

DIRECTIONS

NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Fall

IN THIS ISSUE...

Bringing Truth to Life

I clearly remember that day. Several Foursquare ministers were leaving for a week-long study tour of the holy land. Something was missing. I felt, perhaps as you sometimes do, my life was stale.

Struggling with God's purpose in my life, I realized His love. I knew of His calling to serve Him. I was excited to visit Israel. By all outward appearance, life should be fine. But life itself is what seemed to be absent.

The Prophet Ezra became an inspiration for me.

In Ezra chapter seven, verses six and ten, "Ezra came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel." Before Ezra approached the city, he prepared his heart to receive God's Word. As I now approached the same great city, God spoke to my secret thoughts: "Prepare your heart to hear my Word."

God used a dying man, a 16 hour flight and a glimpse of historic geography to show me a few things I needed to learn.

God Calls Us To Live

At the airport in Los Angeles, I noticed two men dressed in white, walking beside a gurney. A closer look revealed a patient, a man who appeared to be near death, who was preparing to board the same plane as me. I had never witnessed such a sight. The gurney was fitted into place on the aircraft, spreading over four rows of seats. Although this man seemed very ill, there remained in him a spark of life. He was determined to make it "home" before he passed away. My heart was stirred at the determination of an ailing man to return to the land of his ancestry. The sight also reminded me of my own father's passing just a few years ago and of his unfulfilled desire to make the trip on which I now embarked.

Walking off the plane 16 hours later, I glanced to see how the patient was doing. His eyes were full of tears. He was home. He was now in his land of promise. It was okay to die. At that precise moment, God's Holy Spirit spoke so clear to me, "Rick, it's okay to

BRINGING TRUTH TO LIFE

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TO YOUR C.E. STAFF

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 through the Garden of
 Gethsemane on the
 Mount of Olives.
 A few of the olive trees
 still stand from the time
 of Jesus.

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live. You will see my land of promise. My hope in you will extend to your home as well." God used a dying man, a 16 hour flight and a glimpse of historic geography to show me a few things I needed to *really* learn. This was just the beginning.

God Calls Us To Friendship

The next morning, I was asked to bring the morning devotions to the group of pastors on the tour. Going back to my room, I felt empty. I asked the Lord, "What do I have to say to these men who struggle as I do?" God did it again! As the group gathered at the Sea of Galilee, the same location where Jesus met with disciples, the aroma of olive oil and fish permeated the air. I felt as though I were re-living the moment in John 21 where Jesus had breakfast with the disciples on the seashore. The Holy Spirit directed me to the word "friends." I felt as if I were there when Jesus called these men His friends. Friends — not with qualification or criticism. Friends — not with condemnation or the challenge of, "why aren't you about my business?"

Jesus called to them, "Friends. Do you have any fish?" Their answer

was simply, "No. We're empty." The response of Jesus came alive to me that day, "Try again," He said, "this time on the right side of the boat." They did. There was a miraculous catch of 153 large fish. What a tremendous release to know that we truly are friends of Jesus—especially in the empty times. Jesus doesn't put us down. He simply says, "Let's try again, this time on the right side."

God Calls Us To Plant Seed

Truth was brought to life later the same day as we stood on the Mount of Beatitudes. What a spectacular panoramic of the arena where Jesus performed many of His miracles. It was from this vantage point that He spoke the words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. While walking down the hill with the others, we passed fields, flowers and even weeds. There, by the pathway, was a mustard seed plant. I simply grabbed a few of the seeds as I walked by and was reminded of the parable in Matthew 13.

Jesus said that although the mustard seed is small, it can grow to be a great plant. Again, the Lord spoke to my heart reassuringly, "I can take your little and make it a lot."

Emotions have a funny way of sneaking up on us. They did at that moment. I began to weep as I held the seed, staring at it, knowing again that it is God's desire to work big things with our "little." Truth came to life! I was desperately and painfully aware of that need in my life.

God Brings Truth To Our Lives

He is committed to making great things happen in your life and making them happen in a bigger way than you could even imagine. God brings truth to life in leaders who develop accountable relationships through love, acceptance and forgiveness. He brings truth to life in leaders who prepare their hearts to seek His Word.

