South Carolina Sunday School News

Conducted by R. D. Webb, General Secretary, South Carolina Sunday School Association

QUESTION BOX

All Sunday School Workers Are Invited to Send Their Questions and Problems to Be Answered—Address South Carolina Sunday School Association, Spartanburg, S. C.

Q. How have teacher training in a country church?

A. Get the country pastor converted to the idea. If a pastor were serving four rural churches, preaching once a month at each place, he could have four teacher training classes.

The training class should meet at the Sunday school hour, being composed of selected individuals who are already teaching. The training class might meet after the sermon. It would meet on Sunday afternoon, or in connection with the evening service. There is a time and a place in every rural church for a training class, if there is one individual to take the lead.

If the pastor will not lead, then some one else must see to it and must be willing to pay the price in intelligent, persistent effort. Country people are just people, and they will respond to leadership and suggestion exactly as any other people. The conditions are not just as they are in the city or the town, of course, but there is a way to have training, if there is someone who will take the initiative.—Sunday school worker.

Q. How can enthusiasm be aroused in the Sunday school?

A. The first thing we think of in connection with the word "enthusiasm" is a crowd. But crowd does not necessarily mean enthusiasm. There may be a crowd with only a noise, and there may be enthusiasm when there are only ten present.

Enthusiasm that means anything must come through intelligent leadership. It can not come by hook or crook, by magic or manipulation. Where enthusiasm is lacking, there is need for training, for an educational idea, for an understanding of the real purpose of the Sunday school.

If the Sunday school is organized departmentally, if there be officers' conferences and departmental conferences, if the leaders are understanding, to apply the best approved principles and methods, if they are unselfishly devoting themselves to the work, they may hope for an enthusiasm, promotive of Christian life and unselfish service.

Sometimes the school needs to have the help of a Sunday school specialist, needs to call on the denominational or interdenominational Sunday school secretary. It needs to go after a Sunday school convention or institute. If it can not bring one to itself, then it needs to go to one.

At least such a Sunday school can get hold of a few good books. Some one may get one book, and, after reading it, pass it around.

Q. After starting my home department, how can I keep it going?

A. (1) Give it constant attention. It can be killed by neglect, but it will never commit suicide. Attention is the only thing that will keep it going.

(2) Don't let distance trouble you "Meet them, greet them, beat them."

(3) Be not weary in well doing. "For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

4. Make frequent definite reports to the Sunday school. It is a good thing to print quarterly reports and to send a copy to each member. This will arouse interest in the department. (Forms for these reports may be secured through the denominational publishing houses.)

5. Have an honor roll, and use it. Put on this honor roll the names of those members who hand in a quarterly report, showing that they have studied every lesson. Give public recognition to this honor roll by printing it or by putting it in an attractive form in the vestibule of the church.

6. Be prompt in delivering the literature and in collecting and turning in the reports. Time can be saved if the visitor will send a postal card before hand to the members, announcing when she will call.

7. Keep informed in regard to methods of home department work. Attend Sunday school conventions, visit other schools, and get a supply of leaflets and the best books on the subject, particularly "The Home Department of the Sunday School," by Miss Lillian Lobes (published by the Southern Baptist Sunday school board.) Get from all of these the best things for your department, and use them.

8. See that the officers and workers are thoroughly acquainted with their duties as outlined below:

1. What are the duties of members and officers of the home department?

1. Members—To study each lesson half an hour at some time during the week, and where providentially hindered to go back and study it later. To keep a record of lessons studied on the card or envelope provided for this purpose, and at the end of the quarter to have this marked and ready for the visitor on the first call. To make an offering, if possible, for the necessary expenses of the work. (This is optional with each member, but most of them will gladly help.)

2. Visitors—To see each member promptly at the end of every quarter, to secure their report of lessons studied and deliver to them the new quarterlies. If the report is not ready the first time, call again the next day, and again and again, until the report is secured. Upon this visit to call is just as important as the first. To keep a record of lessons studied and contributions made by each member assigned to him and make a report of it to the home department superintendent. To be prayerful, tactful, patient and prompt in the discharge of these duties. At every opportunity to get new members for the home department, and to encourage the members of the home department to join the main Sunday school.

