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OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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ROBERT

A 'Highways and Hedges' Ministry

EVERT BROWN

Many were the times He came to the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He sent the apostles and the 70 disciples out with instructions to visit the people in their homes. The ministry of the apostles after Pentecost was primarily a house-to-house campaign to win the lost.

In our churches today there is a growing need for a good, systematic method of keeping in touch with absentees and for carrying on a "highways and hedges" ministry. Most churches have a large group who talk about visiting but do nothing. There are those, however, who would like to visit if they knew how.

We need a way to be able to have "a place for everyone and everyone in his place."

A logical solution would be to select a visitation chairman. This person could be the educational director or some other person with sufficient time available to thoroughly organize the visitation program. This would mean that every absentee, prospect or visitor would be contacted at least once each week.

It would be his responsibility to see that plenty of workers are available and that they are well trained for the task ahead. Above all, it should never be a "hit-and-miss" affair since souls are at stake.

Not the least among his jobs is training the workers. Fear and timidity are probably the two greatest enemies. Jesus spent a large part of his earthly ministry training the apostles. At the time of His ascension he commissioned them to go. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and trained by Jesus they carried on one of the greatest visitation programs ever witnessed.

The training program should cover the problems most experienced by the workers. One of the best methods is to assign a new worker with an experienced one and allow the inexperienced worker to observe the other's technique. One evening of practical experience is worth more than several hours of lecture. They need to be taught

diplomacy to avoid making the prospects bitter toward the church.

We have plenty of capable workers—we only need to use them. In a story Jesus told, a group of idlers gave as the reason for their inactivity, "No man hath hired us."

It would be far better to start on a small scale with trained workers and give them definite prospects and absentees than to announce a general visitation night and allow the workers to go where they choose. Chances are that more than half of them would head for the same house because "good old Joe" would serve them coffee and cake. Then after an evening spent in idle chatter, "good old Joe" wouldn't know any more about Jesus than he did before they came.

Nearly all the people in the church are ready to do something if they are given a definite job and encouraged to do it for the Master.

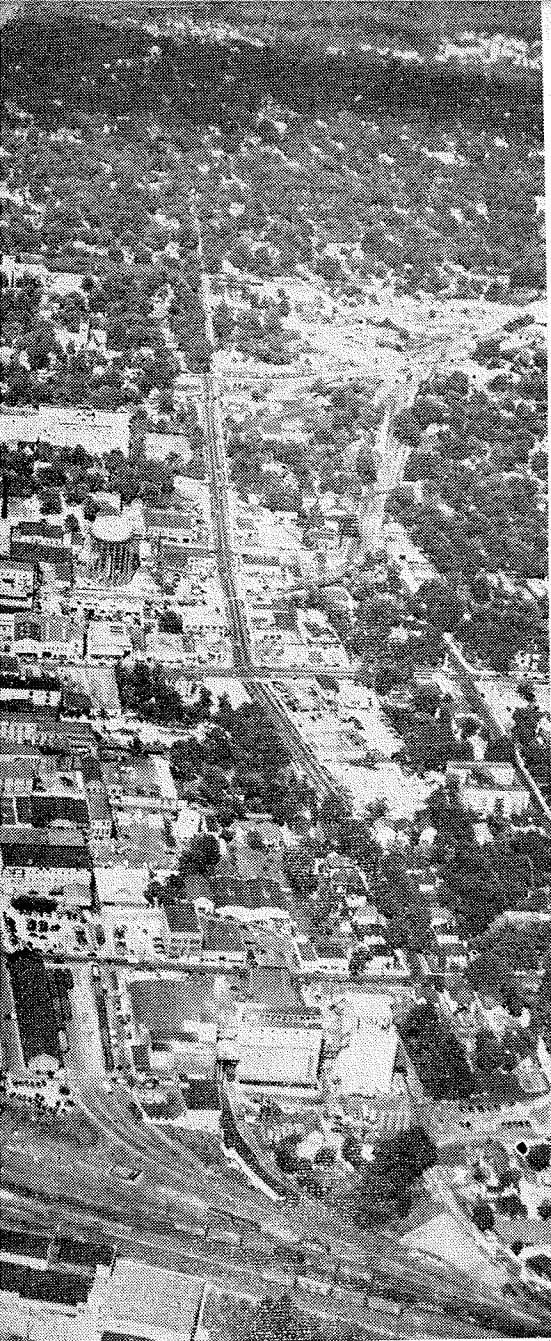
Let us be careful that our visitation program reaches all of the unreached in our area, regardless of social status. Jesus once went to the land of the Gadarenes to visit with a man possessed with devils in order to save his soul. Paul showed a personal interest in everyone with whom he talked. It was while he was a prisoner that he talked to King Agrippa about Christ and the plan of salvation.

Neither Jesus nor Paul were respectors of persons. An honest effort should be made to win the lost regardless of their position in life.

Much can be done through persistent visitation. One pastor tells about taking 100 prospect cards chosen at random to see how well his visitation program was working. The workers did not know which cards had been selected. After the first call in the homes, some came the next Sunday and were won to Christ. But on the average it took 13 calls to win them. With one man it took five years of weekly visits before he surrendered his life to Christ!

Look on visitation as a business, not as an incidental matter; as work, not play; as time well spent, not wasted; as a privilege, not as a boresome duty.

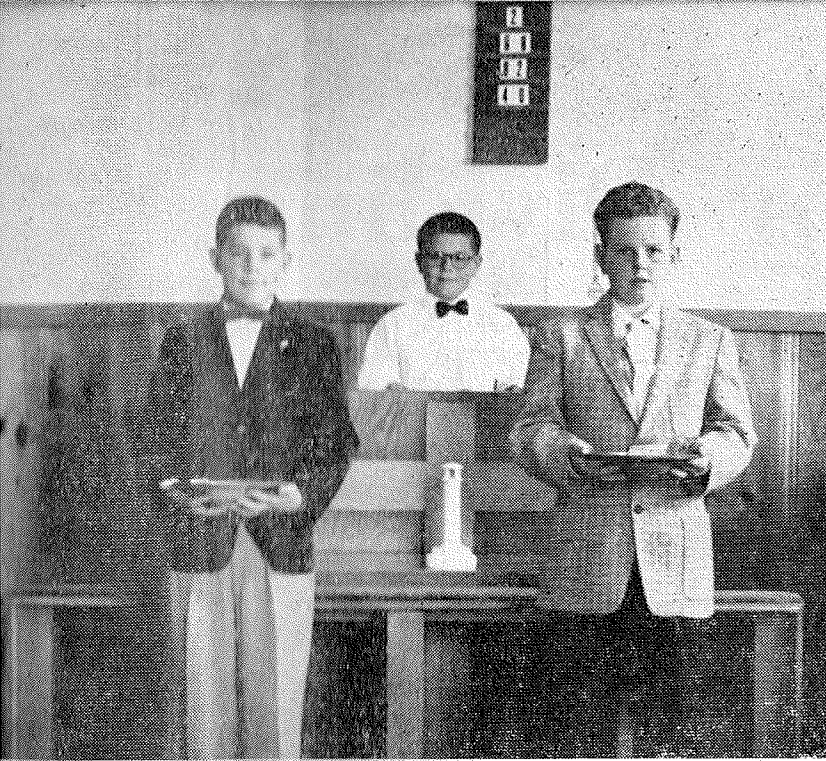
Mr. Brown is field secretary for the Oklahoma state Sunday School Board.



Tens of thousands of families in hundreds of towns are waiting for dedicated Sunday school workers to come and knock on their doors. Visitation is a business, the author says.

Sunday school visitation is like the weather—everyone talks about it, but no one does anything about it. Indeed, it is hard for the average layman to fully appreciate the full value of visitation in the soul-winning efforts of a Sunday school. It is something that most people accept as being the responsibility of the pastor or anyone besides themselves.

God started a visitation program in the very beginning when He went to the garden in the cool of the evening to talk with Adam and Eve. The whole ministry of Jesus was primarily carried on by His close personal contact with the individual. He used this method with the Samaritan woman and Zaccheus.



The junior minister of the Junior church at the First Free Will Baptist church, Modesto, Calif., is Larry Mayhew. He leads the service including receiving the worship offering. Ushers are Rickey Walker and Jay Wheeler.

The Children Count in This Church

juniors a minister, a choir, and two ushers. The young minister who leads the devotions for the children and also their responsive readings is Larry Mayhew.

Jay Wheeler and Rickey Walker serve as ushers. They see that chairs are arranged for the choir, that the sanctuary is in order, that visitors are seated, and receive the offering.

Have Younger Children

While the ideal Junior church is composed of boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 11, which generally corresponds to the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades of public school, the Modesto church also has younger ages, because some of them are brought from non-church-going homes to be delivered home when the worship service is over.

"Twelve-year-olds must go into the adult church," Mr. Mooneyham says. "Even though some do not want to leave the Junior church, we assure them it is better for them since they need the adult church to finish developing their talent."

In the Junior church the children are taught the importance of church and worship. "We teach them that it is God's house, that we assemble in it to worship Him, and that God is present to see what we do and even to know our thoughts," the director says. They are taught to give attention to the speaker and are never allowed to bring toys or other distracting things in the church.

Reverence Is Taught

Many of the irreverent acts found in the adult church are corrected in the Junior church. They are taught not to whisper and visit while they are being assembled for the worship hour. The organ prelude helps make this possible.

