T. E. A. C. H.

March, April, May 1996

Provided by the General Christian Education Dept.

Volume 3 Number 4

EQUIPPING FOR RESULTS

Dan Harrison C.E. Chairman

To achieve the results we are mandated to accomplish in the Great Commission we must equip people. The work of the Kingdom of God has always been carried forward by individuals who were cultivated and nurtured both spiritually and practically by God and his people. The following handful of suggestions might provide a starting place for you to begin developing an intentional process for equipping those you are leading.

PICTURE IT

A crucial aspect of equipping involves painting a verbal picture of what you want for your people. If you have ever tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle you know how helpful it is to have a picture of the finished product to work from.

It is important to find ways to communicate clearly what you are trying to do. Stories that illustrate what you are shooting at and how people can be involved will stick with the men and women you are trying to equip and move to action. Remember to paint the picture over and over because even the most attentive persons tend to get foggy and forget the details in about four weeks.

MODEL IT

You can talk all you want about your ideas, dreams and goals, but if people see you and other leaders behaving in ways that are inconsistent with what you have said you will do great damage to your ability to accomplish what you are trying to do.

People watch leaders closely and if they see you actually taking action and doing what you are asking them to do, your modeling builds momentum. When men and women see that you mean business and the picture you have painted is beginning to take shape their motivation for involvement increases and they begin to get on the band wagon.

TRAIN FOR IT

The growth of a church is really only the reflection of the aggregate growth of the individuals who are a part of it. It is critical to remember that people can only do what they know to do. You need to help them understand what to do and why it matters. Training people in key skills that will help them make a difference in the fulfillment of the mission is one of the every best expenditures of resources that can be made. Few churches can afford to purchase all the training tools that will be needed. That is why we have invested several thousand dollars in the lending library. The library contains a wealth of resources that would be incredibly beneficial in the equipping and empowering of either clergy or laity. If you have not received a listing of the materials available drop us a note or give us a call and we will send you one.

PRAISE IT

It is a powerful thing to catch someone fulfilling some part of the vision and reward them for it. People learn quickly what gets applauded and what doesn't. It is imperative that you praise the behavior you want to reinforce. The things that get rewarded get repeated. As affirmation is given behavior is reinforced and a prevailing attitude is established. That prevailing attitude will go a long way in establishing for good or ill what your church is.

Let me close with a popular story you may have heard or read before. It is the story of a young traveler who came upon a laborer fiercely pounding away at a stone with a

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Equipping for Results, continued

hammer and chisel. The traveler asked the worker, "What are you doing?" The laborer answered: "I'm trying to shape this stone, and it's backbreaking work."

The traveler soon came upon another man chipping away at a similar stone, who looked neither happy or angry. "What are you doing, " he asked? "I'm shaping a stone for a building," came the quick reply.

The traveler went on and before long came to a third worker chipping away at a stone. "What are you doing?" The worker smiled and replied: "I'm building a cathedral."

It takes a lot of hard work to build anything of significance in the Kingdom of God, but if we keep the right perspective and know why; what we are doing matters; it is very fulfilling. If you are not happy with the results you are getting, try investing additional time and energy into those who can make a difference. The more you give the more you get.

P.S. If you are interested in learning more about the whole equipping process you will find Dr. Gary McIntosh's book *The Exodus Principle* a very helpful resource. It is part of the Professional Development series from Broadman & Holdman Publishers.



1996 MARCH RALLY

The Christian Education Department of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union presents the Third Annual March Rally. The guest speaker for this year's rally is Keith Dury from the Wesleyan Christian Education Department.

Keith has a dynamic way of reaching the unsaved; to disciple the believers and equipping the church. He is a true inspiration for those who are around him and his love for the Lord and compassion for people are seen through his dedication.

His preaching and teaching will be practical and inspirational. Together we will all be strengthen, encouraged and challenged by our time together in worship and the word.

You won't want to miss this exciting opportunity to go back to your church being motivated, inspired and refreshed for work!

