

DIRECTIONS

Foursquare Christian Education



Winter 2003

A newsletter for Christian educators

ce.foursquare.org

Opportunities For Creativity and Courage

Glenn Burris, Jr., General Supervisor

The events of the last 18 months in our movement have caused emotions of anxiety and anticipation. Throughout this process, we have learned a vital principal: change creates opportunities for creativity and courage.

One Saturday night, while pastoring in North Carolina, it began to snow. I didn't like snow on Saturday or Sunday. At the mere mention of snow in North Carolina, people clean out grocery stores, close schools and stay home. That night it snowed 13 inches. And it kept coming. In hopes that some brave souls would show up in church the next morning, I turned on the heat that night and prepared the church. Out of a congregation with an average attendance of 400, eleven people showed up on Sunday morning; my family of four, and seven visitors. The visitors usually traveled to Charlotte for church, but could not make the trip in the severe weather.

I had been pretty frustrated at the lack of attenders and the certainty of a small offering, but was delighted that the people came. The offering was small, but the visitors stayed beyond that Sunday. They became some of the leading members of our congregation. One of them has become a life long friend and mentor. Situations like this remind us that God has a plan beyond our plans! Had the snow not come...it's likely we would have never connected.

In the Foursquare family, we have a new opportunity for creativity and courage. After the initial multiplication of districts, it became apparent that a realignment of the national church departments would be in order. In this season of change, we have continually asked the question, "how best can the local church be served?" In his new book, *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels writes, "the local church is the hope of the world, and its future rests primarily in the hands of its leaders."

In the next several pages, you will read about changes in leadership that have taken place within Foursquare Christian Education. These adjustments have been made with much counsel and prayer with the intention of resourcing, equipping and developing Christian education leaders throughout the nation. I'm convinced that we have capable leaders who are forming a strategy to do just that.

I'm delighted that Rick Wulfestieg will remain a trusted consultant to us and that Rod Light has accepted the invitation to serve as National Minister of Christian Education. We invite your input and response as we make adjustments to better serve the local church. We pray the Lord continually presents you with new opportunities to reach the harvest with courage and creativity!

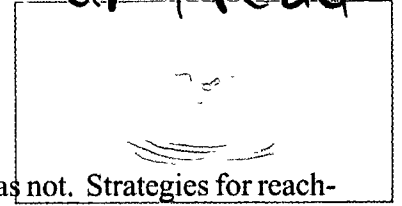
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Advantages of Standing on Our Head

Rod Light, rlight@foursquare.org
National Minister of Christian Education



Some people think Foursquare Christian Education is standing on its head! As I ponder this perspective, it occurs to me that it might not be a negative assessment. I'm reminded of the day I accepted the challenge to stand on my head for the first time. It was an awkward, twisted attempt at inverting my short, hefty, eight year old body. It seemed unnatural at first, until perfect upside down balance was achieved. And balance *was* achieved.

Many small, but significant things happen when you stand on your head. You abandon your comfort zone and begin to notice details that you miss from the traditional upright stance. Supporting the body in a vertical position by balancing on the head results in adjusted vision. People and things once seen as different, more distant, maybe even adversarial become equalized. The obvious change of posture levels the playing field.

The mission of Foursquare Christian Education is to extend the effectiveness of the local church and district ministries through support, consultation, networking, and training.

Foursquare Christian Education has changed. Nothing about us looks the way it did in the past. By comparison, it is truly an upside down approach. From now on, organic, grassroots leaders will drive our ministry. Practitioners in the field will help us identify genuine needs of district and church leaders. Then, networks of volunteers will respond with structured events, relevant resources, and coaching opportunities. Strong, clear, and frequent communication will characterize the ministry of Foursquare Christian Education. Centralized ministry administration will partner with field-based specialists to more effectively meet identified needs.

Our passion will remain the evangelism and equipping of children and adults for the work of the ministry. While our methods may have changed,

be assured our calling has not. Strategies for reaching people for Christ constantly adjust to retain cultural relevancy. We will help train district and church leaders to more effectively make disciples of every new Christian through practical, biblical resources. The timeless truth of the Bible continues to fulfill people in the 21st century. Our commitment to discipleship will be enhanced by our agility and adaptability to reach future generations.

