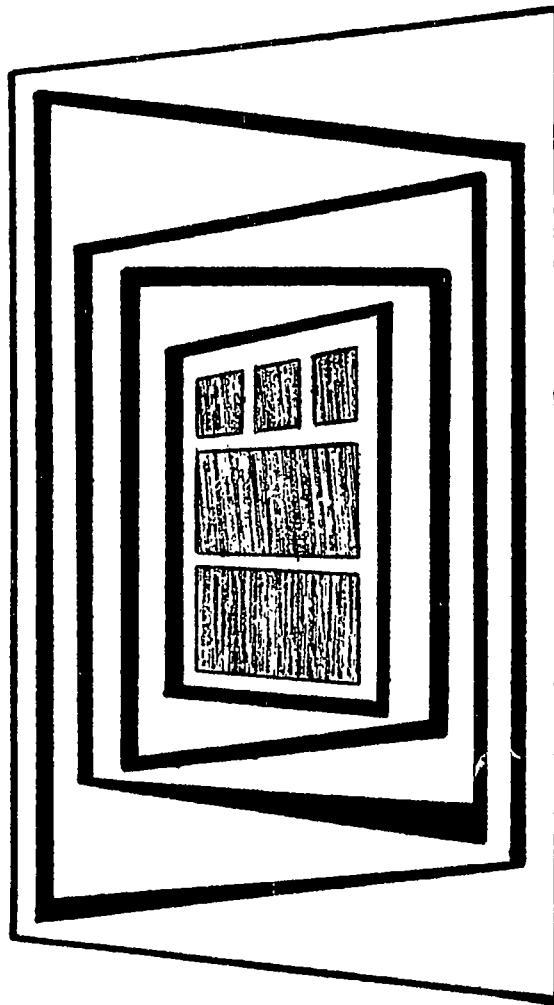


Doorways

to

Perpetuate

Pentecost



1969 Spring Sunday School Manual

"Doorways To Perpetuate Pentecost"

*"And they, continuing daily.
...from house to house..."
(Acts 2:36)*

The Book of Acts writes the history of the early Christian church. As a result of their infilling, new zeal sprang up in these hearts. They began telling of Christ, of his fulness, and the Gospel spread until before a century has passed after the Acts 2 experience, more than half of the then-known world was Christian. They perpetuated Pentecost.

This Foursquare Church is a Pentecostal Church. Its message is the same as that of Acts--the full Gospel for the full man. There are no barriers too great for this Gospel; no territory unconquerable. We go in that same strength; with that same Spirit to anoint; with the same guidance.

*"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
(Acts 2:47)*

These spring program materials point out doorways through which the church can go to reach the lost. Included are:

Easter follow-up = tools to perpetuate Pentecost right in your community--
to make all aware of the Foursquare Church.

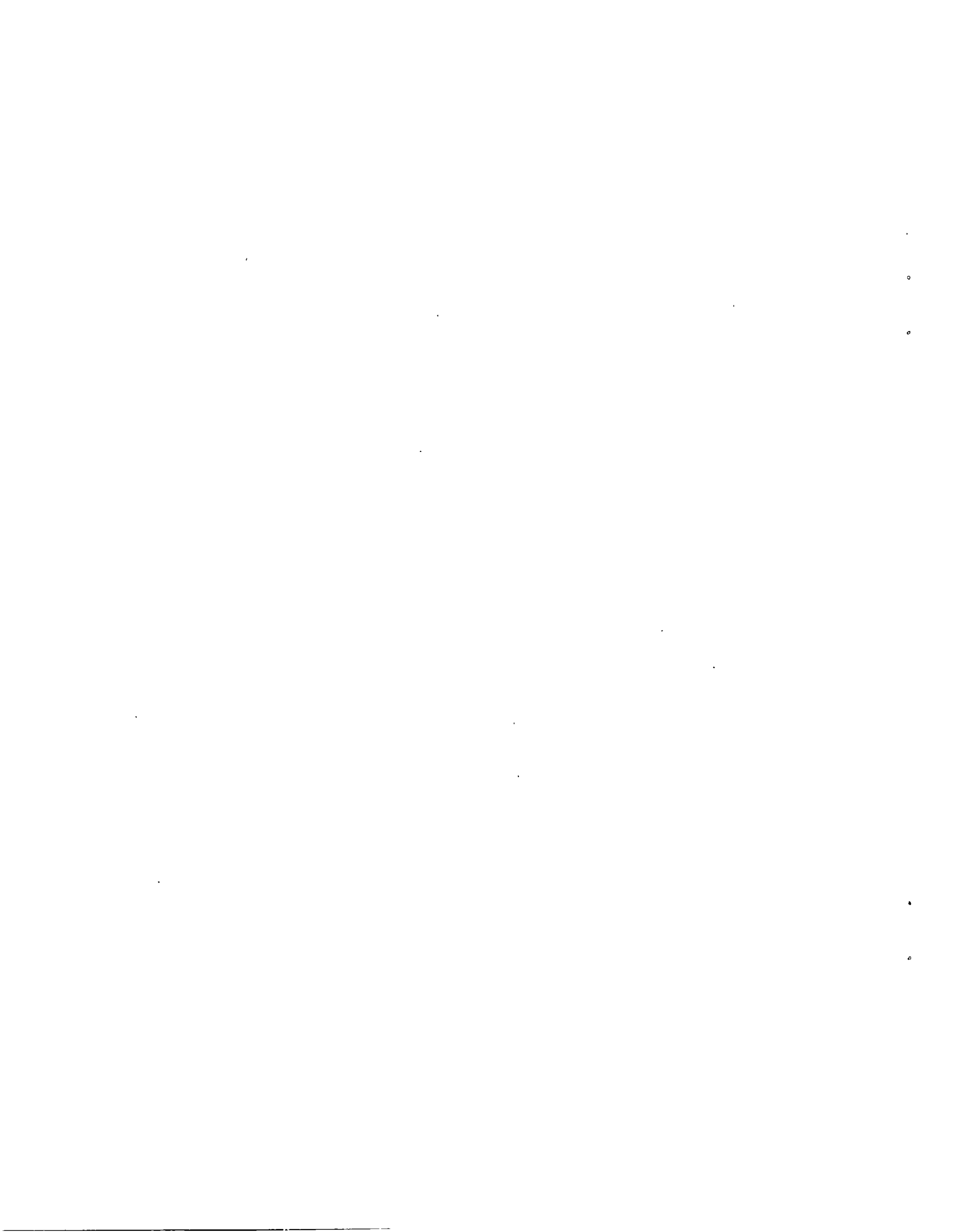
Mothers' Day = ideas to make it unique and different in Sunday school.