Since juniors do not respond to anything which is haphazard and disorganized, the programs for the worship services are planned in advance. A typical service may be carried out as follows:

Organ prelude ("The Old Rugged Cross")
Processional

(Continued on page 12)

No one ever enjoyed seeing children in church more than the Rev. Orbin H. Doss, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist church, Modesto, Calif. Being a father and a grandfather, he agreed with every other pastor that it was a nice thing to see children in the worship services of the church.

But one Sunday he came to realize that bodily presence of the children did not always mean their minds were there too. In fact, when he saw quite a number of them busying themselves with pencils and paper and other diversions, he began to suspect that inattention was being forced upon them because they lacked interest in the adult sermon.

He reasoned like this:

Junior children need to be in church.

Need Worship Experience

It is not good enough that they just be in church. They need to have a worship experience while there.

Quite a number of children attend our Sunday school from unchurched homes. They probably will not stay for church unless we can interest them.

Since our children are the Church of tomorrow, they should have the opportunities of learning for themselves how to make the church better.

Therefore, we need a special church service for our juniors.

Now the Junior church idea was not a new one, but not too many Free Will Baptist churches were having a separate worship service for their children. In April, 1956, however, the Junior church at Modesto was organized under the direction of Rev. Joe

Mooneyham, an ordained minister, who is a member of the First church.

Results Are Rewarding

There have been problems, but the results have been especially rewarding. Over a six months' period since the church was started, the average attendance has been 53. The top attendance has been 72 and they have never had below 45, so the leaders are especially pleased with the steady attendance.

When the pastor began to look around for someone to direct this project, he made a mental list of the desirable characteristics such a person should possess. He knew the leader should have deep spiritual convictions, contagious enthusiasm, initiative, sincere love for children, be dependable, have tact in discipline, and possess speaking ability.

But even with a director who had all of these qualifications, there would still be others needed in this great work. The director would need an assistant, and that person should preferably be someone who did not have children in the Junior church lest any of the children be hesitant about taking part in the services. Jonnie Jenkins was selected to assist the director.

Director Needs Helpers

Two helpers were also needed—one to help with the choir, especially with the robes when they are desired, who would become the "choir mother," and another to take care of the offering and to assist in the program when necessary. These helpers are Mrs. Joe Mooneyham and Mrs. Archie Mayhew.

Then followed the organist, who is Miss Carolyn Hearn.

With the staff of adult workers completed, it was necessary to select from among the

Growing by Dividing

Today is a day of specialization and departmentalization, but in most instances the church has not kept pace with these developments.

Almost all phases of secular endeavor, whether manufacturing, engineering, or learning, are broken down into divisions and subdivisions. Public schools are often divided into grades within a grade. It is not uncommon for us to hear of a "high fourth" and "low fourth."

The reason is that educators have learned that by so departmentalizing they can teach boys and girls more effectively.

Church Might Learn

Manufacturers have also developed a departmental system. By carefully breaking down the operations in their factories they can increase production. The church might learn something in this respect from the schools and factories. Many who recognize the merit of modern production methods still insist on throwing all the persons in our Sunday schools—nursery through the Bible class—into one operation and expect to produce first rate Christians.

Not only is this sad—it is not true.

What do we mean by departmentalizing the Sunday school? It is the breaking down of the Sunday school enrolment into groups according to age and sex. Suppose you have 50 juniors. A group this size should be divided into at least four classes—probably two each for boys and girls. These classes would make up the Junior department in the Sunday school.

Division Means Growth

This department would meet in its own general assembly. As these four classes grow, they should be divided and this is continued indefinitely. Herein lies the chief reason why Free Will Baptist Sunday schools have never grown to any great size. We have not followed the normal, God-given method of growth—the division of cells.

A single cell in the body divides into two cells, these soon become four, the four become eight, the eight divide into sixteen, and so our bodies grow. That is exactly what departmentalization is—the dividing of "cells" in the Sunday school to accomplish growth in size, spirituality, and Biblical knowledge.

Such an arrangement necessarily calls for many classrooms, placing pressure upon the church and its leaders who must face the challenge or watch the Sunday school stagnate.

The writer is pastor at El Sobrante, Calif., and assistant clerk of the National Association

Dean Moore

Teaching Precedes Worship

Most churches have not built for departmentalized Sunday schools. Their buildings are designed for worship and not for teaching. Worship is necessary for Christian living, but teaching must precede worship in order to create desire and give knowledge.

Many churches are trying to get by with the same building and facilities they started with. The sad truth is that many are able to do it because they have not departmentalized and thus have had no real growth.

Why is it necessary to departmentalize? Now and then we are confronted with the problem of parents who want their children to go with them rather than into their own class and assembly. Some preachers and church leaders join them in insisting that the child's place is with his parents. This simply is not true in the case of the Sunday school.

Three Reasons Given

Boys and girls need to be with children their own age for the three reasons of worship, knowledge, and expression. Children worship better with children their own age, provided such worship is conducted by a well-trained adult supervisor. They learn more rapidly when competing only with those of their own age, and expression, which is a must in today's Sunday school, can be fully realized only when boys and girls of a given age are together.

In addition to giving the pupil a better chance to learn, departmentalization offers great opportunity for more members to work for Christ. Every new department demands another superintendent, secretary, and class officers. By completely departmentalizing its Sunday school, a church not only helps the students, but also utilizes talent that otherwise might never be used.

A third thing to consider is the facilities and schedule for the departments. While most of our churches are not built for departmentalized Sunday schools, there does seem to be an awakening among us to this need and many new churches are being built for full departmentalization. Thus here we shall speak of the ideal set-up and let it serve as a challenge for us.

Worship Schedule

First, there should be a general assembly for each department. In the case of the four Junior classes mentioned earlier, there should be a room large enough for them to meet for the worship part of the Sunday school. Fifteen minutes is sufficient for this

period of worship (sometimes called the opening assembly), and it should start exactly on time.

This means that starting late or running over is out for a well-organized department. God timed things a thousand years ahead to have them happen at a given moment. Surely, such a God demands some degree of punctuality on the part of his servants.

Because of the brief length of the worship period, a well-planned program is necessary. It should be in harmony with the lesson material to be taught and in keeping with the mental and spiritual capabilities of the age group. Suppose the assembly begins at 9:45. The worship period would last until 10:00, at which time the pupils would go to their classes for the lesson.

No Closing Assembly

A second assembly following the class period seems to be a waste of valuable time. Why not teach until 10:55 and then give the pupils instructions to go directly to the Junior church or the main sanctuary for the worship service?

The department superintendent should act as a sort of "pastor" over his or her department and keep close contact with those in the department. When a child is sick, a call from the teacher or superintendent may do wonders both for the child and the parents. This is especially true in cases where the parents do not attend Sunday school.

It would not be fair to fail to mention a fourth very important factor in department work. This is records. The very word may make some of us shudder because it means work and more work. Strangely enough, most farmers keep better records of their pigs and cows than many of our Sunday schools keep of their boys and girls. Little wonder that we lose so many of them in their early teens!

Records Should Be Studied

The best record system is the Six-Point Record System. This system stresses punctuality, worship with offerings, the importance of preaching, preparation of the lesson, the importance of taking God's Word to church with us, and the importance of being present. The information gathered from week to week through this system should not be looked upon as just cold figures, but should be considered in its relationship to the persons it concerns.

Records should not only be kept, they should be studied. Only through study of such records as they relate to the pupil and the department can the true value of a record system be realized. When departmental workers study the records of their pupils,

begin to ask the how and why of things, and do something about it, our Sunday schools will grow.

Finally, let us consider how to get started toward departmentalization. Suppose yours is a Sunday school set up on the class basis. First, determine how many of a particular age group are represented in the present enrollment. Then break this number down so you have no more than ten to a class.

Church Selects Officers

Next have the church select the officers which should consist of a superintendent, secretary, pianist, song leader, and teachers. In many of our western churches a Sunday School Board takes care of the appointment of the teachers. This is a good and workable plan.

Very seldom should a class be allowed to select its own teacher. Only the best people should be in these positions and this may not always happen if the class does the selecting.

After the department is organized, it is well to have a staff meeting of the officers and teachers to plan the work. Plans should be made as much as six months in advance for a truly progressive department. Let this department function as an individual, yet not independent, cell within the structure of the Sunday school making more room for the division and subdivision of classes. Then watch the Sunday school grow!

Second Honor Roll

"Every Church Family" Plan

Salem church, Missouri
Hurryville church, Farmington, Mo.
Grace church, Blount, W. Va.
Pleasant Valley church, Butler, Okla.
Martinstown church, Worthington, Mo.
First church, Sapulpa, Okla.
Trinity Temple Free Will Baptist church, Tulsa, Oklahoma
West Side church, Johnsonville, South Carolina
First church, Bryan, Texas
First church, Corning, Ark.
Union church, West Frankfort, Illinois
Central church, Tampa, Florida

More and more churches are waking up to this easy and inexpensive way of keeping the members informed on all the affairs of both the denomination and the church around the world. The pastors who use the "Family Plan" are high in their praise of it. They say that when the paper comes to the members, it's just like a pastoral visit.

We are now twelve churches toward our second honor roll of 50 churches. Will yours be added this month?

Rules for Honor Roll

1. Send names and addresses of all families in the church. *Do not send any money.*
2. Your list will be checked against our circulation. Refunds on any subscriptions in effect will be credited to the church account.
3. The church will receive a bill quarterly and a form on which to list new families or drop any who have died or changed membership.
4. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued.

A Workers' Conference Is a Must!

RUFUS COFFEY
DARLINGTON, S. C.

