

DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

Fall 1988

National Department of Christian Education and Foursquare Publications
International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

Volume 1

The Needs of Those We Serve

An interview with Dr. John Holland,
President of the International Church
of the Foursquare Gospel

Dr. Holland, what do you perceive to be the three greatest needs of pastors today?

One must assume that the viewpoint taken is one of personal and developmental nature rather than staff, congregational, financial or spiritual. Vance Havner, the well known Baptist evangelist, once said that the curse of the preachers in America is nickels, noise and noses. He meant money, prestige and numbers. I would address the three in the following way provided it does apply to the general needs that I observe in the leadership in many churches, certainly not in all, but sufficiently large enough to warrant comment.

First, let me comment on character. One must begin where it all starts in the realm of a Godly, Christ-like, righteous character. Without that nothing that is done has lasting value. Titus 1:15-16 says,

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

Now look in that same chapter at verses six through nine. They read,

"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having

faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

To build ministry without character is like the man who built the house upon the sand. It will fall during the tests of life.

What is the second need?

The second need is education. We all begin by knowing God, but it is also essential to know man. II Timothy 2:15 says,

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"

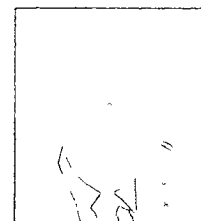
How can we minister the things of the Spirit to man unless we

"To build ministry without character is like the man who built the house upon the sand. It will fall during the tests of life."

know the other half of the equation? Those who are being fruitful combine these spheres of knowledge in their ministry. There are wonderful Christians that are unable to relate to people and therefore, are unable to minister effectively. We rarely can be influential with people who do not like us.

That's such a good point, Dr. Holland. We've talked about character and education. What is the third need of pastors today?

The third need is a clear, firm grasp on the purpose of God. The thing that gives impact to a song is the purpose of the song revealed in the music and the message. Sermons become wandering comments on religious subjects and services can become marathons of endurance when there is no discernible purpose to those who are in attendance. The whole exercise of the church becomes suspect without purpose. I know that we are to preach, teach, convert, exhort, worship, pray, give, work, and love; but without the validation of worthy purpose it will run down and become insipid and boring. When we have a compelling purpose, then all of the elements are enlivened and enhanced. We must find a simple purpose that we can verbalize and communicate it to those we lead. With it we will live in glorious victory and abundant life. Without it we will flounder in the heavy seas of frustration and dependency. I think I Peter 4:7-11 comments on that.



Dr. John Holland

Directions...

Addressing the Needs of Those We Serve...

Babies	2
Preschoolers	2
Children	2
Youth	3
Single Adults	3
Adults	3
Senior Adults	3
Inside our Foursquare Family	4
A Word From Rick	4

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS

BABIES

*Contributed by Elizabeth Ewens,
Creative Services Manager,
National Department of Christian Education*

The most important need in the life of a baby is to develop trust. By meeting a child's needs upon demand, he learns to trust. Having his wet diaper changed, his hunger satisfied or his fear and anxieties displaced by being held, he is learning that he can trust someone - mom, dad, nursery care-taker - to meet his needs. When this basic foundation of character is laid in the life of a child, it is easier to then trust in God as the child matures. If a child never learns to trust an adult, how will he learn to trust God? The first year of a child's life is crucial to developing trust. Many parents fear "spoiling" a baby, but you cannot spoil a child during the first months of life. At about eight or nine months of age, babies can be taught some patience and begin to understand that others have needs, too. Determine if the baby has a real need or just wants attention. If the baby just wants attention, direct their attention to a toy or some other activity and reassure them of your presence. ➡

PRESCHOOLERS

Contributed by Elizabeth Ewens

As babies begin walking, they are able to explore their world. This is usually a difficult time for mothers because toddlers are establishing their independence. This child that has been solely dependent on mom is now separating himself from mom. If a mother has derived her sense of worth from the child, she may feel insecure and cling to the child. Helping this mother be able to leave the child in the nursery is important. During this stage of the child's development, independence is being established. A toddler needs to know his independence, to know that he really is a person of worth. Have you noticed a toddler's favorite word is "NO!" He is just exercising his right to express his opinion, and probably doesn't really mean no most of the time.

Preschoolers need to "do it myself." They are learning that they can do things on their own (with some gentle guidance by a loving adult). Provide lots of activity where the preschooler can achieve accomplishments within his grasp. Make sure that crafts involve tasks the preschooler can do. If they are asked to cut circles, fold on a dotted line, etc., they may become easily defeated because they can't do it.

Give the children choices. By letting them make a decision between two choices, they are learning that they can make right choices and also to accept the consequences of that choice. Let them decide if they would rather color or play in the block area when you can give them a choice.

