

# DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

SUMMER 1991

NATIONAL DEPT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
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Volume 12

## THE CHURCH - A PLACE TO BELONG, A PLACE TO BECOME

**Y**ou don't belong here! Has that ever been communicated to you? If it has, welcome to the company of those who did not belong and were not becoming.

A "Decade of Doubt," a phrase ascribed to the 90's, takes on deep significance in challenging the church to be a place to belong and a place to become. The church's active form and function must be to help people feel that they BELONG and that they can BECOME what God intended them to be. Some can be sceptical, yet statistics tell us that the Church is still the most trusted institution in the U.S.

Jesus, the head of the Church, interacted with people during His earthly ministry in a way that provided an environment for them to belong and to become. No better example of this is His relationship with the Apostle Peter. Peter really didn't grow up and grow out until Jesus lovingly and patiently encountered him.

In Christian Education ministry where do we begin and what do we do to minister a healthy and "right kind" of belonging that helps people grow up and able to grow out?

- First, as Jack Hayford stated, "BRING THEM TO JESUS and leave them there." There must be personal involvement in helping people become "fastened" to Jesus, where they know - that they know - that Jesus has a powerful hope in them (just as He has in you!) Romans 8.

- Second, BE A CHURCH THAT CAN BE COUNTED ON. People are looking for relationships that they can count on. They want to be in a church with people that they can trust emphatically. In the 80's the buzzwords for the church were need, analysis and fact finding; they will be replaced by words such as character and ethics.

- Third, BE A CHURCH THAT IS FRIENDLY TO ALL. How user friendly is your church? Tragically, it has been said that "the friendly church is only friendly to the people they want to be friendly to." Is there an environment in your church that nurtures a sense of belonging? If not, will you be a catalyst for change?

- Fourth, BE A CHURCH THAT AFFIRMS. Sincere words like, "We believe in you" can change the whole countenance of a person. Do we set people up to fail in their Christian life or do we help them succeed? A pastor's or teacher's affirming words and actions can bring that ray of hope. People need to know that God believes in them, but equally so, they must know that you believe in them and are willing to make an investment in them.

- Fifth, BE A CHURCH THAT IS PATIENT. It takes time to help people grow and become in Jesus Christ. Elders in the church are called such because of the time and depth of experience in becoming a mature believer - one who belongs and one who is becoming.

Our staff joins you in this Summer '91 Directions for Christian Educators in discovering how we BELONG and how we can BECOME all that our eternal Father God has created us to be.

Please take a moment to look through this packet and pass on the materials that will be helpful to your staff.

I thank God that we "belong" to Him and are learning to "become" together.



*Rick Wulfestieg,  
Minister of Christian Education and  
Director of Foursquare Publications*

# Jesus Involved His Students

by Ed Stewart

We often refer to Jesus as the Master Teacher, and the Scriptural record of His earthly ministry gives evidence that He was a master at teaching people by involving them in His message.

**Hearing.** Retention through learning only is one of the lower levels of learning, yet Jesus used the method of lecture on many occasions to communicate truth to the disciples and the multitudes. But even Jesus' "lectures" were presented in such a way that those who listened were drawn into His message.

"A farmer went out to sow his seed," Jesus stated as He began to tell a crowd about the importance of receptive hearts (Matthew 13:3). In an agricultural community, a lesson on a receptive heart was easily understood in terms of soil and seeds.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish," Jesus said (Matthew 13:47). Fishing was a mainstay in the culture during Jesus'

ministry. Jesus was a model lecturer in taking people from the known to the unknown through the use of parables and familiar illustrations.

**Seeing.** Jesus knew the importance of learning through the "eye gate," as evidenced by His use of visual aids in teaching.

Though He did teach in the Temple, His most notable discourses took place outdoors.

From the sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 we find such statements as, "A city on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14); "Look at the birds of the air" (Matthew 6:28). In each case Jesus could point to a visible tie in His verbal presentation to a concrete image for the mind to grasp.

When teaching about giving, Jesus and His disciples "sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury" (Mark 12:41).

Whenever it was appropriate Jesus used a visual point of reference such as coins, fish, grain, sheep, and shepherds to increase the retention of His listeners. He was master at helping people see the Word of God as well as hear it.

**Doing.** The greatest retention in learning comes from the level of what we do. Jesus employed these principles also by actively involving His disciples in the ministry with Him. He believed that His men would learn by doing, and so He involved them in ministry at a practical level.

During the feeding of the 5,000 He said to His disciples, "You give them something to eat" (Luke 9:13). Jesus gave His followers numerous opportunities to be involved in His message and thus realize the maximum potential for the learning experience.