Pentecost Sunday = to make this a really meaningful day beginning with Sunday school.

June = outreach for adults and children, through Christian homes.

Keeping in mind the total year's program, this spring's outreach and visitation contact may give the church its preatest outreach in the fall--and help it build for a full fall enlargement. The leadership must lead the way. Where are you going?

Foursquare Publications
1100 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90026



PERPETUATE PENTECOST

...THROUGH VISITATION

"And the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)

The greatest result of Pentecost was the spread of the Gospel. The Lord promised that, having once *received* they should *be*. As a result of the power of Pentecost, they became witnesses of the Lord. This spread the Good News.

The Holy Spirit did His part, but He was only allowed to do it as the Christians did their part. The results were not the responsibility of the Christians, but of the Lord Himself; He gave the increase, they had only to be faithful to their tasks.

The same principle works today; it is still His pattern. And as was true in the Book of Acts--the leaders led and the people responded to follow their example--so it can be true today. His power is the same, His message is the same, people's needs are basically the same. And the results can be the same.

The church must go out into the community to reach the lost. This can be done through an outreach into the community--an outreach to win the lost to Christ. Then these converts can be filled with His Spirit and sent out. This is perpetuation of Pentecost.

Perpetuate the message of your church into your community through a community canvass. Saturate the city with materials which tell of your church's ministry to all who call upon it. Make all aware of the Foursquare message -- that full message for the full man; spirit, soul and body.

PLANNING the OUTREACH

The purpose of your canvass outreach is three-fold:

- 1 To blanket the community with the message of the Foursquare Church.
- 2 To win people to Jesus Christ, even in their homes.
- 3 To make people aware that your church is in the community to serve them.

Keeping these purposes in mind, the church can plan its strategy. If the entire community is to be exposed to your church, then the entire community must be contacted. If a large city, you may wish to concentrate upon a smaller section to begin.

As you read this page, let your mind's eye envision the doorways on your own street, in your own block. Do you, as an individual church leader, know who is behind each of those doors? Do they know of your church and its ministry to them? Multiply your own response to these questions by the number of members, or workers, in your church. What would the result be in your community? Does it need to know more about the Foursquare Church which is there to serve?

The community can only know as we go. A properly conducted canvass of your city can only result in good, especially if a packet of materials about your church is left in each home.

<i>TRAINING and RECRUITING for OUTREACH</i>

Use the Action Groups which were set up in the fall. If revisions or change of personnel is needed, do it now. Add other Action Groups as necessary to accomodate new contacts and members. Get these new ones immediately active in the church. Consult the Planning Guide (from Fall Sunday School Packet or see order blank) for further details on the Action Groups.

If Action Groups were not previously organized, they may begin now. Because of their practicality, it is suggested these groups be used. Of course, the members may be assigned in different ways as well.

1. Plan training meetings for the group leaders. Present the program to them and let them help shape it to your individual church. Have a sample of all materials to give to them. Demonstrations of how to call, with time for questions will be profitable. Amount of training will depend upon how much training has transpired previously.
2. If new Action Groups are needed, select the necessary leaders and begin training them. Include these in the planning sessions.
3. Prior to the training meetings, prepare a listing of those persons who are not now members of an Action Group. Allow each leader to choose from this list for his own team. (Keep in mind that the Action Group should not exceed 7 individuals or 7 couples.) Make this outreach a total church thrust. Involve each member.
4. Ask each group leader to set up a schedule of meetings for his group. These should begin about 2 weeks before the outreach begins. Each group should have at least one meeting prior to the kick-off meeting.
5. Pass out the written schedule of meetings which are to be held for planning.
6. Provide tools for the Action Group leaders to use in training their groups. They will probably use the same method you used in training them. Do it right!

Jesus did not wait until 100% of the multitude followed him. In fact, he only selected 12, and one of them eventually failed Him. Do not wait until 100% of the congregation--or even the workers--respond. Begin with those you have--if it is only yourself--to inform the community again of the Foursquare Church and its message.