Whether you approach the great city of Jerusalem or the city where you serve, begin now to prepare your heart to seek and do whatever God directs. Truth is God's intentional message. He promises to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Rick Wulfestieg,
 National Minister
 of Christian
 Education



When Kids Ask the Really Tough Questions...

I was telling the story of Jairus' daughter to a group of eight and nine-year olds. "Jesus told the people who were crying in front of the little girl's house that she was sleeping and not dead," I explained. "Why did Jesus lie to them?" Heather asked. A little further on, I enthusiastically said, "Jesus raised her from the dead, and she was completely well." Joshua piped up, "Who taught Jesus white magic?" I want children to grow up knowing that their questions are valued—even if not always anticipated! Through the years, I've gathered clues that have helped me keep the child-adult communication going.

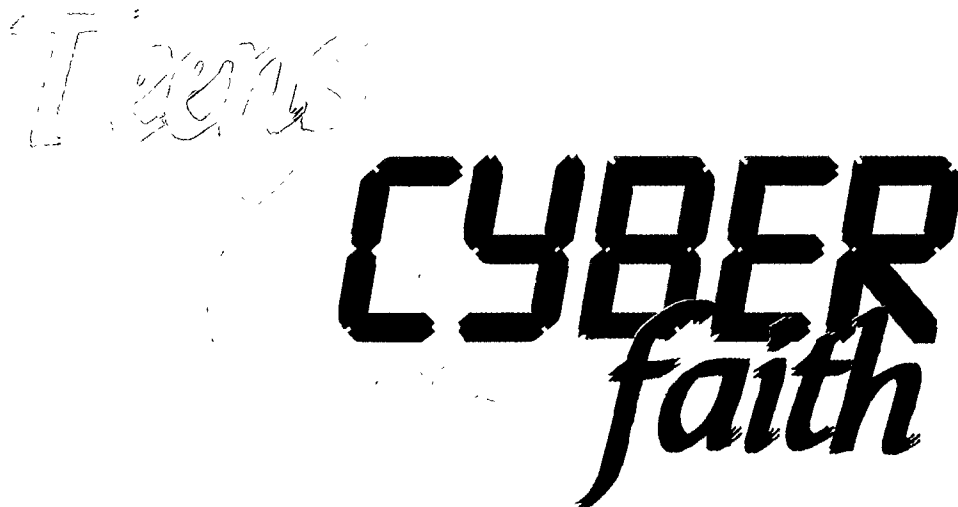
Take their questions seriously. For example, I knew that Joshua lived in the town where the Satanic Bible had been written. I had no idea what his life with his non-Christian single parent was like, but this was my one chance to talk about the difference between Jesus, the Creator's, strengths and the strengths of people who call themselves white witches. I had to answer in words and logic that he would understand.

Ask questions that take children by surprise. Then encourage them to answer in paragraphs, rather than single-word answers. Down with "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Up with "What creative stuff could we make out of all these old magazine pictures?"

Be truthful. When adults don't know, we should say so. When a pretty lie would be immediate comforting, don't use it. Johnson is seven and his mother just died of cancer. Some adults have told him that she's now an angel. The Bible doesn't teach that. I'm truthful when I talk with him about his Christian mother. "She's living with Jesus now. Do you think the two of them sit and talk about you? Maybe! I know she loves you very much." I bring his mother into every conversation because I know he wants and needs to talk about her. I use the present tense. His mother is alive.

Talking to children, really talking, requires all the thinking power an adult has. I answered these questions seriously because they were serious questions.

Adapted from "Communicating With Children" by Marlene LeFever, Cook Communications, used by permission.



Currently 25 million adults rely upon the Internet for their personal religious expression. One out of six teens (16 percent) say that within the next five years they expect to use the Internet as a substitute for their current church-based religious experience. A recent survey conducted by the Barna Research Group revealed that 60 percent of the teens in the survey use the Internet for general information and the chat rooms. Non-Christian teenagers are nearly as likely as Christian teens to use the Internet to seek spiritual input (10 percent versus 14 percent).

