

*Sunday
School*
**SUPERINTENDENT'S
CASSETTE
MANUAL**

1972 - 73

SUPERINTENDENT CASSETTE MANUAL

Title: SUPERINTENDENT HELPS, Tape #2
Date: Fall, 1972
Theme: Change, as it affects the Sunday School
Contents:

SIDE 1

1. How to Use This Cassette
2. Foursquare Sunday Schools in the '70s.
Dr. Rolf K. McPherson
3. Sunday School Trends
Dr. Vincent R. Bird
4. Vital Information for the Superintendent

SIDE 2

1. Bible Translations
Rev. S. Middlebrook
2. Sunday Schools are Changing
Miss Eloise Clarno
3. Superintendent Tid-Bits

GUIDES FOR USE OF THIS CASSETTE

This manual is designed as a guide for use with the Superintendent Helps, Tape, #2, produced in 1972, as a part of the Sunday School Superintendent's Kit.

Other items in the Superintendent's Kit are:

1. Cassette, with manual
2. Sunday School SCOPE - a glance at the full year to come
3. ICL Brochure - a training seminar guide
4. Order-blank (for training books)
5. Worker's Conference Outlines

All of these tools are mentioned on the cassette. Have them on hand as you review the tape.

As you begin to listen to the cassette, for most effective learning, observe these guides.

1. Gather all of the materials listed above. You will need these as you listen.
2. Plan to spend at least 30 minutes at each sitting as you listen to the cassette. Each side of the cassette is about 30 minutes in length.

You will need this long to acquire a total picture of the materials. If you cannot devote 30 minutes to a sitting, plan to listen at least to one full segment. Review it.

3. Make notations that come to your mind as you listen to the cassette. These notes, when put on the pages of this manual which deals with the subject, add value to the manual for you.
4. Use this manual as a guide. Keep it with your Sunday School SCOPE and Christian Education Calendar.

FOURSQUARE SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF THE '70s

Dr. Rolf K. McPherson

This interview may be used with other Sunday school workers to introduce the total picture of the Foursquare Church.

Presently there are 760 Foursquare Sunday Schools in the United States and Canada. Many more schools meet on foreign soil as well. It is this great group of which your Sunday school is a part.

Note Dr. McPherson's remarks regarding the coming Jubilee Year, 1973. He invites all to attend.

Jubilee Convention

Angelus Temple

February 21 - 28, 1973

Special sessions are planned for all Foursquare members and friends. Special guests from around the world are invited and will be attending. Get a picture of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in 1973.

For further information write to:

Convention Chairman
1100 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90026

Special notice of convention and year-long happenings will appear periodically in the Foursquare World ADVANCE, official magazine of our church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRENDS

Dr. Vincent R. Bird

The Bus Ministry

Observations regarding bus ministry

- a. Keeping a bus filled requires a lot of visitation.
- b. In many areas leasing is better than buying buses.
- c. Go after the whole family and not just children.
- d. Don't run the bus after Sunday school, but after the morning service.
- e. Buses are most successful when more than one bus is used.
- f. For small churches there are more problems than answers.
- g. Insurance is sometimes high but not always.

NSSA Trends Committee Report

Considerations for a Bus Ministry

1. Determine your goal

- a. It should provide a distinct soul winning effort.
- b. It will provide an opportunity to minister.

2. The church membership should understand

- a. Rarely does the bus ministry reach people from the same financial level as the membership.
- b. This ministry may bring an immediate influx of new people. Therefore, departments must be prepared to adjust.

3. An extended session may have to be started

Usually after the ministry reaches 75 - 100

4. A visitation program is absolutely necessary

5. Accept a three-point outline for the bus ministry.

- a. Work
- b. Work
- c. Work

6. A bus pastor or chaplain is important.

- a. He is in charge of persons who ride the bus.
- b. He sees that newcomers are directed to their rooms.
- c. He visits absentees.
- d. He directs the pick-up program to insure each person the needed attention.

7. The Administration of the program.

The church must decide the investment is worth it and bear the responsibility.

- a. The cost of the bus (whether a large vehicle or small mini-bus type.)
- b. The operational expenses
- c. The maintenance and housing.

