

# DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

SUMMER 1992

National Department of Christian Education  
and Foursquare Publications

Volume 15

## *Discipleship* - A Purpose and a Process

*"Why are we doing what we're doing?"*

**Y**ou and others may ask this question when you consider Christian Education in your church. Christian Education does maintain a certain viability. It employs the largest volunteer staff in the world (9 million teachers and helpers) and supports an impressive variety of workshops, conferences, and other activities. Yet, all too often it exhibits the fatal flaw of having no clear purpose.

***Too often the "life changing" process as the ultimate purpose of Christian Education is unclear to those who are directly involved*** - Sunday school teachers, Youth counselors, and Bible study leaders. "Lack of purpose can devastate the personnel in ministries where the results are slow in coming and where faithful work often goes unnoticed."

Because of pressing immediate needs, cultivating a sense of purpose among those who serve becomes a low priority. Some would say, "teach the Bible and give them helpful methods" but methods are not a substitute for purpose.

The great commission (Mt. 28:18-20) is a directive to make disciples. God's primary purpose and thrust for the Church, you and I, is to develop other people into disciples! Discipleship then is not a subordinate program to Christian Education, it is Christian Education—changing lives! Discipleship should function as the heart of Church ministry.

Most programs then should be evaluated in light of what they contribute toward developing disciples.

Our purpose and all that we are and do should reflect the deep personal call, the passionate cry, and the powerful commission of Jesus - Go, make disciples! As people see the value and contagious enthusiasm of true discipleship their perception of Christian Education will change.

As you plan ahead and are faced with "What should we do?" and "Who will help?" please remember these four suggestions excerpted from *Christian Education - The Search For Meaning*, by Jim Wilhoit.

1. ***State your mission.*** The process of disciple making is life-long in how the Lord shapes our hearts and values. It is not a packaged product or program. E.M. Bounds states, "God doesn't bless programs, He blesses people who pray and seek His guidance [purpose]."

*A sense of purpose clarifies mission*

2. ***Ask the question,*** "What method and strategy best fits our common purpose?" The team is freed from a mentality that merely maintains the status quo to develop ministries that are on the cutting edge.

*Purpose motivates, maintenance does not*

*Continued on next page*

3. A *sense of purpose* acts as a sentinel guarding the resources of the educational team from being siphoned off into areas of ministry that are worthwhile, but secondary.

*Good stewardship of facilities, time, and money.*

4. A *clarified purpose* helps team members see that what they are doing, however simple and mundane it may appear, is vitally important - changing lives, healing souls, and helping people discover meaning in life!

*The miraculous and extraordinary works of God are accompanied by the ordinary.*

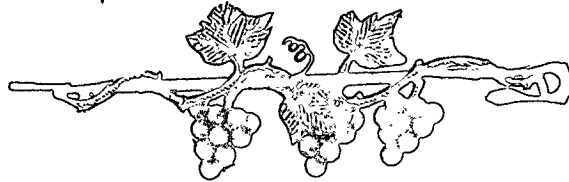
The theme of this 1992 Summer "Directions" is Discipleship... our purpose... Jesus' process.

As you view the new Foursquare Publications catalog these are resources designed to accent the "discipling" process. May I recommend "Connecting" by Paul D. Stanley and Robert Clinton (page 9 of catalog). "Newborn" and "Daybreak" by Jack Hayford (page 4 & 8). "Understanding People" by Evangelical Training Association (page 10).

In God's commission, Jesus did give a plan and a promise! The plan is for us to go, the promise is that He will be with us always.

*Rick Wulfestieg*

Director, National Department of Christian Education and Foursquare Publications.



## MULTIPLY YOUR MINISTRY

Five "power-full" ways to increase church growth.

### POWER OF PRIORITIES

Effective outreach to the non-churched is an ever-increasing challenge. Unless we make it a top priority, plan, budget and work for it, it will never happen.

### POWER OF BEING PEOPLE-CENTERED

According to a vast body of research, the only known way to effectively get people to listen is to target our message to the needs listeners feel.

