



# Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter

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The Church Of God  
International

## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

The CGI Sabbath Teacher's have been corresponding with a Sabbath school class in Central Africa through the Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter.

Most recently we received a letter from our CGI Sabbath teacher in Malawi, Central Africa. The Sabbath School class and teachers would like to encourage our members to include our sister church in their prayers.

The following is the request we received:

*"Dear blessed friends and brethren:*

*Peace and grace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of our God and saviour Jesus Christ.*

*Please, we are asking you to remember us as well as all the members in your prayers.*

*Here in Malawi, the hunger crisis is at its climax; green mangoes substitute for the staple food, maize and rice. Elsewhere, 29 young children fell victim to wild bitter herbs (poisonous), in the scramble for food.*

*Once again, thank you very much for your prayers. May God richly bless you all.*

*Yours in Christ's service,  
Madalitso"*

## Inspiration from Biblical Women

by Bev Smith, Ontario

It is every Christian woman's desire to strive to be like the women mentioned in the Bible.

Let's look at some of these zealots for Christ. Women such as Phoebe, a deaconess, were praised by Paul who admonished the Romans to receive her. Priscilla and Aquila were described as co-workers in Christ Jesus. Mary was greatly respected for her dedication and hard work. All these women had an effective personal ministry. These women were not self-righteous or egotists, but were an inspiration to

everyone. They left a Godly legacy for us to follow, which we should pass on to those around us.

The woman of Proverbs 31 presents a portrait of what's expected of the Christian woman. She is truly an excellent wife and mother, and is very industrious. Her strength and dignity does not come from her amazing achievement; they are as a result of her reverence for God. Her attractiveness comes entirely from her character. She rises early each day and prepares food for her household. She invests

money wisely and her husband puts all his trust in her. We all can't be just like her, but we can learn from her industry, integrity and resourcefulness.

The Book of Proverbs gives us advice for developing personal relationships with each other. To be able to relate to people, we need consistency, tact and discipline. Our words should be honest, how we talk reveals what we are really like. Whenever we choose God's way, He gives us wisdom – so, like the women in the Bible, let us use it wisely!

## Teen Inspiration QUEEN ESTHER IS MY INSPIRATION

by Samar Smith, Ontario

There are many inspirational women to look up to in the Bible, but one of my favourites is Queen Esther. Not only was she a brave and beautiful Jewish woman, she risked her life for God's people.

This began when Esther was chosen to replace the insubordinate queen of Babylon, Vashti, who was banished to exile. Over the years Haman, the king's right-hand man, became offended because of the Jewish custom of not bowing down to the king of Babylon. With the permis-

sion of King Xerxes, Haman was going to wipe out the Jewish race. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, wrote her a letter explaining the events to come. "Go to your husband and beg him to do something," he wrote.

Esther knew if she was in the king's presence uninvited, the consequence was the death penalty. But Esther couldn't let her people and her uncle down. She would do anything she could to save them, including dying.

After three days of fasting

and praying to God, the brave young queen went to confront her king and made a confession of being Jewish. She also revealed Haman's plot to kill the Jews. King Xerxes executed Haman and rewarded Mordecai with Haman's job.

We can learn from this example to become brave, inspirational women similar to Queen Esther, because of her bravery and trust in the Lord our God. She saved thousands of innocent lives.

## Inspiring and Involving Teens

by Karen Herald, Ontario

It takes a special person to work with teenagers and to teach them. If we understand that the teens in our congregations will be the future Sabbath School innovators and leaders, then we will focus a more dedicated teaching that incorporates their involvement. These interactions will remain a part of their framework for the years to come. It will shape their understanding of what is acceptable in the classroom setting and define the responsibilities that accompany teaching.

Successful integration of our teens will require dedication. Taking a teen under your wing to apprentice requires an attitude of true sincerity, love and commitment to that teen. Those teachers wishing to involve teens have to love teens! As elementary as that may seem, it is the key to successful teen involvement. Teens cannot be taught from a detached perspective. You cannot involve teens on Sabbath morning and then have nothing to do with them the rest of the week. Successful teen involvement requires teachers to develop relationships with their protégés:

To know their families, their circumstances and listen to them when they speak.

To pray for them in private when no one but the Lord is around to hear.

To pray with them at times other than the beginning and ending of a Sabbath school lesson.

Those of us apprenticing a teen must love teens and make room for them in our hearts and lives. Care and respect will go a long way in developing these future leaders. When embarking on the quest to involve our teens we must learn and understand our teens' needs, wants and expectations. Once this has been accomplished we then are better equipped to provide it for them. In return their increased level of responsibility will have them involved in a way that is one of true personal commitment.

Always be open to teen suggestions and solicit constructive feedback. A successful tool that works for myself, is to have a debriefing session at the end of every classroom experience or extra-curricular activity, to allow each child an opportunity to express their own perspective.

To avoid misunderstandings make sure these future teachers know what is expected

## Teacher to Teacher

TEENS IN THE CLASSROOM -Lu Copeman, Ontario

Teens can be helpful assistants in the classroom.

In my experience I have found that the teens enjoy assisting the younger children with the lesson craft and just naturally assume the role of teacher and guide when doing so.

During the Feast of Tabernacles our teachers in Canada usually have a handful of teens who are interested in being included in the daily Sabbath classes. Some have taught lessons and organized games, while others have helped the smaller children with craft instruction and construction. Many times I have noticed a few of the smaller children snuggling up to a teen, while the story portion of a lesson is being read.

Teenagers need mental stimulation and exciting challenges that the classroom may not always offer. However a stage performance or scriptural reading can create just the right atmosphere for interested teens.

A few years ago at the Canadian Feast site, our Sabbath class performed the play Daniel

1-8. The dedicated participation of the teens was a vital part of the play's success. They designed and made head pieces, guards' armor and props, constructed and tested the stunts, and gave on-stage guidance and support to the other actors.

The children and teens were giddy and excited with delight on the night of the performance; each working as a team, striving to do their best, and conquering the on-stage jitters. At curtain close, the reward was noticeable on each face. The audience applause and the children's smiles of accomplishment are hopeful signs that they want to be actively involved with CGI youth activities.

Please send in your ideas and success stories on how to keep our teens involved and excited about being in the Sabbath class.

Email your ideas and stories to Ruth at:

[rakerr2@telus.net](mailto:rakerr2@telus.net) or mail them to either address in the right hand column and we will publish your ideas in the next issue.

of them up front. Discuss their expectations and skills, and stress the high expectations that accompany the position of teacher. A mutual agreement should begin to develop as you work toward the common goal. While in charge be aware of what is really going on and strive to be fair and reasonable to these young adults. Their desire to be in the teaching ministry is honorable and must be nurtured with guidance, training and encouragement.

One last point for the success of involving our teens, is to be enthusiastic! You do not need to be outlandish or zany -true enthusiasm will shine from passion and commitment. Teens themselves have so much energy and a love for life. When they see you have a sense of humor and are excited about what you do, they will catch that fever and carry on the vision. We will be helping them to develop and demonstrate a positive attitude of confidence and trust. They in turn will then pass this on to the younger generation in our midst.

## Project: Let's Participate UPDATE

Current Project: **Pass-Along Cards**

Deadline for project submission: **Jan 31 2006**  
**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP YOUR CLASS OR FAMILY!**

All registered classes and families receive a Project Packet with directions, craft materials, inspirational quotes, and a sample card.

To register your Sabbath class for this project or upcoming projects contact our office at the address/email listed below.

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 and families are also welcome.

The STN staff will match your class with another class of similar size and age, and pass your project along to them.

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