

# DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

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NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
International Church of the Foursquare Gospel  
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## Leading with Direction

David as a shepherd from the book of Psalms:  
*Shepherd them with integrity of heart and  
with skillful hands lead them... (Psalm 78:72).*

Christian Education leadership is made out of two things: *A great heart and a growing skill.*

If you are going to lead effectively, you need to know the nuts and bolts of ministry. It is real difficult to move ahead with *direction* if you don't understand where and who you are leading.

In this day when we are all concerned that children get a very positive touch from Jesus Christ, children's ministries are vital to the church. In fact, the U.S. is experiencing a mild baby boom over the next 6 to 7 years. If churches are not leading they will be scrambling to meet the increasing needs of these children. Church, let's get ready!

As churches and church leaders we need to adjust to meet the increase of needs. You want a great children's ministry because it is right to care and equip children. Not because it is neat to have a great children's ministry.

In leading with *direction* let's look at five qualities that a good leader needs to possess.

**1** Leadership servants have less need for constant affirmation. Less need because they know the call of Jesus and understand His affirmation (*Well done, my faithful servant.*).

**2** As a leader you need to develop a creative environment. Allow the innovative work of the Holy Spirit to permeate. Creative people must have the opportunity to experiment, even make room for failure. There is a certain amount of

failure with each success. As room is given for creativity, do not risk the whole operation.

**3** A good leader understands the value of making others successful. Leaders are to make others a success, not workers making leaders successful. Leaders must be willing to invest in the fruitfulness of others.

**4** Leaders need to know how to keep fun in what is going on. Have a sense of humor in all you do. Volunteers are not attracted to drudgery. "Don't worry! Be happy!"

**5** Leaders need to say more of what they will do rather than what they won't. Rarely say what we are not going to do but tell them what we will do. That's leadership.

Doug Murren is the Senior Pastor at the Eastside Foursquare church in Kirkland, Washington. The Eastside Foursquare Church was the fastest growing Foursquare church in 1988. This article was condensed from a teaching given at the 1989 Christian Education breakfast in Dallas, Texas.



Pastor Doug Murren

# The Nine Futures of Sunday School

There are transformational changes in Sunday school. Some, like termites, are eating away its foundation. Other changes are strengthening its foundation and assuring its future. Church leaders must realize what is happening, and grab hold of the right ring or they can get thrown from the merry-go-round. What are these changes? And how should church educators respond?

## 1 Sunday School Is Changing From The "Steeple" to the "Foundation."

The Sunday school of the future must become the foundation of the church that grounds believers in doctrine and Godly living.

## 2 Sunday School Is Changing From The Reaching Arm To The Teaching Arm of the Church.

Sunday school can be defined in four ways:

- 1) the reaching arm,
- 2) the teaching arm,
- 3) the winning arm, and
- 4) the maturing arm of the church

But the Sunday school should not throw in the towel on evangelism. Sunday school can be an effective evangelistic outreach when members network their friends into a Bible study group where they can hear the Word of God and be saved. Then, as a result of lifestyle evangelism and the follow-up of class members, these people are not only won to Jesus Christ, but bonded to a church through the Sunday school.

## 3 Sunday School Is Changing From Front-door to Side-door Evangelism.

Front-door evangelism is inviting people into the church where they can hear the Gospel and be converted. This is also called "inviting evangelism," and it implies "event evangelism." This means people are converted as a result of a sermon or a Sunday school lesson.

Side-door evangelism is reaching people through special ministry to their

needs. Statistics reveal that front-door evangelism is not nearly as effective as relationship evangelism, though front-door evangelism will still get some saved. However, as Americans become more concerned about their relationship to one another, side-door evangelism can network friends to the Gospel through classes, cell groups, and special ministries for retarded, deaf, divorced, single parent, or other special needs in the church. The key is to "find a hurt and heal it."

## 4 Sunday School Is Changing From Its Image of Children Only to A Balance for Children and Adults.

Now that there are more adults, we should not minimize our emphasis to children, but balance our endeavors to reach and teach adults. One way to balance the outreach to children and adults is to evaluate our resources. The average Sunday school invests 70 to 80 percent of its budget, staff, and educational space on children, yet adults represent 51 percent of its population.

## 5 Sunday School Is Changing From An Instructional Center to A Shepherding Center.

A Sunday school teacher is the extension of pastoral ministry into the life of the pupils. Everything the pastor is to the larger flock, the Sunday school teacher should be to the Sunday school flock.