The Christian Education Rally is scheduled for:

Heritage Temple Church 2295 South High Street Columbus, OH March 15, 1996 7:30 P.M.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TOLEDO

John Maxwell Church Growth Conference

April 17-20, 1996

This year the Mid-East Church Growth Conference will be held at The Seagate Centre in Toledo, Ohio. The Seagate Centre is a large facility that can accommodate over 2800 in the general session hall.

John Maxwell will be this year's speaker in two days of leadership training and two days of equipping. Some of the other noted speakers are: Zig Ziglar, Jack Hayford, Max Lucado, Sheryl Fleisher, Tim Elmore, Jack McCartney and Dan Reiland. To lead us in worship with a special miniconcert is the group "Truth".

This will be an outstanding 4 days of making new friends, learning leadership skills from the top speakers of America and thanking God for His faithfulness.

For more information on this conference contact the church office to be placed on a list of persons to receive information as it is available.

Prayer changes people

Prayer is not a matter of coming to God with our wish list and pleading with him to give us what we ask for. Prayer is first and foremost the experience of being in the presence of God. whether or not we have our request granted, whether or not we get to take home anything as a result of the encounter, we are changed by having come into the presence of God. A person who has spent an hour or two in the presence of God will be a different person for some time afterward.

-Harold Kushner in Who Needs God

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EQUIPPING CHURCH MEMBERS FOR MINISTRY

One of the very first things we must do is to have the Lay people in the church understand that doing the work of ministry is not exclusively for the Pastor. The work of ministry is the duty of the members, and the duty of the Pastor is to equip the members for this ministry. In Ephesians 4: 11,12 it says, Christ gave the church apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers for the purpose of equipping the members for the work of ministry. We do not do this by entertaining the people. We must preach the Bible and teach from the Bible. It is important to have fellowship but not just entertainment, we should not leave God and the Bible out of any of our activities. Our priorities should be teaching, worship, prayer and fellowship. This is a part of equipping our members to do the work of ministry.

One of the very first things is to help our members discover their Spiritual gifts. Every born-again Christian has a spiritual gift for ministering in the church. We learn about the different gifts from the Bible. This can be found in the twelfth Chapter of Romans, in I Corinthians 12, in Ephesians 4, and in 1Peter 4. In Ephesians 4:12 his intention was perfecting and the full equipping of the saints that they should do the work of ministering towards building up Christ's body (the church). (Amplified Bible). Once they discover their gifts and begin to use them the church will grow stronger. This is much better than someone doing a job but not really being gifted for that particular job. It will help the members to begin to feel they are players instead of just spectators, it also begins to give them a feeling of ownership in a church and this helps them to unite with each other and to work more effectively in the ministry of the church.

As they discover and develop their spiritual gifts then it is very important to let them use their gift in the church ministry, or we would be robbing them if we do not let them use this gift. Sometimes we need to have classes to help them feel more confident about using their Spiritual gifts. This also helps the pastor to not be over utilized and for the members to be under utilized.

Pastor Al Ingalls

PAUL AND BARNABAS

The New Testament tells us much about the life and ministry of Saul of Tarsus, also known as Paul. We know that Saul was a devout Jew and persecutor of the early Christians. As he journeyed to Damascus to import his violence and fury there, he was struck down by a bright light and the vision of Jesus Christ. Saul became a believer at that point, and following some time spent in Damascus (where he was given back his sight), was thereafter known as Paul, preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But there was a great problem. Naturally, perhaps, the Christians of Jerusalem were fearful that this conversion was a trick of the scoundrel Saul, rather than a genuine believing faith of a newborn Paul. As we know, Paul went on to bring the gospel to many nations and under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote more books than any other Biblical author. What made the difference for Paul in the early years of his Christian faith? The answer is a mentoring relationship, under a believer, one Joseph of Cyprus, better known as Barnabas. Acts 9:26-27 tells us that when Paul "came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. (Verse 27) But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. (NIV)

Barnabas performed a service which Paul could not have done for himself. For Barnabas, this involved risk, but also had potential for a high return. For Paul, this action of Barnabas represented acceptance and guidance. It is wonderful to realize that someone accepts you for who you are, and makes a large investment in who you are becoming.