### POWER OF PROCESS EVANGELISM

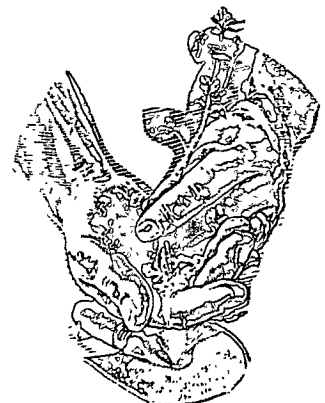
Few people embrace the Christian faith at their first introduction to the Gospel. For most it takes many influences over a period of time before they are ready to make such a life-changing commitment. To be effective, evangelism needs to be seen as a process, not as an event.

### POWER OF PRINT

It was Gutenberg who invented movable type to print the Bible, but many Christians have neglected this powerful means of communication, leaving it to political propagandists, false cults, pornographers, and businesses. The latter bombard our mail boxes every day — and make millions!

### POWER OF PERSISTENCE

Coke and Pepsi-Cola are determined to convert us into committed users of their drink. To do this they spent \$650,000,000 in 1990 promoting their "evangelism!" Persistent sowing is the law of the harvest. And whether it relates to farming, giving, or sowing the gospel, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6).



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# TEACHING ADULTS

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## ANDRAGOGY

The adult years are where most people spend most of their lives. Childhood may last twelve years, adolescence perhaps seven, but adulthood may span fifty years or more. Adulthood comprises about two-thirds of the “three score and ten” years allotted to each individual. During these years the question is asked, “Does meaningful learning have a significant part to play?” In recent years, companies have been providing brush-up courses for their employees, adults have made career changes in the middle of life, necessitating new training. This has proven adults are not only capable of learning, but many are eager to do so.

A new word has been coined to apply to adult education: “andragogy” (from the Greek “aner” and “ago” meaning to “lead a man”). This almost unpronounceable word, a term too technical to be found in most dictionaries, was actually coined as early as 1833. Only recently has andragogy been applied extensively to adult education. When leading or teaching, there are numerous factors that make learning easier for adults in some ways than for younger people. First, the adult has more experiences into which he may “plug” new learning.

There are several factors that may impede the adult learning such as: the loss of mental ability because of failure to remain active mentally; lack of motivation; failure to condition oneself; limited education (the number of years of formal schooling has its influence); negative attitudes; experience can serve as a barrier; teaching methods; embarrassment, and health.

Learning is central to Christianity. The word “disciple” means not only a follower, but a learner. Jesus invited, “Come...learn of me...” (Matthew 11:28,29). Christian learning places the emphasis in the assimilation of truths and concepts of faith and love. Adult teachers, have the opportunity to help the adult person, at whatever age to realize they are capable of learning. Capability enjoins responsibility. Many times they need to be convinced and motivated, and in many cases they need to be prompted to do what they have already learned. No true progress in the Christian life can be made without serious learning. Since the majority of Christians are adults, learning about Christ, truths of the scripture, the daily walk and sharing; learning must be stressed emphatically, provided for adequately, and carried on continually.

Reprinted, originally excerpted from “Christian Bible Teacher”

## God’s Commission and Commandment

“Christ’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) must be balanced with an equal focus on Christ’s Great Commandment (John 13:34-35). Many churches can articulate a mission philosophy and can showcase ministry programs. How many can showcase a radical perspective regarding body life: ministry that touches common longings in relevant, uncompromising ways? Where are the programs, services, and resources that enable the ordinary man or woman to feel his own longings sufficiently to be able to touch others with a supernaturally learned love? Relationship — community in the biblical sense — will impact the world as it affirms and demonstrates the proclamations of the church. People need to see us living our message.

To focus solely on the Great Commission is to produce sterile ministry. To focus solely on the Great Commandment will dilute ministry effort and reduce outreach to those in reach of “holy huddles.” Both must be held in active tension if the church is to grow in its inward maturity as well as its outward influence.

