

# DIRECTIONS

for Foursquare Christian Educators

Summer 1989

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

Volume 4

## 10 REASONS <sup>NOT</sup> TO USE CURRICULUM



### IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.

The average parent already spends hundreds of dollars each year to outfit the student, let alone all the school supplies. Why should they invest less than \$5.00 per student each quarter to teach them about God? What a waste of God's money!



### I DON'T LIKE TO BE TOLD WHAT TO TEACH.

Hey, I'm a Spirit-filled believer and I want to flow with the leading of the Holy Spirit. What would I do if I thought the Holy Spirit was telling me on the way to Sunday School to teach the second graders about the millennium? I couldn't disobey the Spirit.



### IT'S WASTEFUL.

Teaching children is a snap. You don't need all that stuff — just tell them a story! I don't always use all the stuff that comes with the curriculum, anyway. The boys like to make airplanes out of the papers.



### IT TAKES TOO MUCH TIME TO PREPARE.

I need a lesson that I can read in the car on the way to Sunday School. I'm only teaching because they couldn't find anyone else, but I'm willing to spend the time for the kids. They're precious, ya know.



### IT'S TOO FANCY AND COLORFUL.

There's no need for all those colors, crafts and fancy things. My kids are just as happy with a white piece of paper and crayons. And they prefer small, broken crayons, too!



### I COULD WRITE IT BETTER.

Someday I want to write lessons myself. I think I could write lessons that are more relevant than most of the curriculum I see. I'm hoping to have some time this next year.



### IT'S NOT PERFECT.

I haven't found a curriculum yet that teaches the same things I believe. Even though I could adjust the lesson to fit our doctrine, why should I take the time?



### IT'S NOT RELEVANT.

People today need answers for today's problems. Things aren't like they were in the Bible days. Values have changed.



### IT'S TOO STRUCTURED FOR ME.

Sure, it systematically teaches through the Bible, but how boring! We don't need to coordinate our teachings. Kids get enough of that in real school.



### I CAN NEVER REMEMBER TO ORDER IT SOON ENOUGH.

I get so busy working and serving God, I forget! These quarters seem to sneak up on me and well, it's a real pain.

CURRICULUM COMPARISON  
CHART INSIDE

Excitedly, Jimmy sat in his little chair keeping his eyes fixed on the door waiting for his mother to come for him. Jimmy attended this Sunday School in the nursery, preschool and now he held a Promotion Certificate to the First Grade in his little hand.

"Mom! Waving the certificate, he ran into her outstretched arms.

"Mom! Look at what I got!" Jimmy squealed.

Being promoted was quite an accomplishment for such a little guy!

The next Sunday Jimmy proudly went into the first grade and found a seat. He enjoyed studying about creation and being able to explain how God started the whole world. After what seemed to Jimmy like just a few weeks, he was promoted into the second grade.

Meanwhile, the curriculum committee decided to change curriculum. The new one would be more advantages to the student's learning and it didn't cost as much.

Jimmy was so excited to start the second grade. He woke up early, got dressed, ate his breakfast and ran to Sunday School. The teacher started the class by introducing everyone and explaining the new rules. Jimmy couldn't wait to get the new student books and see what they would be studying this year.

"Creation," he sighed to himself, "I already know about this."

Jimmy was disappointed that he had to study the same stuff again. He thought second grade would be different.

When the Sunday finally came for him to be promoted to the third grade, he wasn't as excited as he had been before. Glancing around the room, he saw that it was different than what he remembered it being like last week when he peaked in. There were several tables with objects on them. The teacher, Miss Julie, called these tables *Learning Centers* Jimmy like the learning centers because he could choose which one he wanted to work on. Miss Julie had spent considerable time in preparation for this day.

After calling the class to order, she said, "Boys and girls, I have placed your name at the table where you will be sitting this year. Please find your name and sit at the table."

Jimmy hurriedly found his place. He was sitting between two boys he didn't know, but that didn't matter. He thought he would like them. On the table were pencils, markers and everything they needed, including activity books. Jimmy opened his book, and guess what? You're right! The lessons were about creation. Miss Julie decided to write her own curriculum and she thought the logical place to start would be with creation.

