-

sity and John, a high school student in Indianapolis. He is an avid backpacker, having hiked over 1000 miles of the Appalachian Trail with his wife Sharon, and rock climbs, canoes, and hitch hikes with his sons for a hobby.

Rev. Drury not only offers the needed mechanics but also provides the inspiration and challenge to become involved and enjoy the blessing of ministry.

Remember to reserve the evening of March 15, 1996 for a time of inspiration, motivation, and fellowship.

H. David Cyrus, Rally Chairman



1995 C. E. Convention Notes

The 1995 Christian Education Convention ended with much excitement and positive comments by those attending. We truly were blessed with relevant workshops and stirring General Sessions. Dr. Charles Lake and Sheryl Fleisher motivated pastors and layleaders alike in "Developing Dynamic Disciples."

We want to get a head start on next year's convention, so please mark your calendars with the dates and location for that. The 1996 Convention will be working with the theme "Equipping." The date on the convention is Saturday, September 21st and it will be held at the Chillicothe Brookside Church of Christ in Christian Union church.

Our Sunday Schools need tremendous attention today. Let us pray one for another as we continue to build God's Kingdom together.

Mike Holbrook
Convention Promotion Coordinator

The C. E. Office has available cassette tapes of some of the workshop sessions from the 1995 Convention for you. Please note the titles and workshop speakers that we have copies of:

1. *Learning Through Puppets* with Chris Meenach
2. *Knowing Jesus & Keeping Jesus* with Wade Melton
3. *Evangelical Christian Ladies (ECL)* with Jane Uhrig
4. *Timothy's* with Dan Bennett
5. *Computer Software for your Church* with Milton Lowe
6. *"The Heart of the Matter"* with Dr. Charles Lake
7. *Spiritual Reproduction* with Sheryl Fleisher
8. *"Dare to Disciple"* with Sheryl Fleisher
9. *"Picking the Fruit"* with Dr. Charles Lake

Please call the CE Office at 513-695-0025 to borrow or purchase any of these tapes.



A Project from the West Central District . . .

The West Central District C.E. Committee project for this council year will be to establish a handbook for the local Sunday School Superintendent. We have conducted interviews with several churches outside of our denomination that have a strong and growing Sunday School. We hope to gain insight that will give us the tools for the never ending task of equipping ourselves to reach all ages for Christ.

If you have teachers who are not receiving the Christian Education Newsletter (T.E.A.C.H.) or if you or someone you know needs resource materials, please contact myself, Wayne Knisley at 614-426-6028 or 614-469-7920, or Cindy at the C. E. Office at 513-695-0025. We want to be of assistance to you.

Your WCD C. E. Committee,
Rev. Wayne Knisley-Chairman
Rev. Ralph Hux
Joyce Redder



Plans & Goals from the Northeast District C.E. Committee

We have a number of things planned and we sincerely hope that every church in our district will take an active part in encouraging these ideas and using these items. We will be focusing in on two different activities. First of all we will be using material from Focus on the Family for a Pastor's Appreciation Promotion. The Focus on the Family resources have proven to be very effective in this area of ministry. A second goal we have is to conduct three regional training sessions for our Sunday School Superintendents. These people are vitally important to the Sunday School and need to have all the guidance, ideas and information we can provide for them. Additionally, we plan to present to each of the churches in our district a copy of the Children's Church Notebook published by the C.E.

Department.

The committee once again would encourage our churches to take advantage of the resource material that may be borrowed from the Christian Education Lending Library. If you misplaced your list you may obtain one by contacting Pastor Al Ingalls at 814-368-7343. or the C. E. Office in Winchester, OH at 513-695-0025.

We are here to work together to build up our churches and Sunday Schools.

Your district committee members,
Rev. Alwin Ingalls-Chairman
Rev. Kevin Stumbo
Fran Welty



News from the South Central District . . .