For further information regarding the bus ministry of the El Monte Foursquare Church write:

Rev. B. Higginbotham
3039 So. Santa Anita
El Monte, California 91731

VITAL INFORMATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

(Not listed on label)

CHANGES - in Sunday school materials -- for fall, 1972

1. Foursquare Blue Book. A completely new edition is available later in the fall. The current loose-leaf hardback binder may still be used. However the inside pages - including the dividers - will change.

Watch for further announcements about this. These will appear in the Coordinated Mailing to all pastors.

2. Foursquare Sunday School Standard of Achievement. A drastic change! The Standard of Achievement, as we now know it, is being discontinued. In its place will appear an evaluation guide which the church can use to periodically check its progress and its ministry.

Notice for this will appear in the pastor's mailings. Also, the new Blue Book will carry information regarding this.

3. Extension Department Brochure. With the expansion of the extension department ministry, we have felt there should be a place provided for reporting this along with the regular Sunday school enrollment and attendance. This has happened.

The new green church reports provide a place for this report. However, extension classes must meet the 5 basic requirements which all classes meet if they are to be reported. See page #20 of this manual for these 5 basics.

Also available to you is the Extension Department Brochure, a new Blue Book addition, which will assist you in maintaining the extension classes.

4. ICL - International Center for Learning. This new division of Gospel Light Publications has as its sole goal the training of Sunday school workers. They are doing this through these means.

A. ICL Seminars - conferences geared for in-depth study and training on the particular age level where the worker is involved. (See the brochure in your Superintendent's Kit for the seminar in your area this year.)

B. ICL Book - handy, concise but complete books which explain in full new teaching-learning concepts. (See order blanks in Kit.)

Available later this year will be a cassette and workbook for training with these books. And then a filmstrip in 1973, to complete this training tool. These books become a part of the ATP program this fall.

5. Missionary Education. The name has changed.

Formerly, we knew this material as the "Sunday School Missions Program". However, a number of churches do not use these materials in the Sunday school, but rather incorporate them as a part of other Christian education agencies. Thus the change.

Included this year in the Missionary Education Packet (mailed in July to each pastor -- in a blue printed envelope) are the following:

- 1 Missionary Cassette - with 19 stories told by our missionaries
- 1 Missions Manual - with suggestions for use of the cassette
- 1 Comparative Chart - to record your goals for this year
- 1 Order Blank - to record additional materials.

This packet is free to each church. Additional copies of the cassette may be ordered. Use the order blank included with the packet. Order early.

This program is designed to begin with September 10, the first Sunday School Missions Sunday of the new year.

COMING UP

Look for these things in 1973

- Pre-membership courses - to prepare all prospective members
- Family Unit Kits - to assist the church with its family ministries.
- World-Wide Ministries
Cassette - that shows the Foursquare Gospel at work, in lives at home and abroad.

Sunday School SCOPE outlines other items, too. Look, for them.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

Rev. Sam Middlebrook

I. What kinds of Translations are Available?

A. Regular

1. Defined: These adhere to the Greek or Hebrew word order. They steer a course between literal and paraphrase translations.
2. Examples: Kings James Version, Revised Standard Version, New American Standard Version, Berkeley, New English Bible.
3. Use: General

B. Simplified

1. Defined: These have a reduced vocabulary
- 2.*Example: Basic, C.K. Williams, Laubach
3. Use: Good for children or persons learning the English language

C. Expanded

1. Defined: These provide alternate possibilities for many words.
- 2.*Examples: Amplified, Wuest, Bruce
3. Use: Thought provoking

D. Literal

1. Defined: These are word for word translations from the original languages
2. Examples: Young, Marshall
3. Use: Exegesis (a critical interpretation of a text)

E. Paraphrase

1. Defined: These are thought by thought translations; given general meaning
2. Examples: Living Bible, Phillips, Moffatt
3. Use: For all ages, new converts

* Some of these are only New Testament translations.

II. Why Do We Need New Translations?

A. Our language is changing

1. Acts 28:13 - "Put in at"
2. I Peter 3:1 - "conversation"
3. I Thess. 4:15 - "prevent"
4. Acts 21:15 - "carriage"
5. I Thess. 5:14 - "feeble-minded"

B. We understand the New Testament Language Better

Discovery of new documents have brought more complete understanding.