The actions of Barnabas did not end with the introduction of Paul. At different times, Barnabas sought to draw Paul into his own ministry (Acts 11:25-26). As Barnabas acted as an agent for growth in Paul's life, the team soon was known as *Paul and Barnabas* (Acts 13:42), rather than *Barnabas and Paul!* Barnabas was engaged in Paul in a mentoring relationship. It was a face-to-face relationship that changed the world.

You too have the opportunity to engage new Christians in relationships that will change the world. At the very least the love and time you give them will change their lives. And who knows what fledglings may be sent your way to help them grow in their faith and become the servant of God that He has called them to be? Perhaps before they can be, you must be what God has called you to be.

Gary Heimbach SCD Christian Education Chairman

SPRING IS UPON US!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3) Now that the holiday season has past, we face a new church year with excitement and anticipation for what our Lord has in store...new souls, stronger saints, greater effectiveness than every before. With that excitement in mind, I would like to encourage you to look over the spring promotion, "Reaching Heavenly Places", and allow it to be a guide for your theme this coming season. It was developed so that your own people could take this basic outline and turn the wheels of creativity to accomplish tremendous things for the Kingdom. With a weekly emphasis and scripture references for sermon preparation, you can help your congregation establish regular habits for a strong spiritual foundation in their lives. May God Bless your efforts and your church this spring.

> Bruce Morrison Promotions Coordinator

INFLUENCE

Every drop of rain that falls
Every tiny bird that calls
Every ray of light that comes
Every hummingbird that hums
----changes things.

Every smiling face I see
Every kind word heard by me
Every changing breeze that blows
Every snowflake when it snows
----affects me.

Every footprint in the sand Every holy helping hand Every potent tiny seed Made to minister to need ----makes a difference.

No! All things are not decreed Human graft and human greed Human wile and human woe Changes all things here below----and makes a difference.

We were not ordained to die! But to reign with Him on High! Love Almighty tarries still-Waits our choice: for human will

----Makes the difference!

John F. Dorsey

TRAINING OUR TEACHER

It happened on a track, not too many years ago. It was the first meet of the season and we were ready to take on the world. Before we left the locker room, our coach told us our star miler was sick and asked for a volunteer to run in his place. A freshman quickly stepped forward.

We watched as this young man took his place at the starting line of the mile run. The gun went off and he quickly sprinted to the front of the pack. By the end of the second lap, he had a 50 yard lead. We were amazed!

Then, he hit the backstretch of the third lap. He began to dramatically slow down. His lead vanished. By the start of the final lap, he was in last place. He slowed to a walk, stumbled onto the infield and collapsed in a heap.

Why did this young man fail? Well, it wasn't a lack of desire that did him in; he certainly wanted to run well. However, he had <u>not</u> properly trained to run the mile. Our coach said, "You have to train if you want to win." This is

Have you ever seen this happen? The junior highers need a Sunday School Teacher. The Sunday School Superintendent asks a young married man if he is willing to teach the class. The young man responds, "Well, sure. I don't know much about teaching Sunday School, but I'll try". The Superintendent hands him a Sunday School Quarterly and says, "Everything you need is in here. We'll be praying for you!"

You can probably guess the rest of the story. Why did this young man resign? It was not a lack of desire or lack of materials. The reason for the failure was a lack of proper training.

In the local church, if you want to succeed, you must train. The key to Christian education success is training and equipping lay people for ministry.

The Apostle Paul said it this way, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

You must train to win!

also true in the local church.

There is an endless supply of good training materials that can be used. Books like, "You Can Teach With Success", are very challenging. The Evangelical Training Association has great materials. Check your local bookstores and catalogs. Even our Christian Education Dept. has materials to loan, such as "The 7 Laws of the Teacher, and The 7 Laws of the Learner." The annual C.E. Convention is a great place to receive training.

One new resource that can be used to equip our teachers is the notebook now in print - "KIDS AND US!" It gives teaching tips, many creative ways to memorize Scripture, helps for programs, children's church and so on. Ask your church to purchase one of these notebooks from the C.E. Dept. It will better equip your workers for children's ministry. Use some of it for training sessions.

In conclusion, the church must provide a program of training which will better equip our people for ministry. We want to win souls! TRAIN TO WIN!

