

T. E. A. C. H.

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MAXIMIZING MINISTRY THROUGH PEOPLE

Dan Harrison
CE Chairman

God does just about everything He does through people. Genuine ministry happens as God moves in and through the hearts and lives of people. He uses his truth, love and grace to work in and through one heart to touch another in a life changing way.

In past years gifted craftsmen took great pride in expending huge amounts of time and energy to produce hand-crafted items that were top of the line in terms of beauty, quality, and practicality. That all began to change by the early 1900's when assembly-line production took over. Products that had once taken days, weeks, or even months to produce were not manufactured in hours. The end result was greatly increased quantity but reduced quality.

The same mindset has now been adopted by many church leaders today as they attempt to mass-produce believers. While each local church must have a plan and a process for developing those the Lord brings to faith through their efforts they must never treat people like pieces of machinery. Spiritual maturity and productivity will never come about accidentally but I really doubt they can ever be mass produced in an assembly line fashion either. Just because an individual has gone through discipleship classes does not immediately guarantee that person has become a true disciple in the process.

Sometimes in our efforts to maximize personal and corporate ministry we push people onto the front lines before they are really ready practically or spiritually. Not everyone who gets involved as part of the ministry team of a local church does so because they have become a disciple and possess a servant heart. People want to be involved in ministry for lots of different reasons, some more noble than others. Sometimes they have a significant need to be needed. Sometimes they are looking for sense of acceptance and belonging. For some it may be a search for

recognition or affirmation. If the church is dynamic and growing occasionally people just want to be a part of something exciting. If the leader is winsome and greatly admired some may get involved out of a desire to be near him or her. In my opinion one of the best motivations is a genuine desire to exercise God given spiritual gifts for His glory.

There are evidences that begin to surface in the life and ministry of people who don't have the best motives and are not really disciples with a servant heart. If love of God and people aren't the true motivations and they don't love and care enough for those they are serving personal confidences can be violated. When these people become aware of sensitive personal information they share it in inappropri-

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ate ways and inflict great pain through their violation of trust. Another evidence of inadequate motivation is an aggressive and domineering approach to relationships that leaves men and women feeling bullied and used. This type of approach will generate perpetual conflict and it is most damaging when it is present in the leader of the group.

There are some corresponding evidences that people are involved in ministry for the right reasons. One of the first is an obvious love for people and a genuine sensitivity to their needs. When loving God and people are the primary motivations ministry is marked by faithfulness, humility and productivity. There is an accompanying honesty of heart and life that result in high levels of personal integrity and character obvious to the entire congregation.

Ministry is maximized when the right people are in the right place, doing the right things for the right reasons. I am not sure effective ministry is always accompanied by exploding growth in numbers but I am pretty sure it is always evidenced by hearts being enlarged and lives become more Christlike. God does what He does through people. Let's do our best to follow His leadership and get in the right place; to experience cleansing of our hearts until we do what we do for the right reasons and then let's give Him the glory for the fruit that is produced.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HEADLINE NEWS!!! *Upcoming Banquets, Conferences and Conventions*

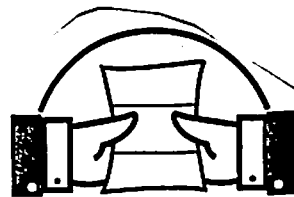
From last year... The 1997 Christian Education Appreciation Banquet and Concert was hosted by Heritage Memorial Church in Washington Court House. Over 250 Sunday School teachers and superintendents attended. Music was supplied by the Celebration quartet from Winchester, Ohio during dinner. Dr. Don Bartlett was the key-note speaker who challenged us to meet the needs of our learners through love and concern. Don's story of his life was one that touched our hearts and his triumphs came from a Christian woman who truly reached out to him in love. Following the wonderful dinner and speech a concert was held in the main sanctuary of Heritage.

The Heritage Band supplied the preconcert music and was a blessing to all who were in attendance. For the concert over 800 people were there praising God and worshipping with the CE Appreciation choir consisting of 50 people from seven churches, and our feature singer Kirk Talley. What a time of worship was experienced by all.

