

DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

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With the dawning of each new year comes the anticipation and wonder of what God has planned for us. As you begin to plan for any Christian Education outreach, there are 10 steps you may want to consider.

- 1 Plan to pray — immediately
- 2 Plan your dates — timely
- 3 Plan your personnel — wisely
- 4 Plan your recruitment — carefully
- 5 Plan your staff training — properly
- 6 Plan your curriculum — thoughtfully
- 7 Plan your schedule — early
- 8 Plan your promotion — deliberately
- 9 Plan your follow-up — subjectively
- 10 Plan your evaluation — objectively

WAIT A MINUTE!

I can't keep up with the church schedule as it is; I'm already "beyond myself." So is the feeling when we begin to talk about ministry beyond our present format. Where is the balance in planning an effective Christian Education calendar? There is the Easter program, Summer camps, V.B.S., Promotion Sunday, Fall Harvest party, and Christmas - just to name a few.

As a New Year begins let me encourage you that God has great plans to move you and me "beyond ourselves." You may say, "That's great, but now what am I going to have to do? I already feel like I'm maxed and taxed out." Moving us "beyond ourselves" is not intended to add any drudgery to our life. Rather, that He would gently nudge us to add insight and foresight to a people in need.

Throughout history men and women have accomplished great works of evangelism because they believed God to be beyond themselves!

WHERE DOES GOD BEGIN?

He begins with us. A fresh work of outreach ministry must be accompanied by a willing, caring, believing, and

daring person of God. One of the many beauties of Abraham's life was that he exemplified all of these characteristics. As God speaks to you and me about reaching out regarding new and old ways of evangelism, may we accept the vision He desires to place in our hearts to see new life take place through Jesus Christ.

A Sunday School teacher in 1961 decided to have a V.B.S. with four elementary children. That church was blessed with 28 people. Finances were small. Smaller yet was the 8 x 6 Sunday school room where they met. Today, because of her vision and determination, there is one more Foursquare missionary, pastor, church elder, and a National Foursquare Christian Education Minister.

When God births an idea or a possibility, please let Him create the reality.

God believes in us! If it was up to you and me to plan for a leader to deliver Israel, Moses would have probably been at the bottom of the list. The difference is that God believed in him and Moses simply, but powerfully, believed in God!

So let us embrace the fact that "God believes in us" and depends upon us for the deliverance of a people.

God blesses US with opportunities that are beyond ourselves! Whether it is a Vacation Bible School that hasn't taken place for 19 years in your fellowship or starting a Bible Club on Wednesday nights or a food give away, let God bless you with vision and provision. He wants to bless you beyond yourself!

Will you agree with me in prayer that whatever His call to ministry is, we would be willing to go "beyond ourselves" to glorify God!

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).



Who Forgot Jerusalem?

As churches go, Lord, ours is doing pretty well in evangelism.

A vigorous Evangelism Explosion program Thursday nights.

Decent visitor recognition and follow-up procedures.

Some really fruitful investigative Bible studies going on in several people's homes.

An emphasis this quarter in adult Sunday school on web-relationship evangelism.

People responding well by bringing friends and neighbors to films and church programs geared to evangelism.

"Friendship Sundays" twice a year, when visitors are presented with a low-key, no-threat explanation of the gospel.

But I feel guilty today, Lord.

It's about that kid. The one in the rented house beside the church parking lot. I park next to his garage each day when I come to work.

Not exactly "our kind of people," I guess. Lots of times we've had to ask them to move a car they'd parked in our lot. We have such limited parking.

And his motorcycle roaring up and down the alley has really been a nuisance.

Bad enough when I'm in my office working. But *really* unacceptable when a service is in progress.

Last night the custodian saw police cars in our lot and came over to investigate.

The kid had hanged himself yesterday afternoon in the garage. Seventeen years old. Lived with his mother and a younger brother. Been in trouble with the law several times. Often on drugs, the neighbors said.

I know — I can't minister to *everyone* all the time.

And, Lord, they'd never come to our church — they had connections with another church down the block.

Still . . .

Judea and Samaria are being evangelized pretty well, Lord.

But forgive me for overlooking the Jerusalem across the parking lot.

Terry White
Wooddale Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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10 Ideas for Recruiting Volunteers

1 Ask a number of church members for ideas about who might be interested in this job and who might do it well. Get a number of suggestions, so that if someone turns it down you still have others to ask.

2 Get a group of people involved in recruiting others. This can be a volunteer job in itself.

3 If you have a potential volunteer who is hesitant about doing a certain job, ask them if they would do part of the job. Maybe they could suggest someone to finish it.

4 If you can't find a volunteer in the congregation to do a specific task, ask the local volunteer's bureau. Volunteers don't have to be limited to members of the congregation.

5 Ask a person who has done that job before who they might suggest to continue it. They could also be asked to help train this person.

6 Ask new members if they would undertake this task. If not, ask what they might be interested in.

7 Ask people directly, face to face, if they will volunteer. Don't assume they will respond to a general appeal in the bulletin or on the bulletin board.

