

## MEANS AND METHODS FOR DEVELOPING A S. S.

I believe that, to start with, our church should be clean and attractive in such a condition as would encourage reverence and thoughtfulness. Someone has said that "Beauty is the pathway to God". Jesus loved beauty for He spoke of the loveliness of the lillies, and often referred to nature for His illustrations. But beauty in the building alone is not sufficient. We must show the "Beauty of Holiness" in our lives and service to others.

Then we must be punctual. Officers and scholars all in their places when the Superintendent calls the school to order. This brings all in a place of preparedness. When the session opens, everybody ready to join in whatever may be required of them. This causes a spirit of unity, and makes the school start off with a good spirit.

If the teachers arrive in a disturbed condition, or drag in late, they are in no spirit for teaching the lesson, the scholars have no spirit of attention, which practically means failure for that day's lesson.

A means of helping is co-operation with our Superintendent, having first a willing mind, especially when he calls for volunteer teachers. Holding back and not doing what you can with a good spirit makes a drag on the school, and is a source of discouragement to the Superintendent.

Scholars can be a help to teacher and class by avoiding discussions among themselves, whether spiritual or otherwise, while the teacher is working hard to bring out a point. Detracting attention from the teacher causes a great hindrance to all concerned in regard to the lesson.

Scholars and teachers should prepare the lesson at home. Many are not taking the S. S. work seriously enough, since we are dealing with spiritual things and eternal destinies.

One of the greatest problems in our schools is discipline. Some of us have known schools which resembled picnics in regard to order. Everything hustle and hurry. Officers and teachers rushing here and there, music boisterous, even the Superintendent's prayer having a suggestion of having to hurry through before the children get restless. All this reacts on the children, and causes them to be talkative and mischievous, and detracts from their attention and reverence.

Frequently disorder is a question of atmosphere. I do not mean air conditions, though doubtless fresh air would, in many cases, improve the discipline more than the bell of the Superintendent. By atmosphere I mean environments and seating, etc., but most particularly what is called "poise" on the part of officers and teachers. A religious poise, that is, a reverent and quiet spirit and manner, composed of voice and manifestation of real interest on the part of the grown-ups, create a beneficial atmosphere for the school, causing the children to feel that the S. S. was not inferior to the public school.

For reaching outsiders and disinterested friends, we have Rally Days, special programs, etc., then to hold them there are four ways presented:

First: Friendliness. Prov. 18:24 tells us that to have friends we must show ourselves friendly. This is true nowhere more than in our attitude to visitors, who are certain to appreciate friendliness and interest on the part of officers and scholars. Many times lack of it results in their not coming again.

Second: Spirituality, the most important feature. There must be no doubt of the presence of God in the school. Jesus said: "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." A natural recognition by the school of this presence does away with cold formality, which is not attractive to outside people.

Third: Capable teachers, with an earnestness of purpose, and Christian love, who put first things first. When these disinterested people come into a class, we must have something to give them, so that they will feel that it was an hour well spent. Not all saved people are teachers, but there are several abilities spoken of in the Word, and Paul tells us to "Study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." We should try to make the gospel attractive, and also so that it may be retained in the memory, thus bearing fruit.

Fourth: Personal visitation. Keep in touch with these people, and convince them that you are really interested in them and want them in your school. Most of the religious teaching of today is left entirely to the Sunday School, therefore our responsibility is great.

But I believe, with these thoughts in mind and put into action, that we will find them to be helpful as "Means and Methods to Develop Sunday School".

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## MOTHERHOOD, A LOST ART

Verle Jones

An art is the employment of some means to the accomplishment of some end. Therefore, motherhood is an art, because it employs women to accomplish the task of producing our future generations; and in this task is involved our present and future success.

When France started on her upward climb, her leader and ruler, Napoleon, declared, "Give France good mothers, and she will have great men." And so with the home life as a foundation France began to lift herself out of the mire, and established herself among the nations.

Likewise, the Italian nation, before it attained the present power, began a campaign of home-making. Hundreds were married in mass ceremonies. The matter of child-bearing was urged. The present success of that nation today is due to the home-making of a few years past.

Our country presents a different picture. To a great extent our home-life is declining. The art of motherhood is becoming a thing of the past, and we are reaping a sad, but bountiful harvest.

Let us consider some of the things that the motherhood of our nation has lost,—

First: Respect for motherhood has been lost. This condition has been brought about largely, at the fault of the mothers themselves. Women have left their place in the home, and have assumed responsibilities belonging to others. Their manner of conduct in public has lowered the respect for women. Her manner of speech and habits of life are below the normal standard for women. She will use as much cursing and slang as most men; she will use as much tobacco and guzzle as much beer as the majority of men do.

Women have become careless in their manner of dress, and this has helped to lower respect for her. The lack of proper clothing has led to many insults, and evil thoughts. I do not want to become too critical, neither do I want

to let down to a compromise, but in the language of Dr. S. Parkes Cadman let us express our sentiments, "Nevertheless, feminism has its limits, and unless I am mistaken, these have been transgressed in the past decade. The trouble is that too many girls and young women exercise its charm, without rightly appraising the responsibility that goes with it.

Second: Motherhood has lost its parental authority. The children of the home are no longer controlled as they once were. Even in one generation we can see the alarming loss of parental control. Recall a large family—maybe your own—where children have been growing up in the home for the past few years, and you will find the younger set doing and acting in a way which the elder ones would not have dared to try. Nothing is being done about it. Why? Loss of authority in the home.

All the time you can spend with your children is a deposit that in time will pay you a high rate of interest. Spend some time with your children; melt your way into their heart; surround them with consideration and love. In so doing, you will be able to hold your child under your control much longer.

Third: Mothers have lost their influence upon their own children. It is a startling thing to find out that someone else has more influence over your child than you do. There is a reason why. Let us consider a few of them,—

(1) It may be that your child has lost confidence in you. Never betray your child; give their problems some consideration.

(2) It may be a lack of acquaintance with your child. Do you really know your children? Do you know their weak points, and help them to overcome these weaknesses? Do you do something to please them in a special way?

(3) And last, but by far not the least important, there is an extreme lack of prayer in the interest of our boys and girls. Think as lightly of this as you care to, but herein lies a storehouse of power that the parent can use when every other method fails.

Fourth: The fourth loss that I invite your attention to is our lost boys and girls. As a result of the decline in the power of the home-life, we are losing our boys and girls. Think of this fact: 17,000,000 young people in America are growing up without any moral training from any source. In one meeting of the Communistic movement there were 25,000 American boys and girls. Think of the end we are coming to!

May God open our blinded eyes, burden our light hearts, strengthen our feeble efforts, and help us to seek and save that which is lost.—Church Herald.

Blessed is the church that furnishes a fellowship that is stimulating to faith and deep piety. It is like an invigorating atmosphere. There the weak become strong; timid souls venture out in Christian service, and the sin burdened come to realize that they, even they can find deliverance in Christ.

You have met some Christian people, we hope, whose presence was an inspiration to everything good. Would it not be a worthy ambition in the Wesleyan Methodist Church for us all to build up our Christian fellowship? This is not so simple as it sounds. Can you not just now think of many good people who mar the influence of their lives by being so self centered and cold? Let us improve our Christian fellowship.