## 6 Sunday School Is Changing From Lectures to Bible Study.

The difference between mediocrity

and success in Sunday school teaching is involvement of the student in the learning process.

## 7 Sunday School Is Changing From Enrollment to The Open Hand of Fellowship.

While extending fellowship is more important than numbers and statistics, we must be careful that this trend does not undermine the importance of making commitments and taking responsibility.

## 8 Sunday School Has Shifted In Teaching Emphasis From Ontology to Functionalism.

Christian teaching should emphasize both being and doing. A balance in this area is badly needed.

## 9 Sunday School Can't Use Yesterday's Tools in Today's World And Be In Ministry Tomorrow.

The Biblical principle of preaching, teaching, soul-winning, and ministry to people never changes. But programs and techniques will often change. The original Sunday school was conducted on Sunday afternoon and taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. But now children have public school for their basic education. Public attitudes have changed toward Sunday afternoons so it is difficult to attract people to Sunday school in the afternoon. As a result, Sunday school programs have changed but not the Biblical principles that make it effective.

Condensed by permission from **154 Steps to Get Your Sunday School Going and Growing** by Elmer Towns

## BOUND TO SERVE

by Rick Wulfestieg

Are changes needed? Yes, if the church is to effectively serve a changing world with the message of Jesus Christ. Something needs to be different — not our message or mission — but our methodology. Some of the changes that communities, churches, and classes are facing today and into the 1990's are as follows:

Speed	"The faster the better"
Flexibility	"No more routine schedules"
Convenience	"A mandate, not a luxury"
Tangibility	"What is real, not abstract"
Service	"Care for me"
Experimentation	"A means to a decision"
Choices	"What is your move"

### Quality

"Competence is critical"

Like you, there is a part of me that says wait, I don't want to change our Sunday school hour, children's church, morning worship time and/or any of the gathering times when the church body is assembled.

Yet, we as a congregation are committed to serve in a relevance and balance a changing generation. Living branches bounce back when they are bent. . . dead branches don't. Change is not compromise. Paul wrote, "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more" (1 Corinthians 9:19).

Bound to change. How about you?

# How To Start A GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

(As Done By A Foursquare Church  
Somewhere Deep in Bear Country)

**FIRST,**  
Find a gifted, unsuspecting  
Club Director like Lori Orr.



"Who? Me?"

## SECOND,

Assign the Group Leaders. These people must love God, kids and junk food. Although a sense of humor is optional, it will sustain their life expectancy.



Jaylene & Sans Leister



Cathy Omdal  
(Tim Omdal not shown)



Joyce & Jeff Kougl



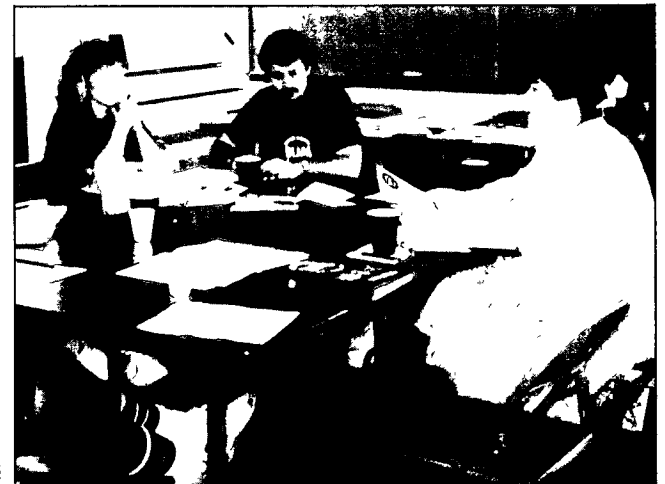
Mindy & Dennis Jenson

## THIRD,

Train the Group Leaders. Ask Elizabeth to come and warn, er..train, them. Good, basic training is essential for the leaders. It will train them to plan club meetings the kids will love to come to church for! Really!



Friday evening Leader's orientation. Everything you need to know about the GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB.



Saturday strategy meeting to plan the actual club meetings. What a fun time!

## **FOURTH,**

Announce the GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB! Having the leaders do a BEAR RAP will really impress the kids!