Remember that a child's attention span is usually one minute per year at this age. A five-year-old may be able to discipline his attention for five minutes, while a three-year-old can only give his attention for three minutes. If the Sunday School class is a combined-age class, allow for this difference to avoid discipline problems ➡

CHILDREN

Contributed by Elizabeth Ewens

Children who have learned to trust and have been allowed to become their own identity will want to see what they can now become. They will begin to initiate and explore. "What will I become?" "What can I accomplish?" Help children explore their possibilities by allowing them to work on projects. Let them be creative. They love to plan, so let them! Yes, this will be inconvenient for the adult at times, but children need to dream and try it! Allow time for primaries and juniors to think, "What if I..." and "What would happen if..." This builds self-esteem.

During this time, a child's self-worth is being formed. If a child is not allowed to try or given the opportunity to succeed, he will believe that he is not able to accomplish much, and therefore not worth much. The gentle encouragement from a teacher or parent will help the elementary child

explore his abilities and discover his capabilities. ➡

YOUTH

We asked Gregg Johnson, the National Foursquare Youth Minister, five questions about the needs of youth. Those questions and his answers follow

Gregg, what do you believe to be the five greatest needs facing our youth today?

- To be loved (to be believed in)
- To be accepted (to be understood)
- To feel like they belong (to be part of a family)
- To be challenged (to a world bigger than their own)
- To be given healthy role models (people they would like to be like someday)

Of these five needs, which do you consider to be the most important?

I would consider the most important need to be the most fundamental need and that would be to be loved. Jesus began with creating an atmosphere of love with his young followers. This became the basis for their giving up and laying down (literally) their lives for Him.

How can a Senior Pastor help the Youth Minister to meet that need?

A Senior pastor can help meet this need to be loved by coloring the atmosphere that he creates with a sense of grace. (This is understanding that the Senior Pastor's leadership demands being responsible for the kind of atmosphere that is created in a local church.) Of all people, young people have the hardest time dealing with the reality of grace because they feel like they fail so often. The kids need to know that the pastor simply loves them!

What advice would you give a parent whose son or daughter was facing suicidal depression?

The stark fact is that more of our young people have contemplated suicide than we would like to admit. Our society is

S OF THOSE WE SERVE

materialistic. "I am what I own" (or owe, for that matter.) Pride is the focal point of materialism and the driving motivation is the issue of comparison. It's not enough to have enough anymore and this creates hopelessness. I would advise parents to kill the spirit of comparison in the home. There really is no such thing as being the best. Rather, we all are the same in terms of value to God. Yes, we all have different gifts and talents, yet this has nothing to do with our real worth according to God.

What advice would you give a youth pastor concerning meeting the needs you mentioned above?

My advice to youth pastors is to:

- Create an atmosphere of love within the youth group. What is the first impression a visitor would have?
- Remember that youth ministry is also a contact ministry with the parents or guardians of your young people. Both youth leaders and parents are on the same team. Work together with parents. Keep them informed.
- Provide a positive challenge to your youth. This challenge will only produce good fruit if it is planted in an atmosphere of love. ☞

SINGLE ADULTS

Contributed by Rick Wulfsteg, the National Christian Education Minister

Your friends want you! Personal attention in communication will help you to be a better friend. Try these communication tips:

- Talk less - listen more. We tend to equate talking with power and listening with passivity.
- Bypass the blocks of listening. Singles often make poor listeners because they are accustomed to fast action.
- Don't close your ears to criticism. We don't want to listen because what we hear may threaten our view of the world. Be open to everything that is said. You don't have to agree.
- Probe for key ideas. Don't be distracted by intricate details.

- Repeat back what you heard them say. The friend is the best judge of whether communication has really taken place.
- Observation - listening can make a real difference in healthy relationships. ☞

ADULTS

Contributed by Rick Wulfsteg

Good discussion is the key! Setting the ground rules for discussion in Adult Bible Classes is important. Good discussion should motivate individual thinking. Christians should be able to learn from one another whether they agree or disagree. It can be helpful for a group occasionally to stand back and look at itself. Members need to consider how they function in the group. The leader can add a touch of humor and suggest that participants avoid being like any of the following characters:

Persistent Peter - Insists on holding forth on his own subject no matter what the topic.

Dominant Don - Must have his say on every topic that comes up.

Superior Sophie - Knows the answers to everything and patronizes others

Rude Ruby - Repeatedly interrupts and talks over other peoples' exchanges.

Wandering Wanda - Does not pay attention to what is said. Brings up questions that have already been answered.

Argumentative Andy - Disagrees with practically everything and will allow no one to interrupt.

Silent Sarah - Says nothing and does nothing.

Suggest these rules for discussion:

- When you speak, make it brief.
- Do not be afraid to express an opinion, but respect others' points.
- Commit yourself to listening as well as talking. You will learn and make new discoveries!
- Reassure and encourage those who might be afraid to speak out.

- Ask questions that pertain to the topic. Don't get sidetracked.