As we properly balance ministry between the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and see God as the One who provides growth, we then begin to limit our responsibility to faithfulness, not results. This is the beginning of true freedom and peace in the midst of adverse circumstances.”

Taken from The Church in Ruins, Dr. William Crabb & Jeff Jernigan

# ***VISIBILITY OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL***

There are many reasons why people don't come to Sunday school. Perhaps one of the main reasons is that your Sunday school does not have high visibility, outsiders don't know about it. Absentees are not reminded of it. Casual members are not motivated to attend. Because no one give Sunday school much thought, attendance goes down. If your Sunday school was given higher visibility, perhaps people would see its importance and give it priority in their schedule.

For the past twenty years worship service has been growing in attendance while Sunday school attendance has been diminishing. Prior to the early seventies, Sunday school was larger in enrollment and attendance and the worship service was smaller. However, recent research tells us that people visit the worship service, not the Sunday school. Why?

First, they can visit a worship service without making a deep commitment or getting involved which is not true of Sunday school. Second, worship is experience-oriented through singing, prayers, and praise. A third practical reason is that people like to sleep late on Sunday morning (the #1 reason given in polls why people don't attend Sunday school is the early hour in which it is held). Fourth, the pastor gets immediate affirmation from the worship service, therefore he gives it high visibility. Sunday school teachers are his representation and help to bring maturity to his church members, but the pastor has little involvement in the process. The pastor gets affirmation from worship for music that builds a platform for the sermon. The pastor becomes personally involved in the worship service, hence he gives it visibility!

The Sunday school teacher is the extension of the pastor's ministry in the life of his class. That is another way of saying the Sunday school teacher is the shepherd to those in his flock, just as the pastor shepherds the entire flock. However, since the pastor doesn't see all of the sheep (in Sunday school) and get a chance to feed them, he doesn't give Sunday school the center of his attention. **The Sunday school needs higher visibility.**

## ***How to Get More Visibility for the Sunday School!***

The Sunday school needs more attention from everyone in the church. The following points can help give Sunday school the visibility it needs.

- 1 Establish Sunday school visibility in the worship service. Print Sunday school enrollment and attendance figures in the bulletin. Also, point out the content of Sunday school lessons in advertisements. Announce special Sunday school events in the worship service. The pastor should be the cheerleader for the Sunday school, realizing he cannot pastor his people better than through the teachers who are the extension of his ministry.
- 2 In many Southern Baptist churches, the Sunday school superintendent announces the results of Sunday school at the beginning of the worship service. Its priority is evident.
- 3 To establish a visitor's center with tables, hostesses, greeters and necessary signs to inform people about Sunday school. The purpose of a visitor's center is to give a warm greeting.
- 4 Make an entrance map. The Calvary Nazarene Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, established a map of "seven touches" which is a planned route for visitors from the parking lot to their final seat. This involves curb side greeters, sidewalk greeters, door greeters, host and hostesses, ushers to walk with visitors to their seat and greetings from those sitting around visitors.

Your average grocery store, department store, and variety store all have an "entrance map" which is an organized series of experiences as one enters the store. Obviously, their purpose is sales, our purpose is the Great Commission.

- 5 Teacher of the Year. Establish standards and means of measurement to determine which teacher in the Sunday school has done the best qualitative and quantitative ministry during the past year. Then recognize that person in the morning service. Perhaps have a testimony from a pupil telling what they have received from the class, as well as allowing the teacher of the year to tell of his or her passion to teach Sunday school.

**6** Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Banquet. At the beginning of each Sunday school year (usually the first Sunday in September) teachers should be brought to the front of the auditorium during the worship service and dedicated for their ministry. Just as a commissioning service is held for missionaries who go to the mission field, so Sunday school teachers should be committed to the Lord's ministry among the church's children, youth and adults. They can kneel at the altar or bow in prayer in an act of consecration. A series of questions can be given to them from the Sunday school teachers' covenant. (1) Will you accept this responsibility as a calling from the Lord? (2) Will you faithfully prepare the lesson each week? (3) Will you live godly lives of example to the students? (4) Will you pray for your students that God's Word may work in their lives? (5) Will you follow-up all absentees and drop-outs with a view of getting them back in the fellowship of the church body? (6) Will you try to win every person in your class to Jesus Christ who is not saved?

