

DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

SPRING 1990

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

Volume 7

Growing & Going in Leadership: *The Personhood Factor*

When I first met Bob in the office of the church to which I had just been appointed, his eyes scanned me in a micro-second. It was like being caught in a speed-trap where the radar nails you before it's even possible to hit the brakes.

The irony of the situation was that I had been named as the pastor of the church where he had served for two years as minister of music. Normally I should have been "sizing him up", and not the other way around.

In spite of my initial feeling of being inspected, I made up my mind to discover who Bob really was before deciding whether we could work together. I found out that he had taught high school and college students for over twenty years, played more than forty instruments, led school bands to major championships, trained some Olympic swimmers, worked for years as a certified official in several sporting events, produced network television specials, had more degrees than I, and pumped iron! I was impressed.

But there was something far more important than all those accomplishments that I had to know for us to work as a team...it was the "personhood factor" of his life. By "personhood", I mean the vital ingredients that make up the contents of someone's life. In a way, each of us is like a cake batter, measured and mixed together before being put into the oven of life's experiences. The outcome depends on the quality of ingredients blended in the right proportions.

Here's a list of what I looked for in Bob and in the lives of others I may bring on our ministerial staff:

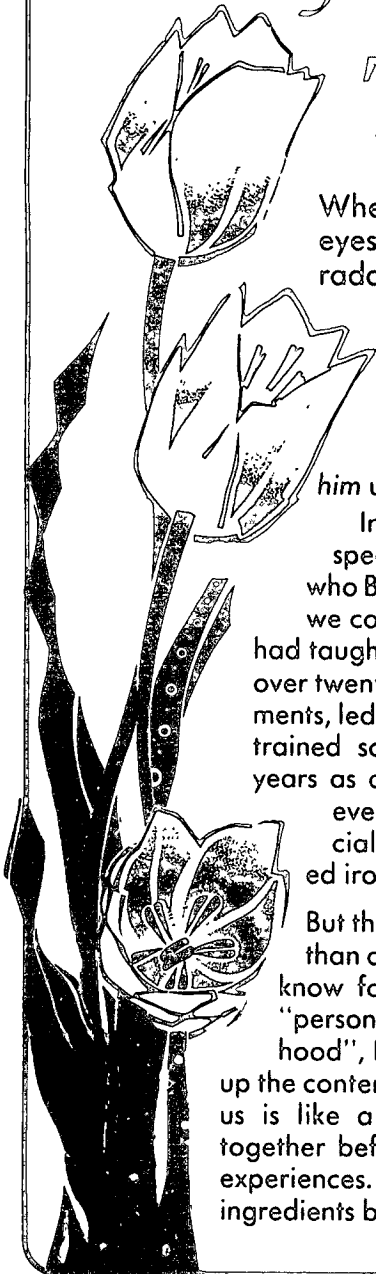
1. **HONESTY/INTEGRITY** - Someone has said that "honesty is being truthful with others while integrity is being truthful with yourself". A minister is a "professional" and the word itself means "one who keeps the promises he professes"...an impossible dream without honesty and integrity.

2. **OBEDIENCE/DISCIPLINE** - The privilege of leadership is that we are GIVEN authority (we don't "take" it) and we TAKE responsibility (we don't "give" it). That truth is only understood in the crucible of obedience and on the anvil of discipline. Jesus said it better!

"Whoever will be great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever will be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life..."

3. **CRISIS/CHANGE** - There is no real change without crisis. We may "adjust" and we can "flex" but we can't be in control and experience real change at the same time. I want to team-up, not with a self-made person, but with someone who God has formed through the creative power of personal crisis.

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Going & Growing Into the '90's -

What Will Happen to the Sunday School?

Christian education, significantly the Sunday school, reflects a 4.7% GROWTH IN ATTENDANCE THIS LAST YEAR IN FOURSQUARE CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES. Though the increase is not overwhelming, it is a definite healthy turnaround from decline in previous years.

What can churches do to continue to grow and be relevant in Sunday school?

1. **PIONEER CHURCHES** — Identify the reality of need to provide progressive foundational training through systematic Christian education. Emphasize changed lives as faithful and effective ministry is modeled, not only in the sanctuary but in the small group setting and in the community.
2. **ESTABLISHED CHURCHES** — Evaluate the validity of the church educational process and renew a definite commitment to build an effective training ministry once again.
3. **GROWING CHURCHES** — Emphasize the "market place value" of Christian education and Sunday school. Offer specialized classes at convenient times; Friday night, Sunday night, or the best time for people's schedules. Design classes that offer help to where the people are hurting - parenting classes, topical Bible studies and family financial planning.