A final characteristic about standing on your head is the sheer vulnerability of the physical position. If someone caught me on my head, it would be a simple proposition to knock me over. We are being encouraged to try new approaches, while maintaining our Spirit-anointed calling. Don't be shocked, disappointed, or upset with us if we adjust after a few foibles. We believe, with God's help, to experience more successes than we do failures.

While I might not be bold enough to attempt a physical headstand at this season of my life, the Lord has seen fit to provide us with perfect balance as we adjust the delivery system of our national C.E. ministry. It may seem that what was up is now down. With an adjustment of vision, we will see more laborers raised up because they are a more integral part of the ministry. Leaders will share clearly articulated mission because the mission will come from the field rather than from headquarters.

A definite adjustment has been made with one clear goal in mind: grow healthy Christians, of all ages, who will touch those around them, changing eternity. Will you join us as we stand on our heads? We would love to have you as part of the team!



Bring them in, bring them in, bring the wandering ones to Jesus!

Rick L. Wulfestieg

Growing up in a small Foursquare church, the familiar song, "Bring Them In," was always followed by a pastoral exhortation taken from John 4:35. "'Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for the harvest.' And it is time to bring the wandering children to Jesus." Grain, when ripe, turns from green to a light yellow or white color, indicating that the time to reap is immediate. So Jesus likens the ready response of the Samaritans in John's gospel. Samaritans, of course, were considered a lower class of people, much like children in many parts of our culture today.

One of the greatest needs of the church is to grasp the potential of the harvest, especially for children. Can we see that one of the whitest parts of the harvest is children? Far more conversions to the church come through children's ministries than through all other channels.

Effective children's ministry is a sleeping giant, lying at the threshold of the church. If aroused from slumber, trained and released, this giant will fill the church with people, provide the resources and set the people to work. Children in ministry can be a church's power-house; it is a drill ground, a laboratory, and an armory. Children's ministry is a builder of churches, a builder of households of faith, a builder of children who powerfully lead their generation into the fullness of the gospel.

As we pray, we can do three specific things:

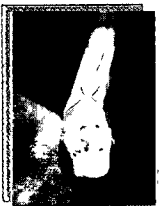
- Lift up your eyes and see the harvest in a way that you have never seen them before.
- Bring them in by making every effort to see how you and your church can embrace and bring to a loving and saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Care for them like Jesus would care for them -- for such is the kingdom of God.

Rev. Rick Wulfestieg has served Foursquare Christian Education as National Minister for the past sixteen years. This year marks his transition to new ministry opportunities (see column at right). He continues to be a respected friend and consultant to our educational ministry expansion.

The harvest is what the paradigm shift is all about in our organization. The great English essayist, Macaulay, speaks of divine discontent. This is the soil in which improvements grow. In my own calling, I have sensed for several months to move on and let a new generation be. It has been a unique privilege to be the youngest and second longest National Minister of Christian Education. God indeed has worked marvelously over these last 16 years. I want to thank my family and you for your great patience and trust. A special thanks to Rod Light, Mary Lou Canata, and my dear wife, Patti, who have been my colleagues and friends.

Fifteen months ago we began to plan a new future for Foursquare Christian Education. Much prayer, excellent research, and many productive meetings were held. From these gatherings, and with wise counsel from our district C.E. representatives and many national leaders, a plan was offered to Glenn Burris to field-base our Christian Education ministries. This includes spiritual formation of children, adult ministries, Bible Institutes, and Christian schools. This plan was accepted in September 2002, and full implementation is underway as you read this newsletter.

Passing the Baton





Leadership Development

Lynn Sawyer, lsawyer@foursquare.org
Training Specialist

Jesus said to His disciples, "Let the little children come to me." In other words, we have the awesome responsibility to *make opportunities* for kids and their families to meet, be touched, and taught by the Savior. What an incredible privilege for "us disciples" to be a part of *church building* from the *foundation* up!