*From "How People Learn" by Ed Stewart  
Intl. Center for Learning, Ventura, CA 1979*

## General Do's and Dont's For Teaching:



### Do's

- ☛ DO clean up and straighten the room before leaving.
- ☛ DO assign one teacher to greet children at the door.
- ☛ DO have the teacher who greeted children in the beginning manage the picking up of the children.
- ☛ DO be sure the custodian is at least 16 or older that is dropping off and picking up the child. DO ask for I.D. if you are not sure of the person.
- ☛ DO handle problems right away (as opposed to waiting for someone else to point out the problem to you).
- ☛ DO check birth dates for appropriate class placement. A good rule of thumb is to base it upon a school's method of age/classroom placement.

### Dont's

- ☛ Don't accept an ill child. Look for symptoms, such as a runny nose, cough, or diarrhea.
- ☛ Don't accept a sleeping child. Tell the parent you will accept the child once he/she is awake. It is disturbing for a child to wake up in a strange place.
- ☛ Don't discuss problems you had with the child's parents until you have had a chance to talk with the C.E. Director or Sunday school Superintendent. However, have the parents remove a child that is biting or hitting other children.

# PLEASE TELL ME HOW

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## *How may a small church recruit and train qualified workers for its Christian Education ministries?*

Dr. Robert Fillinger, Professor of Christian Education at Gordon-Conwall Seminary

It's natural to want an easy answer, a magic formula that could be applied in every situation. Of course, there are no magic formulas because every situation is different. Besides, few things that are worthwhile come without hard work and commitment.

If there are a few people in your church who are convinced that training leaders is one of the most important things you can do, you are on your way to a training program that can work. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful:

- ✓ **DECIDE WHAT THE TRAINING PROGRAM SHOULD ACCOMPLISH.** Set goals. Don't be too ambitious at first. Two or three goals are enough. For example, one might be, "We want our Sunday school teachers to learn several new teaching methods." The goals should reflect the needs of your workers.
- ✓ **TURN THE MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY TEACHERS MEETINGS INTO A TRAINING SESSION.** Business may be taken care of at some other time, or briefly at the beginning of the meeting. Here is an hour where you can accomplish a great deal. If you don't have a monthly or quarterly meeting for the purpose of training workers, consider starting one.
- ✓ **PROVIDE ON THE JOB TRAINING.** Almost every Sunday school has an exceptionally good teacher. Find someone who may not be ready to teach yet (a promising high school student, a young Christian, or anyone else who is willing) and make that person an apprentice to the model teacher. The apprentice will learn by observing and assisting. This is on the job training. It is less threatening than putting an inexperienced teacher in a class alone.
- ✓ Get together with several churches to **SPONSOR YOUR OWN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE.** By pooling your resources you will be able to invite a Christian education expert from a nearby Christian college or seminary, or a minister of education from a larger church, or a denominational Christian trainer. To begin, form a cooperative committee with people from the various churches that are going to be involved. Set up the conference to meet the needs these churches have, then you're on your way.
- ✓ **GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS** to your workers to attend Christian education conferences in your area. Encourage attendance by providing babysitters or assuming other responsibilities for them. Watch for notices of these conferences in Christian periodicals or your local paper, or inquire from the Department of Education.
- ✓ **MAKE LEADER RECRUITMENT SERIOUS BUSINESS.** Never make announcements like "We need a teacher for the Busy Bee Class." Or, "We're really short of teachers, does anyone want to volunteer?" That cheapens leader recruitment in the church. The Christian education committee should pray about personnel needs and discuss specific persons. Go to a person and say "The Lord has directed us to you. We believe you can do this and we'll help you do it." Just be sure you follow through if you talk to people this way.

FOR INFORMATION OF TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MATERIALS PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FOURSQUARE PUBLICATIONS

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# PROTECTING THE CHILDREN OF YOUR CHURCH

**I**gnoring the possibility that child abuse may happen in your church, won't keep it from happening. The church must be a "safe place" for children, a place where they will not be violated. What can you do to prevent child sexual abuse from happening in your church?

## EDUCATION

Become educated in the area of sexual abuse through reading books or attending seminars. A *BETRAYAL OF INNOCENCE*, by David B. Peters (WORD Books), acquaints you with the scope of the problem in families, helps you recognize signs of abuse and contains useful appendixes on where to go for further help.

A church should check with local (county) and state laws regarding the responsibility of the church and staff in sexual abuse cases.

Training and counsel should be given in how to protect both staff and children. For instance teachers should counsel children in an open place with others in plain sight, never out of sight, because such action may open the door for sexual misconduct. Even if there is none, it could be construed as inappropriate behavior.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

One church asks ushers to keep close track of who comes in and out of worship services. The Christian Education director sends a yearly letter to parents asking that they bring their children to their classes and restrooms instead of just sending them.

