



THE ENCOURAGER

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

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IT HAPPENED & CAN HAPPEN AGAIN!

It's a great blessing to have a story to tell!

I wanted to be saved, & it bothered me often when I went to bed. I would pray a little prayer asking God to save me— nothing happened—and in my childish way I would say to myself, "Well, I asked God to save me and He didn't." In January 1974 my S.S. teacher gave me my treat part just before gospel meeting. It was a poem - I read it over, and it kind of startled me - the title was "*Still Unsaved*". That night when I climbed into bed I was thinking about the poem and about how many opportunities I'd had to be saved, yet I knew that I was "*Still Unsaved*." It was then that I realized what an awful sinner I was - having so many times turned down the Savior and His work on the cross. I finally admitted that I deserved to go to hell and be punished for "having trodden under foot the Son of God". (I don't know if I knew those exact words back then, but I realized that refusing God's offer of salvation was really the worst sin of all.) Once this truth hit home, I cried out to God in prayer to save me - telling God that I was an awful sinner, and that the Lord Jesus had died on the cross to save **me** - the first thought that came to my mind was, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine." Though I had actually asked God to save me many times before - when I came to Him fully admitting that I was guilty and deserved to be punished in hell for rejecting Him - He didn't turn me away.



"The Words of the Wise are as goads." Ecclesiastes 12:11

"It is hard for thee to kick against the goads." Acts 9:5

I wasn't thinking of a particular verse at the time, but I enjoy so much the Words He spoke in John 6:37, "Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out".

- The Author is Now a Sunday School Teacher -

THE IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS

Good Words fitly spoken. A tiny bit of encouragement. A morsel of care. A look of love. We all know the value of these things.

I thank God for each of you that make big sacrifices to do a work for God. Many fellow believers will not understand the responsibility and effort needed to prepare a good lesson week by week. Nor will they grasp how you sacrificed other things so you could make the time required to search out the right illustrations, and find or prepare the homework that will secure the whole message in the minds of the class. Unknown to most are those seasons of prayer when you struggle over how to speak the truth in undeniable power, and bringing each student and his or her specific needs and challenges before the Lord. How could they ever understand when you shed those tears over a student who moved, or the unkind and thoughtless words of another that caused that child to quit, just when you felt you were getting somewhere.

They may never understand. But the Lord does and even a cup of cold water will not lose its reward.

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