C. We Have Better Knowledge of New Testament Times Now

1. In Abraham's Bosom - A place of honor (Luke 16:22,23)
2. Son of - denotes status or character (Matt. 9:15; Mark 3:17; Eph. 5:6)
3. Heart - mind (II Cor. 3:15; Romans 1:21)

D. We Have A Better and Older Greek Text Now

1. John 5:36-40
2. I John 5:1-8
3. Eph. 1:7 - Col. 1:14

E. We Have A Better Understanding of the Translator's Task

1. Translation is both a science and an art
2. The prime responsibility is to convey the correct meaning of the original

SUNDAY SCHOOLS ARE CHANGING

Miss Eloise Clarno
Director of Foursquare Sunday Schools

Changes have occurred constantly in the Sunday school in the past.

From teaching the 3 R's and Bible, to all Bible.

From condemnation by pastors and churches to sponsorship in a warm embrace of common cause.

From pioneering new fields to part of the total church program.

From no curriculum to a uniform lesson series to graded lessons.

From one assemble to multiple department assemblies and in some cases to no assembly..

From group grading to closely grading.

From coed classes to separation of sexes and back to coed classes.

From one room to cubbyholes and back to multi-purpose rooms.

From one teacher to team teaching and back to small-group teaching.

From a church-type schedule and program to a variety of uses of the hour.

From being the only educational department of the church to become the heart of the many Christian education agencies of the church.

From an October-to-September year, to the September-to-October year.

From lesson leaflets to manuals to paperbacks.

From a children's school to an all-age school.

From great Sunday school associations and conventions to small conventions and back to great associations and conventions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSES

1. Outreach - to gain people to study the Word.
2. Education - to teach the Word to bring about conversion to Christ and maturity in Christ; to indoctrinate with church doctrines.
3. Evangelism - to win people to Jesus Christ as Savior.
4. Service or Ministry - to train people to assume the ministry which God has equipped them for by the gifts He has given them.
5. Fellowship - to provide an avenue for genuine Christian fellowship.

See the Foursquare Blue Book for a detailed discussion of each of these objectives.

In considering a change, we must always ask?

"Will the change help us better accomplish our purposes?"

"Will the change sidetrack us from our goals, even though it may add enthusiasm, excitement? Will it put greater emphasis upon lesser items?"

For use with Superintendent Helps, Tape, #2

SUNDAY SCHOOL, THE PEOPLE BUSINESS

The greatest major trend in education today is the move from a program-centered approach to a people-centered approach. In other words, education is saying, "People are more important than programs."

Is this true of the Sunday school? The trend in secular education may be brought about by the emphasis upon humanism - the philosophy that man is the center of all things. We reject the humanistic ideal -- God is central in all. However, when we view the Scriptures and look at the teachings of Jesus, and his work here on earth, we see that His great emphasis was upon people, not programs. They came first.

A great many things occur in the Sunday school which are almost routine, but which point up the fact that people are important. Think about these.

1. Sunday schools are organized for pupils - people.

Classes are structured to meet their learning needs at their level, with small groups to allow for greater teacher-pupil relationships.

2. Literature is written for pupils - people.

Many hours of research have been spent before the lessons are refined; the writer researches to include Biblical information and carry out a comprehensive study of the age group to which he is writing.

3. Buildings are built for the convenience of pupils - people.

It is a sad thing to see a building erected merely for beauty. The most important thing is for it to be well-planned for the people who are going to use it. The building should be comfortable and durable; but most of all, it should have adequate classrooms and necessary facilities for good and convenient teaching.

4. Money is spent for pupils - people.

Money wisely spent may be the means of some individual receiving Christ as his personal Savior. Lesson books, handwork supplies, record books, cards, and the many items necessary for the Sunday school all cost money. We must plan effectively how to spend the money we have in order to realize its fullest advantage! All money collected in the Sunday school should be spent directly or indirectly for the class members.

5. Visitation programs should be organized to reach the pupil - people.

Visitors should not be looking for prospects to "join", but for persons to whom they could minister. Is your visitation organized in this manner?

6. Teachers are enlisted to inform pupils - people - about God.

In the past some have emphasized the content-centered approach. One said it was far more important for the teacher to know the Bible, for teaching without solid content was mere superficial speculation. Another argued that it was much more important for the teacher to understand the pupil, for teaching without understanding gave only ineffective exposure. There is truth in both positions. The teacher must master the Word he is to teach, but it is equally important and essential that he have a full understanding of the pupil he teaches. The teacher must study both the Bible and the pupil.