This year... the 1998 Christian Education Appreciation Banquet will be held at Heritage Memorial Church in Washington Court House again. The date will be **March 7, 1998**, from 5:00 pm (banquet - 400 tickets will be issued) and concert beginning at 7:00 pm with the Talley Trio. Put in your reservations for the banquet early to guarantee you and your teachers a place for this wonderful evening. (Upcoming information will be sent out).

Connie Bowman

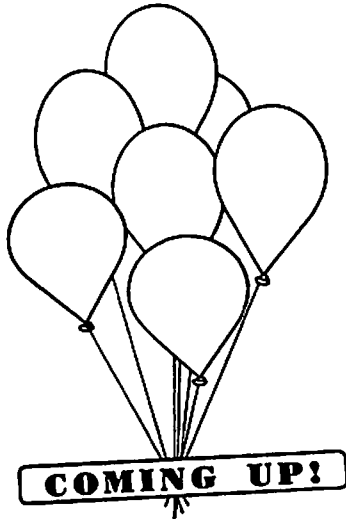
Teacher Appreciation Banquet Director



A NOTE FROM... *Karen...* As I was thinking of the upcoming **TEACH** newsletter which will coincide with the C.E Teacher Appreciation Banquet in March. I thought it might be fun for all our readers to remember their favorite Sunday School teacher from their past. What did you learn from his or her teachings? Did she or he say something that affirmed you or gave you wisdom that you never forgot? Sunday School teacher's have such powerful part in children's, teens and adults lives that they need to be recognized. I invite our **TEACH** readers to write about their favorite Sunday School teacher and what they did to make you remember them at this time. It can just be a paragraph or several. Please send your articles to:

Karen Hughes
CE Department
P.O. Box 356
Winchester, OH 45697
(937)695-0025

I will try to print as many as I can in the next **TEACH** newsletter. Thank you in advance for your help!



Third Annual Virginia Christian Education Association Convention

The Third Annual Virginia Christian Education Association will held Saturday April 18, 1998, in Salem, Virginia.

This convention will provide over fifty workshops that focuses on the kind of learning that counts! Everyone in ministry will benefit! Sunday School teachers, mid-week program leaders, Vacation Bible School volunteers, child care providers, ministry staff, pastors and parents who home school.

The registration is only \$15.00 per person. For more information contact:

Betty Robertson, Conference Director
 P.O. Box 12624
 Roanoke, VA 24027
 (Phone/Fax: 540-342-7511)

INJOY CONFERENCE ITINERARY (1-800-333-6506)

Leading Into The 21st Century with John Maxwell

<i>Date</i>	<i>City</i>
March, 1998 (TBA)	San Jose, CA
March 19-20, 1998	Portland, OR
April 2-3, 1998	Little Rock, AR
April 27-28, 1998	Jacksonville, FL
May 12-13, 1998	Minneapolis, MN
May 14-15, 1998	Plymouth, MI
September 14-15, 1998	Atlanta, GA
November 5-6, 1998	North Carolina (TBA)

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN

Pastor Mike Holbrook
 Circleville First Church

The 1997 C.E. Convention "Maximizing Ministry" has come and gone. It was a tremendous convention full of inspirational sessions, informational workshops, take home resources, support for ministries and powerful ministry ideas and helps. It was definitely one of the most profitable times I have spent in preparing for ministry. I trust it will become one of the most productive times I spent as well. I came away with a burning desire to serve God where He has placed me. I left better prepared to minister and to fulfill the burning desire He placed in my heart.

The question I have is "What Now!" What am I going to do with the wealth of information I received? I know I want to see my own ministry benefited and the service I render for the Lord strengthened for the purpose of bringing glory to Him and building His Kingdom. We might ask "How can I do this?, Is this feasible?" I believe it is and here are a few things I would like to see and several suggestions that may help us **Maximize Our Ministries**.

First: Pray about it!! Saturate what we have learned and received with prayer. Take the notes and worksheets to the prayer closet and ask the Lord how to apply the information for ministry to glorify Him. Ask what can be done to better ourselves to strengthen the Lord's work.