These statistics are the basis for a wake-up call to the Church of Jesus Christ. George Barna noted, "This new research supports our contention that the structure of the American church is already undergoing radical change. If you add up the proportion of people who will call the cyberchurch their 'church home,' those who will align with an independent house church and individuals who will be steadfastly unchurched, within the next 15 years a majority of Americans will be completely isolated from the traditional church format."

Barna concludes, "The biggest question facing current Christian leaders is not how to stop the development of the new forms of the church; such efforts would not succeed and could merely ignite the growth of those forms. Rather, the challenge is to determine how to ensure that those forms are tuned in to the foundational theology and principles that reflect the basis of the existing church."

Hear The Words of the Wise...



Everyone needs a peer group for relationship and for direction. Adults need adult Sunday school classes. Sunday school classes are a vehicle in which people get to know others who have had similar experiences. Sunday school classes are an opportunity to grow through prayer, study, application and accountability to others.

Adult Sunday schools can be divided by subject matter, marital status or age. For example, young adults might participate in a parenting class because of a need to talk to other parents about their children. Older adults may choose to become part of a "middle-aged" class because they are dealing with the empty nest syndrome or caring for elderly parents. On the other hand, senior citizens are dealing with aging, health issues, finances and, in some cases, the loss of a spouse. They might participate in an age oriented class, a Bible study or an issue-based class.

As a teacher of a senior citizen class, I have discovered the following benefits from this group of adults:

- Praise Reports - People are blessed to see evidence of the Scriptures being fulfilled in their lives.
- Prayer Requests - Provide an open opportunity for caring and understanding. People can give support, wisdom, care, prayer and comfort to others who are experiencing difficult times.

- Teaching from the Word - This allows participants to relate a portion of Scripture and apply those verses in their particular situations. It also brings hope that God is still in control and He will be with them.

Another benefit of an adult Sunday school class would be to have periodical, informal sessions between older and younger adults. This would allow a time of sharing with one another. Perhaps they would be inspired in their faith and in their walk with the Lord. It is possible that seeing those who have overcome the difficulties of

... About The Value of Adult Sunday School Classes

by Marcene Trujillo
Research Editor, Foursquare National
Department of Christian Education

life and become stronger Christians would, in turn, inspire the young adults.

God's Word brings this all together in Proverbs 22:17-19, *"Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; for it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, so that your trust may be in the Lord;"*

NEW ADULT RESOURCE!

REFLECTIONS

Bible Study for New Christian Adults

13 lessons on key biblical truth leading to a change in personal character.

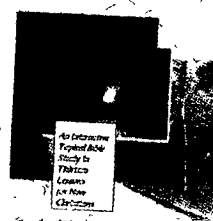
REFLECTIONS is ...

flexible - for either small group study or one-on-one discipleship.

adaptable - the content stands alone or can lead to further in-depth discussion.

expandable - lesson plans for all thirteen lessons enhance and expand group interaction. Available for a limited time at an introductory price of \$3.50 per kit.

Reflections



Developed by the Foursquare National Department of
Christian Education. To order, call 1.800.992.7444

NEWS

Did you know that it is illegal for your church to show video cassettes without a license for public performance? The Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC) is an independent organization that licenses, or allows, churches, schools, and other organizations to show videos publicly. Here are the answers to commonly asked questions, provided by MPLC:

YOU CAN USE

Q: Is it acceptable to hold church classes for children in a basement or second story classroom?

A: All pre-school aged children need to have their classrooms on the ground floor. Some cities require that all children through second grade be located on the ground floor. Churches should contact their local city or county planning commission to find out local ordinances concerning their church and the safety of the children.

Q: Does a standard exist to show us how much floor space we should allow for the various classes in our Sunday School?

A: A standard does exist. For details, consider the chart at right which is from 21st Century Sunday School, by Wes Haystead, Published by Standard and available from the National Church Resource Center.

Do we need to be licensed to show pre-recorded videocassettes?

A. Yes, under the law, you are required to have a public performance license to show videocassettes or videodiscs in your church.

Q. Are we required to have a public performance license to show videocassettes even if we purchased or rented those cassettes?