Adapted - Lois Brown

## THE SELECTION OF CURRICULUM

**The criteria for selecting good curriculum includes:**

- Biblical content and doctrinal issues
- Christian values and lifestyles
- Well structured units and lesson plans
- Planned Student involvement
- Measurable aims
- Meets the student's interest and needs
- Visuals and study aids
- Scripture memorization
- Bible usage for students
- Current life applications
- Evangelistic oriented
- Missions outreach

## CURRICULUM; A TEACHING TOOL.

(Excerpt from "The Selection and Use of Curriculum" by Robert J. Choun, assistant professor of Christian Education at Dallas Seminary.)

The word "curriculum" comes from the latin word "run" or "running". According to Robert Choun, curriculum is a "race" course on which teacher and learner run as a team to reach the goal. Just as one runner springs from the starting block with eyes on the finish line, the teacher must always have the lesson aim clearly in sight. Method and materials that support the theme of the lessons are clearly marked lanes keeping the runner on the right track. Curriculum is a "map" to guide teacher and learner toward the goal, "...that we may present every man complete in Christ" Colossians 1:28c. A map indicates which road you must take to get from where you are to where you want to be. Good curriculum will pinpoint the location of your learner by an understanding of their age-level characteristics and needs. The goal is approached via a progression of supporting lessons.

Curriculum is a "watch" in which each gear performs a different function, but all work together to keep correct time. A well organized plan coordinates the lessons of each unit and the elements of each lesson to maximize learning. Themes and activities meshing gears with the needs of learners will keep a class moving like clockwork.

Even the world's finest curriculum depends on the runner, the navigator and the person who winds the watch. Curriculum properly used can be the tool that enables your teaching ministry to arrive at its goal.

**Christian Education Today**

## CURRICULUM; IS IT REALLY IMPORTANT?

John Wesley and George Whitfield were two of Britain's most noted evangelists. As contemporaries almost 200 years ago, they each had approximately the same number of converts. But their follow-up differed. George Whitefield's follow-up was very weak and inconsistent. John Wesley carefully set up a curriculum so that his converts were taught the Word systematically. Because of his emphasis on structure and methodology, the churches he established became known as "Methodist's". Curriculum still remains the crucial ingredient God uses to develop doctrinal stability and growth within any denomination.

Have you ever wondered why you needed a teacher's manual? Many times a teacher will misunderstand the use of a Teacher's Manual. It is designed as a very helpful tool. Instead of starting from scratch, teachers can build upon the information given, saving an enormous amount of time leading to a better and more effective lesson for their students.

Some values of curriculum are.

### CLOSELY GRADED

As children grow they pass through three developmental stages of growth marked by changing needs, interest and patterns of thinking and response. Experts in this field help develop truths from God's word to match the skill and comprehension levels of the students. Students learn and assimilate the lessons much quicker this way. Few teachers know the word well enough to choose concepts and passages and stories to fit the students needs.

### VALUABLE TEACHING TECHNIQUES

Curriculum publishers resource the knowledge and expertise of trained personnel to write in helpful and valuable "series and hints" of teaching techniques.

### VARIETY OF RESOURCES

The Christian publishers provide a variety of learning materials, including visuals, student workbooks, take-home papers and other pertinent student learning activities. All of these tools work together for the student to make learning exciting and a rewarding experience.

# Curriculum Comparison

	Gospel Light	Radiant Life
Doctrinal Basis	Non-Denominational (Presbyterian influence)	Charismatic (Assembly of God influence)
Cycle	Non-dated lessons (Re-cycleable)	Dated lessons (But recycleable)
Student Books	Yes	Yes Provides a primary one book in large print for easy reading
Student Participation	Good Provides 2-3 choices weekly	Good Provides 2 choices weekly
Music	Songs on cassette tape are available, as well as songbooks	Songs are provided on plastic record in the Teacher's Aid Packet. Songbooks also available.
Structure	Baby & Toddler (Birth-2) 2 and 3 year olds 4 and 5 year olds Primary (grades 1 & 2, adaptable through grade 3) Middler (grades 3 & 4) Junior (grades 5 & 6) Junior High High School Adult	Baby & Toddler (Birth-2) Nursery (Ages 2-3) Beginner (Ages 4-5) Primary (Ages 6-7, Grades 1 & 2) Middler (Ages 8-9, Grades 3 & 4) Junior (Ages 10-11, Grades 5 & 6) Teen (Ages 12-14, Grades 7-9) Hi-Teen (Ages 15-17, Grades 10-12) Adult-Young Adult (Ages 18 and over)
Costs (as of March 1, 1989)	Teacher's Guide \$ 3.25 Teacher's Resources \$ 6.95 Student Guide \$ 1.55 Take Home Papers \$ 1.55	Teacher's Book \$ 2.23 Teaching Helps \$ 5.95 Student Book \$ 1.23 Take Home Papers \$ 1.18
Churchtime and Children's Church	Churchtime <b>2-5 Year Olds</b> Quarterly material available. Includes Student Pages, Teacher's Guide, and Resources. Cost approximately \$11.75 <b>Grades 1-6</b> Kit includes 52 lessons available in yearly cycles — Year A, B or C \$59.95	Children's Church <b>Preschool, Primaries, Juniors</b> Dated quarterly lessons with Teaching Helps Packet and Leader's Guide. \$ 9.65 Correlates loosely with Sunday School curriculum.