In challenging his congregation for visitation, one pastor said, "Why not try it for one year. If it does not work we will drop it. If it does work, we might have something worthwhile to share with others." It worked!

SCHEDULING the OUTREACH

The church must decide itself just when this should occur. However, it is suggested that the best time to do this is following Easter and just prior to Pentecost Sunday (April 6 - May 25). In this way the church can capitalize upon the Easter season (when people are probably more aware of the church than at any other time). Too, this leads up to a climax on Pentecost Sunday.

Carefully chose the hours when the canvass will take place. Select a time when the greatest number can participate, perhaps a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. It is proven that nearly twice as many calls can be made in the same amount of time during the day as during the evening.

This year a canvass is also particularly meaningful, for the Sunday school will be planning towards its fall Sunday School Contest (October-November, 1969). If the church conducts a canvass of its community now, it will have lists of prospects which can be contacted again throughout the summer and into the fall. However, only if proper information is secured now, through this outreach, can this be done.

ORGANIZING for OUTREACH

The "Visitation Manual" (see order blank) contains the basics for organizing and carrying out a canvass or other outreach in your community. Using this as a guide, select the other aids which are needed (listed in Manual) and proceed from here.

This manual contains a pattern for preparing a pictorial church booklet, which pictures your church and its ministries. Begin to prepare this at once. This valuable tool will be a continual assistance for all visitation. Prepare adequate numbers of these to accomodate all visitation teams or Action Groups.

Additional personnel may be needed in preparing materials, arranging schedules, mapping the city, etc. Personally solicit the persons needed and have a job description (what is expected of them) ready to present to them, when they are approached. Do not forget the youth of your church. Begin early enough to utilize these young people during their Easter or spring vacation. Have the materials ready for them--the Visitation Kits to be stuffed, the pictures to be put into the booklet, etc. Too, the senior citizens of your church might enjoy a day at the church, preparing the various items.

Take the children with you to visit. Train them when they are young, teaching them Christianity is active, not passive.

TOOLS for OUTREACH

Workers will be hampered without proper tools to carry on this outreach program. Provided for your use are the following:

TOOLS FOR VISITATION

1. Visitation Kit Folder, entitled "Something for you from the Foursquare Church" prepared as a cover for the visitation packet.
2. Tract, "Who Should Attend A Foursquare Sunday School" - making Sunday School a family affair.
3. Tract, "The Significance of A Cross" - the plan of salvation, with special appeal to youth.
4. Scripture Portion - American Bible Society Pentecost Portion, the Scripture only, without comment.
5. Balloon - colorful, with imprint which reads, "Education for Christian Living, Attend a Foursquare Sunday School"
6. *Foursquare Church in evangelism. Center spread from the March, 1969 Foursquare ADVANCE, a 4-page pamphlet about our church's evangelistic emphasis.
7. Ribbon Bookmarks - cloth, with Foursquare emblem and phrases imprinted.

Additional tools are available and listed on the spring program order blank. The tools listed above provide not only information about the Foursquare Church, but also present the plan of salvation and a portion of Scripture to be read.

In the Visitation Kit, which is to be left at each house visited, the church may wish to place one of its church bulletins and a schedule of its services.

TOOLS FOR TRAINING

For the training of the workers, the following is suggested:

Visitation Manual - a detailed outline for organizing and conducting all visitation. (The manual is Course #200, of the Approved Training Program. Credit may be given for this when the ATP procedure is followed.)

The callers need proper guidance and adequate materials if they are to do an effective job. Neglect of this area can only result in a poor job, perhaps with even more harm than good being done.

TOOLS FOR RECORDING VISITATION

An adequate system for recording the visits made is vital. Records are listed in the Visitation Manual, and include:

- * Reprints of this will be available upon order. Watch the Coordinated Mail (Feb.) for order blank.

1. Census Cards - to record names, addresses, etc.
2. Census Envelope - to map out assignment and keep cards in.

All of the above tools are available through Foursquare Publications. See enclosed order blanks for convenience in ordering.

<p>CHALLENGING WORKERS for OUTREACH</p>

The first step for successful salesmanship is, "Be sold on your product." Are you? Is your church and your Christ important enough to share with others?

Again present the challenge to the workers on a high spiritual plane.

1. Begin with the Sunday School Cabinet. Let them help set the dates and mold the plan to your individual church.
2. Present it to the Action Group leaders. (See "Training & Recruiting" sections.)
3. Present it to the entire staff at the Workers' Conference prior to the program's beginning date.
4. Provide a time when the entire congregation may be informed as to this outreach plan. (See suggestions below.) Make this a total church program.
5. Challenge the congregation from the pulpit. A message on evangelism and service is in order here.

Try the following:

1. Kick-Off banquet or supper. Present the plan in detail, using figures of past growth, attendance now, number of visitors within the past few months, etc. Ask for testimonies from those who were brought to the church by visitation.

End the evening early enough to be able to assign 1 call for each person (or family) to make on his way home. At the next public service, allow a time for those who accept this challenge to report the results of their calls.