8 If anyone expresses an interest in volunteering, FOLLOW UP PROMPTLY. The most often heard remark from those who are not involved is that they volunteered once, but no one ever contacted them.

9 Use the job description to give accurate and adequate information about the job. Don't downplay the duties in order to get a 'yes'.

10 Show a potential volunteer several job descriptions and have him choose the job he would prefer. He might choose more than one, or suggest someone he knows to fill another job.

Adapted from *Volunteers and the Church*. From *Potential to ACTION*, by Val Adolph. Published by William A. Fletcher, Publishing, Delta, BC 1985

DATES TO PLAN FOR

Christian Education Conferences

Eastern District

Ohio District Christian Education Conference — October 10-13, 1989

Great Lakes District

Divisional Sunday School Coordinators — March 20-21, 1989, in Kenosha, WI

Southeast District

Florida and Georgia Christian Education Seminar — January 24, 1989 in Jacksonville, FL

Southern California District

Christian Education/Family Education Conference, February 25, 1989 at The Church On The Way.

Southwest District

Divisional Christian Education Conferences:

Artesia Division - April 1, 1989

Hesperia Division - Sept. 23, 1989

Check with your District Christian Education Representative for Conferences scheduled in your area.

Giving an INGROWN CHURCH an OUTWARD FOCUS

How do you get a church to think beyond its walls?

After a year of following Jesus Christ and being trained by parachurch organizations, my wife and I could have been told, "There is an apartment complex; move in and start a ministry," and we would have understood: move in, meet people, present the gospel in a variety of ways, and perhaps hold a Bible study in our apartment.

Later, when I became a pastor, I found not everyone shared that understanding. When I suggested to people in the church, "Let's have a ministry in that apartment complex," they returned a blank stare.

Ministry meant passing out bulletins, serving on committees, teaching Sunday School, or singing in the choir. In short, ministry had little to do with reaching people beyond our walls. Ministry meant serving the people inside.

I've struggled, prayed, and studied to answer, What does it take to get a church to reach out to the community? How can we move beyond the "fortress mindset?" Here are some of the principles that have helped give an ingrown church an outward focus.

Bring People Face To Face With the Needs

The first way to expand people's vision is getting them to see, up close, the great needs of others.

This is harder than it sounds, because most churches have value systems that don't emphasize getting involved in the complex world outside the church. In many cases, the church has clung to "stay at home" understandings that say, in effect, "God's work is to be done in God's house," not in the world at large.

The rural values of harmony and smallness and maintaining the status quo do have an important place in a church in an urban age, especially within small groups. But to minister effectively to those outside the church,

we have to help our people hold values less tightly.

Highlight Ministers, Not Managers

The best way to encourage people to minister is to show them other people in the congregation who are ministering. A key way to do that is to highlight those doing ministry. Put up pictures of people leading ministries. We list the lay leaders of our target ministries on the back of our weekly bulletin and in our visitor's brochure. At our annual Celebration Sunday, a slide show highlights the people involved in our ministries.

Give Everyone Permission to Minister

When the focus is on skills, lay people realize, I do have some. I've watched a host of people who probably wouldn't perform well in the classroom do a great job in ministries. Over the years, we've tried to communicate that in the Great Commission Jesus already gave everybody permission to minister. If people want the church to recognize their ministry, however, they must meet four simple guidelines:

1. Don't ask for money. (You can ask for money, but if you do, your ministry proposal has to be approved by those responsible for overseeing the budget.)
2. You, not a staff person, must run the ministry.
3. Stay out of morally questionable areas.
4. Stay out of doctrinal disputes.

If they follow these guidelines, they already have permission to launch the ministry.

Most of the time, the four simple guidelines give people who didn't think they could really minister the permission to go ahead. As a result, nearly all of our target groups have come from the minds and initiatives of lay people.

Condensed from an article written by Frank Tillapaugh in LEADERSHIP—Summer 1988 issue
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"A Sunday school teacher doesn't just teach the lesson; that person is the lesson."

Joseph Bayly

"Quality produces Quantity"

Henrieta Mears

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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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Been wondering what to do with the children in your church on Sunday or Wednesday night?



ANNOUNCING. . . .

the **GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB!**

A new club program for children ages 3 thru sixth grade will be unveiled at the International Foursquare Convention in Dallas, Texas, April 25-30, 1989. This relationship-based program is facilitated by exciting activities that promote an atmosphere for spiritual growth for children to be founded on the ROCK — JESUS CHRIST! It encourages Christian growth in the adult leaders who then transmit God's love to the club members.

The next **DIRECTIONS** mailing will be **BEAR-ing** full details on how you can begin a **GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB** in your church this Fall! (Shhh ...a peek into the Bear Cave shows a **LEADERSHIP MANUAL, RESOURCE BOOK** with suggested class outlines, activities, and clip-art, **T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, BADGES, AND ...Oh, no..here comes a bear...gotta run!**)