

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILD EVANGELISM

(Read at Beulah Alliance, 1963)

Today it is easy to become a pessimist. All one has to do is scan the headlines of his evening paper to learn of the trouble spots in Africa, Berlin, Brazil, Laos, Peru, Central America Cuba, and Haiti. Juvenile delinquency has increased more than 100% in the last ten years, J. Edgar Hoover tells us in his recent report. He further states, "Crime in America continues to show a relentless trend upward." I am not easily shocked, nor alarmed, but I am both shocked and alarmed at the moral degradation of our great nation. The crimes our children are committing are unspeakable. I read recently that a Canadian commentator has said that \$115,000,000. worth of goods are stolen annually by our delinquent children. By observation I know that narcotics, tobacco and alcohol consumption has become a tremendous problem to even those of the age of some of our crusaders. Recently I read an article stating that almost every kind of vice that used to be a problem to adults has now become a problem to our younger folk and children.

Long ago in his tent home on the desert, Abraham was commended by God because, said God "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Gen. 18:19). God here placed his approval on parental authority and training. Today I do not want to remove a bit of the training of a child from the home. To me, parents are the best teachers by both precept and example.

To be nurtured in a christian home is of value beyond the price of rubies—to have parents who not only teach you Christian ideals and principles, but who set such an example before you—is the greatest heritage one can receive.

But I am sure every parent needs the added help that only the church can give — Our Church. We, The Reformed Baptist ALLIANCE, have a place in the training program of the children in the communities where we serve. Youngsters are growing up in these communities, and they are going out into the world with no interest in God or His work, and worst of all, no experience of God in their heart. I ask you, "At whose hands will God place the blame?" Will the excuses you are offering today for not having an active part in the child evangelism program of your church be the ones you will offer to God?

In a previous report I suggested that you consider Rom. 10:13-15, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe on him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? These four questions must be answered continually by every Christian in our churches. Will you pray about it? Ask God what your part should be. Remember that he is not willing that one of these little ones should perish. Matt. 18-14.

I often wonder why it is so difficult to arouse interest in regard to evangelism of children. People will tell me that V.B.S. and Junior Crusaders are important but they will offer no support or personal help. I am sure one of our greatest hindrances is a lack of vision, coupled with a lack of definite prayer, especially for our boys and girls. There is too much criticism of their behavior and not enough prayer for their salvation, and training. Children thrive on love and they need to feel that someone is interested in them. Are you one of the members in your church that the children know they can come to for real Christian help in a time of crisis? Do you spend special times in prayer just for the lambs of the community?

Communism has already converted a generation of children to their ranks and thus spread their doctrine over

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a large portion of the area of our world. Can we be less diligent? They spare no money, time or effort to make sure the children are converted to their atheistic doctrine. If we would be willing to give of our time, money and talents in as great a measure, and sacrifice as they do, I believe we could see a great many more of the youth of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Maine serving the Christ of Calvary and carrying the Gospel of Christ to a toppling world. Always remember that the "Child of today is the man of tomorrow."

It has been heartening this year to note four new Crusader Clubs—at Woodward's Cove, Calais, Old Town, and Killam's Mills.

Also this year our African Church has started the adoption of our Crusader program. Pins and membership cards have already been forwarded to Rhodesia.

I have not received full reports from the churches, I can only partially report that we have children's programs in 15 churches out of the 61 organized churches. This is 24.6%.

I would like to commend the faithful leaders at Houlton, Jonesport, Calais, Old Town, Woodstock, Millville, Marysville, Barker's Point, St. John, Seal Cove, North Head, Killam's Mills, Moncton, Truro, and Port Maitland for the fine work they are doing and ask you to continue to remember these groups and their leaders in prayer.

Also this year, plans are underway for our first denominational children's Camps. I would like to ask that each person covenant with us to spend fifteen minutes in prayer each day for these camps at the beginning of the day from July 27 to Aug. 10. If you pray, much good will be done.

In closing, let me suggest that our present day children have no feeling of stability or security. They have never lived in a world free from strife and turmoil. They have so little time devoted to the better things of life. Their outlook on life is so shallow and behavior so lax.

Our present-day child needs to feel a sufficiency in God; needs to feel that God is real and the Bible is true. He needs to be taught reverence for parents, authority, friends, God and himself. He needs a personal faith in Jesus as his Savior and a thorough grounding in Bible standards, and most of all he needs guidance in every-day living.

I ask you again, have you done anything during this last year to help a child find Christ? Most of all, have you spent in prayer even ten minutes a day specifically for a child to help him seek Christ as his Savior, Sanctifier and Guide? Can you do less?

In times like these our boys and girls need to be taught courage, faith, worthwhile life goals and attitudes. Each of you can have a part in this teaching; will you accept your own responsibility today and carry back to your churches this message, "Today our children need help; tomorrow may be too late."

Respectfully Submitted,
Mrs. Ruth Black.

OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity seems to have an uncanny habit of favouring those who have paid the price of years of preparation.

—R. & R. Mag.

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Goodness consists not in outward things we do, but in the inward things we are. TO BE is the great thing.

—E. H. Chapin