As the sales meeting is to a business, as a caucus is to a political rally, as the briefing room is to a pilot, the workers' conference is to a Sunday school. It is the hub of a successful, thriving, progressive Sunday school.

The name workers' conference suggests the purpose of this council or cabinet meeting. Composed of all the general officers, regular teachers and assistants, class officers and pastor, it is a convocation of these leaders for inspiration, consultation and edification. It is an instrument for presenting problems, preparing a program and promoting the plans and work of the whole school. Furthermore, the meeting should be utilized for the personal development and leadership training of the staff.

The conference should meet regularly, preferably every week. The ideal time is preceding the mid-week service. The superintendent or educational director should lead the session in cooperation with the pastor. It would be advisable to have the meeting in various homes occasionally as well as in a park or some other place for fellowship among the workers. Variety will add to the interest.

It is most important to keep before the workers the necessity of the meeting and provide a good program to inspire them to come. Several factors are to be kept in mind. Avoid details—let a committee work them out and give a report. Meet with a purpose and determination to accomplish something for the glory of God.

Do not be discouraged or defeated. The meeting should not be dominated by the leader. Group participation should be encouraged. The meeting must meet the needs of the workers.

We cannot overemphasize that success is dependent upon a vital, worthwhile program. But who is responsible for planning an effective conference? It would be advisable to have a committee to work with the superintendent and pastor. Various themes may be chosen such as "discipline", "equipment", "visitation", "evangelism", "worship", etc. A schedule for the year should be planned to include themes of this nature, or other topics of interest submitted by the workers.

Different methods may be employed to develop the theme. Outside speakers are good to handle topics of a technical nature or present an inspirational challenge. Group discussion is excellent on topics of general interest. Panel discussion is very effective or several speakers pointing out separate phases of a subject.

Delegates returning from conventions and other conferences often present ideas of inspiration. Skits presenting or diagnosing a problem are very helpful. Also pertinent

questions submitted by workers and answered by a successful worker is of great interest. Most important are visual aids and demonstration. Films, charts, and exhibits showing the technique leave a deeper impression and have a more lasting value.

The ideal conference should include periods for devotions, general promotion and evaluation of the school, a training or educational feature, a departmental or age-group planning session, and fellowship.

The devotional must not be a cold, cut-and-dried affair. It should vibrate with a spiritual emphasis. God's presence and guidance must be sought if the conference is fruitful. The reports, promotional discussion and business should be taken care of in an orderly manner but it should be to the point, snappy and informative.

Problems must be handled in a skillful manner so as not to cause the meeting to lag. The outstanding feature is the instruction period. It must be inspiring and enlightening, but sound and profitable. A stale and stagnant period will defeat the purpose of the meeting. In smaller churches, the age-groups are divided into children, youth and adult sessions. Beginning the conference with a simple meal has been instrumental in getting more workers to attend.

A good workers' conference is not limited to a large Sunday school but can be just as valuable to a small school. In many instances it has an advantage because its condensed nature presents less problems and more time can be given to instruction.

The important factor is the willingness of the present Sunday school leaders to grasp the opportunity afforded by a workers' conference. With a vision of the potentialities of this conference, and the practice of the principles of program planning set forth the entire Sunday school will be sparked with new life. If effectively executed, interest will be inspired, enthusiasm engendered and the sluggish school stimulated and revitalized as an active force for the winning of more souls to Christ.

The workers' conference is a must!



▶ Rev. Rufus Hyman is now available for full-time evangelistic work. Received his training at Ayden Seminary and Eureka College and has 30 years of preaching experience. Write him at Slocomb, Ala.

▶ A pastor is needed at Quincy, Fla. Any minister interested should write Otis V. Hayes, 823 W. King St., Quincy.

A significant article on the ministry of the Sunday School by William J. Mishler.

More important today than at any previous time in our history is the teaching of religion to the youth of our church. This is true because need for the stabilizing and spiritualizing power of religion has never before been so great among us.

In the strain and stress of the present our very roots are being torn up, our trusted Christian traditions cast aside, our church values forced into new molds, our faith in unseen realities undermined. Youth, usually so confident and full of zest, finds its resolutions weakened by an atmosphere of pessimism and doubt and so looks out on the future with apprehension.

Probably never before have the morals of so many persons run as low as now. Humanity waits for an energizer capable of organizing its motives to new efforts. It wants a clarifier of vision to reveal the fundamental Christian goals, and it needs an anchorage for hope and faith to give new courage.

Take Sunday School for Granted

As a pastor for 19 years I have always been vitally interested in every phase of our denominational enterprises. I have always maintained that a church must be mission-minded, the field being the world; that we must have an active superannuation program to take care of our retired ministers and missionaries who have so faithfully served us; a training program that will train our church constituency for leadership in the local church, and a cooperative program through which the church could support every phase of the denominational program.

But I must confess I found myself guilty before my Master of taking the work of the Sunday school for granted. This I have found to be true with many of our local and national church leaders of today. This philosophy must be stopped or we are going to continue to find a dearth of leadership in our church that is so conspicuous even today that we have numerous churches and mission fields that are crying in our ears for pastors and missionaries.

To be sure, Christ has given his people a supreme task to perform—the evangelization of the world. There is no argument to be found to refute His commands. However, we are faced with this great task as a church—

the furnishing of personnel to man the fields. This is where the great task of the Sunday school makes its debut into the program of world evangelization.

An Absolute Necessity

In 1876 the French Government sent a commission to the U. S. to study our educational agencies. The report of the Commission says: "The Sunday school is not an accessory agency in the normal economy of American education; it does not add a superfluity; it is an absolute necessity for the complete instruction of the child. Its aim is to fill by itself the complex mission which elsewhere is in large measure assigned to the family, the school, and the church. All things unite to assign to this institution a grand part in the American life."

It is interesting to note that the French Commission regarded the Sunday school as "an absolute necessity" for the complete instruction of the child. If this is true, we must view with alarm the fact that TWO out of THREE of its Protestant constituency are out of the Sunday school. Today there are approximately 40 million boys and girls growing up with no religious education.

This same Commission regarded the Sunday school "as an agency of Religious education". It is expected by the American people to take the place of the family, the school, and the church. This is a truth that we cannot escape. We are witnessing the passing of the teaching parents; thus, more heavily rests this great responsibility of world-wide evangelism upon the Sunday schools of our present age.

Holy Spirit Gave Outline

In Acts 1:8, we see an outline of procedure given to us by the Holy Spirit, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

"The four geographical locations mentioned are Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.

From personal observation I have noted much of our praying, our planning, and even our paying has begun at Jerusalem, and some has gone to the uttermost part of the earth, but a great gap has been left between. Judaea and Samaria have been neglected.

The Christian constituency in America has failed its own country and its Lord in

failing to pray for their own land. We meet regularly in our places of worship for prayer each week. We will pray for those in foreign lands and for those of our church circle. Yet there is little or no thought for those of our local community, state, or nation.

Little wonder we have so much complacency and indifference toward the church and Sunday school on the part of the world when the world sees so much indifference on the part of the church. Many of our churches and leaders have become ego-centric which results in uselessness and final death. May we petition God to give us a vision that begins at Jerusalem and extends around the globe, including Judaea and Samaria.

The Greatest Agency

The Sunday school is the greatest agency the church has to reach every age group, every member of the family.

There was a day when America was Sunday school conscious. But that was not the result of pastors, superintendents, and Sunday school teachers saying, "I'm interested in my Sunday school, but I can't be bothered with yours."

This was largely brought about by a man named Moody with a vision and burden for a state, a nation, and a world. Though this man founded one of the most evangelical churches of his day, according to the historical record of this great church, he was never called to be its pastor. His primary task was the bringing in of children and youth to be taught the true way of life through the Sunday school.

It is obvious that these are "perilous times" so aptly described by the Apostle Paul.

The lawless spirit of the times influences the children of our Christian homes and makes child teaching and training a real problem to Christian parents. There is no greater, nor more practical, need among the Lord's people, than for sound Biblical teaching and training that can be so ably carried out through the well-organized and administered Sunday school.

Challenge Pointed Out

This challenge is pointed out to us so clearly in an issue of *Harper's Magazine*. Doris Drucker reports the results of a survey of college youth across the nation which indicate that young people today desire guidance, authority, and knowledge of right and wrong which, they charge, have not come to them through the home, church, or public school. Thus youth itself recognizes its need of teaching and training.

Mr. Mishler is promotional secretary for the National Sunday School Board.

The student daily of a great state university, carried an editorial addressed to the faculty under this caption, TAKE US BACK TO SOLID GROUND. Says the student editor, "We can't accept responsibility: you couldn't before us . . . we don't know the meaning of discipline: you didn't discipline us". Near the close, the indictment changed to pleading, "We want discipline in the job of living". Youth is begging to be taught obedience.

The threat of education without proper Biblical teaching and training, says Dr. Leslie R. Marston, presents a three-fold problem. "(1) The multiplication of delinquency and crime to society's breaking point, (2) the increase in neurotic personalities to crippling of America's vigor and enterprise, and (3) the growth of some pagan ideology to a powerful movement fed by fanatical conversion of bewildered youth to un-American and anti-Christian loyalties."

This terrible malady may have a much firmer hold upon us today than we think, in view of the latest report from the FBI files, "Crime increased 14.4 per cent through the United States in the first half of 1956, the sharpest rise since World War II."