If each member applies these rules, the class will become a good discussion group. ☞

SENIOR ADULTS

Contributed by Elizabeth Ewens

At a time when people should be honored for their accomplishments, this too often becomes a time when many senior adults feel useless and unwanted. Most of us equate part of our worth with what we accomplish. Once retired from positions we have given many years of our life to, re-adjusting is a great need. Co-workers are no longer around for fellowship. Incomes often become restricted. Physical limitations can often cause great frustrations for those with unlimited-mental resources. The church can help provide opportunities to meet some of these unique needs by providing times of fellowship, activities and useful means of serving.

- Provide activities that are not expensive or exhaustive, but offer fellowship with other seniors. Activities can be scheduled often so that seniors have an option of going. Remember that the fellowship of being together is as important as what we came together to do.

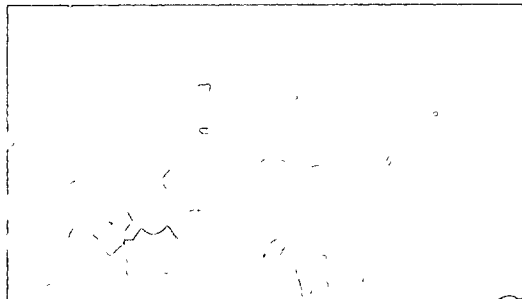
- Encourage seniors to volunteer time at the church building answering phones in the office, counseling, providing child-care or fulfilling other needs the church may have.

- Major changes can be happening in the lives of seniors - retirement, death of spouses or parents, and limited incomes. Provide small groups where these issues can be dealt with. Understanding and facing fears is another need for senior adults. Fear of getting old, fear of limitations, fear of financial insecurity and other uncertainties should be addressed in settings where interaction can take place.

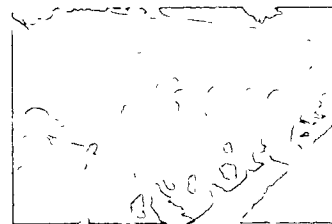
Each of us needs to know that we are loved and needed. If a congregation will care for and honor the elderly, everyone will be blessed. ☞

Inside Our Foursquare Family

Logansport, Indiana. This past winter, special *Heritage Days* were set aside to pass on the Foursquare heritage to the children of the congregation at the Logansport Foursquare Church. The picture below shows Joan Combs and her class showing the Foursquare flags they studied.



Santa Fe Springs, California. A vital part of the life of the Florence Avenue Foursquare Church is a group called "Keenagers." The love and life-experience these "seniors" contribute make the Keenagers especially appreciated by the entire congregation. Trips are taken monthly to interesting places including museums, parks, zoos, unique restaurants, and harbor cruises. These outings provide valuable time together and an opportunity to see many of Southern California's favorite sights. These times together are usually characterized by everyone being able to share in each other's lives and see what God is doing.



Congratulations to the following churches that received free V.B.S. Review Kits. In our previous mailing, we gave away special flyers in randomly chosen packets to receive free Gospel Light V.B.S. Review Kits. Of the special flyers sent out, these five churches read their packets, responded and received *THE WONDERFAIRE*.

- Rochelle Foursquare Church (Illinois)
- Winterset Foursquare Church (Iowa)
- Forest City Foursquare Church (NC), *Gospel Light Tabernacle*
- Vancouver East Foursquare Church (WA), *Trinity Life Chapel*
- Tulsa #2 Foursquare Church (Oklahoma), *Faith Center*

A Word From Rick..

ONLY THE QUALIFIED NEED TO APPLY!

Remember the feelings of applying for a job only to learn that "only the qualified need to apply"? You may have thought, "That doesn't include me. The qualifications they are asking for I just don't have!"

In caring for those we serve, we don't naturally have in our portfolio the type of care that Jesus so beautifully showed with the Samaritan woman, the blind man, or the woman with the issue of blood. God's qualifications for service and care are different from man's. They do not always include great learning, genius status, wealth, executive ability or other similar assets that many of us may not have. D.L. Moody is quoted in the *Keswich Calendar* as saying, "Paul sums up five things that God uses; the weak things, the foolish things, the base things, the despised things and the things which are not." When we are ready to resign our strengths and our weaknesses before the Lord, He can then employ our lives for His service. God is your qualifier! You can and do qualify to care for those we serve.

I'm excited to see what great work God has for you "in the service of the King," which serves all.

In His Love and Care,

Rick Wulfestieg
National C. E. Minister

Coming In Our Next Issue...

"The Christian Home"

Addressing issues specifically relating to needs in the home for parents, single-parents, children, youth and singles.

DIRECTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS is published quarterly by the National Department of Christian Education in Los Angeles, California, as a resource for Foursquare Christian Educators. A copy of this publication is supplied without charge to each Foursquare Church.

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

If you would like to make a contribution to our *INSIDE OUR FOURSQUARE FAMILY* section, or have any suggestions regarding the contents or issues to be addressed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

National Department of Christian Education
and Foursquare Publications
1910 West Sunset Blvd., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 484-0105