2. Slogan. Have the leadership (Cabinet or Action Leaders) brainstorm on a slogan for your canvass.

"Friendly Foursquare Community Canvass"
 "Winning Friends & Influencing Members"
 "Upreach for Outreach"

3. Visual Presentation. Prepare a large sign which reads, "WE CAN HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH AS WE WANT...THROUGH VISITATION".

Prepare word cards which read as follows:

- Want them enough
- to work
 - to pray
 - to love them
 - to bring them in

Put these word cards up, one at a time, as the presentation progresses.

The speaker may use the above points for his presentation. When he has finished the fourth point above, some previously prepared persons should stand, one after the other, and ask the following questions.

1. Do absentees have to know they are wanted?
2. Do visitors have to know we want them to come back?
3. Do prospects have to know they are wanted?
4. Doesn't the community know it is wanted?

Speaker: Ask the congregation to answer these questions, after all four have been presented. *(Discussion may follow, but it should be kept to a minimum and guided so it does not deviate from the main point.)*

When the discussion is completed and the questions have been answered, the speaker should say, "When people know they are wanted, they will come."

The following are then presented, one at a time, by again pre-arranged persons. After each statement, the leader asks the question which follows it.

1. More people mean more problems, more spiritual needs. *(Are we willing to become adequate to meet these needs?)*
2. More teachers will be needed, more equipment, more supplies. *(Are we willing to handle these needs?)*
3. More people will mean more facilities. *(Do we want more people this much?)*
4. More people mean greater numbers to place in responsible positions. *(Are we willing to trust new folks?)*

These statements and questions should generate thought from the members. And when presented with much prayer and in the right spirit, should cause Christians to evaluate their motivations and spiritual concerns.

Do not scold. Do not "preach at" anyone. This is the Holy Spirit's work-- to convict. Allow Him to penetrate hearts.

In closing, remind all that: "WE CAN HAVE WHAT WE WANT" "...for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (I. Cor. 15:58)

CHECK LIST for OUTREACH

3 Months before
program begins.

- _____ Read program thoroughly. Become acquainted with available tools
- _____ Order adequate materials for each leader.
- _____ Review the program with the other Sunday school leaders (S.S. Cabinet, Action Group Leaders, etc.) Decide which tools need to be ordered.
- _____ Order materials and tools.

6 Weeks before
program begins.

- _____ Present the outreach plan to the Workers' Conference. Answer any questions. Give to each a specific date to report progress.
- _____ Delegate each detail to capable persons.
- _____ Schedule Action Group meeting.
- _____ Conduct necessary training.

2 Weeks before
program begins.

- _____ Publicly present outreach program to entire congregation.
- _____ Schedule definite prayer times for outreach effort.
- _____ Ready materials (count, package, designate to groups, etc.)
- _____ Mail written reminders of times and dates to each worker.
- _____ Ask each group leader to phone group members with vital information and reminders.

If used immediately after Easter, consider the Easter program plans in scheduling meetings and training.

2

2

2

2

VISITATION TIPS

FROM A PASTOR

NECESSITY OF CANVASSING A COMMUNITY

One of the greatest problems in maintaining the growth of a Sunday school is to keep constantly on hand a good list of prospects. Unless we keep such a list, our workers are prone to lose their enthusiasm and neglect the regular visitation program. There is but little or no incentive in constantly calling on those who, in previous contacts, have expressed no indication or intention of attending your Sunday school. Therefore a supply of fresh prospects is absolutely essential to an enthusiastic, aggressive visitation program. Certain mechanics of canvassing your community are essential also.

ENLIST YOUR WORKERS FOR THIS PARTICULAR TASK

Sell the workers on the importance of the task. Carefully instruct the workers on the mechanics. Appoint a definite time for the work to be done. (There is more enthusiasm in everyone doing the job at the same time).

MAKE SURE YOUR PRELIMINARY SECRETARIAL WORK IS EFFECTIVELY DONE

A large map of the territory to be canvassed should be obtained. (In large cities, blown up maps of specific communities of the city can be obtained.) Secretary should number on a map each block in the section to be covered. Have a 3 by 5 index card for each block numbered. (a) Write the number assigned to a block on your map in the center of card. (b) Around edges of the card, write the names of the four streets bordering that particular block. Secretary should take a long sheet of paper and place number of each block in left hand column.

ASSIGNMENTS

At the appointed time for the workers to meet to canvass the community, call them together. Review your briefing of the task and send them out saturated with prayer. Assign your workers to specific blocks, two by two. (Luke 10:1) When each block is assigned, write the names of the two workers who are to canvass that block opposite the proper block number on the long sheet. After your briefing meeting with workers is dismissed, have each couple go by the table and check with the secretary the exact location of their particular block. Otherwise, some couple will get on someone else's territory and neglect their own block.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

Your two workers on each block should begin at a corner. Instruct them to go around the block, never crossing a street and ending up at the corner from which they started. Workers should be instructed not to carry cards, pencils, tracts, etc., in their hands, but in their pockets.

At first house workers should: (1) Introduce themselves and tell what church they are from. (2) If possible, get inside of home. (3) Get information concerning every member of family. Name, age, whether saved or lost, member of what church, etc. (4) Try to sell them on your church and their need. (5) Have brief prayer before leaving, if possible. (6) Ascertain name of family next door where you will call next. (7) Leave Gospel tract, announcement of your services, etc. Repeat same in every house around the block. (a) Make notation of addresses where no one is at home. (b) If you do not finish your block, make notation of where you left off and make date to finish the job, not forgetting to go back to those addresses where people were not at home the first time. (c) Turn in full written reports on cards to secretary.