When Paul first ministered in the region of Asia Minor, he became acquainted with a young believer named Timothy (Acts 16:1). Timothy accompanied Paul to Phrygia, Galatia and then into Macedonia. Timothy was also an important part of Paul's work in Corinth and stayed with Paul during his imprisonment. In fact, when writing to the Philippians, Paul had this to say about his young companion: *But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel (2:22).*

Notice that Paul refers to Timothy here as a son of his in the faith. Paul cultivated the service and discipline of Timothy in his Christian walk. There were no doubt many one-on-one lessons between Paul and Timothy as Timothy matured in his faith and service to the Lord.

Have you any sons or daughters in the faith? Christians who are mature in the Lord must be coaches for the Timothys of today. They are to be brought up as our spiritual children, not in our own image, but in the likeness of Christ. Paul understood this principle and put it into practice. And there is a great need to initiate this kind of one-on-one discipling in your church. To that end your district committee, Mark Otero, Dr. Connie Bowman and myself, are launching a project in Christian mentoring which will seek to bring greater focus to this all-important relationship in the body of Christ. Pray for your committee that God will use us and you as He sees fit for the nurturing and raising of new Christians as our children in the faith.

Your SCD District committee,
Rev. Gary Heimbach
Rev. Mark Otero
Dr. Connie Bowman

Why People Go To Church

Some go to church to talk and walk.
Some go there to laugh and talk.
Some go there to meet a friend.
Some go there their time to spend.
Some go there to meet a bride.
Some go there a fault to hide.
Some go there for speculation.
Some go there for observation.
Some go there to doze and nod.
The wise go there to worship God.

-Anonymous



"Reaching Heavenly Places"

Coming in the spring of 1996 will be our denominational Sunday School promotion "**Reaching Heavenly Places.**" The theme comes from Ephesians chapter one, verse three: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." The six week promotion emphasis will cover these topics:

- Week One: Developing Personal Prayer
- Week Two: Developing Positive Bible Study
- Week Three: Developing Powerful Worship
- Week Four: Developing Pivotal Friendships
- Week Five: Developing Purposeful Family Time
- Week Six: Developing Protective Armor

This foundational theme will without a doubt build your church and mine in key areas of discipleship. My prayer is that we all begin to "*Reach Heavenly Places.*"

Rev. Bruce Morrison, Committee Chairman

Kids and Us !!



The Children's Resource Notebook is now available! This notebook, entitled "**Kids and Us,**" is a wonderful reference manual containing many helpful ideas on Children's Church, Leading a Child to Christ, Music, Mission lessons, Scripture Memory, Special Programs, Games, and much more.

To receive the full benefit of this notebook, the committee would like to encourage Sunday School Superintendents, Teachers and Pastors to consider hosting a workshop in your church, where a member of the committee would be available to bring actual notebook along with helpful hints to use the notebook to it's fullest benefit. Perhaps a number of churches in the same locality could host a Workshop day. For every church that has received a copy of the manual, it is certainly our hope that the pages are opened and a whole new and exciting way of teaching will be presented to the precious children God has entrusted to you.

There has been some very positive feedback on the manual. Some churches have found it beneficial to invite all Sunday School teachers together and teach them some of these fresh new ideas. For information on a workshop, please contact Cindy at the Christian Ed. Office, 513-695-0025. Happy Teaching !!

Kathy Cook,
Notebook Committee Member

Prayer and Faith

One night a little four-year-old was being put to bed by his father, who noticed a piece of rope tied to the lad's bed. "What's the rope for?" the father asked.

"I'm praying for a pony tonight," he said firmly, "and that rope is for the angels to tie the pony to my bed."

-Clergy Talk



"I'm so glad we had this time together . . ."

Cindy Bolte
C. E. Secretary

You may be wondering about the title of this article and what it means. Well, this will be the last issue of the T.E.A.C.H. Newsletter that I will be a part of as I will be "retiring" at the end of this year. My family moved to this beautiful state from Minnesota in 1992 to allow my husband the opportunity to attend seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Alan has since graduated and our ministry now calls us back to our home state. In June of 1996 we will be moving back to Minnesota to pastor a church there.