LET'S BE DISCIPLINED AND PRAY

Second: Use It!! What we gained is to be used, not thrown into a drawer or filed somewhere and forgotten. We always have good intentions and come away with great excitement but then go right back to the same old routines and ruts we were in before.

LET'S BE DETERMINED AND USE IT

Third: Share It!! Don't keep it to yourself but share these ideas of ministry with others. We are not alone but may seem like it unless we are willing to share these gems of truth with others. The more we have on our side the greater power we have to accomplish great things for God.

LET'S BE DILIGENT AND SHARE IT

Fourth: Keep On Growing!! Don't stop where you are in your growth but keep on growing. Learn all you can. Study and read and be all you can be and maximize your ministry. This may be the most exciting of all because we are able to keep right on learning and growing.

LET'S BE DISCIPLES AND GROW

Fifth: Receive A Vision!! Allow God to give you a vision of what He can do if only you will let Him. I wonder what would happened if we really let God use us as only He can. I believe Sunday School classes would grow. Souls would be added to the Kingdom. Ministry would become fun again and not just a duty. People would bind together for the cause of Christ. Excitement would build and the joy of the Lord would fill each soul. Oh, but to have God's vision.

LET'S BE DREAMERS AND RECEIVE A VISION FROM GOD

These are just a few of the various things I would like to see. We have the greatest people in the world and with God's help the greatest potential ever to build His Kingdom. May I ask you a question? What would you like to see? May God help you SEE IT!

A Christmas creed

Several years ago, Dr. Ormal Miller, a beloved and effective pastor, died suddenly at the age of 48. Among the many gifts of life and service he left to those who knew him was this brief composition:

I believe that Christmas is a spirit, and they that find it must seek it in spirit and in truth.

I believe that it is not a season of the year, but a way to live.

It comes whenever wise men and shepherds bow down at the same shrine;

whenever charity displaces intolerance;

whenever old enemies forgive one another;

whenever kindness takes the place of ill will.

I believe in the Christmas hope as the way to life for all persons and nations.

I believe that peace on earth and good will among all can become living realities in this generation.

MAXIMIZING MINISTRIES

by Mark Otero

Shoals, Indiana

To add or not to add? This is the question a church should ask when it seeks to meet a need. Most churches tend to tack on another program to an already long list of church ministries. It is easier to jump on another band wagon than to walk around it and kick the tires. Unfortunately, piling up ministries is risky in the long-haul. There are three risks for churches that compulsively add more to do.

1. There is the risk of draining your work force. An overload of activity will deplete the energies of even the most committed and gifted.
2. There is also the risk of diluting your ministry - effectiveness. The more you add on, the less attention you can give to existing ministries.
3. The risk of unclear direction increases as more and more priorities compete for resources.

Before we commit to more ministry, we should look to maximizing present ministries. The lesson of the Sower, in Mark 4, reminds us that the seed that fell on good soil yield varying results, 30, 60, and 100 fold. While each seed had great potential, some brought a greater return. What encouragement this is teach church. Our potential for fruitfulness is not based on the size of our field but on making the most of the seed we have. If we can see every ministry as a seed with the possibility of great fruitfulness we might give present ministries greater care. It is God that gives the increase but it is the church that's been charged with care of the seed.

In our church's evangelistic ministry there are many ways we see ministry maximized. Jamie received a free smoke alarm battery through one of our church outreach events. Touched by this small act of kindness, she started attending services and soon accepted Christ. When her mother-in-law was battling with a terminal illness, Jamie began to care for her non-stop. During this time she was able to see the difference Christ had made in Jamie's life and asked to receive God's Son. As the three of us joined hands in that hospital room for prayer, I thought of a seed of God's love that yielded the salvation of a daughter and her mother-in-law. After the funeral, our bereavement care team served a meal to the family. During this meal I sat with other family members who expressed how they were touched by the care given to the whole family. They then proceeded to open up about their spiritual needs.

Perhaps this is the fruit of making the most of each ministry opportunity!

LOOK FOR IT IN THE LIBRARY!