FOLLOW UP WORK

Secretary should go through cards carefully. Make separate prospect card for each prospect in each home, giving all necessary information. Refer prospect cards to proper age groups who should follow up immediately in visitation.

About the Author:
Rev. G. Beauchamp Vick is pastor of one of the largest Baptist churches in the USA. His Sunday school averages over 4000.

PERSISTENCE PAYS

A survey made by the National Retail Dry Goods Association revealed:

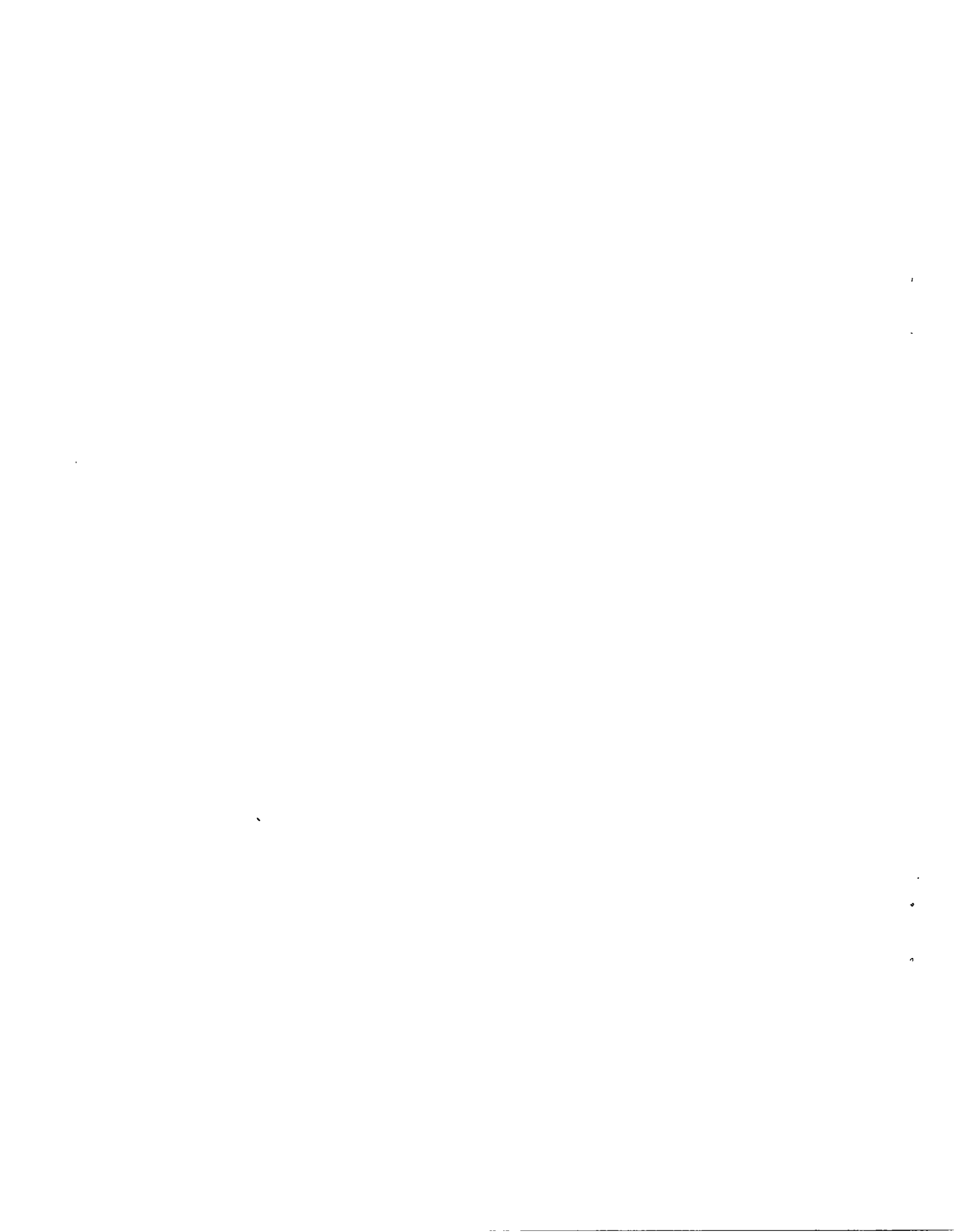
48% of salesmen made 1 call & quit

25% made 2 calls and quit

88% quit after 1, 2, or 3 calls

The 12% who kept on calling did 80% of the business. The 88% who quit by the third call did only 20% of the business.

VISIT-VISIT-VISIT-VISIT



SPECIAL DAYS' PROGRAMS

Planning

The cooperation of the entire Sunday school staff for each special day's program is important. But, cooperation is most likely to be realized when the workers are properly prepared and introduced to the programs which are to come.

While the church may have conducted its Annual Planning Conference when every worker was made aware of the events to come, each one needs to be given the detailed outline of the program now and allowed time to prepare to participate.

The following programs are no exception. When the Sunday School Cabinet meets to go over the programs thoroughly, allow them to help adjust them to your school. Their participation in the planning should assure their participation in the presenting.