**7** Change the role designation of Sunday school teachers. A large Bible church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania changed the title of their teachers from "teacher" to "class leader." The church's rationale was that the name "teacher" was tied to curriculum and content, whereas the name "leader" was tied to people and action. This church wanted everyone to know that their Sunday school teachers were outreach leaders, spiritual life leaders, Bible study leaders, and pastoral care leaders. The word leader means to be in front of people. They wanted everyone to know that Sunday school leaders were in front of their classes, leading people into the Word of God every week.

**8** Change the name of Sunday school for one outreach campaign. I do not mean the name Sunday school should be dropped. However, enroll people in Bible study for an outreach campaign. Use the action phrase "Bible study" instead of the name Sunday school. Many secular minds think Sunday school is for small children or the Sunday school is attached to have juvenile methods of teaching. By changing the name to "Bible study" people will know they are becoming involved in the study of the Word and that the Bible is the focus of attention. After this outreach campaign is completed and people are enrolled in "Bible study," obviously the name Sunday school would be retained.

**9** Have a Friend Day. A Friend Day is when every person in the church is organized to bring his or her friend to Sunday school/church on a designated Sunday.

**10** Dedicate Your Sunday school to God. Perhaps Sunday school does not have high visibility in your church because it does not have high visibility in your Christian life. Perhaps you need to dedicate your relationship of your Sunday school to Christ. Perhaps you need to ask God to give you a new vision, then you can communicate that to other people.

Printed with permission by Dr. Elmer Towns, Dean Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

## VOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Sunday School has the potential to do more for America than any other institution . . . because Sunday School reaches every age in our society, from children through senior saints. If every Christian would get behind Sunday School, we could effectively influence this nation for righteousness."

Elmer Towns, Dean  
Liberty University  
Lynchburg, Va



## VOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Our country's values depend upon the molding of its people. Attendance . . . at a Sunday School that teaches such values is vital if we are going to halt the slide we have started into an amoral and valueless society."

Marilyn Quayle  
Wife of U.S.  
Vice President



## VOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL

"It is in Sunday School that I learned the Bible . . . and became acquainted with those great figures that have provided the foundation for my faith. Unless people attend Sunday School there is likelihood they will end up as biblical illiterates."

Tony Campolo  
Eastern College  
St. Davids, Pa.



# STUDY FINDS LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN BEHAVIOR OF BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS

**A** study commissioned by High Adventure Ministries and conducted by the Roper Organization, found little difference in the behavior of born-again Christians before and after their conversion, with shocking results.

The study examined behavior in three major categories: use of illegal drugs, driving while intoxicated, and marital infidelity. Of the 1,975 interviewed, 532 (27 percent) said they considered themselves "born again." Without exception, the behavior in each category deteriorated after the born-again experience.

For example, four percent of those polled said they had driven while intoxicated before being born-again, while 12 percent had done so after their conversion experience. Use of illegal drugs was reported by five percent before being born again, and by nine percent after being born again. And sexual relationships with a person other than a spouse were reported by two percent before conversion, and by five percent after conversion.

Don Otis, vice president of High Adventure, said, "The study was commissioned because we believed the results would show that born-again Christians are significantly different and pose

fewer problems in these crucial moral and societal issues."

"Baby Boomers" and post-boomers account for a disproportionate percentage of the problem in each category. Eighty six percent of those who have used illegal drugs are in the 18-44 age category.

The results of the study seem to suggest a moral decline in the American church, says Otis. "We've reached a point [in our Christianity] where there is little or no distinction between what we say and what we do — accountability is lacking, confrontation is lacking, and we are 'marketing' salvation is such a way that discipleship is simply not occurring."