Non-Church Goers

Add to this the challenging fact that only 28% of the people of the U.S. ever attend church, the morning church attendance in the U.S. today is only 8% of the entire population, and the evening church attendance is but 2% of the population, and you have a sad picture. If these masses of non-church goers were living in India or Africa, we would call them heathen. What shall we call them here at home?

No more constructive service can be rendered our families, the churches and the nation than to train up a child in the way he should go. There is only one way to do this. It is "in the Lord". And there is one agency dedicated to this task—your Sunday school and its faithful workers.

The Sunday school teachers of America have the biggest job of any single corps of workers. These men and women can do more to change the tide of irreligion, immorality, irresponsibility than any group in the land. Laws won't do it, nor can the government do it. Only Christ can do it as He is given opportunity to touch lives that the Sunday school has reached.

The Holy Spirit has outlined the program for the church to follow—beginning at Jerusalem in Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. Don't slacken your efforts at home or abroad but let's include in our plans Judaea and Samaria.

EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

Extra copies of this special Sunday school issue are available. Any church wishing to order extra copies for distribution to the Sunday school staff may have them at 12 for \$1.00, postpaid. The supply is limited, so order now.



NSSA Elects Officers At Annual Convention

CHICAGO, Ill.—Dr. Edward D. Simpson of Minneapolis, Minn., was elected president of the National Sunday School Association in the business meeting preceding the annual convention. The convention met October 10-12 at Moody Memorial Church and attracted some 4,000 delegates from 45 states.

Other officers elected were the Rev. Bert Webb, Springfield, Mo., vice president; the Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, Nashville, Tenn., secretary, and the Rev. Paul W. McBeth, Elizabethtown, Pa., treasurer. General Secretary is Dr. Clate Risley of Chicago.

Simpson, who succeeds Dr. Harold W. Erickson of Rockford, Ill., is a member of the Conservative Baptist denomination and is chairman of the department of Bible at Northwestern College, Minneapolis.

Vice President Webb is the assistant general secretary of the Assemblies of God, Secretary Mooneyham is executive of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and Treasurer McBeth is with the Brethren in Christ.

'Alice' Still Stealing Mission Converts in Africa

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (E R A) — "Alice," the self-styled prophetess who's been stealing converts from missionaries in Africa, has almost paralyzed the Christian Church in the Lubwa district of Rhodesia. This report was made during the annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, meeting in Edinburgh in September.

The assembly was told by the Foreign Mission Committee that missionaries in Northern Rhodesia are "losing the battle to the strange new religion of Alice." They added that thousands of persons are trekking to hear and see the false prophetess, and that she has even inspired converts to build their own churches.

Alice—her real name is Lenshina Mulenga—is 32 years old. She claims to have a direct connection with God and insists that she died but God kept her from entering heaven, telling her instead to return to her own people. She warns them to give up witchcraft and repent of their sins.

Alabama State Association Meets at Cordova Nov. 8-10

CORDOVA, Ala.—Using the theme, "Go Forward," the Alabama state association will

meet November 8-10 at Cordova. The first day will be given to the minister's conference with the association being organized on Friday morning. It will continue until noon Saturday.

Thursday night will be college night with Dr. L. C. Johnson bringing the message. Friday night will feature a missionary service with Rev. Raymond Riggs in charge. Other speakers are Rev. W. C. Patterson, Rev. J. M. Pace, and Rev. H. J. Kelley.

Majority of Pharmacists Oppose Drugstore Liquor Sales

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A majority of the nation's pharmacists—65%—oppose the sale of packaged liquor in retail drug stores, according to a recent nationwide spotcheck conducted by *Drug Topics* magazine.

"The sale of packaged liquor in a drug store is not in keeping with the standing of a pharmacy as a public health institution," they said. The pharmacists felt they shared "the opinion held by representative leaders of the profession."

Cited as the most frequent objection to packaged liquor sales was the belief that they do great harm to the pharmacy's standing in the community and are incompatible with the profession's code of ethics.

Communists Are Meeting Chinese Literature Need

HONG KONG, China—(MNS)—There are 30 periodicals now being published in Hong Kong for Christians. The majority have a circulation under 3,000; two or three only—and these subsidized by American denominations—circulate as many as 5,000.

The reason is abject poverty among the people which keeps them from spending a cent on anything but the bare necessities.

The Communists have solved the problem. Colporteurs with a large stock of booklets, tracts, and comic books roam the streets. For a little more than one American cent they will allow a child (or an adult!) to read a comic book—scores of American comics are translated into Chinese. When the person has completed the comic book, he is allowed to read free a subtly prepared booklet of communistic propaganda. The colporteur will ask the reader three or four questions, the answers showing that the reader has understood the propaganda. If the Communist agent is satisfied, he will allow the reader to look at another comic book free.



Profitable for Doctrine

The Third in a Series of Four Messages on Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible

Verbal Inspiration

The extent of Biblical inspiration is one of the big questions in any consideration of inspiration. Did the inspiration extend even to the words used? Is the Bible verbally inspired?

To these questions many would answer no! For example, Dods writes, "But if by 'plenary inspiration' it be meant that every phrase and letter of Scripture is of Divine authority, this cannot be sustained by what we know of the purpose for which inspiration was given."¹ Now is Dods right in such a conclusion?

I do not think so. I believe that the Bible is a fully inspired book and that the inspiration extended even to the words used. This I shall seek to demonstrate.

Meaning of Two Terms

First, Let us be clear as to the meaning of two terms often used in speaking of inspiration. They are the terms "plenary" and "verbal." "Plenary" means full, complete, entire, extending to every part; and "verbal" means pertaining to words. I shall speak, therefore, of plenary-verbal inspiration meaning that the Bible is inspired fully in all parts alike and that this inspiration reaches even to the words used.

Please note that this position is not to be confused with the "mechanical" theory of inspiration, despite the charge often made to the contrary. (The "mechanical" or "mechanical-dictation" theory is the theory that God dictated the words of the Bible and the writers merely penned the words. Just as a business man would dictate a letter to his secretary, so God dictated the Bible.)

Instead of reducing the writers of Scripture to the level of machines or typewriters, we insist that while they wrote or spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, they nevertheless remained thinking, willing, self-conscious beings whose peculiar styles and

Billy A. Melvin

mannerisms are clearly traceable in their writings.

Announcers of Message

"If their native tongue was Hebrew, they wrote Hebrew; if it was Greek, they wrote Greek; if they were educated, they wrote as men of culture; if uneducated, they wrote as such men would write. We do not separate the divine and human elements, but insist that the two are united in perfect harmony so that every word of the Scripture is at one and the same time the Word of God and also the word of man.

"The writers themselves make it plain that in this process the divine influence is primary and the human secondary, so that they are not so much the originators but rather the receivers and announcers of these messages. Hence what they spoke or wrote was not to be looked upon as merely their own product, but as the pure Word of God, and for that reason it was to be received and implicitly obeyed."²

If, then, we do not accept a "mechanical-dictation" theory of inspiration, what mode of inspiration shall we accept? It appears that there was no definite mode of inspiration used throughout the Scriptures. On some occasions inspiration amounted to little if anything more than a process of dictation. God spoke and man recorded the words: Genesis 22:15-18; Exodus 20:1-17; Isaiah 43:1-29, etc.

Holy Spirit Supervised

On other occasions the writers functioned as thinkers and composers with all of their native energy coming into play as they deliberated, recollected and poured out their hearts to God, the Holy Spirit exercising

only a general supervision which led them to write what was needful and to keep their writings free from error, e.g., Luke 1:1-4; Romans 1:1-32; Ephesians 1:1-23, etc. In narrating simple historical facts and in copying lists of names or numbers from reliable sources this superintendence was at a minimum. This is to say that the activity of the Holy Spirit in inspiration was variable. Sometimes it was at a maximum, sometimes at a minimum.

This is not to say that inspiration did not reach to all parts of Scripture. As we have already stated, we do believe that inspiration reaches to all parts of Scripture, even to the words used. This is known as verbal inspiration.

"Verbal inspiration is the work of God through the Holy Spirit so directing men in their choice of subject matter and in their choice of words that their writings contain, written accurately, exactly what God desired, and all that He desired them to contain. It is the doctrine of superintendence, or guidance; that is, God so guided in the writing of the books of the Bible that the words are His words in the style of the writers."³

Thoughts Are in Words

This belief that inspiration reached even to the words used is contrasted by the "thought" or "concept" theory of inspiration, which theory holds that inspiration reached only to the thoughts and not to the words.

But how can this be? Can you have thoughts without the use of words? Is it not true that the thoughts are in the words, that the two are inseparable? If I make a statement and you say, "I did not get your thought," then I probably did not use the proper words to convey to you the thought which I wished to make.

If the words sacrifice, ransom, expiation, propitiation, purification by blood, and the like, were not inspired then why bother with the doctrine which they embody? If

¹ Marcus Dods, *The Bible, Its Origin and Nature*, New York, p. 129.

The writer is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist church, Richmond, Va., and a graduate of Union Theological Seminary.

² Loraine Boettner, *Studies in Theology*, Grand Rapids, 1947, p. 23.

³ H. S. Miller, *General Biblical Introduction*, Houghton, N. Y., 1944, p. 24.

the words were not inspired, then why bother with textual criticism? (Textual criticism seeks to determine the exact and correct text of the Scriptures as it existed in the original documents, when freed from the errors, corruptions, and variations which have come into it during the long process of copying and recopying.)

Textual Criticism Is Must

Why concern ourselves at all with the question of whether Paul wrote the indicative or the subjunctive in Romans 5:1? *Is it not because through the words used we get Paul's thought?* To the individual holding to verbal inspiration, textual criticism is a must. Believing that inspiration reached even to the words used, he is interested in knowing the exact words because the thoughts are in the words.