Child safe tags are given as parents check in their children to their respective class. The parent and child have the same number. To pick up a child the adult must show the number tag. This prevents kidnapping.

During the initial interview with all prospective new workers questions such as: What brought you to our church? What makes you stay? How did you come to Christ? What is your church background? Have you worked with children before? In what capacity? Why do you want to work with children? What affirmations have you received from children? What do other adults see as your strengths with children?

If there were danger flags about a potential worker, further checking should follow or the person should not be allowed to work with children at that time.

How can you warn children without scaring them? Teach them respect for their own bodies and that God made us so special that we deserve privacy; not that our private parts need covering up because they are dirty.

Let children know secrets should be about fun surprises like birthdays and gifts. If someone wants them to keep a secret that's not fun, it is a clue they know that they know that they are doing something wrong.

Give children practice in making choices so that if they are approached by an abuser they have the power to say "NO", and if forced to do something against their will they have the choice of telling someone afterwards.

## PROTECTING YOUR CHURCH

Satan uses sexual abuse to rob people of right relationship with God. Children who are abused get a distorted view of God. Abusers are often so filled with guilt they don't think they can ever be forgiven. If you prevent one case of abuse from happening in your church you will be helping someone have the opportunity to experience God's love more fully.

**Child Abuse Education Resources:**  
*Little Ones Activity Workbook* by Lynn Heitritter (\$5) and *Little Ones Teaching Guide; Protecting Your Children From Sexual Assault* by William Katz (\$5).

Write to:  
New Life Homes and Family Services, 3361 Republic Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Article condensed from Christian Leadership, December 1990 - Jane McClain



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# *To The Sunday School Director*

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Just because a teacher has taught a lesson does not necessarily mean that learning has taken place. Many elements determine if learning will occur in a Sunday School class or department. The learning environment within the classroom can be as important to learning as the teaching that takes place there.

As Sunday School director, you have the task of helping your Sunday School improve its learning environment. A good way to begin is by evaluating the learning environment room by room. By going on such a "space walk", you can learn a lot about the quality of teaching that is taking place in your Sunday School. Observe the overall condition of the room such as the paint and floor coverings. Check to see if furnishings are appropriate for the particular age group. Take note of rooms that are poorly lighted. Sketch a floor plan, and measure each room for square footage. Be sure to do this for each room being used for Sunday School and those not presently being used. Afterwards, you can begin to take steps toward the improvement of the learning environment of your Sunday School.

Let us take a look at some of the things to take into consideration when evaluating and improving your learning environment.

## *Give Major Emphasis to Preschool*

Parents of preschoolers do not want to compromise when it comes to the care and teaching of their children. As I greet and observe preschool parents who visit our church for the first time, I notice some important things, including

obvious apprehension. Think about it, they are about to leave their precious little ones in the hands of strangers in an unfamiliar place. A sensitive and caring preschool worker and an attractive preschool facility can help alleviate their fears. Preschool facilities, whether good or bad, form a lasting first impression on parents. A well-lit, clean, well-staffed, and properly furnished preschool is a must for a church that is serious about reaching the unchurched.

If you are considering upgrading some of your educational space, do not neglect your preschool departments. Surveys have shown that a good preschool is a deciding factor for young couples seeking a church home. We have been able to grow our young married department by moving them into the auditorium, and starting two new classes. We spent time and money expanding and upgrading our preschool departments. New floor covering, fluorescent lights, and a fresh coat of paint can make an amazing difference to the learning environment.

## *Space - Who Needs What?*

As Sunday School director, you should know the square footage needs for each age group in your Sunday School. The I.C.L. Sunday School Standards<sup>1</sup> is a good resource for this information. By evaluating the enrollment of a class or department and comparing it with the recommended square footage per person, you can determine the amount of space a given class or department needs. Such knowledge also helps you recognize when a class or department has outgrown its assigned space.

A growing church will often find it necessary to move and change the rooms of classes and departments. This can sometimes be a difficult task, especially if a class has taken ownership of a particular room. Communicate to your workers the need to be flexible and cooperative when room assignments need to be changed to accommodate for growth.

Shortly after coming to my present church, I discovered that some of our youth rooms had been painted orange and purple. Work with your pastor and building and grounds committee to establish a policy regarding the painting of classrooms. Neutral colors, such as off-white, will add, not detract, from the learning environment.

## *Furnishings, Equipment, and Materials*

A good way to motivate and keep your Sunday school workers is to provide them what they need to do their job effectively and creatively. If you do not already have one, set up a supply room for your workers, and then keep it well stocked with supplies. Contact your finance committee regarding budget funds that may be available to purchase new furnishings or equipment. God bless you as you seek to use the facilities and resources God has give you as a means of reaching the lost and developing the saved.