Taken from EP News Service, September 1990

*"Discipleship isn't something we do to people as much as it's something we are with them."*

Robert N. Nielsen



## The Role of The Church in Society

"Slowly but surely, people are beginning to see the church as having a narrow, limited function and we're lending that attitude a hand by boxing ourselves in. The great Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple (1881-1944), once said that the church of Jesus Christ is the only cooperative society that exists for the benefit of its *non*members. We're to take the church out of the walls of our sanctuaries and to the people.

Wherever a repressive regime has tried to destroy the church, it has tried to prevent Christians from reaching out to people. Go to Communist China today; go to the Soviet Union; you'll find churches. But in 1929, when the Soviet government wanted to wipe out the church, what did they do? They passed a law, not to prevent the churches from meeting on Sunday morning, but to make it a crime to conduct church school, to help the poor, to go into the neighborhoods and reach out to people. Believers had to stay within their churches on Sunday morning, and what the Soviet Communists did by decree in 1929, we are allowing to be done to us today by default."

Excerpted from The Role of the Church in Society, 1986 by Charles Colson

## *Can we help you?*

Even though it is true that all Christian leaders and workers depend upon the power, guidance and anointing of the Holy Spirit, we can still profit by receiving inspiration and new ideas from others.

The National Department of Christian Education has staff and associate members trained in every phase of Christian Education who are specialists in this field. They have been placed into these leadership positions because they are on the cutting edge of ministry today. Over this last year, 31 conferences on promoting excellence in C.E. have been held in the United States with nearly 5,000 in attendance. Our staff is available to local churches and divisions by invitation through the District offices.

For further information regarding the National Department of Christian Education's services, please contact our office or your District C.E. Representative. We are here for you!

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# What's happening with the GOOD NEWS BEARS?

Some pretty remarkable stuff:

- ◇ 25,872 children and leaders are involved.
- ◇ 62% of children who attend COME FROM UNCHURCHED HOMES!
- ◇ 565 active Bears clubs in the United States and Canada.
- ◇ Bears clubs are represented in 17 countries.
- ◇ Bearing God's Good News missions project raised \$12,582.
- ◇ 912 Bears' leaders kits have been sold.



The leader's manual has been revised — this is our 7th printing!

A NEW Good News Bears ... A fresh approach with the same theme and emphasis, but with new options and resource materials (check it out in The New Foursquare Publications Catalog)!

The most important relationship a child can have is one with Jesus Christ.

Good News Bears can help that become a reality.



## Conference for Workers with Children June 8-12, 1992

**PLACE** - L.I.F.E. Bible College East, Christianburg Virginia, will be hosting a intensive on leadership of children's ministry. College credit will be offered: costs of conference will be \$150.00 this includes 27 teaching sessions, syllabus materials, four nights lodging and twelve meals.

**PURPOSE** - This conference is open to any person whose primary ministry is working with children in a Foursquare Church. Practical help's to children's workers will be given to aid them in developing their personal skills and abilities in teaching, leading and planning for effective ministry. New methods and techniques will be explained and demonstrated.

For more information: Conference Registrar  
L.I.F.E. Bible College East  
900 Life Dr.  
Christianburg, VA 24073  
(703) 382-7100

# Vote Sunday School

**hurry!**

**NATIONAL**  
**VOTES**  
**VOTE SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**CONVENTION**  
**AUGUST 12-14, 1992**  
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

*Whether you plan to fly or drive, you need to mail your housing and registration forms TODAY!*

"We can no longer limit our educational thinking to how we process Scripture in the classroom, to how the teacher communicates, and what methods are most appropriate, and to how to help learners in that classroom setting express personal applications. We must pay attention instead to the total life of believers as they function within the Body. We must explore ways that Scripture infuses every interaction. We must recognize the teacher as a leader especially equipped by God to take the lead in bringing others to Christ's likeness — not as the classroom expert."

*A Theology of Christian Education*, Dr. Lawrence O. Richards

**DIRECTIONS FOR FOURSQUARE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS** is a resource published quarterly by the National Department of Christian Education in Los Angeles, California.

You may receive bundle (5 or more) copies of the newsletter to distribute in your church for a small charge to cover shipping costs.

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

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