



Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

May/June 2005

The Church Of God International

PROJECT REGISTRATION

Over the next two years our plan is to co-ordinate a number of group projects that will create awareness and unite the small Sabbath groups that stretch beyond our own borders and waters. The STN staff will match your class with another class of similar size and age, and pass your project along to them.

To register your Sabbath class for the upcoming projects contact our office at the address/email listed on the 2nd page, by June 25th.

Please provide a mailing address and email (if available), the average number of students in your class (e.g. teens=5, youth=11), and your congregation location. Small groups are also welcome.

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

In Jesus' Name

by John Coish, Canadian Minister, CGI

I've always admired the care and love a mom provides in making sure a home is safe and clean while keeping an eye on her children and helping them to learn.

Their continuous labour comes with little in the way of reward. Often when they are young you receive a hug, kiss or the occasional "I love you Momma". Later on when they are teens it may be just the occasional shrug and grunt. Yet good mothers willingly pour their hearts out into taking care of the home and positively directing their children anyway. They hope they will be successful in raising good children.

In the church it isn't much different with teachers of children or adults. The young in age and in training will often show appreciation for the effort provided in seeking to train them and to provide a healthy environment for them to grow. The teens may feel that in just showing up they have

made an incredible contribution. Yet good teachers continue on.

When I was new to teaching I wanted to do my best but I have found that:

- I can't help everyone.
- If I spend all my time on those who don't want to be there I'm not helping but punishing those who do want to be there.
- You concentrate on spreading the good news and trust that it won't fall void.
- You can be sure children are watching how you behave, even the one's who don't seem to be listening.

Ultimately, for your teaching to become effective, you must come in the Name of Jesus. Your students don't want to see some intellectual, they want to see someone who loves to serve. They want to know how God

wants us to behave and care for one another.

Sometimes people use the Bible and/or teaching as self righteous support products. But doing things in the name of Jesus requires recognizing your own faults, and putting aside your own ego to serve with love. The listeners' needs to understand and be loved are more important than your need to be appreciated. Their need to grow, succeed and yes, even fail, in a support environment must come first. This is applying truth with wisdom instead of showing the coldness of knowledge without love.

For our children it is the responsibility of mom and dad to be the example. Our teens will see when they aren't listening. They are supposed to see God at work in us, our progression (not perfection), and our love for His children. The same is true for teachers in the church.

Make sure your lesson would always be appropriate if done in Jesus' Name. When that is the case it will always bear fruit!

The happiest parent is one who sees happy, healthy children and not the one who receives any perceived appreciation for any task. Appreciation is just a beautiful bonus. Doing your best before God in Jesus' Name is its own reward. It is then and only then that we can give thanks for any blessings we receive without complaining.

May God Bless You all in Jesus' Name!

Teen Inspiration

by Becky & Shelly Coish, Kitchener, Ontario

FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

The things I've learned from you are many and true, Like the burning bush that told Moses what to do. I learned Jonah was swallowed for running away, And that Jesus did miracles back in the day.

Yes the things I've learned from you are many and true, But there's one thing you've taught me I'll teach to others too. You taught me that God loves me in every way, And that lesson I'll remember till the Judgement Day.

"As children, Becky and Shelly attended Sabbath School at their local church. Now that they have become teenagers, they share their knowledge and talents by teaching some of the classes themselves. The girls have formed a special bond with the children they teach and have created a fun learning atmosphere. I myself, have seen the smiling faces." - Lu

NEXT ISSUE: FEAST PREPARATION IDEAS

Live the Truth

by Noni McVey, Youth Director, CGI

In the New Testament, Christ is referred to as "Teacher" forty-five times and as "Rabbi" 15 times. It has been said by many that Jesus Christ was the quintessential teacher. What made Him such a great Teacher? There are many reasons, but one of His greatest teachings was He linked His words with His lifestyle.

Jesus Christ walked the walk. The actions and words of Jesus were one. Never did Christ say one thing and do another. Jesus taught and His life exemplified knowing and doing. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:36, 37**, "Neither shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yes, yes; No, no: for whatsoever is more than these comes of evil."

During the time of Christ, oaths were the norm. The Pharisees were notorious for making oaths. But Jesus said, ones word alone should be good enough.

In Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus continued with explaining two options and His listeners could make the choice. Hearing and heeding Jesus' words is wise and the one who does not, is

foolish. One can build his or her foundation on the rock, which represents Christ or on sand, which leads to destruction. In other words, to know the truth and not do it is not to know at all.

It is not good enough to just teach a lesson, one must live the lesson as well. **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit"** (John 7:15-17). Knowing what Jesus taught is reinforced through the process of doing.

There is more to teaching than just "hearing a lesson." The student deserves someone to enter the classroom each Sabbath well prepared, and enthusiastic about what is to be taught. Do not be a messenger without a message. To be prepared and enthusiastic about teaching a lesson means one has studied, prayed, meditated and works daily to live a life that he or she will teach.

Teacher to Teacher ATTENTION GETTERS

Children and teens have a deep desire to learn. But sometimes the classroom becomes predictable and little minds wander. A good teacher will stimulate and encourage results by employing "attention getting" tactics or artistic enhancements.

Consider writing out portions of your Sabbath lesson on separate pieces of paper, then distributing the pages among the students. As you deliver the lesson, call on each student to read their page. By taking artistic liberties the lesson can come alive with real characters.

Do you have an attention getting idea or a personal success story from the classroom?

We want to hear from you!

Email your ideas and stories to Ruth at rakerr2@telus.net or mail them to either address in the right hand column and we will publish your ideas in the next issue.

by Lu Copeman, London, Ontario
and Ruth Kerr, Calgary, Alberta

The success of this column and the group projects rely entirely on your participation. The awaiting reward: new friendships.

**The Church Of God International
Project: Let's Participate !!**

**Register Your Sabbath Class
for the Upcoming Group Projects**

Our office will match your class with another class of similar size and age and forward your project for exchange.

Mail to: CGI -Project:Let's Participate
PO Box 223675 Carmel CA 93922 USA **or**
PO Box 33034-1299 Oxford Street E, London ON N5Y 5L4 CAN

CONGREGATION/HOME LOCATION		
TEENS:	YOUTH:	4-6 YRS:
CONTACT		
MAILING ADDRESS		

Reply by Email: rakerr2@telus.net



**PRAYER EXCHANGE DAYS
FROM JUNE 25-JULY 16**

REGISTER YOUR CLASS BY JUNE 25

Project:Let's Participate

by Lu Copeman, London, Ontario

PRAYER EXCHANGE DAY

I was inspired to set into motion a prayer exchange day after reading the article submitted by Mindy, in our last issue. It yielded the perfect opportunity to introduce this first group project, to be held from June 25-July 16.

Prior to Prayer Exchange Days take 1 or 2 Sabbaths to teach the children how to pray and what to pray for. Together with the class, make a list of important things to pray for: giving thanks for our blessings, praising God, church or congregation needs, worldly needs, personal needs (forgiveness, protection, guidance).

Between June 25 and July 16, have the children together as a group write a prayer to send onto another CGI group. Decide if the prayer will be in the form of a request (something that they want other children to pray for) or a devotional prayer starting with, My prayer for you is... Have each child sign their first name and age only, add a teacher's comment if you wish, and mail it to either the US or Canadian office.

Secondly, have each child write their own personal prayer request, sign it and exchange it with another classmate. Express to them that they are to include this request in their next prayer to God.

**TEACHING MATERIAL REFERENCE
SKY NEWSLETTER 2002
www.cgi.org
Get Teaching Materials**

**The Church Of God
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