3. Superintendant—It is the duty of the home department superintendent to keep a list of all members of the home department; to see that sufficient literature, report envelopes and other home department forms are supplied by the secretary; to distribute these promptly among the visitors, for them to give to the members. He should see that the visitors deliver these promptly to the members and secure a report from each member. If a visitor moves away or resigns, the superintendent should promptly appoint another person to take his place.

He should constantly endeavor to get more members for the home department, and at the same time try to induce those who are now in it to attend the main school. Every quarter the superintendent of the home department should report to the main school as to the number of members in his department, number of new members, number of lessons studied and contributions made.

The home department superintendent should magnify his work. It opens up the Bible in the home. Through the home department it is not only possible to enlist every man, woman and child in the study of God's word, but it has been done. It is a great and blessed work.

"To know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17.

"To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17.

II. What of the home department?

A. 1. It will promote systematic Bible study.

2. It will increase the membership of the regular school.

3. It will develop workers in and for service.

4. It will secure the sympathy and cooperation of the home.

5. It will establish and reestablish the family altar.

6. It will open to the home department members and officers a large field for social service.

7. It will open homes that have been closed to religious influence.

8. It will win many to Christ and the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STANDS FOR OPEN BIBLE

What President Wilson Thinks of Book of Books.

It was when he was governor of New Jersey, that Woodrow Wilson made an address at a Sunday school convention, from which the following is the brief extracts are taken:

"The only book that can have any possible significance as a textbook in the Sunday school is the Bible itself.

"The beauty about the Bible is that it is the most wholesome, the most perfectly symmetrical, the most rounded picture of life and motives of men in the world. Almost every other book has a streak of morbidness in it, but this book is wholesome and sweet and natural and naive from cover to cover. There are no dull moralizings here in the life of man set forth as it was lived from generation to generation.

"He alone can rule his own spirit who puts himself under the command of the Spirit of God, revealed in his Son Jesus Christ our Savior. He is the Captain of our soul; He is the Man from whose life come the light that guideth every man that ever came into the world. All if we can make our Sunday schools the blazing centers of that light, then indeed will the darkness of the world be dissipated. The happiness of seeing a great company of people gathered together in the interest of the Sunday school is the happiness of knowing that there are they who seek light and strength at the lamp from which their spirits can be kindled in the lamp that alone is the word of God.

"I am sorry for the men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and of the pleasure. It is one of the most singular books in the world, for every time you open it some one text, that you have read a score of times suddenly beams with a new meaning. There is no other book in that I know of of which this is true; there is no other book that yields its meaning so personally, that seems to fit itself so intimately to the very spirit that is seeking its guidance.

"Every sunday school should be a place where this great book is not only opened, is not only studied, is not only reverenced, but is drank of as if it were a fountain of life, is used as if it were the only source of inspiration and of guidance. No great nation can ever survive its own temptations and its own follies that does not indoctrinate its children in the Word of God; so that as school, master and as governor I know that my feet must rest with the feet of my fellow men upon this foundation only: for the righteousness of man must take its source from these foundations of inspiration."

Soul Winning in the Sunday School

I. What is soul winning in the Sunday school?

"To lead every pupil in the Sunday school, of proper age, to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord, publicly confess Him by joining the church and engage in definite Christian service."

II. Why emphasize soul winning in the Sunday school?

1. Because the supreme purpose of the Sunday school is to win souls to Christ and train them in Christian service. Unless we get this result our labors in the Sunday school are in vain.

In many cases, the home neglects the soul winning opportunity, the pastor can not do it all, and the Sunday school must assume its rightful share of the responsibility. The Sunday school should take "increase" as one keyword and "Evangelism" as the other, seeking to bring people into the Sunday school. And then they must be led to Christ into the church and out for service.

2. Because in the Sunday school we have our best opportunity. The Sunday school there is usually a larger number of unconverted than at any other regular church service. It is at the best time of life when they are most readily influenced to make a life decision, and when their decision made less early, will give them normally a lifetime of Christian service. In the Sunday school they are studying God's Word, which is "quick and powerful." In the Sunday school, also we have the largest force of trained personal workers—the teachers.