## CURRICULUM — WHO NEEDS IT!

You and I do! During our first pastorate it became apparent that we needed a systematic study of God's word. Our Sunday school was struggling with four different and very used curriculum resources. Since we had more time than money, I thought we would develop and write our own curricula. Though the motive was sincere and direction right the end result did not hit the mark. Why? Because I really did not know what I was doing. Since that day I have discovered the "marks" and the need for a good curriculum.

- Knowing — **The Objective** - Bringing into focus the various facets of the Christian faith into an articulated plan.
- Knowing — **The Design** - Curriculum is educational architecture by arrangement of material and experiences. It is the blue prints.
- Knowing — **The Organizing Principle** - Knowing where you are starting and when you will finish the educational process desired.
- Knowing — **The Comprehensiveness** - Curriculum must embrace the full scope of our church's doctrine and tenants of faith.
- Knowing — **The Balance** - The topic or unit must be considered (e.g. an adult class spending 9 years in the book of Revelation.)
- Knowing — **The Sequence** - There needs to be logical movement from one age level to another; and the materials used in one stage should prepare the person for the next stage of development.
- Knowing — **The Interpretation** - Every curriculum is an interpretation of the Bible. Does the interpretation coincide with the church belief?

Many times we are still asked, "Do we need to use a curriculum?" My response is, "Yes!" These resources are an effective tool to reaching the needs of those we serve. God doesn't anoint curriculum, but He does anoint you and me.

**Rick Wulfestieg**

## Inside Our Foursquare Family

North Coast Faith Center Sunday School Day January 29, 1989

People who care, committed Christian Education workers from Crescent City, Ferndale, Fontana, and Eureka, California gathered for a morning of training. Pastor Charlie Crouse and staff of the North Coast Faith Center did an excellent job of hosting this educational time together. The topics led by Rev. Rick Wulfestieg, National Pastor of Christian Education, were: Your Life Counts, Understand those you Reach and Teach, Practical Ways of Teaching and Follow Me (Matthew 4:19).

If your District or Division is interested in a Christian Education Training Conference, call or write your District Office or the National Department of Christian Education.



My life really does count.



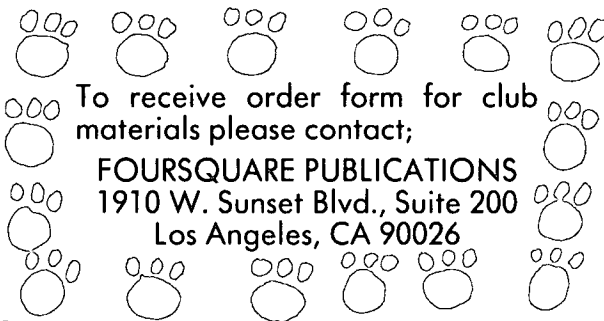
Write that point!

# Announcing

## The GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

An exciting new club ministry for children!

Available April 25, 1989 from Foursquare Publications



To receive order form for club materials please contact;

**FOURSQUARE PUBLICATIONS**  
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90026



**DIRECTIONS FOR FOURSQUARE 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 mailed without charge to each Foursquare Church in the United States.

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

If you would like to make an article contribution to this newsletter, we would appreciate hearing from you.

**NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
1910 West Sunset Blvd., Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
(213) 484-0105