Now look at I Corinthians 2:13 and mark this: "Words which the Holy Ghost teacheth." Could anything be more definite and clear than this? Not the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but the "words which the Holy Ghost teacheth." And so there is an intimate, a necessary connection, between thoughts and words. Whether it be for our own thinking, or for intercourse between man and man, thoughts must be expressed in words.

Bishop Westcott says in his "Essay on Inspiration," "Thoughts are wedded to words as necessarily as soul is to body," and Dr. Kuyper has truly said, "You can as easily have music without notes or mathematics without figures as thoughts without words."

Versions Not Inspired

We should also note that plenary-verbal inspiration does not, as some ignorantly suppose, affirm inspiration of any of the existing versions, either modern or ancient. Nor does it affirm this of our present critical Greek texts in the fullest sense of the term; for there is still a measure of doubt concerning a small number of words occurring in them.

It does, however, assert that the original documents, and they alone, were verbally inspired. But at once the question arises, "What is the value of such a theory of inspiration since all the autographs (original copies) are lost?" Why insist on verbal inspiration when no one can produce the documents that are to be regarded as thus inspired? Critics ask in the words of C. A. Briggs, "If the external words of the original were inspired, it does not profit us. We are cut off from them forever. Interposed between us and them is the tradition of centuries and even milleniums."⁴

To answer this question, I would raise another. How accurate are our texts today? Is it not true that through the work of competent critics that we have a near perfect text? For example, such competent textual critics as Westcott and Hort hold that, aside from comparative trivialities, the words in the New Testament that are still in doubt

amount to no more than a thousandth part of the whole.

No Doctrine Endangered

It can be said that no doctrine of scripture is endangered by this small number of words still in doubt. "To the extent, then, to which we have in our present critical texts the original text, to that extent we have in our own hands today the verbally inspired New Testament."⁵ We cannot, therefore, grant that there is no profit for us in the words of the original texts because we are cut off from them.

"We will grant that God's care and providence, singular though they have been, have not preserved for us the original manuscripts either of the Old Testament or of the New Testament. We will furthermore grant that God did not keep from error those who copied the Scriptures during the long period in which the sacred text was transmitted in copies written by hand. But we must maintain that the God who gave the Scriptures, who works all things after the council of His will, has exercised a remarkable care over His Word, has preserved it in all ages in a state of essential purity, and has enabled it to accomplish the purpose for which He gave it."⁶

Word Has Been Preserved

It is inconceivable that the sovereign God who was pleased to give His Word as a vital and necessary instrument in the salvation of His people would permit His Word to become completely marred in its transmission and unable to accomplish its ordained end. Rather, as surely as He is God, we would expect to find Him exercising a singular care in the preservation of His written revelation.

I conclude with a paragraph from the pen of William Evans. "We may safely say that we believe in plenary and verbal inspiration, that is to say, the words as well as the thoughts have been given, whether mediately or immediately under the influence of the divine Spirit.

"We claim that the Bible is indeed and in truth the very Word of God; that it is the Word of God in the language of men; truly divine, and at the same time truly human; that it is the revelation of God to His creatures; that infallible guidance was given to those who wrote it, so as to preserve them from error in the statement of facts; that what the writers of the Scripture say or write under this guidance is as truly said or written by God as if their instrumentality were not used at all; that the ideas expressed therein are the very ideas the Holy Ghost intended to convey; that God is in the fullest sense responsible for every word. This is what the Bible claims for itself."⁷

⁴ Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Grand Rapids, 1948, p. 80-81.

⁵ N. B. Stonehouse and Paul Woolley, Editors, *The Infallible Word*, Philadelphia, 1946, p. 139.

⁷ William Evans, *The Book of Books*, Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1902, p. 37.

NEXT MONTH
The Book of Books

Cooperative Undesignated Receipts Show Decline

Nashville, Tenn.—More than \$2,500 came through the Cooperative Plan of Support in undesignated offerings during the month of October, according to a report from the executive office. Designated offerings pushed the total up to nearly \$3,100.

All undesignated offerings are allocated among eight agencies of the National Association. Beginning January 1, 1957, the percentage of allocations will be as follows: foreign missions, 27%; home missions, 12½%; Radio-TV Board, 2%; executive department, 31%; Bible College, 19%; superannuation, 4%; League, 1%; Sunday school, 3½%.

October receipts were as follows:

RECEIPTS			
ALABAMA			
First church, Opelika	47.15		
First church, Dothan	45.60	92.75	
CALIFORNIA			
Churches of California			241.90
FLORIDA			
State Association	69.51		
Central church, Tampa	12.45		
Northeast Florida Union Meeting	2.00	83.96	
ILLINOIS			
Waltonville church, Waltonville	61.51		
Bethel church, South Roxana	35.00		
Webb's Prairie church, Ewing	10.21		
Pleasant View church, Dix	37.58		
Harmony church, West Frankfurt	26.60		
Bakerville church, Mt. Vernon	33.78		
Johnsonville church, Cisse	3.00		
Oak Grove church, Sheller	11.20	218.88	
KENTUCKY			
Southside church, Paintsville			36.31
MISSISSIPPI			
Northeast Mississippi Association			33.74
MISSOURI			
State Association			530.91
NEW MEXICO			
First New Mexico Association			24.31
NORTH CAROLINA			
Hickory Chapel church, Ahsokie	42.17		
Swannanoa church, Swannanoa	97.22		
Goshen church, Belmont	87.00	226.39	
OKLAHOMA			
State Association			268.50
TENNESSEE			
Grace church, Portland	37.88		
Palmer Memorial church, Nashville	46.59		
Ashland City church, Ashland City	92.51		
West Nashville church, Nashville	39.00		
Mt. Zion church, Ashland City	25.30	241.28	
TEXAS			
Trinity church, Fort Worth			50.00
VIRGINIA			
First church, Richmond			510.00
			\$2,558.93
DESIGNATED FUNDS:			
Arkansas	309.32		
Florida	160.44		
Illinois	19.45		
Oklahoma	25.00	514.21	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$3,073.14
DISBURSEMENTS			
Executive Department	1,201.24		
Foreign Missions	858.40		
Bible College	443.87		
Home Missions	304.90		
Superannuation	111.17		
Sunday School Department	76.78		
League Board	51.19		
Radio-TV Board	25.59		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$3,073.14

⁴ C. A. Briggs, "Critical Theories of the Sacred Scriptures in Relation to their Inspiration," *The Presbyterian Review* II, 1881, p. 573.



ROBERTS

Toddlers are developing physically and like to use their hands. Nursery teachers need a host of inexpensive supplies and novel ideas at their finger tips. The nursery room should offer a variety of activities.

a clay man to illustrate a character and then, after a brief interval, complete the story. The nursery program must be flexible and the equipment adequate to meet the needs of the children.

More important than the equipment, however, is the right kind of teacher. The nursery teacher must be a gracious, loving person who understands little children. She must know the secret of humming to a disturbed little child and must be adept in brushing away tears and wiping little noses.

She must know the characteristics of little children and must study effective ways of coping with shyness, self-centeredness, and any undesirable traits which might be common to this age group. The nursery worker must realize that she is a living message to the children. As one worker has said, "Nursery children are reading facial expressions instead of books, and studying voices instead of words, and following actions rather than following rules."

A child will respond easily and naturally to teachings about Jesus and Jesus' love. Although he has knowledge of only a few hundred words, he can grasp certain truths. When a little one is held before a picture of Jesus and is told, "That is a picture of Jesus. Jesus loves you." He might not understand that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to the earth to redeem man from sin; but he will probably know the word, "love."

Perhaps he has been told to "love" daddy or to "love" the dollie. Love has a pleasant association. Thus, early in life he learns that Jesus is a dear Person—One who loves and should be loved. This kind of conditioning paves the way and makes it easy later to lead the child personally to accept Jesus as his Saviour.

The nursery-age child enjoys rhyme and rhythm. He might not understand each word, but he is delighted by the sound of words and by repetition of sounds. Many children who can say, "Mary had a little lamb, his fleece was white as snow," do not know the meaning of the word *fleece*, and yet they enjoy the poem. Simple, catchy gospel poems can be very impressive. When a record player is available, children's records can be worked into the course of study.

Of course, the toddler is developing physically and desires to use his hands. He likes to make things. For this reason, crayons and coloring books, pictures and paste, clay and plastic materials, toys and colorful lesson material—all can be used as teaching devices.

If a child finds pleasure and satisfaction in doing a thing, he will want to repeat that act. Attending the Nursery is the beginning of a good habit. If a child enjoys his nursery experiences, he will delight in going to Sunday school and will easily establish this practice which may prove to be life-long. This is our new hope in Sunday school—we shall guide our members from the Nursery to the church.

Guiding the Nursery Child

DOROTHY PHILLIPS
Smithfield, N. C.

Psychologists say that babies begin to learn soon after birth and by the time they are three, have learned one-half of all that they will ever learn.

This sounds impossible until you begin to analyze what a three-year-old child knows. Hair, eyes, books, trees, animals, people: all the common, ordinary things of life have been or are being learned. During these first years it is very important that the child's mind be impressed with words and thoughts pertaining to God.

Long have Free Will Baptists failed to meet the needs of our little ones. Sunday school for this age group has meant a forced, unhappy hour spent upon a parent's knee in an adult classroom. This first introduction to God's house and to worship has been unpleasant for the child and has tended to mar his conception of the church and the joy connected with worship.

