



Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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The Church Of God International

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Sabbath School Newsletter is devoted to creating a forum for Sabbath teachers to communicate and learn skills to develop their talents for teaching.

Each issue is dedicated to providing instruction and guidelines for teachers, articles of personal experience, and words of encouragement.

Our long term goal is to create an enjoyable learning atmosphere for the student, as well as uniting the teachers and children around the world, that share the same Christian beliefs.

**NEXT ISSUE:
UPCOMING CLASSROOM
PROJECT IDEAS**

Inspired to Teach

by Noni McVey, Youth Director, CGI

God commands all of us to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul. God also commands every parent to teach his/her child the Bible. This command is clearly emphasized in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. When I meditated upon these verses as a new mother, panic filled my heart and spread through my soul. This is a tough command. I loved the Word of God, but could I inspire my children to love God's Word?

Fredrick Buechner is a famous writer and author who wrote the following, "If you look at a window, you see fly-specks, dust, the crack where junior's Frisbee hit it. If you look through a window, you see the world beyond. Some-

thing like this is the difference between those who see the Bible as a Holy Bore and those who see it as the Word of God which speaks out of the depths of an almost unimaginable past into the depths of ourselves."

Twenty-five years ago my teaching career began with asking God to show me how to teach His Word in a positive way to my children. I did not want them to view His Book as boring or as a book of nothing but rules where one could have no fun. Rather, I wanted them to see the Bible as a treasure chest spilling forth the fact their Creator wants to have a relationship with them and He has a plan and purpose for their lives.

With this in mind, here is tip number one from my years of teaching.

Always teach from the Bible. How can a child love His words, if he never hears them? I actually made a treasure chest, which had a lock on it. The key to the lock hung from a purple ribbon. Every Sabbath a child was chosen to open the box and reveal the story. The story for the day was book marked. My notes were written on a separate piece of paper. Removed from the story were difficult words and replaced with words my students would understand. My students would then both see the Bible and hear the story from the pages of the Bible. God blessed our small church and as my children and my class of children grew older and were able to read, I would pick out pertinent verses

Teen Inspiration

by Mindy Martin, Knoxville, TN

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS
When I was a kid, I used to visit my friends' houses and would hear little prayers like this before we would eat supper:

God is great. God is good. Let us thank Him for our food. With His hands we are fed. Thank you, Lord, for Daily Bread.—Amen

In my opinion, it is good to teach children this prayer as well as the Lord's Prayer. But kids should

know that it is okay to speak to God whenever they need Him, not just at meals.

Children should not be afraid to talk to the Lord. I think everyone is familiar with the hymn "Did You Think To Pray?" The first line says:

Ere you left your room this morning, Did you think to pray?

Let's break that down for kids. Let's say your children are getting ready for school in the morning. They could take a moment to ask God to protect themselves, and keep everyone you know safe.

When your heart was filled with anger, Did you think to pray?

They could also ask God to help those who are sick and suffering. Parents, you might consider praying with your children so they can hear you talking to God. You could describe God's throne as detailed in

Revelations 4:1-11, where God and the creatures and the elders sit, and before them is a sea of glass.

We can teach children to turn to God in every possible circumstance -even when another person is goading them! We can show them how turning to God is better than retaliating. For example we could tell them, "Usually when you are angry, you're not really ready to sit down and talk to God. If your friend calls you a

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Inspired to Teach

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from the Bible story to call upon them to read.

The purpose of the Bible is to teach, guide and lead us to the knowledge of our savior, Jesus Christ.

When teaching from the pages of the Bible (the Word of God), remember who the Word of God is in the literal sense, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).



I would pick out pertinent verses from the Bible story to call upon them to read.

When you pray, ask God to grant you the ability to teach His Word to the children He has blessed you with.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up.

TEEN INSPIRATION CONT'D FROM PG 1
name, you might call him one, but you are the one who gets caught. Who are you angry with? Your brother? Maybe. Your teacher? Possibly. How about yourself? Often people don't think it is their own fault they are in trouble. Yes, it was wrong for your friend to have called you a name, but you should have held your tongue and asked God to help you deal with your friend."

Encourage your children to say a different prayer every day. Have them pray before going to bed to give thanks for the blessings they received that day, and to ask to be forgiven of their sins. Tell them that God is always with them. Remind them to talk to God as often as they want.

Oh how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; So when life seems dark and dreary, DON'T FORGET TO PRAY.

Teacher to Teacher

by Lu Copeman, London, Ontario

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YOUR TALENTS

This section of the newsletter is designed to work as a tool for the teachers to discover new ways to improve their teaching techniques.

Each issue will feature a teaching related question. When you send in your response, our editor, Ruth, will compile the information and list her findings in the next issue.

Our goal is to open a line of communication –to provide a forum to express

your ideas and personal experiences.