It is our passionate goal to ensure that our churches have everything they need to bring children and families to Jesus, disciple them, and release them to minister. Reaching this goal will require the provision of training and support for our children's ministry leaders. My prayer is that every children's pastor, C.E. director, Sunday school coordinator and teacher will know that they are a vital part in the building of the Kingdom, confident that there are abundant people and material resources available to them.

Our vision is to develop a network of children's ministry leaders who will assist in mentoring, training and supporting the local church. The first step has been to organize an *advisory* or "dream" team. This group of advisors consists of children's pastors from all over the country who will assist in the development of comprehensive training resources and continuing educational opportunities. In addition, the key children's ministry leader from each district will be part of a *mentoring* team, providing resources and training for the children's ministry leaders in their districts.

This will truly be a team effort. We will have a whole country full of ideas and resources! There will be the development of interactive internet resources, curriculum for training teachers, resources that are specifically designed for church plants, multi-district conferences, etc. In short, our vision is to lay the foundation upon which future leadership development will be realized.

For more information regarding children's ministry leadership training and development, please call 888.635.ICFG, extension 4270.

Operation Kid Net



Paul Duris, pduris@foursquare.org
Children's Evangelism Specialist

Operation Kid Net is about kids on a mission to change their world, kids bringing kids to Jesus. We believe that God has already positioned our kids across the country to form a net that strategically places them in neighborhoods, sports teams and schools. This everyday proximity is what gives them significant advantage over adults. Our kids form the net that God wants to use to reach their world.

Operation Kid Net is a vision for reaching the lost by stretching a net across the nation. Imagine what could happen if our kids across America could join together to bring their friends to Jesus. To accomplish this dream, our first step is to publically commission every child, launching them on this life-changing mission. Our kids need people who will help them believe that with God's help they can do something great.



Children's Camping

Martha-Dale Lesmes, mlesmes@foursquare.org
Children's Camp Specialist



For generations, children have been going to Foursquare camps to have fun, get to know other kids and meet God in a fresh and new way. They haven't just been taught about God, but have been given the opportunity to truly know Him and to grow in Him.

I am a product of the Foursquare camping tradition. Some of the most pivotal spiritual times in my life were at kid's camps. There in the mountains, away from home and it's distractions, God was able to meet me in profound ways, time and time again. As I lived my life, throughout the year, off the mountain I was able to walk out what God had spoken or started in my life on the mountain.

As an adult it thrills me to be able to see God continue to do His miracle work in the lives of children who go to camp. With multiplication, we have even more opportunities for children to meet God because we have so many more camps for children to attend.

We are available for consultation with district leadership. We will host two camp training events this year, as well as offering materials that will help a district children's camp representative walk through the development and implementation of camp. Our CE website is under construction which will eventually include a list of speakers throughout the country, successful ideas from different districts, and recommended resource materials. We encourage district leaders to call or email with any questions you may have.

We are pleased to announce the availability of the resource, "Children's Camp in a Box." This resource includes information on program ideas, guidelines for staffing, and training materials. A CD-ROM is included that has reproducible registration materials and other forms, which can be customized for your district camp. The CD will also include clip art to help leaders develop promotional materials. Other resources are also being developed and will be made available through email updates to district supervisors.

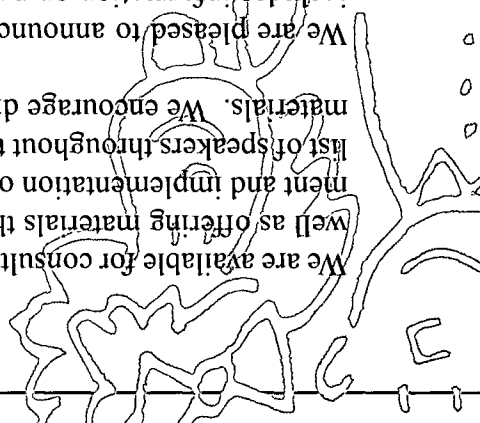
Children's Camp in a Box will be available to district appointed children's camp leaders on March 1. For more details, call Foursquare Christian Education, toll-free, at 888.635.ICFG, extension 4270.

we can do something great for Him.

church are an important part of this net. Together, by email at pduris@foursquare.org. The kids at your check our website, ce.foursquare.org, or write to us

For detailed information about Operation Kid Net, A "Tackle Box" is being completed for Operation Kid Net that will provide kids with simple ways to share the good news with others. Other tools are being completed to help churches prepare their children as this great net is cast out.