7. Bible is taught to inform pupils - people - about God's Word.

In the final analysis Bible knowledge is primarily a means to an end--the ultimate objective is to have the pupil respond to his knowledge of the Word by accepting Christ as Savior and Lord of his life and then expressing his knowledge of the Bible in his daily living.

The Bible is the Book among books. It is different from all other books. It is the supreme source. It is unique in its inspiration, its purpose and its power. It is God's Word to men. It calls for a special response--a commitment to Jesus Christ.

8. Prospects - people - are discovered in order that they might be won to Christ.

We want to enlist them in the Sunday school. But why should we strive to increase our Sunday school enrollment and attendance? Knowing that the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to bring about conversion, our objective should be to enlist as many persons as possible in a consistent study of the Word.

So Sunday school is people. These are days of evaluating and re-thinking. There is no question about our message---it is as adequate as when it was first given; it is sufficient for every man. It must not change but, what of our methods; our reasons for doing the things as we do? Is our approach people-centered? God's is. He saves people. He pours out His Spirit upon people; He uses people. People are God's business. They should be our major concern, too.

PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT

H. Earl Eavey

"The trend has been to lose men in methods. God wants men, not methods. Men are God's methods. He is looking for better men, not better methods. The Church doesn't need new things, novel things, organization, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use; otherwise, all is confusion. Preaching (or teaching) is not the performance of an hour. It is the outflow of the Holy Spirit in the life of the preacher (or teacher)."

1. God has placed you, Superintendent, in a position of spiritual leadership.
2. Think about your ministry to your staff.
 - A. List them by name.
 - B. Pray for them.
 - C. Ask God to show you what the needs of each are.
 - D. Ask God to guide you in helping these needs to be met.
3. Plan your fall interviews to really minister to your staff members.
 - A. Obtain the Standard for Leaders Kit which contains special interview forms.

WHAT, NO OPENING SESSION?

As the cassette suggests, many Foursquare Sunday Schools do not have opening Sunday school sessions now. Here are a few pros and cons:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What about the missionary education? | 1. It can occur in the following:
Children's Church
Extended Sessions
Mid-week Family night
Crusader Hour |
| 2. How about latecomers? | 2. Those who have changed to this schedule have found many habitually late pupils arriving on time. Too, they have evaluated to ask "Is it fair to penalize the teachers and prompt pupils by waiting for the latecomers?" Most have pointed out what is being missed and find pupils responding. |
| 3. Some teachers are late? | 3. As above, often the teacher does not arrive on time because he is not involved or interested, in the pre-class proceedings. Most have found teachers rise to the occasion to arrive on time. |
| 4. How about the fellowship time-
birthdays, greeting visitors,
etc? | 4. Generally the teacher handles this in the 5-10 minute fellowship time at the beginning of his class. He includes this in the informal discussions with his students and in the prayer-fellowship atmosphere. |
| 5. What about the promotion of
the Sunday school, or contests? | 5. Most general announcements can be mimeographed or printed and passed to each attender. (Generally, they are heeded more this way, too.)
Special times, such as contests or high Sundays are handled with a modified schedule. Most Sunday schools have a 10 minute closing period at the end of the Sunday school time during the weeks of the contest. Then when the contest Sundays are passed, they revert back to their no-assembly schedule. |

6. Don't we ever need an assembly time together? What about the the esprit de corp of the Sunday School?

6. Those who have changed do occasionally meet together by departments or total school -- generally quarterly in a Sunday school rally; some monthly. They feel this added unity and enthusiasm. Some do not alter their schedule for this.

As with any proposed change, look at the total picture. Ask:

"Will the change help us to better fulfill our purposes?"

If the answer is, "Yes" - try it.

Give any such change a quarter's trial -- a shorter period would not be a fair test.

If the answer is "No" - discard the idea.

The precious minutes of the Sunday school each week must be used to their fullest. Enhance your program and increase your effectiveness by using them wisely.

TOTAL SESSION TEACHING

Defined: Total session teaching (or total hour teaching) means that each part (minute) of the Sunday school session contributes to one single lesson aim. One aim is selected for each Sunday and from the time the pupil arrives in Sunday school, the program is geared to accomplish this aim.

