

REVIVING AND CONSERVING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School in its present condition seems to be putting forth an effort to train and instruct the youth of the land. In turn the school, after several years of instruction in the various classes, disappears and is finally lost so far as the Church and Kingdom of God are concerned.

Causes

This may be attributed, in part to the spiritual declension of the Church. The spiritual condition of any church reaches all branches of that church. When the spiritual tide of the church is low, the spirit of the Sunday School teacher becomes cold and indifferent with the result that the real spirit of the class dies.

Consequently there is a lack on the part of the teacher as to her duty, the class in turn absent themselves from the church.

Result

The Church feeling the loss of new material to carry on the battle against sin, seems to drift on aimlessly without a definite motive. The disinterest and deadness affects the home. The members of the family having lost interest in the Sunday School, the parents lose their interest in the spiritual welfare of the church to a greater degree.

Some Things Needful

The great need is to revive the spiritual life of the church. When the church is enjoying the blessing of God fully the natural and normal result is to feel for those about us in respect to their soul's salvation.

Conserve the Sunday School. The work is difficult but promising. Other interests of the Church are just as difficult. Let us compare Foreign Missions with its difficulties and tasks. In as much as missionary work has to do primarily with the youth, the homeland ought to take fresh courage. The African missionary is a messenger of God to the heathen boys and girls. The Sunday School teacher in the home church ought to directly bear the message of truth and salvation to those in the separate classes.

The foreign field requires a life consecrated, and devoted to, self-sacrificing, spirit filled to accomplish her task for God in rescuing darkened lives.

There is also the prayers, faith and financial assistance of the churches at home. The results are gratifying, when we learn of precious souls finding God and salvation from sin.

One thing we have not mentioned regarding the work of the missionary, namely that she has a passion and vision for souls.

In the homeland there is an army of boys and girls more dear, yet as truly lost as those in Africa unless the Church meets the challenge of her youth in the home, town, and Church.

What can the Church do? The solution of the home problem is just as easy as that in the foreign field. We believe the solution is to be found in the same means of effort as the missionary uses.

Let the Church feel it her privilege of saving her youth, devote herself to that end, consecrate herself to Almighty God and depend on the Holy Spirit and God will do for us.

Let the Sunday School teacher place herself in the position of the missionary and God will as readily honor the efforts as in Africa.

The Rally Day, Decision Day, and mere man-made efforts have not lifted the load. If we can bear every boy and girl in the different classes to God in prayer and plead at the throne until

God grants our heart's desire, we shall see the Sunday School on fire for God; souls born into the Kingdom.

Shall we not rightly value the youth of today and do our best to bring them to Christ? In so doing our churches shall fulfil a great mission of saving the boys and girls of the land.

REV. H. L. ROBERTSON

OUR TASK IN DEVELOPING A SUNDAY SCHOOL

(By F. M. Boyd)

The work of leaders in a Sunday School, as well as in a Church IS TO MAKE THE WORLD CHRISTIAN.

As I study the short life of Jesus' ministry, I find Him to be a worker. He did more personal work in visiting and meeting human needs as he traveled about, AS He did in preaching.

HE CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

His great commission was to make men Christian at heart. This should be the work of all Sunday School leaders as well as the Churches. For two reasons at least, (First) the Teachers and Superintendents should aim to see the pupils saved from Guilt and Power of Sin. (Second) In order to do this the School must nourish and train the pupils for holy Christian living.

Of course we believe in as much as possible to have saved teachers in our schools. As we also believe in getting children saved as early as possible in life, no one ever magnified the importance of the child life more than Jesus.

He came as a child, and passed through all the stages of child development. He was a beginner, a primary child. He became a man, and His words say, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones."

Teachers must have, and exercise great patience with the children. And need to be well saved in order to exercise this patience. We should be interested in getting children converted early in life.

When we look at past records and make comparisons of conversions at different ages, we find nearly ninety per cent of converts were in teen ages. This alone should interest teachers and superintendents.

Our aim should not be to increase our membership classes alone, or see which child can win a prize, but how many we can help on in this Christian journey.

This is the great responsibility that rests on the leadership of our schools. We must be enthusiastic; we must press the battle, and in order to do this, we should have devout and spiritual leaders. Our goal should be to bring souls into vital relationship with Christ. Our leaders must keep prayerful, and on fire for God and souls.

I believe God is depending on us as leaders to present a strong front against the forces of evil in this world of sin.

Will He be disappointed in us?
Hartland, N. B., Nov. 21, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The Thirty-third Session of the Reformed Baptist Sunday School Convention, convened with the Quarterly Meeting at Fredericton on November the 20th, 1936.

Meeting opened at four p. m., President Edward Dow in the chair. In the absence of the Secretary, Brother Mullen, of Hartland, was appointed secretary pro tem. Meeting opened with the old hymn, The Cleansing Stream. Prayer was offered for God's blessing on the Convention.

Reports read. Motion passed that they be accepted.

An address of welcome by Miss Goodspeed, of the Fredericton Church, responded to by Lic. Norman Saunders.

A paper by the Secretary, F. M. Boyd, was read, entitled: OUR TASK IN DEVELOPING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOLS. This paper was much enjoyed, and a discussion followed on several of the main suggestions in this paper.

Then followed a fine address by Brother Chester Cochrane, Supt. of the Marysville Sunday school, emphasizing two great problems—attention and attendance, stressing the fact that in teaching our children we should emphasize the great fundamental truths of the Bible, that Christ died, rose again, that we might be saved, and that if our children were more carefully taught that the problems of the pastor would be much easier.

Brother Lic. Norman Saunders also addressed the meeting, pointing out that the lessons should be taught with due consideration according to the age of our children.

Brother Wm. Mitchell, Supt. of the Fredericton School, then addressed the meeting, speaking of the need of more prayer before the teaching of the lesson being so much to fight against these days, and the only way to fight these evils which attract our young people, is by more time in prayer.

Brother H. C. Mullen also gave us a short talk on the need of better preparation on the part of our teachers, before coming to our classes, also suggesting a Teacher Training Class.

Then followed a fine address by Brother F. A. Dunlop, pointing out the fact that we ought to make the S. S. Convention a real factor in our regular Quarterly Meetings. Stating that we cannot work too hard, in the interest of the Sunday Schools, suggesting that Sand Boxes would be a great aid to the Primary Teachers. Also black board talks occasionally.

He also suggested that Brother H. C. Mullen give the next convention a Black Board Talk, accompanied by a paper showing the Spiritual side of the lesson.

The convention then came to a close, Rev. P. J. Trafton offering prayer in closing.

Altogether we feel this to be a fine Convention, and much blessed of our Lord.

Yours truly,

F. M. BOYD,

Secretary

THE ELEVEN

He chose only twelve of the humblest of men,
But one whom he trusted, he trusted in vain.

He taught them of service and love to mankind;
But one soul, through hatred, to love was made blind.

The twelve had been guests in that Passover room;
But one guest departed—went out to his doom!

He left them his peace, and his blessing and love;
But one was in anguish; with silver he strove.

Eleven had seen him; triumphant he rose!
But one hung a victim to death and its throes.

O Master, may we, of eleven be one
To share in the joys of thy kingdom to come!

May eleven all walk in the way and the light!
And not stray, as one did, out into the night!

—Dorothy Fritsch Bortz.