On January 12, 2003, Terry Risser, senior pastor at Florence Avenue Foursquare Church in Santa Fe Springs, California, was the first to commission the kids at his church with Operation Kid Net. After worship, the children were invited to the front of the sanctuary. The hands and hearts of all in attendance were stretched out to the kids as Pastor Terry commissioned them. After the prayer, kids moved to another location on campus where they received their marching orders, a Jesus fish pin and encouragement to "Reach One for Him."



Foursquare Bible Institutes

New Wineskins

Dr. Daniel Hedges, dhedges@foursquare.org
National Director, Foursquare Bible Institutes

Peter Wagner called it the new wineskin in theological education. He was referring to the phenomenal emergence of Bible institutes and schools of ministry throughout the body of Christ as a significant alternative to traditional theological education. His own career mirrors this remarkable trend. Leaving his prestigious chair at Fuller Theological Seminary after decades of successful work as the church growth expert, he is now pioneering a nonacademic school of ministry in Colorado Springs. Utilizing what he calls the “impartation model” he is making a new and somewhat controversial mark in theological training empowering his students with a more practical and spiritually vital experience than traditional education affords.

Three years ago, I was asked to write an article for *Ministries Today Magazine* about this new trend in theological education. For over two decades I had been working with various phases of developing Bible institutes as professor and ministry consultant with Regent University, Oral Roberts University, and my own organization. I eventually became involved in the accreditation of institutes becoming full-fledged colleges.

The article caused a response from pastors and institute leaders that was overwhelming. It was apparent that churches throughout the body of Christ are doing serious work in developing new approaches to leadership training and are asking for help. As the growth and multiplication momentum builds in our own denomination, we must fulfill the greatest mandate for quality leaders to serve God in the ever expanding harvest.

To recognize every healthy church as a potential training center and take intentional steps to adequately empower those churches to succeed in the training mission is the practical answer.

Recently, our family leaders passed a pivotal resolution that states that graduates of ICFG certified institutes will be eligible for international license in the same way only Bible college graduates were in the past. This resolution raises the status of our institutes in recognizing their newly found place of preparing ministry leaders anointed to serve at the highest level.

The resolution was preceded by several strategic developments, many of which were initiated by Rick Wulfestieg and Johnell Loop. At the request of General Supervisor Glenn Burris, we have been commissioned to develop our institute endeavor into a major resource for leadership training within our denomination. Assisted at the national office by Rod Light with his strong background in educational leadership, we have begun to reach out and serve the over 100 institutes already identified.

We are seeking out many more who are yet to become involved in a program that is certain to provide many practical resources and solutions they are seeking. In our first several weeks of operation, various significant meetings are being held including the annual institute symposium, meetings with officials of ICFG and our Foursquare colleges, and the newly formed presidential commission on education. New wineskins are ready to be filled with the best of God’s resources to see Foursquare leadership development move forward.



Dr. Daniel Hedges became the national director of Foursquare Bible Institutes in October. His extensive experience at Oral Roberts University and Regent University and as a Foursquare leader and church planter have equipped him to effectively influence the future of this significant arena of leadership development within our movement

The Role of Foursquare Bible Colleges

As the institute initiative develops, our colleges promise to be more essential to our movement than ever. Undoubtedly, they will continue to serve in the unique role they have as the primary agency for training high quality pastors, missionaries, church planters and other ministry leaders. They will also provide leadership, educational resources, and credibility to our emerging institutes.

Will these new institutes compete for the limited number of students who could attend our colleges? Objectively speaking there is little overlap between students choosing a Bible college or an institute sponsored by their local church. The institute primarily serves the over twenty-five adult who is established in a community, with a home, family, and job. They likely will not relocate for a college education at this stage of their lives.

