

DIRECTIONS

Fall 2004

Foursquare Christian Education



RAISING A "DAVID GENERATION"

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It was the summer of 1997 in Buffalo Gap, Texas. That's right, Buffalo Gap! I was preparing to teach a session to young people at Camp Whispering Oaks. The Lord gave me an incredible message about the "Raising of a David Generation." He began to share with me His plan to use a generation who would have a simple heart to love and serve God. Although I tried many times to declare this message, I simply kept hearing, "Not yet." It wasn't until January 2004, that I heard the Lord say, "Now begin proclaiming the raising of a David generation." My heart was stirred and thrilled as I pondered this message for close to 7 years. So it is with great joy that I share what has been in my spirit regarding young people.

David KNEW God in a simple, yet profound way. He spent time getting to know God while he was in the fields, alone

with the sheep. When the prophet Samuel went to Jesse's house to anoint the next king, he assumed he would be anointing Eliab, the son with a "kingly" appearance. When David appeared, Samuel knew this was the chosen king of Israel - not because of how he looked, but because God had declared it to be so. Samuel, in obedience, anointed David and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

David's heart for God, coupled with the Spirit of God upon him, made Goliath "no match." Goliath had the trained army of the Lord frozen in their tracks. Because David knew God, he had extreme confidence in what God said -

enough confidence that he was ready to act. He was secure because he was coming against God's enemy in the Name of the Lord.

As with David, there is a young generation today that could easily be bypassed. They don't appear to have what it takes. But they do. They do because God, Himself, is raising them up. Their isolation and desperation are driving them to seek and find truth - simple and genuine truth. They are looking for what is real and what will make a difference in their lives.

God, who sees the heart, is pouring His anointing and His Spirit upon this David generation. They will arise and do great and mighty things. The Lord is looking for Samuels who will not judge them based on outward appearance, but instead will proclaim, "THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU. HE IS ANOINTING YOU AND POURING HIS SPIRIT UPON YOU."

God is looking for Samuels who will partner with Him in seeing this David generation arise and shine! As you read the following pages, I pray that the Spirit of God will stir your heart to take part in His great plan. Perhaps you will become an intercessor for young people; perhaps you will become their greatest cheerleader. Perhaps you will mentor them or train those who will be mentors. Perhaps you will invest into your own children more than ever before and become their dream releasers. Ask the Lord what part He is giving you. No part is small or insignificant. Just think, you and I may be able to usher in the greatest generation that has ever lived!

Foursquare Women International, FWI, maintains a website for women in ministry. Visit <http://fwi.foursquare.org> for more.



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350 Foursquare leaders respond to our 2004 Convention survey:

36% spend 10+ hours each week on the Internet.

29% spend 10- hours each week on the Internet.

16% have visited ce.foursquare.org 10+ times in the past 6 months.

22% spend 10+ hours each week on the Internet for ministry related sessions.

24% spend 10- hours each week on the Internet for ministry related sessions.

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP: UNLIKELY LEADERS, IMPOSSIBLE TASKS

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In Scripture, there are abundant examples of *unlikely* leaders called to do *impossible* tasks. Moses couldn't speak, but he was called to communicate the Word of God to a nation. David was just a small shepherd boy, but he was called to overcome mighty enemies. Timothy felt far too young and inadequate to pastor the troubled church of Ephesus, but he was called to proclaim the gospel of grace to those bound by legalism and stubbornness (can you identify?).

The Lord has a *foolproof* plan for His Church, even though His choice of leaders might sometimes seem *foolish*! Timothy was sure that the Lord had made a mistake. So, Paul reminded him to "*stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*" (2 Timothy 1:6,7) Serving Jesus is not about having everything together before you begin, it's about *fearless* trust in the One who has called and gifted you for ministry. Whether you have formal training or not, if you are will-

ing to serve, if you are willing to lead, He will *powerfully* provide all you need. After all, He took David from the sheepfold to shepherd *Jacob His people and Israel His inheritance!* (Psalms 78:70-72)

Training our children's ministry leaders has not been about fulfilling a "program of leadership development." It has been about providing opportunities to "*stir up the gift of God*" in our ministries, to understand more fully how to lead with "*integrity of heart and skillfulness of hands.*" Our district-led **CM Connections** retreats continue to be powerful times of instilling value, building relationships, and broadening our leadership skills. No two are alike! As we prepare for 2005, we expect nearly 14 **CM Connections** retreats to take place literally from coast to coast.