Advantages:

1. It conserves teaching time by eliminating materials not related to the specific lesson aim.
2. It directs and unifies the entire class and assembly group teaching.
3. It provides, for the department superintendent and teachers, a controlling, unified purpose and guidelines for their work in the groupings within the department.
4. It results in more permanent learning, because it increases the concentration on the lesson material.

Schedule:

1. Class - the pupil goes directly to his class where the teacher has opportunity to fellowship with the pupil and to begin introducing the lesson.
2. Learning Activities - perhaps a new term

Learning activities are those involvement methods which lead pupils into purposeful Bible study. A few of these might be Bible games, freizes, drama, collages.

True Bible learning activities have 2 distinctives

- ➔ 1. They must get the pupil into the Bible, involved in purposeful Bible study.
- ➔ 2. They must coorelate with the lesson taught, and contributing directly to the aim of the lesson or unit.

Bible learning activities may carry over for several Sundays when based upon and coorelate with the unit of study, rather than just for the one lesson. These involvement methods emphasize the pupils learning experience rather than the teachers.

3. Unit-centered Teaching - another new term

United-centered teaching implies that several lessons on a specific topic have been grouped into together to form one

over-all aim for the several Sundays.

An example of this might be a series of 4 or 5 lessons on David;
a study of creation which has 3 lessons.

Aim: To help pupils actually experience Bible truths rather than just having the truths presented.

This aim is more likely to happen when there is a concentrated study on a specific theme or portion of scripture carried over for several weeks. The lessons take on progression and tie together more in the pupil's mind.

Full details for such a program is outlined in detail in the following paperback books:

"Ways to Help Them Learn" (Children's division)

"Ways to Plan and Organize your Sunday School" (Children's division)

Both of these books may be ordered from Foursquare Publications and appear on the order blank enclosed in your Superintendent Kit.

In the fall of 1972 Total Session Teaching is being introduced into the 3rd grade Sunday school curriculum. The church may choose to use the suggestions for implimenting this program, or use the materials as they have in the past. Full helps and guides for instituting total session teaching are included in the curriculum.

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Basic requirements for extension classes to be reported with other Sunday school classes.


1. The class must meet weekly for at least one full quarter with at least a 30-minute teaching session each week.
2. The class must follow a planned curriculum, approved by the church administration.
3. A membership shall be established and a roll kept up to date. Workers shall be counted in attendance with the regular Sunday school. No one shall be counted twice.
4. The extension class shall be part of the regular Sunday school, under the direction of the pastor and the Sunday school administration, with workers attending regularly scheduled workers' conferences and such meetings.
5. Attendance and enrollment figures shall be filed weekly with the general Sunday school secretary.

A place is provided on the church's regular green report sheet for recording the extension department. It should not be added to the regular Sunday school figures, but reported separately.

See the new Extension Department Brochure, a Blue Book addition, for full details regarding the extension department.

BASIC QUESTIONS TO APPLY TO CHANGE

1. What is the reason for the Sunday school - its purpose?
2. Ask, "Would this change help us to better accomplish our purposes?"
3. Work with the entire Sunday school staff to bring about this change, allowing them to understand it and to help in the planning for it.
4. Evaluate. If the change is not accomplishing its intended goal, after a reasonable time (at least 1 quarter), adopt a plan which will help you realize your purposes.



MAKE HAST SLOWLY

CHANGE - 6 STEPS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

1. Know the facts.

Change is necessary when we realize we are applying unproductive solutions to problems. Change often is only putting old things together in new ways. Be informed yourself and impart the information to those involved.

2. Bring together "all" sources of information.

Gather as much information about the subject--both pro and con--as it is possible for you to obtain. Talk to those who have done it, making sure to get all sides from them. Read anything written on the subject. Attend workshops on the topic. Be informed!

3. Relax - look at the "problem" from a different angle.

Frustration and emotional exhaustion cloud our thinking. "Recharge" your mental cells. Use the "retreat" technique to cause others to think of all the resources and possibilities.

4. Think creatively.

Brainstorm. Imagine. Dream.

5. Don't be afraid to innovate

Some of the most "way out" ideas can be shaped into the most creative methods.