1. *This Gospel Light resource is available through Foursquare Publications*

*This article is edited from Sunday School Leadership Magazine R. Frank Capiaux, February 1991*

## Your Church Needs a Daddy Track

Dave Simmons, whose Dad the Family Shepherd conference has challenged many readers of this newsletter, is urging churches to develop a Daddy Track. What Dave means is establishing a fatherhood training ministry in a church.

"The church must train men to be effective family shepherds," says Dave, "so they may be able to pick up the cycle again and train their sons to be effective family shepherds."

Simmons' Daddy Track is not a prepackaged curriculum but rather a set of objectives and a strategy for influencing men over a period of years. The four main objectives as he sees them are:

- 1. To provide professional evaluation services (like the Personal Fathering Profile developed by the National Center for Fathering).
- 2. To provide men's assemblies (Dave's seminars are a great tool for this purpose).
- 3. To provide leadership training (several fathering agencies can do this job very effectively).
- 4. To provide a system of E-Teams or accountability groups for men.

One of the biggest challenges in developing a Daddy Track, according to Dave, is to overcome the inertia that keeps men from getting involved. Men will hold back from focusing on their fathering. To motivate men, Dave suggests these strategies:

- 1. Give them a vision of the significance and importance of their family efforts.
- 2. Give them a scientific evaluation (Personal Fathering Profile) of their fathering style so they can see where they need to grow.

- 3. Give them the Scriptures on the family and allow the Holy Spirit to work.
- 4. Convince them they can forget the past and all its mistakes and start over with a clean record.
- 5. Give them hope by proving that no child, wife or husband is beyond the rehabilitation reach of God.
- 6. Show them how they can master the techniques of "father-craft" and "husband-lore."
- 7. Show them that everyone else is just like them: We all need help. It's no disgrace to have a need. The shame is accepting mediocrity and not getting help.
- 8. Prove to them the value of a small group and remove their irrational fear of intimacy and vulnerability.
- 9. Demonstrate that accountability is a friend.
- 10. Convince them that the key to improvement is gradual change over a long period of time.

For information about developing a Daddy Track in your church, contact Dave Simmons at Dad the Family Shepherd, P.O. Box 21445, Little Rock, Arkansas 72221 or call (501)221-1102.

## One Day in the Life of America's Children

2,795	Teenagers get pregnant.
1,106	Teenagers have abortions.
372	Teenagers miscarry.
7,742	Teens become sexually active.
623	Teenagers get syphilis or gonorrhea.
1,849	Children are abused or neglected.
3,288	Children run away from home.
1,629	Children are in adult jails.
135,000	Children bring a gun to school.
437	Children are arrested for drinking or drunken driving.
211	Children are arrested for drug abuse.
2,989	See their parents divorce.
1,512	Teenager drop out of school.
34,285	People lose jobs.

Source: Children's Defense Fund, 1990

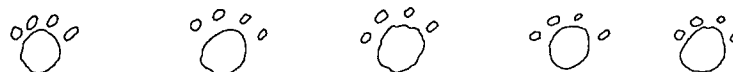
# Never Can Say Goodbye to Special People

Frank & Pam George have been on loan and assignment with the National Department of Christian Education and Foursquare Publications for nearly two years. This June they will return to their home in Clackamas, Oregon to serve as children's pastors at the Sunnyside Foursquare Church. During these past twenty months they have partnered with us to help with the rapid growth of the Good News Bears and the continued development of Foursquare Publications. Their laughter, attention to detail, and most of all their commitment to Christ has been so vividly lived out as friends and co-workers. They are leaders who create an environment for action. Frank and Pam will continue to advise and help in training conferences. So we won't be saying goodbye, just that we love them and thank God for the opportunity to work so well together!

Elaine Easter has joined the staff to help in coordinating future development and training of the Good News Bears. Elaine serves as Good News Bears Director at the Burbank, CA Foursquare Church and is a student at L.I.F.E. Bible College in San Dimas, CA.



Frank & Pamela George



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## Good News From Gethsemane Foursquare Gospel Church

The entire congregation of the Gethsemane Foursquare Gospel Church in Anderson, Indiana participated in a bake and candy sale directed by Missions Coordinator, Candy Greenlee. This fund raiser was to send their pastors, Michael and Reba Strickrod, to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti to conduct a teaching seminar for leaders and to introduce the Good News Bears Club. The congregation donated enough materials for a Good News Bears Club of 30 children for an entire year. This includes lessons, supplies, crafts and games. The Betty Lukens 3-year program of flannel Bible lessons was also donated.

## Vacation Bible School



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If you would like to receive bundle (5 or more) copies of the newsletter to distribute in your church, please contact us. For a small charge to cover shipping costs, we would be glad to assist you in this.

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, we would appreciate hearing from you.

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