Here are comments from two district leaders:

Marsha Krieger – The *Connections* retreat in Hilo, Hawaii connected leaders with leaders, and people with resources. Thirty leaders from various Foursquare churches in the Islands were able to connect, some for the first time! Lynn Sawyer and several local speakers encouraged the leaders. There were also games to be played and relationships to be built. Our favorite part of the event was a photo scavenger hunt throughout the town of Hilo! One result of the retreat is a soon to be held teacher's training event that will be open to all the Hilo Foursquare churches. Leah Ho, an attendee, wrote: "*Thanks, again, for the info. I tell you, you guys had all that I needed to hear. We just started building our teams. Now we can strengthen them.*"

Cynthia Brandt – Colorado *Connections* 2004 was a wonderful time for the children's ministry leadership of the Rocky Mountain and Mile High Districts to spend focused time together. Relationships with one another were strengthened, and many new friendships were found. Our district supervisors, Sam Rockwell and Jim Van Dyke who spoke to the value of our mission and encouraged our personal growth, challenged us. Each participant left with refreshed hearts, great ideas and practical resources. The sparks that fly when children's ministers spend time together fuels the passion that helps us keep going. The attendees are asking, "When are we going to do it again? Can we spend more time together, next time?"

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: CM CONNECTIONS IN YOUR DISTRICT

We have barely begun to "scratch the surface." However, we are planning several more retreats and exploring other options for leadership development. If you are interested in planning a *CM Connections* retreat for your district, or finding out if there is one near you, please contact Lynn Sawyer at lsawyer@foursquare.org.



Connections Retreats (confirmed)

Ohio Districts (Camp McPherson)
- November 5, 6, 2004

Oregon, Mt. Hood & Columbia Districts
(Camp Crestview) - November 7-9, 2004

Oregon, Willamette District
(Camp Crestview) - February 10-12, 2005

Kansas District - February 2005

Arkansas District - April 22 & 23, 2005

Colorado Districts - April 29 & 30, 2005

Hawaii Districts - August 2005

Connections Retreats in 2005: (tentative)

Arizona & Nevada District

Southern New England District

Ohio Districts

Oregon (Mt. Hood, Columbia Districts)

Pacific Coast District

Mid-Atlantic District

Washington Districts



BACK TO SCHOOL WITH OPERATION KID NET

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As kids share Jesus with their friends at school this fall, the important message for parents and leaders is: they need your support! Our kids are uniquely positioned to influence their world. Contrary to some school administration policies our kids do have the right to express their faith at school (check out the student rights in the article below and on the Operation Kid Net web page at ce.foursquare.org). Here are three simple ways we can help our kids as they head back to school.

Pray for your kids. The message of Jesus is an invasion of light in a dark world that's lost and searching for real answers. Evangelism is a spiritual battle, and our kids need a spiritual covering this fall that prayer uniquely provides. Sending our kids out on this mission without prayer is like pushing them out in the rain without an umbrella. Remember to give your kids the spiritual covering they will need in the days ahead.

Teach your kids. Show them how simple it really is to strike up a conversation with one of their friends about God. Talking to your friends about Jesus is like introducing someone



to your best friend. We have a free evangelism resource kit that is yours for asking. The Operation Kid Net DVD and training manual is making waves across the country, equipping thousands kids to share their faith with others. You can order these materials online at operationkidnet.net. Just click on "Getting Started" and complete the request form.

Encourage your kids. Why do football teams need cheer leaders? Because winning games is often more about inspiration than perspiration. In the same way, our kids need people who will cheer them on. Doubt and disappointment are constant battles that we all face. As our kids head off to school let's cheer them on with encouraging words like "You have what it takes...you can do it!" I've discovered that churches that know how to do this are like kid-magnets in their communities. They are raising up young disciples who believe that they can make a difference.

God created this world with words and we need to do the same. When Jesus spoke to His disciples He used words that helped them live a life their creator intended. He told them they had what it takes with these familiar words, "You're the light of the world."

Here's an idea to help your kids kick-off a winning season at school! Hold a short pep rally at your church during the main service for your all-star, light-of-the-world kids. Pick up some pom-poms and have some fun as you lead the way in cheering for them as they go back to school. Go kids!

OPERATION KID NET

On August 25, Hope Chapel in Hilo, Hawaii launched their kids on a mission to stretch a net across the Big Island. Their children's pastor, Marsha Krieger creatively shared with the congregation the BIG PICTURE with these words,

"Pastor Wayne Cordeiro likes to say that when God wants to reach policemen, He takes Christians, dresses them up as police officers, and drops them into police stations. When He wants to reach teachers, He takes Christians, dresses them up as teachers, and puts them into schools. And when God wants to reach kids, he takes a bunch of Christian kids, dresses them up as students, and deposits them in neighborhoods, schools, and baseball teams throughout this community. Then, He tells them, 'You reach your friends!' 'You reach your peers!' 'You reach your teachers!' 'You do it!' 'Go for it!'"