The Sunday school must choose those special days' programs which best suit its individual needs, and plan these thoroughly. The Sunday School Cabinet should assist here. Then this is presented to the workers' conference.

Workers' Conference

Prepare a progress report for the first 6 months of this year. Use a graph or chart to note this. Compare it with the previous year's average. Note especially the spiritual results and the growth patterns. Survey the past summer's attendance, and discuss this. Allow the truth of the report to be realized; what has your school accomplished in the past 6 months? (Use the Standard of Achievement form as a guide for this evaluation.)

In the light of this progress report, determine which special days you will institute. Give the reasons for your evaluation. Show how the summer program emphasis (faithful attendance and memory emphasis) will help build on what is to be done now.

When the program in general has been presented and questions regarding it answered, divide the group according to departments. (If your school is not departmentalized, divide into the three major divisions, children, youth and adults.) Each group or department should plan how they will emphasize the special day programs in their classes, always keeping in mind the general planning of the total school. Provide them with the necessary materials and adequate guides for making these definite plans.

Presentation to the Congregation

While the Sunday school staff needs to be aware of all of the coming events, introduce these one at a time to the congregation. But, introduce it far enough in advance to allow planning, enthusiasm and preparation.

If the Graduation Day or Achievement Day Program is held in June, this would be a good time to introduce the Summer Program (available in the summer packet on April 1).

MOTHER'S DAY

May 11

Is Mother's Day in your church an effective day? Does it build for results in evangelism, honor to Christ and challenge for Christian living? Consider making this day another time of community outreach as well as a time when Christians are involved in service.

1. Attendance Booster. As a means for outreach and to get the family to work together, honor the Mother whose family brings the most to Sunday school that week. These brought do not have to be just members of her own family, but can be anyone who comes at her invitation, or at the invitation of her family. Give a certain number of points for each visitor who comes. You may wish to give different numbers of points for each "type" of visitor. For example.

3 points - persons who have never attended before

2 points - each absentee who returns (define "absentee" as a person who has been absent a certain number of Sundays.)

Make available names, addresses and phone numbers of prospects, absentees, etc. and allow certain points for each contact made (1 point for phone call; 3 points for home call, etc.) Tie this into your Post-Easter community outreach.

The mother with the greatest total points is honored as the "Mother of the Day". As an award, present the family with a family portrait, dinner at a local restaurant, book of family altar suggestions, etc.

2. Mother of the Year. By secret ballot ask each person to vote for the mother they feel should be honored as the "Mother of the Year". She should be chosen because of her Christian life, faithfulness, contribution to the church and to her own family. Vote for several weeks prior to Mother's Day. Announce the winner and honor this mother on "her" day. You may wish to tie this in with some of the following suggestions.
3. Portraits of Mother. Prepare a large picture frame -- large enough for actual life-size scenes to be posed behind it. Arrange a suitable background for this. Portray the many facets of mothers. Some of the following might be used.

- Mother praying (kneeling beside a chair)
- Mother reading the Scripture (in rocking chair) with her Bible. She, or someone else might read aloud the Scripture, such as I Samuel 2:1, 2, 8, 9, 18, 19)
- Mother serving (sewing, cooking, sweeping, etc.)

With each scene, use a short narration of the ministries of Christian mothers in each of these areas. Testimonies from either mothers (as to why they are willing to do these things) or from their children (in appreciation for mother's help) could be used as well. The last scene might be portrayed by the Mother of the Year, and the announcement be made at this time. If this is done, a family portrait, in this frame might serve as a gift for this mother.

4. Honor all Mothers. Teach the children the words to the following Mother's Day song. On Mother's Day, have the children sing this to all mothers, as they stand.

Tune: "Jesus Loves Me"

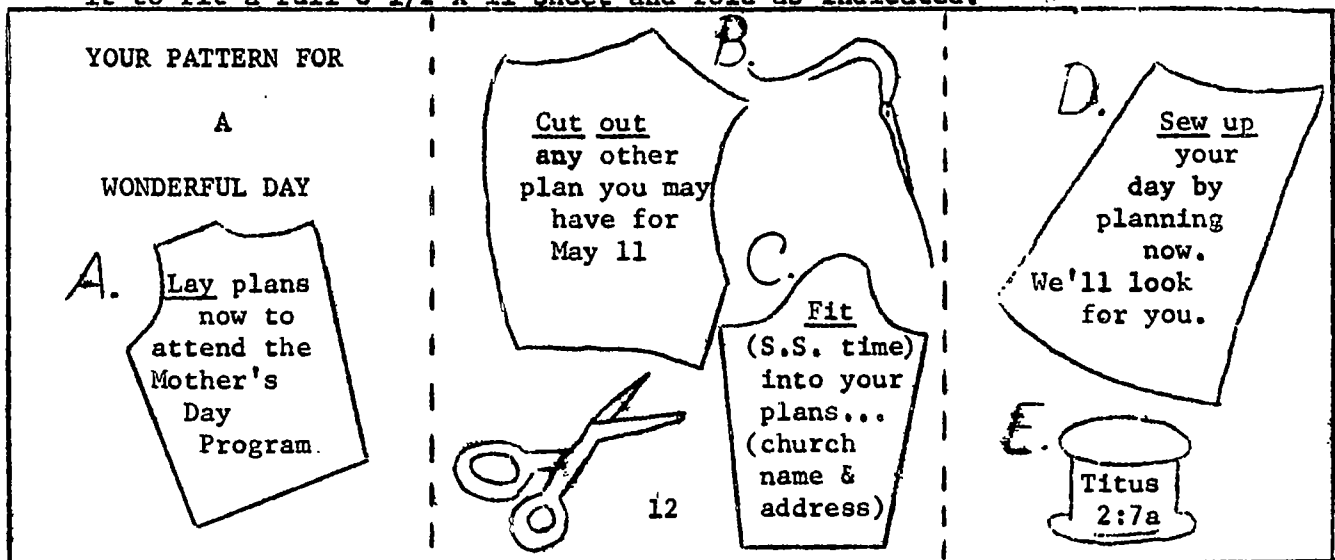
Chorus:

Mothers love us this we know,
Yes, their love for us they show;
Children love their mothers, too,
I love mine, and so do you.

Yes, mothers love us
(repeat 3 times)
Their love for us they show.

If flowers or some other mementa are given to mothers, have the children pass them out at this time.

5. Missions. This is also Sunday school missionary Sunday. The regular missionary program has many ideas for this day. The story is one from New Guinea, and is about the Hughes family. (For the past seven months the pre-schoolers have been studying New Guinea.) The theme for this day might be about the missionary mother and her family, and the blessing they are there in spreading the Gospel.
6. Advertise for mothers. Place an ad in the classified section of the local newspaper saying, "Wanted: The youngest mother, oldest mother, newest mother, mother with most children, to attend church." Perhaps with this ad the paper will accept as a news story an article on the service planned.
7. Tributes to mother. On the Sunday before Mother's Day pass out 5 x 7 cards, numbered at the top. Tell each child he can earn an orchid (or other appropriate award) for his mother by finishing this sentence: "I think my mom is the greatest mother because..." Each is asked to write not more than one paragraph. Allow only 5-7 minutes for this. To identify each card, record on a separate paper the name of the person and beside it the number of his card. Collect the cards and have 2 or 3 persons read them and choose the winner(s). If you wish to have a winner from the boys and one from the girls, ask the boys to put a "B" on their cards; the girls a "G". On Mother's Day, read several of these paragraphs, ending with the best ones. Let the winners present the flowers to their mothers.
8. Invitation. For this day, use the following pattern for invitation. Enlarge it to fit a full 8 1/2 x 11 sheet and fold as indicated.



The Foursquare Church is a Pentecostal Church. It stands as a church with a full message to meet the full needs of man. Its doctrine and practices are distinct in several ways; it's message is as contemporary as this day.

Pentecost Day provides an opportunity for the church to proclaim its distinctives. In doing this, opportunity is also present to help the church members review their doctrine and experiences. What might be done to accomplish both of these things?

1. Visitation-Canvass Climax. If the church has been participating in the "Perpetuate Pentecost" program to blanket the community with the message of the Foursquare Church, this Sunday might serve as a climax and review of past efforts. This does not mean that the penetration should end here; the follow-up of all prospects and the "perpetuating" should continue. Make the entire congregation conscious of what has transpired in the past weeks, and the results which have been realized. (Remember: not all results are immediately seen.)

Contact again any interested persons which were found during either the pre-Easter Televisitation program or the post-Easter canvass. Give each a special invitation to the Pentecost Sunday services. Make this Sunday a time when the visitor is made aware of the ministry of your church to him and his family.

2. Panel of Youth. The CY's are concentrating on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit this month in their Crusader programming. Use them on a panel to discuss this in the opening worship. Give them guides such as the following:

1. What is meant by the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Is it scriptural?
2. Give a brief summary of the things which contributed to the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost.
3. How do we know one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit?
4. How does the fulness of the Spirit aid the Christian?
5. What was the result of the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost? (Spread of the Gospel) Should the same thing result today?

The CY program guide, "Crusading", contains information for this.

By way of introduction, relate the fact that the Foursquare Church is a Pentecostal Church. One of our distinctives is that we believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:4). Then allow the youth to give the doctrinal aspect of this. Too, draw personal testimonies from these youth as to the value of this experience in their own lives.

3. News Release. Prepare a news article, with a picture of your church and pastor, for the local paper. In this article not only will you advertise the church's program on Pentecost Sunday, but also give a brief history of Pentecost and the way the Foursquare Church subscribes to this. If you have participated in the visitation outreach to blanket your community with the message and materials of the Foursquare Church, mention this thrust as well. Encourage all residents to call the church, asking for information or materials, and to attend the special-day services.
4. Home Missions Suggestions. Available through the International Home Missions Department are many suggestions for this day and this month. Tie together all of the programming in the various departments of your church.
5. Pentecost Day Rally. Make this Sunday a Rally Day. As this is also Membership Sunday in Foursquare Churches, arrange to contact all church and Sunday school members. In Sunday school, present all those who have become new members since Easter. And if there are those who are attending for the first time today and are not members of another Sunday school, invite them to join as well. (Consult Sunday School Constitution for membership.) If no new members were realized this past month, has leadership evaluated why this has happened? Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily..." What preceded this? This would be a good Sunday to give a mid-year review of the progress of your Sunday school during the past 6 months. Prepare charts and graphs for this.