*Hey, everybody! Listen up!  
We've got some news for you  
It's about a thing that just for kids.  
It's a club that's all brand new  
If you're at least 3 years old  
Or as ancient as sixth grade  
We've planned some real exciting STUFF!  
You guys have got it made.*

*Does this here club have a name?  
Something we all can share?  
Why, yes, in fact from this day on  
It's called the GOOD NEWS BEARS!*



Happenin' Rappin' BEARS Leaders!



"Can you believe the ice cream that kid is inhaling!!!"

## **SIXTH,**

GET READY! You will have the experience of your life! As BEARS leaders you will receive BEAR hugs you won't forget and love that will melt your heart.

Begin a GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB ministry in your church and touch a generation for Jesus!



Group Leaders Mindy and Dennis with some of their POLAR BEARS.

(This story was brought to you by the beary wonderful people at the Lompoc Foursquare Church in Lompoc, CA.)

# Why Should I Go To Sunday School?

One of the most interesting phenomena that goes on in the church world today is the dilemma many people find themselves in regarding Sunday school.

When speaking about Sunday school, most of us think about the need for children to enjoy classes with their own age group taught by a trained teacher who can relate on their particular age level.

But what about the adult and the young adult that questions the need of a Sunday school class? It is an interesting question and one that deserves a straight forward answer. Let me try.

Although the Sunday school movement was started to fill a vacuum in the training of children in the early 1900's, the need among adults is no less acute. It is evident by the way most believers live out their faith that very few adult Christians really know the Bible or its basic teachings.

This void of Bible knowledge comes from the misunderstanding of the teaching ministry. Ephesians 4:11-15 explains the interplay between the four classes of "equipping ministries" given by Jesus to His church: The "apostle" or leader of the ministry team, the "prophet" or person who gives revelational input and messages, the "pastor" who gives counsel and relational ministry, and the "teacher" who gives instruction and clarification to the meaning of the Scripture.

Clearly most churches are led by the apostle, or prophet style of ministry. Hence, most of the messages have to do with confrontation of life-style, commitment and direction for the body as a whole. But these sermons, as most of us call them, are not intended to be instructional in the sense of bringing overall understanding of the Bible and what it teaches.

This particular area of ministry is very important for the well being of the believer. It is the teacher that provides the undergirding and the support for real genuine life changes.

"...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

In other words, genuine disciples are those who stay involved in His teachings, and as they do, the truth of those teachings sets them free.

Most anointed teachers are the most powerful in classes up to one hundred people. They are able to cover many of the needs of the people present through the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit as they share the Word. Therefore, the Sunday school adult class environment is perfect for the fullest expression of this ministry.

Most people are at different levels of Bible knowledge. Therefore, the fact that several adult classes are offered assures the best learning format for all believers.

Sunday morning is the time when most Christians choose to come as a family to worship. Because of this, it is very easy for the pastoral staff to add one hour to that time and, by shortening the worship service just fifteen minutes, offer both prophetic input and teaching ministry for the children and, just as importantly, for the adults.

Sunday school is a time when the whole Body can be fed systematically a portion of the Word of God. It is not meant to be dynamic or sense-tingling. It is geared to supply spiritual vitamins and minerals that make good spiritual health possible.

With all the pressures that we face in our day, the only thing that can build a framework of strength is a foundation of knowledge in God's word. And that is what Sunday school is all about.

How is your building handling the storms of life? Maybe that extra hour given to the study of the Word under an anointed teacher could make the difference.

*Pastor John Casteel  
Tuscon Grace Chapel*

## Three "P's" of Prayer

Christian Education Sunday Emphasis

"PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN", was the theme of the message that Pastor Jerry Fox brought to the congregation on C.E. Sunday. Emphasis was directed to the parents for the need to cover their children with prayer.

The three "P's" of prayer that were looked at were:

**Purpose** - Keep children's foundation in Jesus.  
Luke 22:40 and Romans 8:26

**Potential** - Guide and shape their lives.  
Ephesians 3:14-19, James 5:13 and  
Psalms 91:14-16

**Promise** - The constant presence of the Lord.  
Deuteronomy 4:7 and Luke 9:11.

Jerry challenged the congregation that there is a blessing, promise and unity as the family prays together against the attacks of the enemy.