DEFINING MOMENTS - The Willow Creek Audio Journal for Church Leaders

This Audio Journal will reveal to you the surprising philosophy and innovative strategies that have led Willow Creek Community Church and other churches around the world become more effective in their ministry. This unique tool will build you up while it shows you how to build your ministry.

THE PASTOR'S UPDATE - Fuller Theological Seminary

This series of tapes are designed to provide skills for ministry leaders. Some of the titles of the series are:

1. Making Friends: Embracing & Empowering Generation X - Ralph Moore

The Generation X, a group of some 6 million teens and twentysomething, has been described as a loser generation. But Ralph presents some startling insights that will give you a fresh view of this unique generation. You will gain perspective from a fascinating historical and biblical overview.

2. Increasing Care Through Lay Counselors - Siang-Yang Tan

Do crisis situations and hurting people require more attention than you can give? Siang-Yang reveals that it is impossible for one pastor to meet all of these needs. He provides practical advice for mobilizing lay counselors to extend pastoral care. He also provides a strong foundation on which to build a lay counseling ministry.

3. Six Pillars for Improving Your Preaching - Stuart Briscoe

In this tape you will gain valuable wisdom and insight into the art of preaching from one of America's most respected preachers. You will enjoy Stuart's warm style as you review six crucial elements that will guide your growth as a preacher.

4. Overcoming the Hurried Pastor Syndrome - John Ortberg

John asks is any of these statements true for you? A constant sense that there are just not enough hours of the day, doing or thinking about more than one thing at a time, a cluttered life lacking simplicity, never satisfied with what you've done, over-commitment, a sense that time is passing too quickly. If so, this tape's compelling message will give

you principle-based solutions for dealing with the hurry in your life.

5. Christ's Hope for Christian Leaders - Leith Anderson

Leith is no stranger to the intense pressures and trials that accompany ministry in today's church. But he shares that in the midst of these circumstances, you can experience the hope and fresh perspective that God offers, enabling you to look beyond your current conditions and to focus upon Christ and his broader kingdom perspective.

RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP BUILD YOUR CHURCH!

New Life For Dying Churches! It Can Happen Anywhere!

By Rose Sims

Saving dying churches is not a theory...but a proven fact and it can happen anywhere! Dr. Sims' inspiring story is so unusual, enlightening and powerful, you'll laugh, you'll cry, you won't put it down. It is an American success story of two of God's servants, each of whom won their denomination's top national award for a lifetime of church growth. It is a "How to Grow a Church" story which any church can duplicate and it is a must for laity, clergy, church growth seminars, men or women's groups or church conferences. This resource comes with a video, book and a complete Do-It-Yourself Church Growth Seminar.

Growth for the Smaller Church

In the United States and Canada over half of all the churches have fewer than 75 persons in worship on an average Sunday. This special video study course has been developed specifically with the smaller church leadership and ministry in mind. It actually is an outgrowth of a 3-day conference held in Anderson, Indiana. This conference brought together a variety of participants and conference leaders who focused specifically on growth and outreach strategies for the smaller church. This resource is a Church Action Kit with 2 videos and notebook.

Beyond 400

The sponsor of this seminar, The Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth, is a non-profit organization committed to equipping church leaders worldwide for more effective ministry. We are committed to helping increase the size and number of Christian churches.

Challenge 1000

by Dan Reiland and John Maxwell

This series is a seven-step strategy to reach 1000 and beyond. This workbook and cassette series will equip you and your church for *continual* growth. It's goal to help 1,000 pastors to reach 1,000 laymen in their ministries-*and you can be one of them.* This resource comes with 6 audio cassettes and a workbook.

AND WE HAVE MANY, MANY

MORE!!! Please call the Christian Education office and ask for Karen at (937) 695-0025 and these tapes will be forwarded to you. You have such a great opportunity to be able to utilize resources from our growing library and the only cost to you would be the postage of sending the resources back to our office. Our mailing address is:

Christian Education Department
P.O. Box 356
Winchester, OH 45697

What to give?

After complaining that I never knew what to give people for Christmas, my pastor sent me this list:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all men, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.



—Oren Arnold in *The Head Man*