I see three kinds of Sunday school programs in the 1990's:

1. **TRADITIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS** - Life will go on! This Sunday school will operate as it has done for years. It will reflect little life, little enthusiasm and declining attendance.
2. **INNOVATIVE SUNDAY SCHOOLS** - These have a person or people who got a unique approach and try to develop something individualized, non-traditional, perhaps very creative (dramas, buses, or videos). Usually these will remain strong as long as the leader is involved.
3. **EDUCATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS** - These are the ones that give great hope. They set standards! They focus on the Word of God and will not ignore evangelism. They want people to grow and mature in Christ, so they emphasize the full and practical teaching of the Word of God.

Knee Deep In Things I Have Never Done Before

by Karen Douglas

As I sat at the sewing machine last Tuesday, I remember thinking that this was yet another new challenge for me. Considering that I don't know how to sew, this still seemed to be the simplest task God had required of me recently. After all, I was only making a costume for the children's Christmas musical.

However, as I seamed up the shepherd's cloak, the Father reminded me that He too, was putting me together and all that I thought was painful was really the skilled work of the Tailor.

One of the foremost reasons we resist doing or moving into unknown territory is fear. Remember the first day of school? There was such excitement and apprehension! We did not realize that in many small ways our parents

had prepared us for this wonderful, new adventure. Fear came from leaving the familiar and not trusting in the new.

As God requires us to be stretched, often fear will come and challenge what we know to be tried and proven in the past and trusting that the Father has prepared us for this time. Maybe God is not requiring you to sew a child's costume, but He is stretching you! Perhaps He is stretching you in the area of ambition, knowledge, tradition, security, integrity, tolerance for others, discipline or even flexibility. Whatever the issue, He is preparing and requiring us to move out of the comfort zone. That's the only way we grow!

"Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His wisdom and knowledge and riches. How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His methods"

(Romans 11:30, TLB).

The question is not whether we will be stretched, but how we will respond. Will we be able to trust the Tailor? Will we allow Him to stretch us and fashion us according to His plan? Will the garment be beautiful - fashioned after our Lord? I can trust Him to do that!



Growing and Going with Sunday School Contests & Promotions

compiled by Lois Brown

In light of the requests from Pastors and Sunday school workers for Sunday school contests, here are some suggested ideas.

There is no single or simple rule for increasing Sunday school attendance. Every situation is different, and every situation requires a different approach.

Sunday school contests and promotions differ in that a contest usually involves prizes for the winners and promotions involve internal motivation. Contests use competition between individuals, classes and/or groups. Promotions involve everyone in an evangelistic outreach sharing Jesus with the lost and unchurched.

Sunday school contests and the observance of special days will help to motivate Sunday school members in fulfilling the command of Jesus to be a witness for Him. It has been said that only three persons out of ten, in any given community, attend church and millions of our youth are untouched with the gospel. This means there is a great harvest to be reached.

As you read these few suggested ideas, perhaps one will trigger a new idea for your success in increasing your Sunday school, member motivations and winning people to Jesus.

FRIEND DAY

OBJECTIVE: A time when friends meet friends at Sunday school.

Begin at least two months before the promotion. Meet with your key people to outline how and what you want to accomplish with this outreach.

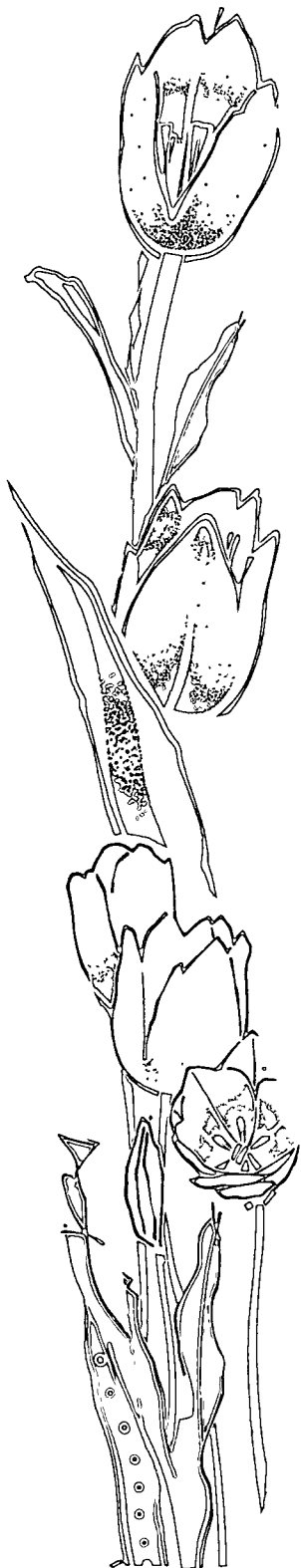
Choose two aggressive persons (well known to your school) as team captains to head the two groups. Let the groups choose a group name. Using a different color for each team, make ribbon bows for each team member and extras for visitors. Print visitor cards in ribbon colors.