But our kids can't do this alone. They need us to team up with them. We need to support them in prayer, inspire them, train them, encourage them in their potential, and connect with them in their opportunities."

It's Okay To Talk About Jesus At School!

The official government web site (www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html) says, in part:

In a local educational agency must certify in writing to its State educational agency that it has no **policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools...**

This statement, along with others like it on this government web site, can be summarized by the following guidelines for students on public school campuses.

- Students can pray at any time before, during or after school by themselves and with other students.
- Students can read their Bibles at school.
- Students can say grace before meals.
- Students can share their faith and attempt to persuade their peers.
- Students can express their faith in homework, artwork, written or oral assignments, and during classroom discussions.

For more on kids sharing Jesus at school, check our website, ce.foursquare.org and click on Operation Kid Net.



HOW 20-YEAR-OLDS SEE THE WORLD

Beloit College prepares the Mindset List each fall to help faculty understand incoming freshmen. Here are some highlights from the class of 2007, most of whom were born in 1985:

"Ctrl + Alt + Del" is as basic as "ABC."

They have always had a PIN number.

Bert and Ernie are old enough to be their parents.

Banana Republic has always been a store, not a puppet government in Latin America.



An automatic is a weapon, not a transmission.

There has always been a screening test for AIDS.

Computers have always fit in their backpacks.

They have never gotten excited over a telegram, a long distance call, or a fax.

Test tube babies are now having their own babies.

Stores have always had scanners at the check-out.

They have never been able to find the "return" key.

Directory assistance has never been free.

There has always been Lean Cuisine.

Gas has always been unleaded.

Michael Eisner has always been in charge of Disney.

Source: Leadership, Sum 2004.

on-line resources for adult ministry

SAM Journal, a free on-line magazine for Single Adult Ministries, go to: www.cookministries.com.

Prime On Line, a free on-line magazine for Senior Adult Ministries developed by The Assemblies of God, go to: www.sam.ag.org/primeline.cfm.

www.familylife.com, a web page for families sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ.

www.focusonyourchild.com, an on-line ministry of Focus on the Family offers great trends, resources, and ideas for parent education and support.

www.ce.foursquare.org, features articles, links, and downloadable, free Foursquare doctrinal Bible studies for adults.

GROWING WITH PEOPLE: LISTEN WITH YOUR EYES

excerpted from an article by Michael C. Mack

"Greg, you look like you're thinking. Have you got something to add?"

"Well, now that you mention it..."

How did this small-group leader know that Greg wanted to speak? She noticed he was leaning forward, gesturing with one hand, and had his mouth slightly open. In other words, she noticed his body language. Those who study such things say that 93 percent of all communication is nonverbal. Whether we realize it or not, our bodies provide keys to what we are feeling. How can an awareness of body language help you lead your group?

Practice observation. Try to discern what people are saying beyond their words. For instance, a participant who is leaning forward into the circle may be indicating openness, interest, and a desire to interact. On the other hand, a person with a closed body position - arms folded, leaning back in his chair - may be signifying mistrust, disagreement, or an unwillingness to participate. Nonverbal communication can amplify, clarify, or even contradict what is being said verbally.

Be aware of gestures. People naturally control turn-taking in the flow of a conversation, making eye contact at the end of a

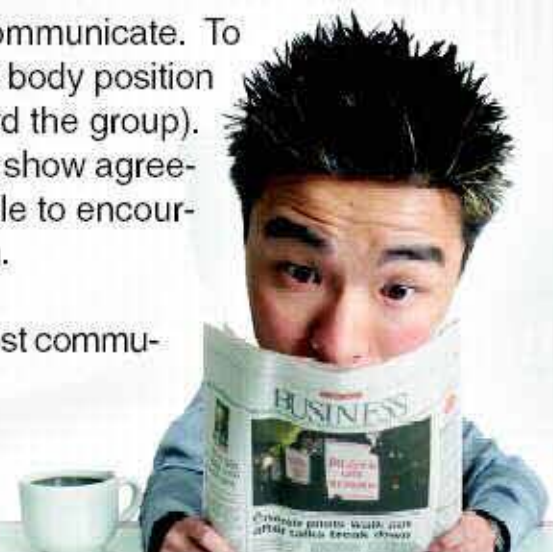
speaking turn or raising a hand to keep someone else from breaking while they're still talking.

Also notice personality, (Does Jill usually gesture or is she not normally very animated?), and the situation (an engaging conversation will evoke different nonverbal reactions than a threatening question will). Combine your observations with questions to draw people out: "Art, you seem even happier than usual today. What's going on?" But be careful: Don't try to be a mind reader! Positioning, gestures, or facial expressions don't always mean something in particular or what you think they mean (Joe might just have an itch).