A slide presentation was shown capturing some of the exciting adventures the C.E. Department presented in 1988. The slides showed 1) 5th and 6th grade outings (a once a month activity: put-put golf,



bowling, etc.) 2) W.O.W. (Walking on the Word) camp which is a children's weekend retreat 3) Children in their individual Sunday school classrooms 4) Day Camp (including T-shirt day, barbecue day, Enchanted Village day, and Bicycle Rodeo day) and a 5) Teacher Appreciation Dinner. During the 17 minute presentation songs were being played to coincide with the pictures being shown.

*(continued next page)*

# THE LATE GREAT PROMOTIONAL DEBATE

By Rev. Doug Burroughs

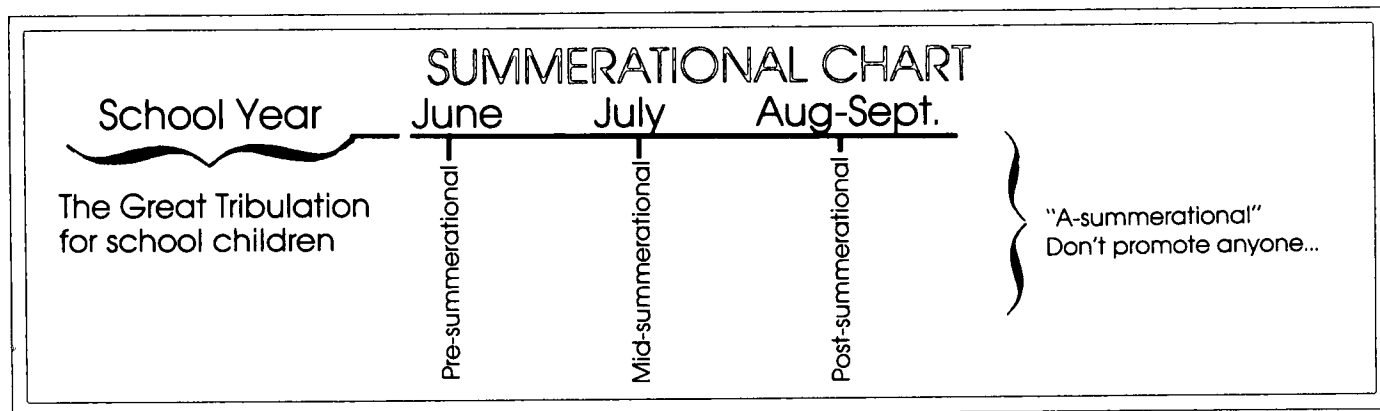
If you want to see a Director of Christian Education's blood boil, suggest a change in the promotional schedule. If you want war in the Sunday school classroom, change the sacred schedule of class promotions. I actually know a pastor whose D.C.E. threatened to quit if he changed the date of promotion. "Late summer or not at all!" was the battle cry in that church.

After careful research and systematic musing.... okay, after asking a few people and occasionally thinking about the problem, I see the debate lined up in two arenas: The "PRE-SUMMERATIONAL" view (those who believe promotion should come at the end of the school year), and the "POST-SUMMERATIONAL" view (those who feel that promotion should occur at the end of the summer.) The pro's and con's of each are well documented. To wait for the school year to begin, or give the children a head start on adapting to their new age group? Everywhere, the opinions are

divided, except in the Junior High and High School where they say, "Forget summer, I want out during Christmas break!"

I personally advocate a balanced position - the "MID-SUMMERATIONAL" view. I believe that the imperial data supports promoting children in the middle of summer. No arguments, no leaning towards either view. After all, if Solomon could suggest something similar with a child.... One pastor I know has "copped" out and said that he believes that everyone will be promoted when they believe they will, but that he personally was leaning towards a pre-summerational view.

Perhaps a book with charts and pictures could straighten this out. How about **89 Reasons Why Children Will Be Promoted In '89, or The Late Great Promotional Debate**. That's it. Let's see, we could get a well known author...



(Three "Ps" of Prayer continued)

The impact of C.E. Sunday caused a stir of the Holy Spirit throughout the body of Christ at "Living Waters" giving Jesus the glory for our children's lives being molded and challenged through the prayer of His saints.



Submitted by Rev. Jerry Fox, Children's Pastor at "Living Waters Fellowship", the Olympia Foursquare Church in Olympia, Washington.

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If you would like to receive bundle (5 or more) copies of this newsletter to distribute in your church, please contact our office.

We welcome contributions of articles, pictures and updates of what is happening in your church. Please write to us at:

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