Make this a special day by having a potluck or picnic. Release helium balloons with your church name and address and a special message inside. Take lots of pictures for future use.

The entire Friend Day program may be purchased from:
CHURCH GROWTH INSTITUTE, P. O. Box 4404, Lynchburg, VA 24502

Remember to:

Plan your work & Work your plan!



Sunday School Contests & Promotions

Summer

PHOTO CONTEST Encourage everyone to take pictures of their vacations. Define categories such as: people, still life, animals, scenery, flowers, etc. Number and display the pictures to be judged. Camera accessories are suggested awards.

FISHERMAN'S LEAGUE Use Matthew 4:19 as the theme: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Each guest, and the person who brought him, may go fishing for a prize. Take a large cardboard box and decorate it with green and blue crepe paper cut to simulate waves. Colorful fish can be pasted on the waves. Awards of different values are placed inside the box. Attach a piece of string knotted with a loop to each prize. Fishing poles (1/8 inch dowels) are equipped with hooks or magnets to "catch" a prize. Place the box high above the heads of the fishers so they can't see the contents.

NEIGHBORHOOD DAY Encourage everyone to invite a neighbor to Sunday school and plan to take them to lunch.

ESSAY CONTEST Participants of all ages submit 500 words or less on "WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME" Establish a central place for the essays to be turned in. Clarify that entries must be typed or printed so that the judges can read them. Honor the winner by reading the essay and awarding a gift.

Fall

GRANDPARENT'S DAY Begin promoting in August so that grandparents and grandchildren can make arrangements to attend this special day. Arrange for a photographer to take pictures of the grandparents and their grandchildren. Send a picture to the grandparents as well as the grandchildren. If you have a children's choir, have them sing for the grandparents.

COMB THE COMMUNITY Mail a letter of invitation with a comb to every member and friend of your Sunday school! Printed paper combs with the church name and address can be used. Urge everyone to comb their community to find new prospects for Sunday school. An extra large comb would be a funny award!

FOOTBALL CONTEST Divide the Sunday school into two groups, each signified by a color or name. Make a large chart (playing field) with two football figures in the colors of the teams. Each gain is shown by the difference in attendance between the two teams. If the RED team had 85% attendance of their team and the BLUE team had 95%, the BLUE team advances 10 yards (the difference between the percentages). In a small school, it would be well to count each point in the differential as 2, 3, 4 or 5 yards. Figure so as to show a touchdown at least every other Sunday. A touchdown is made when a team gains 100 yards. Goal is completed and extra points scored whenever a 50 yard gain is made in a single Sunday.

Winter

HAVE A HEART SUNDAY This is ideal for the Sunday before Valentine's Day! Cut two large plywood hearts. Paint one red and one white. Cut the red one into puzzle-like pieces equal to the number of people you set as a goal to attend on this special day. Number the pieces for easy replacement. Place the white heart so everyone can see it. Distribute the red heart pieces to everyone present the Sunday before HEART SUNDAY. Mail extra pieces to absentees explaining the program. Encourage them to bring their piece to complete the heart. On HAVE A HEART SUNDAY, put the red pieces in place on the white heart.

DOUBLE-UP SUNDAY This gives practical occasion to the often repeated phrase, "If everyone will bring someone next Sunday, we will double our attendance." Decorate rooms with double pictures, twins, etc. Use silhouettes for double effect, posters and simple equation ($1 + 1 = 2$). Mail invitations printed on perforated cards with the same message on both sides. Cards are to be torn in half so that each pupil can find his double to come with him. Everything on this Sunday should be done in doubles.

"52" CLUB + 10 Encourage members to sign up for the "52 CLUB + 10" on the first Sunday of January. This is a promise to attend all 52 Sundays and to bring at least 10 visitors during the year. Present members with a membership card. Honor their achievement at the end of the year.