3. Because the personal touch is necessary. Hand picked fruit is generally the best. Of the 12 apostles of our Lord, we know only how seven of them were saved, and every one of these was won by personal work. Indeed the word "Andrew" means "the Master's favorite method, and is still the most fruitful today. Andrew, who he followed Christ, immediately went and found his brother, apparently on same day. Philip was called away from conducting a wonderfully successful revival in Samaria in order to preach the gospel to one man in the desert and that one an African. Saul of Tarsus, although converted through the direct miraculous presence of the risen Christ, yet needed and received the personal ministrations of Ananias.

Lyman Beecher said, "The longer I live, the more faith I have in these sermons where one man is the preacher and one man is the congregation." It is said that if one hundred Christians today should each win one soul to Christ this year, and these two hundred next year, in 25 years every man, woman and child in the world would be a Christian. Is it not a reasonable thing for a Christian to win one soul in a year's time?

III. How win souls in the Sunday school?

1. By our life: We teach more by our walk than by our talk. "We teach most when we are not teaching at all," says Marion Lawrance. Behind every lesson the pupil sees two teachers, the teacher teaching and the teacher living, and the latter has the greater influence. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I care but little what books my daughter studies; I care a great deal who her teacher is." A man was once asked, "Under whose preaching were you converted?" He answered, "Under no one's preaching but under my mother's practicing." The best argument for Christianity is a Christian.

2. By personal friendship: It is the first business of the Sunday school teacher to become a personal friend of each pupil. This means taking an interest in everything which concerns that pupil. The teacher who is not interested in the boys' baseball can not reasonably expect them to be interested in his Savior. Jesus set the example by taking a personal interest in every member of his class, in every department of their life. He was interested in their troubles, their joys, their business, their social pleasures, their physical needs, their ambitions, and everything else that entered into their lives. So it must be with the Sunday school teacher today, if he is to be a winner of souls.

3. By prayer: The teacher who does not pray can not teach, in the Sunday school sense of teaching. Samuel said to the children of Israel, "Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against Jehovah in ceasing to pray for you, but I will instruct you in the good and the right way." (1 Sam. 12:23.) Jesus was the good shepherd "calleth his own sheep by name, and the Sunday school teacher should be an under shepherd of the flock. A. M. Muller, teaching a men's class, decided that he should pray definitely and specifically for each member of his class by name. One of them became a Christian after five years, two more after 20 years, one after 40 years and the last one shortly after Muller's death. J. Wilbur Chapman tells of one woman, a bedridden invalid, who made a prayer list of 25 persons and prayed daily for each one of them by name, and every one of the 25 was converted and received into the church.

4. By personal invitation: It is not enough to live a consistent Christian life, to show a spirit of friendship for the members of your Sunday school class and to pray for them. These are essential, but one more step is necessary, definitely speaking to them one by one of the Savior and asking each one individually to accept Him as his Savior and Lord. It is said that the will of the late E. H. Harriman contained only 25 words, but it disposed of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property. But less than 99 words may decide the fate of an immortal soul. Alabama Sunday school Bulletin.

Junior Promotion Exercises

Frequent requests are made at conventions and through correspondence for helps in preparing promotion exercises in the Sunday school. The following junior promotion exercise was recently conducted at Pennsylvania state convention:

Each pupil has his Bible. Questions are asked by the superintendent and responses given by the pupils in unison.

Where in God's Word are—

1. The Commandments? Exodus 20.
2. The Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 5, 6, 7.
3. The Lord's Prayer? Matt. 6.
4. The Beatitudes? Matt. 5.
5. The Junior Motto?

Recite the Words of—

1. Hymn 231.
2. John 3:16.
3. James 1:22.
4. Psalm 119.
5. Ephes. 4:32.

During this year our lessons were stories of the life of Jesus. Will you tell in Bible words of:

1. The Birth of Jesus. Luke 2:11.
2. The Boyhood of Jesus. Luke 2:52
3. What did John the Baptist say of Jesus? John 1:29.
4. What did God say of Him? Matt. 3:17.
5. Who obeyed Him? Matt. 3:27.
6. What is His great commission to us? Mark 16:15.