GRADUATION SUNDAY

Suggested time, Children's Day

June 8

One of these days the pupils in your Sunday school will rocket from their school, howling with glee because they do not have to go back until September. With grade card in hand, he will point out to his parents, "Promoted to grade four".

What will happen when he goes to Sunday school the next Sunday? He is in the same class, and will remain there until September. "But, I'm in the fourth grade. Why can't I go now?" And the teacher may wonder, "Why indeed?"

This question arises each spring. And it is justified. Why not? When the full objectives of the Sunday school's teaching ministry is remembered, the reasons become clear.

1. The summer months are a poor time to begin a year's work.
2. Promotion Day ceremonies are less meaningful in the spring.
3. Lesson quarterlies are planned for a fall promotion. Spring promotion means either overlap in previously studied areas or leaving unfinished the course begun.
4. Pupils identify with their regular class and are more likely to remain faithful here than in a new class.
5. Teachers know their pupils and can more easily "keep track" of them.

These are just a few of the reasons to consider. But they are reasons to be considered. In addition, we need to ask these questions:

1. Does spring promotion have more advantages than fall promotion?
2. Can't most of the advantages sought in spring promotion be realized in easier ways and without sacrificing the matters discussed above?
3. If all the advantages of spring promotion were realized, would it be worth the trouble and difficulty involved in the change?

Public school does promote in the spring, BUT: pupils do not enter their new classes until fall. (Should we dismiss Sunday school for the summer?) The school children have completed their work to be promoted. (Should exams be given to Sunday school pupils and if they pass we assure their immediate promotion?)

BUT

if Promotion Day is to wait until fall, what can the Sunday school do in the spring to honor its students and recognize their school promotion?

Try this:

1. Achievement Day - Make Children's Day (3rd Sunday in June) Achievement Day. Honor those students who have shown outstanding effort and achievement throughout the previous quarters. Honor such things as:
 - Memory Work - Display the memory work charts and tokens.
 - Attendance Records - recognize those persons with perfect (or near perfect) attendance for the past 3 quarters. (This may encourage continued faithful attendance for the coming summer quarter as well.)
 - Pupils' books - Bind (with hard cover and shoelaces or colored yarn) the first three quarter's pupils' books which are completed and display them.
 - Craft - Prepare a table display of all craft and/or lesson-related projects.
 - Missionary projects - Any missionary undertaking which the school has attempted (bulletin board, pre-school New Guinea village, etc.), can be displayed.
 - Certificates - obtain Honor Roll Certificates (order from Foursquare Publications) to be presented to all being honored.
2. Graduation Day. If the school wishes to use the graduation theme, the following are applicable.
 - Music - Pomp and Circumstance March as the classes march in.
 - Scroll - letter on a scroll those who are graduating. Note with an asterick or other figure those who are honored for achievement (memory work, pupil's books completed, etc.)
 - Progress Report - give a brief progress report of what has happened in your Sunday school this past year. Include such things as will later appear on the Foursquare Standard of Achievement Report (converts, new members, average attendance and enrolment for each department, etc.) Challenge all for the remaining 3 months of the year.
3. Attendance Drive. Use this day for an attendance drive. Encourage competition between classes and departments. Make this part of their "achievement". Give points for 100% enrolment present, home visits made, phone calls and cards written, visitors present. To encourage total participation, award points to the classes with the greatest percentage of pupils participating, through calls made, visits, etc.

Award the winning class or department a picture of plaque for its room.
4. Summer Kick-Off. Use the Special Day program to introduce the interesting things to come, such as the Summer Sunday School Stamp Program (see Summer Sunday School Packet available April 1). Prepare written instructions about the summer activities and distribute them to all present. Talking about the interesting things to come will challenge pupils to participate in their present class and tie them into this for these weeks.

June is

Bustin'
Out

EVANGELISM
OUTREACH

...outside the church.

Acts 5:42 says, "and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." There are people in the community who it seems we are unable to get into the church. Therefore, unless the Gospel is given outside the church, these persons will not be reached.

In the New Testament, the Gospel was taken by the Christians to persons in the city and neighborhood. They witnessed wherever they went. Some opened their homes and the church met there. Why doesn't this same plan operate today? It does!

Two growing avenues for evangelism are challenging Christians:

1. Weekday Bible Clubs for children.
2. Home Bible Classes for unsaved adults.

Let us examine the possibilities of each:

Weekday Bible Clubs for Children

Enclosed in this packet is a "Fishermen Club Manual". It contains an outline and definite instructions for conducting Bible clubs for children in the neighborhood. Practical directions for personnel, locale, program and tools are given. Its purpose is EVANGELISM of children.

Home Bible Classes for Unsaved Adults

The emphasis here is on the unsaved adults, not a group of Christians meeting where each expresses his personal interpretation of a certain portion of the Scripture. If the purpose of EVANGELISM is to be carried out, it must be a meeting where the unsaved friends can enter into a simple study/discussion of Bible truths.

The church's place is to train couples to hold a Bible class in their home and to invite their unsaved friends and neighbors. Helps for this are found in the booklet, "Search for Reality" (see order blank), as well as in the enclosed materials. Training is important to the success of this home-study plan. Results are especially gratifying for Christian couples.

-- 20-20 Vision

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house."

Acts 20:20