A. Yes. The mere purchase or rental of a pre-recorded home videocassette does not carry with it the right to exhibit.

Q. We will not be charging admission when we exhibit a video. Do we need a license?

A. Yes. It makes no difference

under the law whether you charge admission, a public performance license is still required to exhibit the video. The MPLC Umbrella License covers only those situations where admission is not charged.

Q. How much does an Umbrella License cost?

A. MPLC will negotiate with you a reasonable priced license fee well within your organization's means based on the nature and size of the audience and the anticipated frequency of exhibitions.

Contact MPLC if you have any questions concerning this information. Motion Picture Licensing Corporation, 5455 Centinela Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066-6970. TEL: (800) 462-8855, (310) 822-8855. FAX: (310) 822-4440

Age Group	Space Per Person	Maximum Attendance	Room Size	Teacher: Learner Ratio
Early Childhood				
Ages 0-12 mo.	35 sq. ft.	15	600-900 sq. ft.	1:2
Ages 12-24 mo.	35 sq. ft.	15	600-900 sq. ft.	1:2
Ages 2-3 years	35 sq. ft.	16	700-900 sq. ft.	1:3
Ages 4-5 years	35 sq. ft.	20	800-900 sq. ft.	1:4
Children				
Grades 1-2	30 sq. ft.	25	800-900 sq. ft.	1:6
Grades 3-6	30sq. ft.	30	900 sq. ft.	1:8
Youth				
Grades 6-12	25 sq. ft.	40	900-1000 sq. ft.	1:8
Adult				
Ages 18+	15 sq. ft.	40	600-900 sq. ft.	1:8

10 Ways to Say "Thank You" to Your C.E. Staff

Encouragement is the fuel your volunteer staffers need to power their service. Have you checked their "fuel gauges" lately? Fill 'em up with affirmation that's creative, surprising, and memorable. Some ideas:

□ Give them a candle with a note saying, "Thanks for letting your light shine."

Give them an apple with a note saying, "You're the apple of God's eye."

Buy a cloth tote bag for them to carry church stuff. (Have kids decorate it using markers.)

Using an ink pad, have kids imprint their fingerprints and write their signatures on cards that say "There's no one quite like you!"

Call them on their birthdays. Have kids join you in singing "Happy Birthday" over the phone.

Ask how they're doing in life beyond what you do together at church.

Help them solve discipline problems. Let them know they're not alone.

Join in when they lead an activity. Have a good time along with them.

Cut construction paper into footprint shapes. Write your volunteers names on them, one for each footprint. Tape the footprints to a wall leading up to a huge banner with "THANKS" written on it.

□ Smile and laugh often with them. ■

Excerpts from "50 Ways To Thank Your Volunteers" by Cindy Hansen, Group Magazine January/February 1997, pp. 30-31

... free resources

from The Foursquare National
Department of Christian Education

The following are free resources that are available to Foursquare churches. There is a minimal postage/handling charges -- video tapes, \$5.00; audio tapes \$2.00.

Leave No Child Behind

This four minute video inspires the people of your church to serve Jesus by serving His children.

Child Safety in the Church - Five Legal Aspects

Audio tape with Keith Johnson, Children's Pastor, El Clark ICFG Legal Counsel, and Rick Wulfestieg, Foursquare National Minister of Christian Education. Covers Safety Goals; Worker Selection; Worker Supervision; Reporting Mandates; and Processing Abuse Alegations.

The Influence of Children's Ministry - Pastor to Pastor

Audio tape with Rev. Ron Swor, Canby, Oregon Foursquare Church, sharing how his perspective has changed regarding the importance of children in the church.

CALL THE FOURSQUARE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT 213.989.4270
TO REQUEST YOUR FREE RESOURCES.



are available for your Christian education ministry. The following resources are recommended by the Foursquare National Department of Christian Education and available for immediate delivery from National Church Resource Center.

- Radiant Life Curriculum from Gospel Publishing
- Living Word Curriculum from Gospel Light
- Word & Spirit Curriculum from Cook Communications
- Bible-in-Life Curriculum from Cook Communications
- Bible Interactive Curriculum from Group

To order these resources or to request complimentary samples, please call 1.800.992.7444

DIRECTIONS

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