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HOW TO WIN A CHILD TO CHRIST

By Rev. Ralph Hobson*

We are undoubtedly living in the most typical youth age in history. Both in the realm of the church and the world youth is playing a vital part in the demonstration of leadership and aggressiveness.

"I like them," says a writer, "for their frankness and humour, their loyal comradeship, their passionate sincerity, their driving energy and their freshness of outlook. They have no evasions or repressions, they do not dodge difficulties; and are for the most part fearless, honest, and adventurous. They are gloriously free from snobbishness."

The appalling thing is that these qualities enumerated in the foregoing paragraph have been emancipated from the Christian and moral standards at one time manifested in former days. Youth has thrown off moral restraint and religious faith and launched out upon the all-popular accepted standards of self-expression. This is to be found both in the development of their own personalities and the matters of morals, including sex.

This appalling drift should be stemmed by the spiritual force of Christ's church. The action on the part of the church should begin before the child reaches adolescence. Children are open to the message of salvation. They readily understand and accept in child-like faith, the story of salvation as well as Bible stories which are found in the Word of God. By the time a young person graduates from High School and College he or she has absorbed atheistic teaching which breeds infidelity and agnosticism.

Jesus cries to God's people, "Suffer the little children; and forbid them not to come unto me." The church must be more active in winning children to Christ. How is this to be done.

1. Christian parents should assume the responsibility of winning their own children unto Christ. They ought to claim saving grace for their offspring and make it a definite business to discuss with their children their relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. We can win our children to Christ through the agency of the Sunday School. In this connection a factor of prime importance is a Sunday School teacher who has the soul burden to lead their scholars to Christ as well as the ability to lead them into a personal relationship to Him. Sunday School teachers ought to have as their supreme object that of leading their Sunday School scholars to

Jesus Christ.

3. Another agency by which a child can be won to Christ is through our Daily Vacation Bible Schools. Large numbers of unsaved children are led to accept the Lord in these schools each year. This has been proven by statistics. Pastors and Sunday School Superintendents ought to conduct a D. V. B. S. if conditions are at least favourable at all.

4. Fourthly, a child can be won to Christ through the Sunday evening evangelistic service. All too many Christian parents make a grave mistake by not taking their children to the Sunday evening evangelistic service. The chief reason for this possibly is because of a rigid bed-time schedule. It would pay off if Christian parents would break this schedule for one night in the week and give their growing children an opportunity to hear the gospel message at a Sunday night evangelistic service. Let the parents try this and see the results. I believe this cannot be over-emphasized.

In these closing days of time when the devil is making a strong bid for our young people, let us make every effort to win our children to Christ. When you save a child you not only save a soul but you also save a life; a life that can be given to God for a life time of Christian service.

* Pastor at Halifax

WHY IS CHILD EVANGELISM NECESSARY

Child delinquency is on the increase.

Juvenile judges claim that 98% of the youth brought into court have had no Christian training.

J. Edgar Hoover says, "The criminal is the product of spiritual starvation."

Two out of three children never attended Sunday School or church.

Eighty per cent of those who go to Sunday School are never evangelized.

Children are getting little help in the home. Seven out of every ten marriages end in divorce.

Most homes have no family altar and children never hear their parents pray or read the Bible.

Three-fourths of a child's education is gained before he is seven.

Children are lost and on their way to Hell. (Rom. 5:12).

To do nothing leaves the children in this condition and in Satan's army. They must be given the Gospel and won to Christ before they have any chance of Heaven.

—Crusader News

CHILDREN, HERITAGE OF THE CHURCH

By Rev. N. E. Trafton*

To a great extent we have failed to realize the potential resident in the children of the church. Every organization bidding for power, places stress on the need of beginning with the adolescent mind. In many respects we have centered our church program around the adult, forgetting to cultivate the heart and mind of the young adherent.

In our regular services of devotion and evangelism children could be given a definite place. It is not enough to have them in the service, but an effort should be made to contact their personality for Christ. A children's story could be introduced into the schedule, or a meeting planned especially for the younger group. The pastor must feed the lambs too.

Our Sunday School program offers us an excellent opportunity to reach the spiritual needs of the youth, but in many cases the effectiveness of the work is hindered by the lack of trained teachers. A training class for teachers, conducted by the pastor, would be a great boon to any Sunday School. If public school teachers need training, how much more the one who teaches the Word of Life? Boys and girls who are not challenged by a spiritual efficient teacher will soon lose interest and be lost to the church and the Kingdom of God. It is high time that we realized the importance of religious instruction, and enlisted workers who are willing to make preparation for this tremendous task.

Beyond these regular channels, we need a means of contact with our junior boys and girls. This is the purpose of the Junior Crusader group now in the process of formation. One way in which we can help is to give our support to Lic. Ruth Harding, director of this organization, who desires to see a children's work in every local church. If we expect a spiritual harvest, we must sow the seed NOW.

* Superintendent.

D. L. Moody started out as a Sunday-school teacher who was dissatisfied with the usual subnormal pressure. Having been a successful shoe merchant in Chicago, with a bright financial outlook, he began his career with such fervency that all Chicago referred to him as "crazy Moody." He was always crazy Moody—the Moody who built a school of more than two thousand scholars in a year's time.

Special Children's Work Number