Spring

KITE FLYING CONTEST Encourage participants to make an original kite. "Buddy-up" adults with children that need assistance. Locate a park or school yard that is away from power lines and trees. Register each entry. Pin a number on the back of each person flying a kite. Kites are judged for their originality, how high they are flown, how long they stay in the air, etc.

SHUTTLE COUNTDOWN Blast off on a well promoted scheduled date. Choose a committee to plan and design the purpose of the contest and how long it should run. Build a large shuttle for display. Suggest the older children make model shuttles to display. Obtain posters and pictures to display. This may be a contest for individuals, classes or the whole Sunday school as an outreach. Award points for visitors, etc. Each point moves the shuttle closer (countdown) to the launch (finish).

STUDENT HALL OF FAME Designate a place for a special bulletin board to mount pictures of students and a wall plaque next to it for the inscription of the student's name. Compile a list of qualifications each student needs to accomplish in order to be admitted in the "Hall of Fame." Choose six of the highest scores. Promote an election, voting on three. Take a 5x7 picture of each winner. Place the pictures on the bulletin board and have their name and date inscribed.

Going and Growing at Foursquare Publications

by Frank George

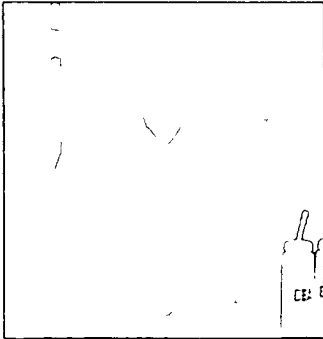
It's the little gray building across the lake. Those were the descriptive words I heard so often when I arrived in Los Angeles. My wife, Pamela, and I recently (September 1) moved from Oregon to Los Angeles to serve at Foursquare International headquarters in the Department of Christian Education and Foursquare Publications.

There is such a sense of excitement when a person is going to *International Headquarters!* Pam and I were not sure what to expect when I accepted the position of manager of Foursquare Publications. We were leaving our home, a church family we loved and a new, large church building we had worked so hard on...and what was this we were hearing about a *little gray building?*

That *little gray building* houses Foursquare Publications. And there is a "life-light" glowing from there that has warmed our hearts since the first day we arrived.

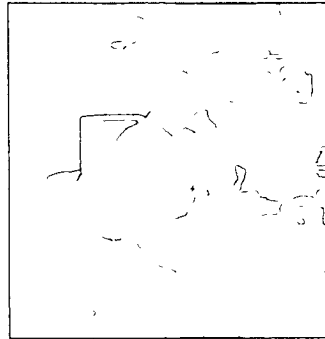
There is an excitement in the air for all the Lord is doing in Christian education around the world. As we package curriculum, mail books, or box up Good News Bears resources, it is an exciting time for us because we love to serve. Please call us if there is a problem with your order or a product that you need. By communicating with us we can serve you better! We pray for you and your ministry as we receive phone orders, wrap and ship packages, and work to meet your needs. Please remember us in your prayers as well.

The people working at Foursquare Publications are servants dedicated to the reality of serving the Lord's church world-wide. Let me introduce you to the people that make it all happen at Foursquare Publications!



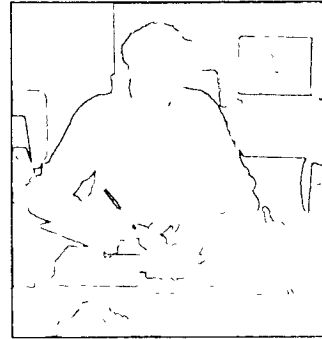
FRANK GEORGE
Manager

Frank oversees the distribution center which involves coordinating, planning and shipping. He also provides mailing services for the various departments at headquarters. Frank is a leader with a heart to serve!



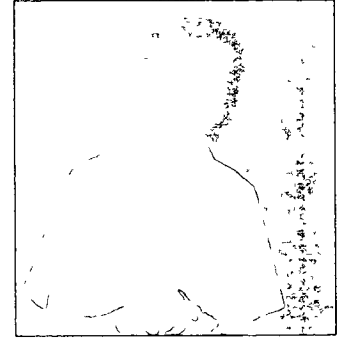
JOHN MORROW
Assistant Manager

John's position involves customer service, data input and inventory control. John is very efficient and is always concerned about keeping you happy by keeping our service prompt, accurate and at it's peak!