6. Refuse the "It-can't-be-done" attitude.

Someone has suggested the 7 last words of the church are:

"We never did it that way before!"

Thoughts on Change - The Nature of our Resistance to It

1. Change always exposes our resistance (not opposition).
2. Change compels us to face the obsolete. Obsolete things are not always without value or meaning--antiques, for example. They just do not produce the results they once did.
3. Change focuses the value issue for us. Adults like to think values are settled once and for all. Change makes every value questionable and uncertain.
4. Change always sharpens goals and directions.

SUPERINTENDENT TID-BITS

(Not listed on label)

1. Sunday School SCOPE: (Find your copy in the Superintendent Kit)

SCOPE is a briefing for the entire year. Peruse it.

- a. Note the keyword for each quarter, and each month in the quarter.
- b. Note that the training section points out a book for the quarter.
- c. Note that the workers' conference outlines (a part of the superintendent kit) are taken from the training book of the quarter.
- d. Note the listing of materials which are, or will be, available through the Sunday school packets this year.

Secure sufficient copies of SCOPE for each department superintendent to have his own.

2. NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Leadership Seminar Dates and Place

October 16 - 19, 1972

Los Angeles, Calif.

3. REGIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Most major cities throughout our nation have regional Sunday school associations which annually conduct a conference geared to train teachers and other Sunday school workers. Support your local association with your attendance, encouragement and participation.

Mark the date of the next conference near you on your Christian Education Calendar.

PUSHING UP HILL

Do you ever think you're pushing up hill?

It is a tough job, but it is an important job.

And it can be an exciting job?

What job? Here are 10 guidelines for a good Sunday school administrator. Draw from these to make your own guides to give you a sense of direction. (Make notations on the right margin as you proceed.)

1. Spell out the superintendent's responsibilities in consultation with your pastor. Most likely your task will include supervising the operations of a department or group of departments, enlistings and counseling teachers, planning workers' meetings, ordering lesson materials, keeping records, directing the assembly program for the school or departments, etc.
2. Establish good rapport with your teachers. Listen to them. Show interest in them as persons and in their task. Encourage them and give as much help with equipment and supplies as you can.
3. Plan for training opportunities for them so they continue to grow in their devotion to God and their ability to teach.
4. Ask for suggestions from your teachers on specific departmental procedures and problems. They are closer to the scene than you can be as administrator.
5. Set up pupil-contact programs. A working plan is needed for pupils whose attendance is irregular.
6. Encourage teachers to learn as much as possible about their pupils and the pupil's home background. Also find out about the pupil's interests and abilities. Remind the teachers that they are teaching people, not just content and it is necessary to know the pupil in order to communicate with him.

7. Set up an activities calendar for the coming quarter, six months or year. Special emphasis such as stewardship and missions should be noted and plans made for making the most of such concerns. Gatherings such as picnics and cookouts, and other social functions may be planned for the whole Sunday school. Seasonal activities such as camping, holiday parties and events should be planned well in advance. When initiating plans for an activity program, involve parents as much as possible.
8. Encourage teachers to assign occasional home-study projects for their pupils.
The following suggestions may be helpful.
 - a) Interviews with people in the community.
 - b) Find information on a specific topic in library.
 - c) Prepare reports on a special subject.
 - d) Write a poem or essay on a given subject related to their Sunday school study.
9. Encourage teachers to arrive fifteen minutes early for Sunday school and involve pupils as they arrive in worthwhile activity related to their study. They may arrange material on a bulletin board, set up record player or filmstrip projector as needed, arrange room for study groups, prepare worship center, look up Scripture passages from different translations that will later be used in study, etc.
10. If you have an opening service, here are some important suggestions to keep in mind.
 - a) Keep it under fifteen minutes
 - b) A good song leader who can lead the group in informal singing with a guitar can be very helpful.
 - c) Do not give a Bible lesson at this time. This comes in their class session.
 - d) Keep announcements to a minimum.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH

There are certain cliches about the church and the Sunday school which can be heard at various stages and from certain supposedly sincere people. Some of them go like this.

"The church can't grow. It must just hold its own." Or,

"Adults can't learn. It doesn't really matter what we do in adult Sunday school."

Or,

"Laymen just don't care about the church."