Take Bibles and find and read the following:

1. A precious promise. Prov. 3:16.
2. A command. Deut. 6:7.
3. How we should come to God's house? Psalm 100:4.
4. What do we know of God's Word? Isa. 40:8.

Recite:

1. Names of Books of Old Testament
2. Names of Books of New Testament.

Presentation of diplomas and welcome to intermediate department.

Next Sunday's Lesson

November 16, 1919.

Time: Witnesses of Christ's Glory.
Scripture: Luke 9:28-36.
Golden Text: "This is my beloved Son: hear ye him" (Matt. 17:5).
Central Truth: The deepest and richest spiritual experiences are for those who fit themselves for such.

Approach: The fullest enjoyment of beautiful music is only for those who have cultivated ear; the fullest enjoyment of art is only for those who have cultivated their power to see. In all the world the law is, "To know that hath shall be given".

Treatment: On more than one occasion in the life of Jesus, both before and after this lesson, the "inner circle" of three were granted certain privileges, denied to the others. Why was this? May not the same principle above apply?

I. The Story

1. The experience of transfiguration was connected with the practice of prayer. It was "as he was praying." The spiritual experiences of Jesus were in accord with the same spiritual laws that govern our experiences. Neglect of the prayer life will inevitably prevent the transfiguration of character.

2. The greatest spiritual experiences are reserved for those who are closest to the Master. A person who says, "I am getting little satisfaction and joy out of my Christian life" might as well complain at getting little pleasure out of playing music if he neglected the tedious preliminary practicing.

3. Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of law and prophecy. The Old Testament looks forward to Christ; the New Testament looks back to him. He is the center of human history. The law prepared the way for Christ by giving men a consciousness of sin and the need for a redeemer. The prophets prepared the way for Christ by spiritualizing the interpretation of the law and by looking forward with hope and promise to the future.

II. The Meaning.

1. The path of sacrifice is the path of glory. Notice that the conversation of Moses and Elijah with Christ was with reference to his approaching suffering and death at Jerusalem. Sacrifice spells sincerity. "No cross, no crown".

2. We are not alone in the life of service and sacrifice. The noble dead. "The spirits of just men made perfect" are one with us.

3. Vision must lead to service. Our desire, like that of Peter, is often to stay on the mountains of spiritual privilege. God's will for us, as for Jesus, is that from the vision we may gain strength and courage to descend into the valley of human service.

Difference Twixt Man and Woman.

Florida Times-Union.

"Jones wife found a bottle washed up on the seashore and she was disappointed because it didn't have a joyous note in it."

"And how about Jones?"

"Oh, he was disappointed because it didn't have a drink in it."

All It Needed.

Yonkers Statesman.

Yoast—This paper says that Hungarian whisky is made variously from turnips, mixed meat, potatoes and molasses.

Crimsonbeak—Well, all it needs is a small portion of meat to make it a goulash, then.

BLACKBOARD SUGGESTIONS.

Witnesses of Christ's Glory (Luke 9:28-36. Golden Text, Mark 9:7.) the mountain of vision should be followed by the valley of service.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Luke 9:28-36, Witnesses of Christ's Glory.
Tuesday—II Peter 1:16-20, Eye Witnesses of His Majesty.
Wednesday—Ex. 34:29-35, Moses' Face Shone.
Thursday—Isa. 6:1-13, Isaiah's Vision of God.
Friday—II Cor. 12:1-10, The Exceeding Greatness of the Revelation.
Saturday—I Cor. 11:1-11, Christ Is All.
Sunday—I John 3:1-8, We Shall Be Like Him.

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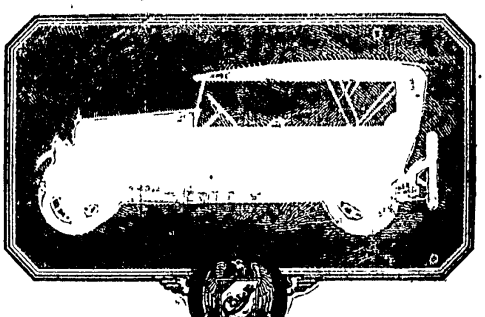

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