PENNI LADE
Customer Service

Penni handles all the Good News Bears orders and inventory, as well as customer service...and always with a warm smile and a word of encouragement. She and her husband, Mike, are students at L.I.F.E. Bible College.



JIM TRACY
Shipping Services

Jim is the one to thank when your package arrives in excellent condition. He is a student at L.I.F.E. Bible College and hopes to be a missionary to Africa upon graduation.

"And he said to them, 'Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature'" (Mark 16:15)

THE PERSONHOOD FACTOR - continued from front page

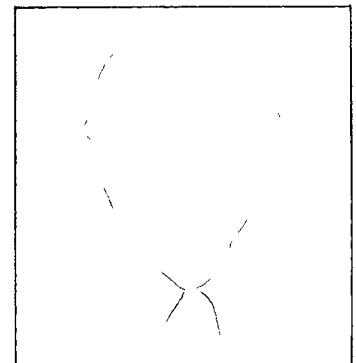
Bob had a major problem that I felt might disqualify him: He seemed too successful and appeared to be too much in control of himself, of others, and of circumstances in general. But it's a funny thing about the "personhood factor"...the real person lives inside and only the HOLY SPIRIT knows for sure the ingredients and whether they're balanced and blended.

He stayed, not because of his achievements, but because he had the stuff that leadership is made of. It didn't come easily (honesty and integrity never do); it didn't happen naturally (obedience and discipline are learned, not inherited); and it didn't evolve peacefully (it's humanly impossible to plan the failures that make us the success God

has destined us to become). But it does take place miraculously and exclusively in those who live to be like Jesus.



Rev. Tim Peterson is Senior Pastor of the Decatur Foursquare Gospel Church in Decatur, Illinois. Tim and his wife, Laurene, previously served in the Department of Christian Education at Foursquare headquarters in Los Angeles.



GOING BACK TO 29 A.D.

This past summer, the parking lot of the Artesia Christian Center Foursquare Church (Artesia, CA) was transformed into Israel, 29 A.D. This creative and fun version of a Vacation Bible School caught our attention. Elizabeth Ewens spoke with two of the key people involved, Cartha Riddle and Bill Burnett, Jr.

Why did you decide to have the outreach?

Bill: I saw it done at a church in Costa Mesa and was impressed with it. My children were very impressed with it.

What stands out most in your mind about the outreach?

Bill: We had 98 children accept Jesus as their personal Savior! That made it all worth it.

What impact did this have in the community?

Cartha: We had a local newspaper cover the event. The feedback we got from that was good. I saw lots of children in the neighborhood come to Sunday School and GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB.

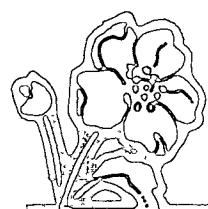
Bill: Hey, Elizabeth, we had 105 in our GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB Sunday night!

Elizabeth: Bill, that's great! Praise God!



What apprehensions or concerns did you have?

Cartha: It was different than our traditional VBS, and I wasn't sure how we could pull it off. We had about 150 people involved, and a lot of those people weren't normally involved in anything like this. Everyone caught the vision and did a great job! The children would go home and bring their friends because they were so excited about it. We had a tax collector that would walk around and collect taxes. There was also a beggar and after a couple days, he died. The children would boo when the tax collector would walk into the sanctuary. They didn't like him at all and blamed him because the beggar died. Jesus prayed for the tax collector and he got saved. The children really got into it because it was so real to them. We had live animals in stalls, tents, costumes, exhibits, crafts, storytellers...a lot of work. It was fun!



Where Does That Sunday School Tithe Go?

Sunday school tithe/Foursquare Christian Education Fund is the tithes received by district offices from Foursquare Gospel Sunday schools. A portion, as determined by the Board, is retained by the district for Christian education ministries within the district. The remainder is sent to the National Christian Education office and is used for the general administrative expenses of Christian education ministries under the direction of the Board (Foursquare By-laws).

Your Sunday school tithe is a vital part of providing edited material, teacher's training, product development (such as Good News Bears!) and consultation work. Help your district Christian education representative and us do a better job for you by sending your Sunday school tithe to your district each month.

Thank you for caring!

DIRECTIONS for Christian Educators is published quarterly by the National Department of Christian Education and Foursquare Publications of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel as a resource for Foursquare Christian educators. A copy of this publication is provided without charge to each Foursquare Church in the United States.

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 and in your **GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB**.

Please write to us at:

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