Progressive Free Will Baptists have come to realize that a good Nursery department in the Sunday school is the churches' greatest means of directing the child's first steps toward God.

The Nursery department is the tie between the parents and the church. It supple-

ments the ministry offered the children by Christian parents. On the other hand, the Nursery supplies the spiritual guidance which cannot be given in the non-Christian home. Winning the child's love and devotion to Sunday school often means winning the parents to church and to a personal knowledge of Christ.

The room for the Nursery need not be exceptionally large but it should be clean, cheerful, and homelike. Beds for infants should be supplied with clean linens and provisions should be made for warming bottles. Although parents feel a definite responsibility for their babies and small children, they will not hesitate to enroll these little ones if adequate provisions have been made for their comfort and welfare.

Special attention must be given to the needs of the older group—the toddlers. Since the toddlers have a limited attention span, the room should offer a variety of activities. There should be pictures, crayons, books, records, and toys. Nursery teachers need a host of inexpensive supplies and novel ideas at their fingertips.

Because of the child's restless nature, the teacher must of necessity be able to switch from one means of teaching to another. She might deem it wise to stop in the middle of a story and sing an action chorus or make

Teaching Those Junior Kids

MRS. J. B. CHISM, JR.
Warwick, Virginia

The Junior department is composed of boys and girls nine through eleven years of age. These children are usually in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades of the public school. The Junior has reached the peak of childhood strength; he is extremely active and is regarded by some as a living tornado.

Although he is sometimes a problem, he is also a challenge. He is teachable, moldable, lovable, and unpredictable. He is at the age of hero worship, the age of habit-forming, the age of memorizing, the age of decision, and the age of purposeful activity.

He has gradually changed from a world of imagination, from simple stories and idle play, to a world of purposeful activity. He admires anyone who does things, and usually chooses a hero, standing by him with unswerving loyalty. He wants to be doing things, and what he does today he will likely do tomorrow because he is probably in the most habit-forming period of life.

We are told by students of human behaviour that there are four general characteristics peculiar to the junior pupil: curiosity, imagination, restlessness, and the urge of imitation. These behaviorisms in themselves offer us an excellent opportunity for reaching these young people for Christ. Use his curiosity to acquaint him with the Bible—what it teaches, and what those teachings mean to him.

His keen sense of imagination will make it easy for him to picture Biblical events and understand them without doubt. His restlessness can be utilized by using various approaches such as dramatization of Bible stories. This same approach can also afford him an opportunity to imitate, and what better persons could he imitate than the heroes of the Bible!

The first need in this department is to lead the child to a saving knowledge of Christ, if he has not already had this experience. Teach him the Bible. His mind is keen, and he will be able to memorize many passages which will help him in his Christian growth and experience. He should be taught the principles of Christian living. He should know the difference between right and wrong and be able to make right choices.

He should be inspired to dedicate his life to Christ for Christian service. A part of Christian training should help the youngster to take his place in the membership of the church and all the activities it has provided for him.

A building contractor always gives a great deal of thought and attention to the foundation of the building he is erecting. A good, strong foundation is necessary for a fine, strong building. Many mothers and fathers are falling down on the job today of bringing up their children and the responsibility falls into the hands of the Sunday school teacher. What a privilege it is to mold the lives of these young ones, and in so doing often the very homes from which they have come are reached.

Many a junior child has been sent alone to the classroom and later returns home to influence and persuade his family to attend with him. He is sometimes the key to enlisting an entire home for the service of Christ.

Often we fail to provide adequately for this department. When we elect teachers our greatest concern seems to be for capable leaders in the adult classes when our first thought should be for these young ones whose lives are being molded. These young people should not be given some "hole in the wall" that no other group will have for a classroom, but should be provided with the best of everything possible.

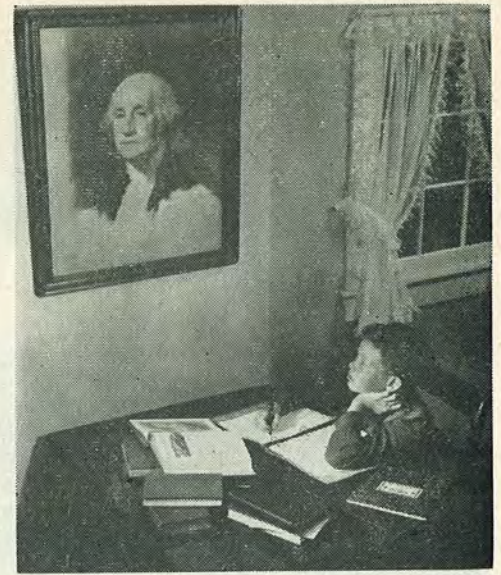
Adults should be mindful of their every need and accomplishment. Far too many look upon the junior as a source of annoyance and fail to realize that the attention he gets today to a great extent determines the life he will live tomorrow.

There should be in this class the best teacher possible. He, or she, *must* be a lover of children and vitally interested in the spiritual progress of each of his pupils. He must continually endeavor to improve himself as a teacher and be on the lookout at all times for new ways of presenting his lesson materials so as to better instruct his group.

He should prepare diligently for every lesson realizing that he will be held accountable to God for every moment that he spends in the classroom. Do not read the lesson; they can read it for themselves. Make it so interesting to them by use of visual aids and other means that their minds cannot wander and their tongues wag.

There should be no discipline problem in this department, and there will likely not be if the teacher is as prepared and ready for the occasion as he should be.

As the spiritual leader of this group the teacher should set a high example; his character should be spotless and his life above reproach. He should be faithful in church attendance. He should study his



ROBERTS

The junior is at the age of hero worship. He admires anyone who does things and usually chooses a hero, standing by him with unswerving loyalty.

Bible consistently, spend much time in prayer, and witness for the Lord at every opportunity.

If at all possible he should visit the homes of his pupils each quarter and should from time to time provide good, clean social activities for his group. He should have an able assistant whom he notifies well in advance should he find it necessary to be absent from his class. Any teacher who continually refuses to meet with this request should be relieved of his position.

Much of the junior study is devoted to Bible history and heroes, and this is good. These children should be encouraged to read their Bibles for themselves and get the Bible history from their own study. The Bible should be in the pupils' hands in the class sessions, thus stimulating them to read the text and to become familiar with the Book as a whole.

There are three essentials of the Junior department: the teacher, the lesson, and the pupil. We may say that a school has reached a high standard of efficiency when its teachers are trained, its lessons are suitable for the group, and its scholars are learning.

When a vital part of the pupil's accomplishments is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and a vital part of the school's accomplishments is reaching its pupils, we have reached the most important requirements set for this group.

MOVING?

If you are moving, you can be sure of not missing a copy of your paper if you will notify us promptly of your new address. When notifying of a change in address, please include old as well as new address.



Rev. Joe Mooneyham, director of the Junior church, brings the morning message to his congregation. There have been 23 decisions for Christ since the Junior church was started in April of 1956.

The Children Count in This Church

(Continued from page 3)

- The Doxology (congregation standing)
- Call to Worship—Junior Minister
- Invocation—Director
- Hymn
- Announcements—Director
- Hymn
- Hymn by the choir
- Offering dedication by an usher
- Offertory (organ solo)
- Sermon, filmstrip, or slides
- Recessional

The Modesto director suggests that sermons on the junior level should be alternated with filmstrips or slides for the morning message. Their Junior church has started a film library.

Music Vital to Worship

Since music is so vital in their worship, the leaders pay particular attention to their musical program. Because most choruses and gospel songs are songs of testimony rather than worship, the song leader uses hymns almost exclusively. "It is not necessary to know many, but they should represent a good selection," he says, and he suggests the following list as typical: "Fairest Lord Jesus," "Faith of Our Fathers," "I Love To Tell the Story," "What a Friend," "Trust and Obey," "He Hideth My Soul," "O Worship the King," and "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us."

The choir has been impressed with the fact that dignity lends to worship and so the juniors in the choir have learned to sit and stand in unison, how to hold their books, and to have the next hymn ready on time. In this connection, a hymn board is used so that numbers do not have to be called out.

"Used hymn books from the adult church have no place in the Junior church," the director states emphatically. He suggests a special junior hymn book, of which several have been compiled. Many of their juniors are studying music and this talent is given a chance for expression in special music by the children.

Use Pews if Possible

The equipment and furnishings also have an important place in this Junior church. The director believes that pews should be used if possible, although they are having to use folding chairs temporarily. He says that the furniture should be neither adult nor miniature size, but should strike a happy medium.

They use regular offering plates with a

felt pad to prevent the tinkling of coins, which would distract. Some of the adult groups in the church provide the flowers for the Junior church. The communion table occupies a place of prominence and they are taught what it represents.

In the Junior sanctuary there is a kneeling rail, which is padded with foam rubber and covered with velvet. This is the altar. About one Sunday out of every month Mr. Mooneyham gives an opportunity for those who would like to become Christians to accept Christ. The altar service is conducted very orderly and reverently.

Each One Instructed

Much care is taken and the leadership of the Lord is sought. No coercion or persuasion is used. The simple gospel truths are stated and the Holy Spirit is left to do his office work. Each one is instructed individually, the Bible is opened before them and the Scripture is read to them.

The result of this patient, prayerful work is that 23 decisions for Christ have been witnessed since the Junior church was started, with 13 of these coming on one Sunday. "It is amazing to see how quiet the congregation is when children are being instructed at the altar," the director comments. Each one professing Christ is given an opportunity to witness for Him and then they are given the hand of fellowship. Some have been led to Christ through the personal work of their junior friends.