Use your own body language to communicate. To stimulate conversation, keep an open body position (do not cross your arms or legs toward the group). Lean forward to show interest. Nod to show agreement. Make brief eye contact and smile to encourage conversation from a quiet person.

Using both your eyes and ears can boost communication in your group.

Source: Discipleship Journal, Ju/Au 2004





▶ CURRENT CULTURE: WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

"Remember when politically correct language meant eliminating male-only nouns and pronouns in favor of more inclusive language? 'He' was replaced by 'he or she.' Some activists are calling for new pronouns. The most politically correct are using 'ze' instead of 'he' or 'she,' and 'hir' instead of 'him' or 'her.'"

Source: Gene Edward Veith in *World*, March 27, 2004, as reported in *Discipleship Journal*, Ju/Au 2004

Reverse Mentoring

Leadership magazine encourages Christian leaders to become involved in what the magazine calls "reverse mentoring." Author Angie Ward writes, "As postmodern thought continues to permeate our culture, leaders would be wise to become fluent in the language of the emergent conversation. The best way to do this is to become a willing and intentional student of the culture, to become the humble protégé instead of the mentor."

For all six of Ward's suggestions on this process, check our web site, ce.foursquare.org for the article called, "Reverse Mentoring." Suggestion number four, just to whet your appetite, is to check out these Christian web sites: www.the-next-wave.org; www.theooze.com; www.faithmaps.org.

Source: *Leadership*, Summer 2004



Public Opinion on Public Schools

- Americans are divided on school vouchers: 54 percent say they oppose vouchers and 42 percent favor them.
- Two-thirds of parents of children in public schools say they wouldn't take advantage of a voucher program, even if it paid all the tuition to send their child to a different school.
- Just over half (52%) say that giving students academic skills and other knowledge to prepare them for a job or college is more important than developing students' character (34%).

Source: www.npr.org, as reported in *REV* magazine, Se/Oc 2004

▶ COMPLETE EDUCATION: CUTTING THROUGH THE ARGUMENTS TO THE REAL ISSUE

Do Christian schools provide an unhealthy incubation of students from the non-Christian peers? Shouldn't Christian kids be salt and light in secular schools? Isn't the biblical mandate clear on education of children as the parent's primary responsibility?

We all have passionate opinions about the model of education that we prefer. Cutting through all the arguments, we must remember that at the core of complete education is a Christ-centered understanding of the world. The centrality of God and His Word in education is the only sure method for complete education. Consider these thoughts:

If I can learn my ABC's, can read 600 words per minute, and can write with perfect penmanship, but have not been shown how to communicate with the Designer of all language, I have not been educated.

If I have memorized addition facts, multiplication tables, and chemical formulas, but have never been disciplined to hide God's Word in my heart, I have not been educated.

If I can explain the law of gravity and Einstein's theory of relativity, but have never been instructed in the unchangeable laws of the One Who orders the universe, I have not been educated.

If I can recite the Gettysburg Address and the Preamble to the Constitution, but have not been informed of the hand of God in the history of our country, I have not been educated.

If I graduate from high school with a perfect 4.0 and am accepted at the best university with a full scholarship, but have not been guided into a career of God's choosing for me, I have not been educated.

If I become a good citizen, voting at each election and fighting for what is moral and right, but have not been told of the sinfulness of man and his hopelessness without Christ, I have not been educated.

However, if one day I see the world as God sees it and come to know Him, Whom to know is life eternal, and glorify God by fulfilling His purpose for me, Then, I have been educated!

Adapted and condensed from an article by Carolyn Caines, Teacher to Teacher, Vol. 8 No. 2 May 2004, www.bjup.com.





How Are We Doing in Our Ministry to Children?

It's good to evaluate our progress in ministry to children and families. We also need to be reminded of the reality our kids live in. We also need to know the world our kids live in.

George Barna asked teenagers to reflect on their childhood experiences in Christian churches. He discovered that these young people had developed meaningful friendships at church (87%), discovered the traditions of their church (86%), developed a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ (85%) and had opportunities to serve needy people alongside of their church peers (85%). (Barna.org, July 8, 2003)

The use of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) drugs by children under 5 rose by 23% from 2000 to 2003, according to an analysis by Medco Health Solutions. (cbsnews.com)

From 1990 to 2002, fall school enrollment in grades kindergarten through eighth grade grew from 34 million to 38.4 million. (Census Bureau report in USA Today)

Only one out of every five parents of children under 13 (19%) have ever been spoken to by a church leader to discuss the parents' involvement in the spiritual life of their youngsters. (Barna.org, May 6, 2003)

40% of parents say their greatest obstacle to being more involved in their child's education is school activities during work hours. (Child magazine)

42% of children ages 9 to 13 admit to bullying other kids once in a while. (Child magazine)

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Making Disciples



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