The degree to which you believe these cliches determines the direction of your Sunday school in three vital areas -- numerical growth, influence of parents and other adults, and involvement of people in ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH

It is God's will that your Sunday school grow and move forward mightly. His power is in us. We must devote ourselves with heart, mind, and will to the multiplying of your attendance.

Why do Sunday schools stop growing? It is painfully obvious that some Sunday schools are not growing. The contributing factors may be legion. Furthermore, nearly everyone feels qualified, from his arm chair, to state the reasons.

Let us share with you what several successful pastors state about Sunday school growth--those who have done it.

5 Growth Factors

1. Evangelism - It is a priority in church life.
2. Community advance - A rapidly growing community is an advantage. No church grows, however, by simply opening its doors. The church's image in a community is vital.
3. Pace-setting leadership. A leader can seldom get members to do what he himself is not doing.

Increasing Sunday School Attendance

1. Add more new members - enrollment.
2. Reduce the number of dropouts.
3. Expand the organization, but keep it simple. Full classes stop growing. Newly organized units grow faster.
4. Improve the teaching.
5. Help teachers plan.
6. Train workers.
7. Expand the Bible teaching. Reach outside the church to teach.
8. Make outreach vital. Minister to people where they are.

Making Churches Grow

1. Bible teaching. A church cannot grow unless the gospel of Christ is proclaimed to convert the lost. Pupils suffering from malnutrition cannot fight or labor as witnesses. An undernourished church cannot be a witnessing church; it will die.
2. Purpose. Lack of purpose brings stagnation. A listless church, without purpose and therefore without goals to achieve any purpose, has no challenge for those who look to it for a demonstration of Christ's presence and power.

Stagnation is usually synonymous with prayerless members. Without purpose there is little compulsion to pray. Without prayer there is little power. All the schemes, methods, tools, programs man can devise are impotent without prayer.

3. Structure. When classes or groups become full, they stop growing. If nothing is done to break the strangulation, the seeds of frustration germinate and decline sets in.

Rarely does any class grow after 18 months of existence. (Compare your enrollment figures with attendance.)

Space limitations hinder growth. A Sunday school will inevitably conform to its property unless the church leadership programs to prevent it.

4. Atmosphere. Life begets life. Good Bible teaching, bathed in prayer and anointed with the Spirit brings life. And like beget like. With prayer there is contact with and response to the Holy Spirit which brings life and power.

4. Trained and involved membership. Evangelism through multiplication creates a mood of excited optimism. (Besides, it is God's pattern.)
5. Spiritual dynamics being taken seriously. Consistent examination of the message of the Bible, confronts members with their responsibility regulary.

family



How is the communication between your church and its homes? While the primary responsibility for the Christian nurture of children is with the parents, the family cannot properly fulfill its function outside the fellowship of the church. The two must work together.

gether.

Consider the following suggestions for ministering to the homes of your church. In the Spring-Summer Sunday School Packet (available 12/15/72) will be included suggestions for church-home ministries.

FALL

September's Christian Education Week has as one of its major objectives the reminder that "Christian education" continues throughout the week in the home. The parents have a sacred trust to fulfill in the training of their children in the home. "What you are your children are becoming" is a continuing reminder for spiritually directed motives, habits and dedications.

The church's total ministry to its families focuses on the Sunday school this quarter. The Fall Enlargement Program theme, "Sunday School—A Family Affair" introduces the thought. Each week is programmed to involve family units in outreach and witness.

Families enrolling families
Sunday school is a family
Family life courses
Family action week
Families inviting families home for dinner
Family sponsorship plans
Family service projects

In planning the family outreach, involve representation from all age levels. Secure men to lead the way; couples to work together.

During November encourage family-to-family evangelism.

Dinner fellowships
Family recreation
Home Bible study
Family Thanksgiving activities

WINTER

Challenge Christian family units to make Christmas a really Christian holiday. In all of the activities, discuss how each can be mapped as a family project.

Tree trim
Gift distribution
Sponsor a needy family
Shopping time
Help a shut-in
Family devotions for the Advent Season

The Adult Crusader Hour study this quarter deals with making parents aware of the drug scene, to help them identify the problems, causes and preventatives. Included is a listing of activities which parents can lead to combat this problem in their community. Also to be found here are suggestions for keeping parent-child communication open.