When any junior moves to another community, a "goodbye" service is held. It is often a heart-touching occasion since the tie that binds juniors together is sometimes stronger than in an adult congregation.

Right now the Junior church meets in the Junior educational building, but future plans call for the construction of a Junior building, complete with worship chapel and classrooms.



Music is an important part of the worship service for juniors as well as adults. This Junior church has its own choir. Worship hymns are used instead of gospel choruses, the director says, in order to deepen their sense of worship.



Woman's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Women at Work

• Trinity Temple Auxiliary, Tulsa, Okla. reports an average attendance of 20 for their prayer study course in September.

• A new auxiliary was organized at Manning, S. C., in September with 17 members. Officers elected as follows: president, Miss Blanche Bryant; vice president, Mrs. Isabell Aid; youth chairman, Mrs. Reedy Saverance; study course chairman, Mrs. Naomi Ridgeway; program-prayer chairman, Mrs. Louise Richbourg; personal service chairman, Mrs. Corine Rhodus; recording secretary, Miss Vivian Ardis; corresponding secretary, Miss Olympiah Bryant; treasurer, Mrs. Eddy Smith.

• The District Auxiliary Convention of Antioch association, Ark., convened September 28 and used for the day's theme, "He Leadeth Me".

• The Lockhart, S. C., auxiliary has joined with other auxiliaries in their district to help purchase a refrigerator for the Turbeville orphanage.

• On October 11, an all-day service with two study courses on prayer was held at Head's Church, Tenn. by Mrs. Eunice Edwards. There were 18 present.

• Women, be sure to observe the pre-Thanksgiving "Week of Prayer" to help counteract the senseless hustle and bustle of present-day living in our own lives and in the church. Make this prayer season count for Christ.

• Officers for the auxiliary at Free Will Baptist Bible College were installed recently by the national secretary. They are Olena Filkins, president; Geneva Hicks, vice-president; Eleanor Prude, recording secretary; Wilma Ann Jones, treasurer and youth chairman; Barbara Nell Hart, study course chairman; Mary Ruth Wisheart, program-prayer chairman; Mrs. Robert Picirilli, personal service chairman, and Sarah Brown, corresponding secretary.

Promotion Ideas Being Prepared on Tent Project

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The response to the tent project continues slow, according to the national auxiliary office. Since last month only \$17.80 has been received. Ten dollars of this came from Oklahoma and \$7.80 from Missouri.

Cost of the tent will be \$2,000 and it will

Study Chairman Presents District Workshop Outline

FRUITFUL DISCIPLES

Our Need For Such a Time as This
"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Hymns
- 10:10 a.m. Greetings and recognition of auxiliaries and visitors
- 10:20 a.m. Meditations, "Chosen to Bear Fruit."—John 15:16, 2 Peter 4:1-9
- 10:30 a.m. "How to Make Our Prayer Seasons Fruitful"
(Special plans for pre-seasonal Weeks of Prayer)
- 10:45 a.m. "Hinderance to Fruit-bearing" Matthew 13:1-23
Solo—"Nothing but Leaves for the Master"
- 11:00 a.m. "More Fruit through Better Stewardship"
- 11:15 a.m. "Glorifying the Father through WNAC Goals for 1957"
- 11:25 a.m. Duet—"Have I Done My Best for Jesus?"
Message, "Gathering Fruit unto Life Eternal"—John 4:36
Psalm 1:3
- 12:00 Benediction
- 1:30 p.m. Hymns
- 1:45 p.m. Meditations, "The Fruit of the Spirit"—Galatians 5:16-26
(Flannelgraph may be used effectively)
- 2:00 p.m. Panel discussion, "Have We been Fruitful in Every Good Work?"
What gains have we made in personal spiritual growth? In strengthening the missions program in our churches? In reaching the lost of our community? Are we better stewards in all phases of life? Have we failed to hold some members in regular attendance? Why?
- 2:30 p.m. Film, "Passion for Souls"
(May be ordered from Foreign Mission Board)
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn

MRS. PAUL PURCELL
Study Course Chairman

be given to the national Home Mission Board for use in organizational work. Some publicity posters will be mailed soon which the national office expects to stimulate interest and response.

Choosing
the
better
part...



MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

I watched some sparrows feeding and marveled anew at the providential care of our God.

The cherry trees were polka-dotted with ripe fruit and as the sparrows argued over the choicest bits, I thought "and not one of them is forgotten before God." I realized all over again that He is concerned with me, with my cares. Did not He say, "But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows?"

He leads us into many strange places—places where we do not understand why, but He understands. We should be content with this knowledge.

My children have made homes for themselves in various parts of the country. Some of them I can visit occasionally and some I see only once a year. But regardless of where they are, I love them. Their geographic location does not affect my love or concern for them. Even more so does our Heavenly Father exercise love and care for His children.

What we are, not where we are, measures His love for us. He loves and provides for His own. "Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

So great is God's care for His children that often He turns things to His glory which Satan uses against us. Such was the case with Israel. "Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired Balaam . . . to curse thee. Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not harken to Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee" (Deuteronomy 23:4-5).

Our trials and testings are in His gentle hand. He knows best what we need and in His wisdom provides. Someone has said, "Where God guides, He provides."

As I watched the sparrows feeding, my faith was strengthened and I went about my work singing, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?"

GLANCING AROUND THE STATES

SAMMY WILKINSON, *News Editor*

New Conference Organized in Ohio

DAYTON, Ohio—A new district association was organized here recently. It is composed of five churches in the Dayton area and was named the Little Miami conference.

Florida Association Ordains Five Preachers

AUBURNDALE, Fla.—Five ministers were ordained by the Central Florida association at its annual meeting here September 14-15. The association was organized in 1954 with four churches. A fifth was added this year when the newly-organized church at Orlando petitioned for membership.

St. Louis Church Observes Rally Day

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—South Side church here held its annual rally day September 16, with 380 in Sunday school. Rev. Don Hill, a former member, Rev. Harvey Hill, founder and first pastor, and Rev. W. A. Hales, present pastor, were the speakers during the day.

Illinois Church Finishes Remodeling

PITTSBURG, Ill.—A remodeling program has just been completed by the Free Will Baptist church here. Work which was done included adding a new classroom, paneling the auditorium, refinishing the pews, and adding a sound system with both inside and outside speakers. Homecoming was observed at the church October 7. Rev. George Ritter is pastor.

Ground Broken for New Tennessee Church

MADISON, Tenn.—A ground-breaking service was held September 16 for the new church organized here in July, 1955. The congregation owns property at Roosevelt and Scalf Drive, and are now building the first unit of a \$40,000 building. The first unit, which will be brick, will be 24 by 50 feet and will seat 200. Rev. J. L. McIntosh is pastor.

Arkansas Association Holds Annual Meeting

SANDTOWN, Ark.—The annual meeting of the Polk Bayou association was held in September at the Pine Hill church near here. All 14 churches were represented and Rev. Lonnie Clark preached the introductory sermon. Rev. Clarence Burton is the new moderator. The 1957 session will meet at Ballew's Chapel, Grubbs.

New Oklahoma Church Experiences Growth

BIXBY, Okla. — The Shellenbarger church, organized two miles north of Bixby last July, is experiencing rapid growth. Organized with 31 charter members, the Sunday school attendance averaged 121 in September. Rev. Bob Ketchum started the work as a mission in November, 1955. Rev. Cy Mashburn is pastor.

Arizona Church Starts Educational Building

TUCSON, Ariz.—Work began October 1 on an educational building for the First church here. The church recently concluded a teacher training course for the Sunday school staff. While the staff numbers ten, 23 enrolled for the course and 13 had perfect attendance records. Rev. John Elliston is pastor.

New Church Organized In South Carolina

McCOLL, S. C.—After worshipping as a mission point for ten months, the First church of McColl was organized August 5 by the South Carolina Home Mission Board

with 16 charter members. Rev. O. M. Hilburn was named pastor and the congregation is holding regular services in a church owned by the Plymouth Textile Manufacturing Company.

Irving, Texas Church Is Organized

IRVING, Texas—A new Free Will Baptist church was organized here September 23, with seven charter members. The organizational council included Rev. C. J. Hearron, Rev. Doc Baber, and Rev. M. L. Sutton. Officers elected include Rev. Roy O'Dell, pastor; Bob Harless, treasurer, and Mrs. Bob Harless, clerk.

Florida League Elects Officers

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—New officers have been elected for the Senior League of the Unity church. They are Ralph Smith, president; Dare Harris, vice president; Jake Mizell, recording secretary; Taber Barton, corresponding secretary; Sarah Harris, Bible quiz leader, and Pat Smith, group captain.

Arizona Association Has Quarterly Meeting

TUCSON, Ariz.—The First Arizona association met here September 8 in quarterly session. Rev. John Elliston, Tucson, was elected moderator; Rev. James Renfro, Chandler, assistant moderator, and Mrs. Elvis Priest, Phoenix, clerk. Sermons were brought by Rev. Elvis Priest and Mr. Renfro.

Pastoral Changes

Waldo Young to Henryetta, Okla.
Rufus Hyman has resigned at Slocomb, Ala., to enter full-time evangelistic work.
Wayne Smith to Swannanoa, N. C., from Sherron Acres church, Durham, N. C.
Robert Duck to Oilton, Okla., from Airport church, Tulsa.
Forest Beverly to Dayton, Ohio.
Franklyn Harness to Long Run church, Ohio.
Eugene Waddell to First church, Portsmouth, Va., from Bay Branch church, Timmonsville, S. C.
Adam Scott to Saratoga, N. C., from Calvary church, Durham, N. C.