(Some notes are from the Evangelical Training Association notebook)

Ele Thompson



I will never forget that Friday. It will soon be 25 years ago, when Dr. Ron Hood called me into the Christian service office at CBC and said "Beginning Sunday you will be the new pastor at the Lowery Lane Mission". I was in college, 19 years old, and wondered what do I do next.

Pastoring is like that sometimes, we know we have been called to preach, but what about all the responsibilities that come with it. As the years continue on we find as pastors that there is more expected of us because we are not only preachers, but leaders.

Leadership today can be confusing, because it is defined in so many different ways. Somehow we need to narrow our focus so that we are not overwhelmed, and depend on God to give us direction and to expand our abilities as leaders. John Maxwell has defined leadership as "influence". Realizing then if leadership is influence, and that I am influencing people who look to me for leadership, I want to be the best leader I can be. I want all of God I can get. I want to also learn all I can about how to lead and the different aspects of leadership. Trusting God to help me be the best leader I can be.

The Christian Education Board through Project "C" wants to help you in your effort to be the best leader you can be. We are providing for you opportunities to hear from some of the greatest leaders in our area of the country, as well as, share with one another. Mark your calendars

and plan for these future events. A bus trip to Greenwood Community Church with Dr. Charles Lake on May 16 and 17. An evening meal with the camp meeting evangelist during Mt. of Praise Camp and a general Project "C" meeting will take place during the Christian Education Convention in September. I hope these events will be beneficial to you.

Herschel Holley Project "C" Coordinator

There are several new resources that are available in the Christian Education Lending Library. Please call the CE Office at (513)695-0025 to borrow any of these tapes.

Life on the Edge, by Dr. James Dobson

This is a seven-session video session video course. Each session includes the elements designed to make your presentation trouble-free and effective.

1. Lesson goal, focus, related Scripture and preparation

A small investment of your time spent reviewing and implementing the material will enable you to guide your students in important new discoveries.

2. Detailed lesson plans

Each session is mapped out for you around the video sections featuring Dr. James Dobson. Because the video sessions are fairly lengthy, components of the lesson plan are designed to make the maximum use of limited time.

3. Suggested discussion questions
Specific, probing questions are suggested to promote discussion. The group leader should read "Tips for Encouraging Healthy Group Discussion" before the first session to make effective use of this important element.

4. The book

This video curriculum kit includes a book by Dr. James Dobson "Life on the Edge".

A Christian is:

Child, John 1:12
Heir, Romans 8:17
Redeemed, Ephesians 1:7
Influential, Matthew 5:16 and John 1:4
Soldier, 2 Timothy 2:3
Temple, 1 Corinthians 3:16
Instrument, Roman 6:13
Ambassador, 2 Corinthians 5:20
New Creature, 2 Corinthians 5:17

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DEVELOPING LEADERS To Make a Difference, by John Maxwell

This is a complete Church Leader Disciple Training Kit which includes ten audio cassettes teaching his top leaders. The tape titles are:

A Model to the People A Mainstay to the Pastor

A Mainstay to the Tustor

A Mentor to Potential Leaders

The Leader as a Model: Scriptural Qualifications

for Leadership

The Leader as a Model: Leadership Based on the

Church's Core Values

The Leader as a Model: Leaders Worthy of

Following

The Leader as a Mainstay: Supporter of the Pastor

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The Leader as a Mainstay: Developing an

Effective Team

The Leader as a Mentor: Being an Effective

Coach

The Leader as a Mentor: Mentoring that Makes a

Difference.

The kit also includes ten fill-in-the-blank PASTOR'S OUTLINES, a complete teacher's guide which includes step-by-step LESSON PLANS and lastly it has ten RE-PRODUCIBLE OUTLINES to be used by church leaders.

Discipleship Training A Venture in Learning & Accountability by Dr. Charles Lake

This manual offers a Disciple's Manual and a Discipler's Guide. It provides a way to develop the daily discipline's of the Christian life need for spiritual maturity.

This is a series of four nine-week sessions in training and accountability. At the end completion, certificates are given only to those who make a whole-hearted attempt to apply themselves to the material.

