

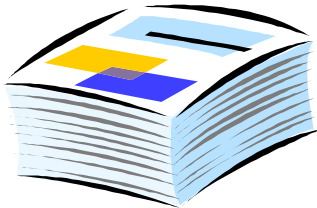
THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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See Page 2 in this issue
for "A Class Act" Continued
+ a selection 'From The Files'



*Use every means possible
to let them know*



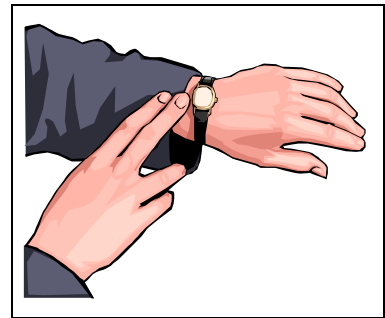
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A CLASS ACT!

While some may consider the subjects dealt with in previous articles more important than this present one... yet the subjects below are one of my concerns today.

Let me touch on 7 related things:

- A. **SUITABLE LOCATION**— The Sunday School location is important. It should be where the people are: ie. In an easily accessible residential area. Care should be given in this matter: any old place won't do. The kind of surroundings we locate in give a clear reflection at times of what we think of the relative importance of the Sunday School. The building should be clean and comfortable. Some dark, dank, damp and dusty rooms linger in the memory and cloud a child's thoughts of what is pure and just and holy. Very often the rooms allotted are only used because they are convenient to the assembly. This can sometimes be ruinous to a SS endeavour. Take a look around—ask yourself what can be done to improve things.
- B. **TIME** – Thought should be given to the proper time for SS or Children's effort with consideration for the child and not only those who convene the gathering. Arrange for adequate time before and after so that the children who must be transported do not arrive in a state of agitation due to the haste of the driver. Perhaps the principle of 1Corinthians 14:40 applies.
- C. **ADVERTISE** – Use every means possible. We know that children themselves are the best advertisement but an effort should be made so that leaflets and newspaper ads tell out the message that we are very interested and concerned with the children of the community.
- D. **ATTRACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOLS**—Clean and comfortable is a must, but beyond that we should try and make the SS area a place that is interesting, appealing & attractive. Rooms are a distinct advantage and if possible classes should have a place of their own where interruption, noise and distraction are minimized. This will enable the teacher to concentrate on the job he has to do. The class could then have a wall for illustrations, events, class projects and texts that reinforce the message and importance of what is taught. In fact, if you have four walls, use them all.
- E. **A WORD OF CAUTION**—In the day we live in, we need to guard ourselves against any charge of impropriety. Never allow yourself to be alone in a room with a child of either sex. Take care also as to touching a child. Even an innocent action can sometimes be misinterpreted and great embarrassment could result for the individual and the assembly also. When it is necessary to counsel or talk to a child make sure there are others nearby as witnesses. Your good reputation may depend on it. The same counsel holds true for transporting children in cars— over-familiarity will be viewed as indiscretion and will do far more harm than good.



"Arrange for adequate time"

(Continued on page 2)

A LADY WHO MAKES COOKIES ...

An elderly lady I know is very much with it. There are children in her apartment complex that get little care due to working parents. She has developed a friendship with them—now she makes cookies every day for those who drop in— the price— they learn a Bible Verse!
An interest in others & in the gospel has inspired her. Now they come to Children's Meetings.

A CLASS ACT! (CONTINUED)

F. **SIZE OF CLASSES**— This will vary with the teacher as well as the age group. It is obvious that some teachers can handle (and are comfortable with) much larger numbers than others. The tiny tots really should have more supervision than older ones. This can be accomplished by having fewer children per class or else having assistant teachers (excellent for training others also) per classroom. Though some would find this difficult, it is advisable to have assistant teachers particularly in the lower grades. They could even teach alternate weeks or one could be a learner—observing and helping— which is a tremendous preparation for a class of their own.

G. **SPECIAL MEETINGS**—

A surprise Open Sunday School. That is—a surprise to the students— and not to the one who is taking it!

A Parent's Day with special speaker and activities. This would include a brief program of interest to the parents & the children.

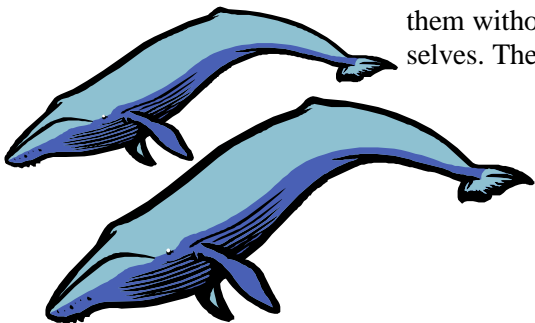
A Series of Children's Meetings—a very effective and enjoyable way of getting a co-ordinated and complete gospel message across to the whole family.

A Weekly Children's Meeting— this is perhaps more practical for some and has proven to be a real SS builder as well. Choose the night well— as there are so many clubs and sports and influences that will affect attendance. Thoughts should also be given to having these meetings in the homes of the believers, rather than in the hall or another building. These efforts can very well aid our testimony amongst neighbours, and is often a connecting link to the community. They will notice that something is going on and their queries may give good opportunity to tell out the gospel. In doing this in a home, there is a warmth and closeness that may also bring respect and results that renting a building at extra cost may not accomplish.

FROM THE FILES!

WHALES ESCAPE ARCTIC ICE TRAP—AT LAST!

Barrow Alaska— “Crossbeak” and “Bonnet” had an ordeal that captured the imagination of the world. The two grey whales, trapped for nearly three weeks, headed for the open ocean after Soviet and American Rescuers hacked a way clear.



In October 1988, miles of pack ice had closed in on the young Grey Whales leaving them without an escape route, and they were trapped and helpless to save themselves. They need air to breathe and their grip on life was slipping as the ice closed in. Then their desperate need was discovered and the wheels of help began to turn.

No one mentioned the incredible cost as excitement was very high to see them released through the gargantuan efforts of huge icebreakers which pounded away on iced ridges for days. Their efforts were supplemented by an enormous 42 ton floating tractor which worked its giant pontoon-augers to clear the broken ice away.

Coast Guard and Military and Inuit peoples all worked hard to bring about the breakthrough. Rescuers had worked for days, manually cutting a chain of breathing holes for the mammals who were named by U.S. Scientists. Before their liberation, as the icebreakers finally pounded their way to about 100 feet from them, the whales were “acting in a very excited manner, almost like they could sense freedom.”

When opportunity came as the ships backed away, the whales followed them out the channel. Someone said, “They’re so frisky, you’d think they had their bags packed for the South Seas.” The captives were free!

There are a number of ways this illustration can be used. You will find key words scattered throughout the story like: Trapped— Helpless— A Way— Desperate Need— Incredible Cost— Freedom. All of which can be keys to unlock the truth for your purpose of making the gospel clear.