Benefits for our Foursquare Colleges

The short list looks like this:

- Colleges can recruit institute students and graduates seeking transfer and degree completion.
- Colleges can market their adult degree completion programs to this ready made group.
- Colleges can market distance learning courses by internet, correspondence, and other valid delivery systems to institutes.
- Colleges have educational resources like textbooks, instructional videos, course materials, and other resources that institutes need to purchase for their programs.
- Colleges have degree programs that can enable institute instructors to upgrade their education qualifications.

Foursquare Bible Institute Manual

Coming April 2003 on CD-ROM
 Updated directives
 Expanded initiatives
 Revised guidelines
 Contact Rod Light, 888.635.ICFG,
 ext. 4270 for details

10 Reasons Why Institutes Are Essential for Foursquare Multiplication

1. As excellent as our colleges have been in providing training for our movement, it is no longer practical to assume they can adequately provide for the entire need.

2. Healthy churches have the resources to recruit, train, and deploy quality leaders.

3. Produced by strong churches with a vision for leadership development, institutes are strategically positioned to provide leaders where needed.

4. Institutes are uniquely prepared to train those high potential adults already involved in local church leadership.

5. Institutes provide extraordinary opportunities for experiential education, internships and on the job training.

6. Colleges and seminaries have never been so interested in supporting and networking with church institutes in the shared mission of leadership training.

7. Because of the recent ICFG resolution, Foursquare ministers can now meet the education requirement of licensing through qualified institutes.

8. Foursquare institutes can offer specialized training at new, strategic locations.

9. Our denominational mandate of multiplication requires more quality training venues than ever before.

10. Institutes provide training flexibility ranging from personal mentoring to formal college level education.



Relevant Resources

How To Start a Christian School

ce.foursquare.org

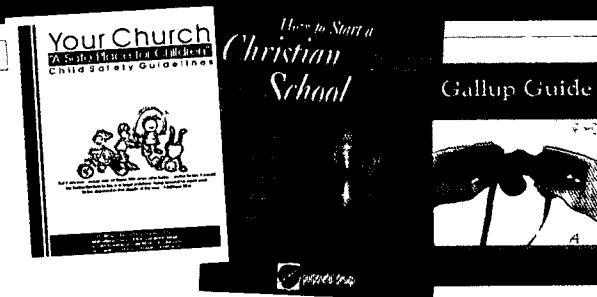
Through special arrangement with ACSI, (Association of Christian Schools International), we make available this manual for Foursquare churches investigating the possibility of a Christian school. Regularly priced near \$100, this resource is a gift from Foursquare Christian Education as part of a pre-launch process which includes an 18 month study in cooperation with the district supervisor and Foursquare Christian Education staff.

The Gallup Guide - Reality Check for 21st Churches

by George Gallup, Jr. and D. Michael Lindsay

www.grouppublishing.com

George Gallup writes, "The sons of Issachar (1 Chr. 12:32), apparently an extraordinary group of people, had the spiritual discernment to perceive God's hand upon David and wisely chose the proper course of history at a pivotal moment in Israel's history." Gallup believes that his latest book will enable leaders to harness the power of survey research and become twenty-first century sons of Issachar. Easy-to-follow guidelines and surveys are included to help leaders gather information that is reliable and accurate.



Your Church: A Safe Place for Children

2003 edition

ce.foursquare.org

Completely updated and more user-friendly, this edition of the Child Safety Guidelines offers step by step process for church leaders to develop a workable safety policy for their children's ministry. Building on the success of previous editions, and using new resource information, leaders will find practical referrals and documents to help them in this all important process. Also included in this edition is a comprehensive listing of resource agencies, listed by state, which are available to be of assistance to churches and other volunteer organizations as they screen workers.

The 2003 edition of Your Church: A Safe Place for Children will be ready for release on CDRom in February. For your complementary copy, please email rlight@foursquare.org or call toll free, 888.635.ICFG, extension 4270.

Making Disciples
Serving the Foursquare church through
support, consultation, networking, and training.



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