Revival Campaigns

CHURCH	PASTOR	EVANGELIST	DATES	DEC. ADD.
Southside church, St. Louis, Mo. Quincy, Fla.	W. A. Hales	Luther Gibson K. J. Esther	10/21-11/4 10/22-28	
Fairmount Park church, Norfolk, Va.	F. A. Rivenbark	Ralph Lightsey	10/21-28	
First church, Auburndale, Fla.	Elvie Johnston	Jim Finly	9/30-10/14	
Mountain Grove, Mo.	O. T. Dixon	Charles Sapp	10/29-11/4	

15 Ways to Show Them What You Say

MRS. LAVERNE D. MILEY
Memphis, Tennessee

Children today are affected by our 1956 world of radio, television, stage and screen. So teachers who want to present our message effectively must capture their thinking largely through the eye gate. Visual aids should never be used for entertainment; they are a means to capture the pupil's attention while you impress upon them the truths you are presenting.

To gear your teaching to youthful thinking, a great variety of visual aids can be used as a springboard to get truth into streamlined minds. The following are some visual methods that have been used effectively by other teachers.

1. *Flannelgraph* depicts action as the story progresses. It is an aid for both teacher and pupil—it gives the teacher self-confidence and it enables the pupil to "tell back" the story.

It can be used in telling Bible or missionary stories, teaching Bible truth, Scripture memorization, visualizing words of hymns and choruses, for object lesson presentation, and for maps and charts.

2. *Flash Cards* with attractive pictures may be used to depict the action of a story, teach a hymn or chorus, or teach a Scripture verse. Cut the cards in a characteristic shape to correlate with the subject matter. For example, each word of Isaiah 53:3 may be written on a sheep. The story of the creation may be prepared on circles.

3. *Object Lessons* are valuable as a class "opener" or "closer". Real objects may be used, chemical lessons, or hand portrayal with alphabet letters and word cards. Publishers also have many sets of prepared object lessons available for use with the flannelboard.

4. *Flat pictures* may be displayed and referred to as the story is told. They may be shown in a series to depict action or to help teach a song or Scripture verse. They may be used in a review period of stories and verses.

5. A *blackboard* is very essential to the public school teacher, so it should be to the Sunday school teacher. It may be used for outlines, to write important points of the lesson, charts, simple maps, lesson illustrations and graphs.

6. *Bible maps* are like screens on which you can project your lesson. As you tell the story of the Good Samaritan, you can show how he actually went "down" from Jerusalem to Jericho.

7. *Television* can be used in the Sunday School. Secure a box approximately 15" square and cut out a square hole in front. Wind a long piece of wrapping paper around a stick inside the box. On this paper make a series of sketches or cut pictures

from old Sunday School papers, magazines, etc. (Label and catalogue for future use).

8. *Hand puppets* are popular in teaching choruses and in the actual lesson presentation. Use a screen and another child to form the drama. And have you thought of adding another member to your class in the "person" of a puppet?

9. *Sand table* presentations can be effective. The third dimension which is present in this method presents a reality rarely achieved by other means. As actual scenes may be made in the sand, the lesson details are more easily impressed upon the minds of the children.

10. Or a *stand-up table scene* may be used instead of the sand table. Use colored flannel for grass, paths and roads and use the same procedure as for the sand table.

11. *Wall paper* can teach. Wall Trends, Inc., have produced an eight-color Biblical map mural reproduced by a hand-blocked silk screen process on a special washable paper.

12. A *peep box* is good to help "clinch" the story. Take an ordinary shoe box and cut a window in one end. Build up the scene inside and cover the top with tissue paper. After you have told the story, pass the box around to help place the details in the minds of your children.

13. *Projected slides and filmstrips* must not be overlooked by the teacher. They should be shown three times: Once to give your class an over-all view of the entire lesson, then again to give your class an opportunity to study the individual facts of the lesson, and then again to test your class to see if they have learned the lesson.

14. *Speed-i-o-slides* are like clay in the hands of the teacher. These are 2 x 2 inch slides on which you can draw, print or write with an ordinary lead or colored pencil. After you have prepared the slide, project the image onto the screen. When you have finished using the slides, erase them with an ordinary eraser and use them over and over again.

15. *Miniature models or replicas* have lasting teaching value. The tabernacle will have a greater meaning to the children as they actually make a model of one. A Palestinian village can be used to show actual Bible times.

Jesus said "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." But what fisherman fishes with a bare hook? Or what sensible fisherman would throw bait to the fish without a hook? We need bait and we need it on the hook—the kind our children and young people are biting on.

Visual aids are a potent weapon in the hands of a godly Sunday school teacher. Don't be afraid to use something different if you have asked for the leadership of the Holy Spirit.



Missionary Says Thanks

Dear Editor:

... Our trip to the States with our Cuban pastors will ever be a sweet lingering memory. The fellowship of pastors from Florida to Texas, then back to North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio has given our Cuban pastors an appreciation not only of America, but especially of our Free Will Baptist people.

Everywhere we went we were enriched. ... The end of our trip was indeed a time of joy for them as they found their families and many of their congregations waiting. We thank you again and shall never cease to thank God for you. We love you, our people, as never before.

Thomas H. Willey, Director
Free Will Baptist Missions
Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Article Stirs Memories

Dear Editor:

... I like the positive approach CONTACT makes relative to worldly pleasures, social functions, dress, music, and even things within the church such as the recent editorial about the churches sending out form letters asking for financial help.

The article, "Korean Troops Respond to Gospel," brought back memories of just over a year ago. I was on Okinawa and Kermit Johnson, who figured prominently in the article, was a lieutenant in the Army. I remember vividly his struggle between a career in the Army or a career for the Lord. I heard his farewell address at the Youth for Christ rally on Okinawa and his pledge to go to Bible school and return to the Orient for the cause of Christ. What a joy to pick up CONTACT and read of how the Lord is blessing Kermit Johnson, a man who laid his all on the altar!

Malcolm C. Fry, Pastor
Lake Charles, La.

CONTACT

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What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON, Savannah, Ga.

Q. Should a minister unite in marriage anyone who has left her husband, or the husband the wife, without a cause? Should he not talk with them before marriage, and find out if they have been married before, and why they separated? I am a Free Will Baptist and this question has ever been in my mind. G.B.T., Nashville, Tenn.

A. The last three words of your first question "without a cause" requires the answer "no". To your second question "yes". In I Cor. 7:10, 11 Paul says "... let not the wife depart from her husband; But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

In Romans 7:2, 3 "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

Jesus said in Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," and in verses 11 and 12 "... Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Now the question arises, if a minister performs the ceremony marrying a divorcee to another mate, is he not contributing to the cause of adultery? Or is he? There are ministers who read this who will disagree, but, personally, I had rather not perform such a ceremony. However, there might arise an occasion where the minister may feel compelled to unite divorced people. Widespread repercussions might result which would not justify his refusal.

Q. Is smoking a sin? Will it stop a sinner from attending church if he sees a Christian smoking?—Portland, Tenn.

A. Whether or not the smoker likes to admit it, his cigarette, cigar or pipe (when he is overcome by the habit and can't do without it) becomes an idol to him. 2 Corinthians 6:16 asks "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple

of the living God . . ." Verse 17 continues "... and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing . . ."

Smoking has become such a commonplace thing though that seemingly it has little effect upon the sinner when he sees the Christian smoking. However, I do not believe that a smoking Christian could really lead a non-smoking sinner into that completely victorious, overcoming knowledge of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ where God would have everyone of us be. His own testimony would be marred and hindered and it would be a case of "don't do as I do but do as I say do."

Q. Is any sin unforgivable?—J.K.L., Donalsonville, Ga.

A. Yes, the unpardonable sin, ascribing to Satan the works of the Spirit. "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matthew 12:31, 32). Falling in this category, of course, is the rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, inasmuch as it is the Holy Ghost which woos men to Christ.

Address your questions to Rev. Louis H. Moulton, c/o CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

Bellringers



• In Canada, the Institute of Public Opinion discovered that ten years ago 40 per cent of Canadians thought movies were a good influence and 38 per cent thought they were a bad influence. Today only 29 per cent think they are a good influence, and 32 per cent believe their influence is bad.

◦ W. Hamilton Aulenback, a Philadelphia pastor, has launched a campaign against the use of religious pictures—including da Vinci's "Last Supper" and a "Head of Christ"—on calendars advertising liquor. Some 100,000 reproductions of an offensive calendar have been sent to religious groups in an effort to block the distribution of similar pictures next year.

• J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, blames the post-war juvenile crime wave on "soft-headed" parents who do not teach their children "respect for God."

• In Britain, an authority on juvenile delinquency observed: "Television is the pernicious poison of America. I find nothing but shooting, prison scenes, divorces, teen-age girls going wrong. It doesn't give children time to read, to think, or dream."

REV REFORM WILSON
1156 GRAY ST
DETROIT MICH
C



Receives First Award . . . Mrs. Everett Bryan receives from Rev. William Mishler the first Certificate of Award given by the national Sunday school department for completion of the elementary course of a new series of training courses offered by the department. Mrs. Bryan completed the course during an institute held in September at Bethany church, Timmonsville, S. C. Sixty-one registered for the institute. She is the wife of the pastor of Sand Hill church, Coward, S. C.