As the Sunday school workers are discussing their personal Bible study and memory programs, tie in the family emphasis. From American Bible Society secure the short Scripture outlines for each day to be used as a pattern for family devotions. Begin the new year with a renewed emphasis on family togetherness around the Word. February's Valentines Day speaks of love—a basic need of all; an imperative for the home. Suggest that each family member do some special thing this month to show his love for the other members of his immediate family. As a church family, what special manifestation of love will you engage in?

SPRING

Several special days in the spring remind us of the family.

Family Week week between first and second Sundays of May
Mother's Day second Sunday of May
Children's Day second Sunday of June
Father's Day third Sunday of June

The weeks between Mother's Day and Father's Day provide an excellent time for a special family program.

Family recreation
Family recognition services
Parent-teacher meetings
Family forums
Home dedications
Family camping experiences
Family night programs
Family counseling sessions

Establish a "Family Council" to set up and schedule these activities.

Prepare a number of visitation booklets which portray the church's program for each age. (See *The Visitation Manual* for complete pattern.) Make these available to families, to use in visiting prospective families. In each Sunday service allow time for testimonies from family members who have participated in visitation.

Review the church's total program for the family. Are there duplications? Omissions of ministries which are needed? Does the church really minister to all ages at the point of need?

Stress family heritage. Help families discover theirs.

FAMILY WEEK OR FAMILY NIGHT

The spring quarter provides an idea time for Family Week. Special sessions for each family member, family recreation, worship, study, discussion, all help the church minister to the total family. Investigate its possibilities; structure it to build Christian homes.

The weekly Family Night program provides a session for each family member, on its age level and interest.

In planning the total year, consider the inclusion of the above ministries for adding to your church's teaching ministry.

SUMMER

Add some new books to the church library. Suggest that families share their books through the library. Promote good Christian magazines for your homes. Use audiovisual aids for family education in:

- Sex education
- Family living
- Pre-marital counseling
- Parent-teen relationships

The Adult Crusader Family Forum highlights the home and family in three areas:

"Happily Ever After"-marriage relationships

"A House is Not A Home"-the roles of the family members

"Spare the Rod?"-parent and child training

An excellent opportunity for parent-teen shared programs.

Vacation can be one of the most productive times that the Christian family has each year. How can it really be Christian? Help the families recognize this and decide specifically what can be done.

Family camps and camping are refreshing both physically and spiritually. Make information about these available to all families.



THE FIFTH QUARTER

Ever wish you could add another quarter of teaching time to your Sunday school? Here are a few ideas for doing the same thing.

EXTENDED SESSIONS &

CHILDREN'S CHURCHES

"Extended Session" is the term usually applied to the early childhood division, which implies an extension of the Sunday school lesson theme through the church-time program. This gives the pupil attending the total morning program a concentrated study for the 2½ hours which he is in attendance. Foursquare Sunday school literature contains all the materials needed to program this phase.

"Children's Churches" is the term usually used to denote church time for older boys and girls) grades 1 through 6. It takes many forms, but usually includes a worship time on the level of the child.

These programs double the teaching time each week for the child.

VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL

One week of VBS, conducted for 3 hours each day, adds 15 hours of teaching time—more than a quarter of teaching. A 2-week school adds 30 hours—a half year of Sunday school time.

Vacation Bible schools are not just occurring during the summer. They are held during Easter Week; 1 night a week for the 8 weeks of summer; at night as well as in the day; as day camps and retreats; in backyards—wherever people are who can be taught.

SUMMER CAMP

District-sponsored camping has been a vital part of the church's program for many years. In some areas family camps are available, as well as camps for ages beginning with juniors.

Seven days in camp—24 hours a day—is equivalent to several years of Sunday school time.

MISSIONARY EDUCATION

An annual program of missionary education is made available to your church. Often the missions materials are used in the Sunday school opening session. However, a growing number of Sunday schools do not have opening session, but rather go directly to class. When then can the missionary education occur?

This year's program, a cassette of Foursquare missionary stories told by the missionaries with a comparative chart is prepared for use in a variety of ways. The manual which accompanies the cassette suggests the times and methods. They fit into the extended sessions, children's churches, or midweek family night, to name just a few.

A special sample kit and order blank is provided for each church and is released in July. Secure your copy at once from your pastor, and be ready for the September launching of this new program.