Your response is greatly appreciated and is crucial to the success of the column.

Everyone has a talent unique to their personality. Once we identify these talents, we can begin to harness their powers and apply them to the teaching environment.

Take time now to list your talents. First examine your daily routine and your work habits. List the skills you

use to perform these regular tasks, then think of ways they can be applied to the classroom.

Use the examples on the next page to get you started.

**Questions?
Ideas!
Survey Responses
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

The Rewards of Teaching

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by Karen Heraldo, Toronto, Ontario

I became a member of the CGI back in 1996 and soon after began teaching the precious little gems in God's church. Because I myself was learning new and exciting truths, Sabbath class was always a new and exciting place for us to be because we were all learning together! As time has gone by, the rewards I have received from teaching the children have been some of the most meaningful of my life. Be-

ing a Sabbath teacher can be demanding. A person aspiring to teach God's word to children must not take the privilege lightly. However, I believe it to be an honourable desire and one worth pursuing if God so leads you.

Children are honest. They approach the scriptures with a wide-eyed eagerness to learn. They have an innate curiosity that makes it truly a joy to be around them. I believe one of the

biggest rewards of teaching children the Word of God is not so much what you give them, but what they give you in return. A teacher cannot help but be affected by the God-given virtues children possess. I've always come away from our half-hour Sabbath classes having learned a lesson or two, myself!

Teaching allows you to reach out and touch your students in a very profound way. You may inspire them, and make a difference in their lives. There is no better feeling than when a child you've taught seeks you out for

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We're on the web!
Get teaching materials!
www.cgi.org

**"Put on the whole
Armour of God."**

**And for me, that utterance may
be given unto me, that I may
open my mouth boldly, to make
known the mystery of the gospel,
for which I am an ambassador...**

Welcome! by Ruth Kerr

Welcome to the Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter. "TEACHER TO TEACHER" is designed for you. We hope it will become a lively forum to exchange creativity and gain encouragement. Anyone who takes an active role in teaching our youth is to be admired. We want to provide some support and innovative ideas to the good work you already do.

I am very pleased to serve as editor of this publication. I have worked as an assistant editor at a weekly newspaper, have some freelance writing experience, and currently edit a newsletter for a historical society. I first became a Sabbath-keeper when I started attending WCG over 20 years ago.

If you have any ideas, questions or comments please send me an email at rakerr2@telus.net.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

TEACHER TO TEACHER! YOUR TALENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

WORK TASK: Designing signs & logo's SKILL/TALENT APPLIED: Artistic –drawing and crafts

CLASSROOM USAGE: I can use my artistic talent in the classroom by, making charts or drawing pictures to help explain or emphasize a point in a lesson, or help the children with the daily craft.

WORK TASK: Scheduling work crew SKILL/TALENT APPLIED: Organizational and Communicative

CLASSROOM USAGE: I can use my talent for organizing people by planning special events, games or programs for the children.

Rewards of Teaching

help and advice. When the Word of God is taught in love and patience your students feel comfortable and safe coming to you. They will want to know what God's word says about it, and they know you are a contact point for them. The rewarding interactions and relationships you build with these children in Sabbath class can be something that stays with you forever.

As the years have passed I've been encouraged by watching these children mature and move on. I have witnessed the word of God changing their young lives. It is very gratifying as a teacher to see your students triumph over shyness, fears and, at times, hopelessness. With guidance they begin to learn to seek God's will in their own lives. Sabbath class is a good venue to help build these characteristics. By encouraging participation in the Sabbath services you will see the children grow and overcome. Special

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music, participation in Youth Day services, putting on plays and weekly Bible study lessons, all help them to blossom on a personal level. Getting them involved with helping less fortunate people, assisting in the community, or visiting the sick and elderly helps them to grow on more of a spiritual level. The blessings come in the form of seeing them discover something new in the Bible and then applying it in a practical way. Thus the rewarding experience for the teacher is the ability to prepare the students for making life long choices and give students "real skills for the real world" by arming them with the very Word of God!

I believe being a Sabbath school teacher offers stability and growth in your own walk of faith as well. You cannot help but become more grounded as you prepare a lesson that will touch the life of a child. God

opens up His word and allows that seed to grow in a young person's life. When this happens the teacher is transformed and becomes more fixed in the Word of God, themselves.

Finally, teaching allows you to draw upon your own creativity. There is such a sense of gratitude when experimenting with new ideas and inspiring others to be creative and showing them how to think for themselves!

If teaching children is not something you feel lead to do, I would encourage everyone to take the time to sit and talk with the children in their congregations. I believe you will be uplifted when you hear the things that are important to them. Children contain a treasure trove of blessed gifts that they bring to The Body. All of us must teach children to develop a love for God's way of life. Then they in turn will pass that love on to the next generation of youth. This is an extreme honour for all of us –for lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is His reward!

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