In looking back over the three years of time here in this office, I can see LOADS of changes that have taken place. It was in September 1992 that Pastor Dan hired me to be the CE Department secretary. I was full of questions, doubts and fears. I had never worked in a two person office before. What would I do if I had a major problem with the computer and lost everything? How would I handle juggling all the responsibilities and get everything done on a part-time basis? Oh, why did I agree to try? Heaven help me! As the weeks and months progressed, I found myself becoming less afraid of the computer and more sure of what we could accomplish. Many, many interesting things have been produced in these years working together with you.

Do you remember the first T.E.A.C.H. Newsletter that was printed? It was a very scary venture for us here, as neither Pastor Dan nor myself had ever done anything like that before. But with lots of planning, pencil lead, and many rough drafts typed, it eventually went to the press. It is still somewhat of a challenge to pull the Newsletter together, but we now have a format and a plan to follow. To date there are 1,484 Newsletters mailed out each quarter.

Another big item for this department was the establishment of the database of all the pastors, Sunday School Superintendents and Sunday School teachers. We now have 1,045 S. S. teachers, and 443 Pastors and S. S. Superintendents recorded. By having this database, we are able to send needed information out to all the churches. Each month a different group of teachers receives a letter affirming them for all that they are doing in their local churches. I want to thank all of you for sending in those lists of names and keeping us up to date with changes in your teacher staff. I realize this is a time consuming job,

but it certainly is making a difference in the lives of your teachers! Keep up the good work!

In the last couple of years, the CE Department has been expanding the Lending Library with many different resources. At the present time there are over 200 items on the General Library list as well as over 500 cassette tapes in the Tape Library. All your suggestions are considered and looked into, and many times there are new items added because of your ideas. This keeps us in tune with what you need. We do appreciate your ideas!

Have you attended the C.E. March Rallies or the C.E. Conventions yet? If not, you are really missing out on some of the most fulfilling times ever. The CE Board has been able to secure some top notch speakers and communicators for you from all over the country. I hope you will find the time to participate in these events. You will be blessed by attending.

Your C. E. Board is now expanding their vision of reaching you more thoroughly by having each of the District C.E. Committees take an active role in planning district events. You will be seeing many ideas coming your way in the next few months.

Boy, did you ever write down all the various things you have helped with and are responsible for and become surprised at the list? In thinking about this position and this department, there have been many exciting times! We've gone from a few resources available in the library, to hundreds. We've expanded our contact level from zero to well over 1,000 Sunday School teachers and workers. There has been a greater number of folks involved with department sponsored events than ever before. This has been a rewarding time to have been at the ground level of the growth of this department.

I want to thank all the board members for their patience in my learning who they are, what they do and where they are located. Moving from Minnesota, my knowledge of Ohio cities and towns was pretty limited! Your willingness to work with me on projects and guide me along will always be remembered. *Yes, I am so glad we've had this time together!* I'll never forget all the blessings you have given me. I know great things will continue to happen in years to come and I look forward to hearing about those. (Yes, Pastor Dan, you will be able to carry on without me!) God bless you all !!



-Medway United Methodist Church
Medway, Ohio

The pastor became so distressed over the abundance of saloons in his community and the widespread drinking among his flock that one Sunday morning he preached a lengthy sermon against liquor.

"I wish there were no liquor on this earth," he declared. "I wrote to the President of the United States and asked him to give me a permit to enter all the saloons and carryout stores and gather up all the bottles filled with this terrible stuff."

"When I get that permit," he continued, "I'm going to empty all the whiskey kegs, bust all the beer bottles and pour all that liquor into the river, and on Thanksgiving morning you will see the river flowing high with liquor. I've said my piece. Now let the choir sing."

The director raised her baton, the organist sounded a chord and the choir members rose to their feet and sang, "Shall We Gather at the River."

HOME MISSIONS

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to remind everyone to mark on your calendars the upcoming Church Growth Conference. This annual Church Growth Conference will be held at Anderson, IN, on April 19 & 20. As of the date of this Newsletter, we don't have any information on the details, but we know in the past this conference has met the needs in many ways. It is a time for learning, sharing, growing, and praising the Lord! We will pass along more information as it becomes available. Start planning now to be with us in April. Hope to see you there!



*1996 Christian Education Rally, March 15, 1996
 Heritage Temple Church, Columbus, Ohio*