

THE LUTHERAN 

JULY 2013

AMBASSADOR

THE SEVEN
LAWS OF THE
TEACHER

PROFESSOR HOWARD HENDRICKS' SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER

TEACH

The Korean Pentecost

BY JONATHAN ANDERSON

We all need an encouraging word. How encouraging is a word about what God has done for His people! Psalm 78 urges us to tell “the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done ... that they may set their hope in God” (vs. 4, 7). When we hear of God’s mighty works in the past, we are inspired to praise Him and to hope in Him to so move again today.

In that spirit, I would like to share some stories about 20th century revivals. Revival, literally “life again,” is described in the Old Testament as God’s restoration of His people and in the New Testament as “times of refreshing ... from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). The Korean Pentecost of 1907 exemplifies both.

Believing the times to be urgent, missionaries gathered in Korea for a week of Bible study and prayer in mid-1906. First they recognized their own neediness before God, and then they became convinced that the Korean church needed cleansing from discord and a clearer vision of God’s holiness. Together they covenanted to pray for revival.

As 1907 began, 1,500 Christian men from across Korea assembled at Central Church in Pyongyang for the annual New Year’s Bible conference. On Saturday evening, missionary William Blair preached from I Corinthians 12:27, explaining how discord among Christians not only injures the whole church body but also pains the church’s Head, Christ. Afterward, several confessed lack of love for others; but the next night, hardness of heart prevailed.

On Monday, the missionaries cried to God earnestly and upon entering the church that evening, sensed it full of His presence. Following the sermon, so many men wanted to pray aloud that all 1,500 began doing so simultaneously in a vast harmony



of sound and spirit. Shortly, an elder stood to confess the pilfering of some money. Immediately, intense conviction of sin swept the audience. Public confessions and uncontrollable weeping lasted until 2 a.m.

At Tuesday night’s service, another elder rose to confess hatred of both a Korean Christian and William Blair. “Can you pray for me?” he asked Blair. Blair began but got no farther than “Father, Father” when it seemed as if the roof was lifted from the building and God’s Spirit poured down in power. Overwhelmed with the heinousness of their sins, some men lay prostrate while others stood with arms

stretched to heaven. All were face to face with God pleading for mercy. Hundreds of agonizing confessions were made that night, for nothing was as precious as the peace of God’s forgiveness.

They were transformed men who returned to their homes the next day, and revival spread everywhere they testified until it had touched nearly every church in Korea. All of Pyongyang itself was stirred as Christians confessed wrongs done to neighbors and returned stolen goods. Between 1906 and 1910, the Korean church added more than 79,000 members.

Far away in China, Lutheran missionary Marie Monsen heard about Korea’s Pentecost and began praying that God would move similarly in her field. For 20 years she prayed, mostly alone, until ... but that is a story for next month.

Anderson, Moorhead, Minn., worships at St. Paul’s Free Lutheran, Fargo, N.D. (Sources: William Newton Blair, Gold in Korea, 1947; J. Edwin Orr, The Flaming Tongue, 1973; Jonathan Goforth, When the Spirit’s Fire Swept Korea, 1943. Scripture from NKJV.)

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Seek not to grow in knowledge chiefly for the sake of applause, and to enable you to dispute with others; but seek it for the benefit of your souls.

—Jonathan Edwards

Every man naturally desires knowledge; but what good is knowledge without fear of God? Indeed a humble rustic who serves God is better than a proud intellectual who neglects his soul to study the course of the stars.

—Thomas á Kempis

Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.

—R.C. Sproul

I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.

—Martin Luther

Mere knowledge is not enough to undercut the evil in the human heart. Simply knowing what is right doesn't enable us to do right.

—Charles Colson

TEACH

STOP
GROWING
TODAY, STOP
TEACHING
TOMORROW



ER



BY PASTOR MARK OLSON

In Christian education “students should not have to drink from stagnant pools.” This conviction was a driving force behind the passion that characterized the life of Howard Hendricks.

Hendricks was a pastor and seminary professor who dedicated his life to the equipping of servant leaders in the field of Christian education. He loved to contrast the difference between students who drank from living streams with those who only were able to drink from stagnant pools. As he poured his life into training the next generation of Christian leaders, he challenged them to embark on a lifelong journey of growth and learning so that they never would become stagnant pools in their teaching. He boldly asserted that if teachers stop growing today, they stop teaching tomorrow.

It was Jesus who proclaimed: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37-38 ESV). In all forms of Christian education, teachers need to daily drink from the living water that Jesus provides. Learning and growing in a personal relationship with Jesus is of paramount importance if the teacher is to be a channel through which the living water flows.

Why is this so important? Hendricks believed that far too much teaching of the Word of God had degenerated into a ministry of mediocrity, which was undermining the whole process of discipleship and disciple-making. Biblically, the importance

of teaching is central and its impact is to be one of multiplication. Paul taught Timothy to remember “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses,” and to entrust these truths “to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2).

Hendricks also believed that the teacher is primarily a student among students, where teaching is an overflow of what he or she is continuing to value and learn. As a student among students it is important for the teacher to grow in one’s understanding of biblically consistent content even as one is in the process of teaching others. Further, as a student among students, the teacher must know the students. There are numerous examples in Scripture that show Jesus thoroughly knowing those He taught. This influenced His teaching style and effectiveness. He was perceived as one who taught with authority and power, and also as one who cared about each and every person.

What are some practical ways to help teachers continue to provide students with living streams to drink from instead of stagnant pools?

- **TEACHERS SHOULD** never forget the daily joy of their faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, grace and mercy flow freely, and He continually reveals wisdom and truth through His Word. Jesus is the great Teacher in Christian education.

- **TEACHERS SHOULD** still be students at heart. Scripture needs to be read with a desire to learn and grow. Teachers must

love the process of learning with the desire to also present fresh insights to their students. Students become even more inspired to learn when they see their teachers model the adventure of lifelong learning. There are many quality opportunities and resources available today to help equip teachers to grow and learn.

- **TEACHERS SHOULD** know their students. The teacher should be an authority on the students they are teaching. Paul was teaching the church at Philippi as he shared this with them: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you... And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:3,6). Paul cared for them. He prayed for them. He had a growing sense of God’s purposes and plans for them. He longed to be with them. He loved them.

Faithfully serving and growing as a teacher is a great calling, yet at times it is an overwhelming one. Forgiveness and grace shape and change the teacher. Gratitude and love empower the teacher. Teaching like a living stream then flows forth. Students are changed. Many of these students sense God’s call to become teachers themselves. Multiplication happens. Increasing numbers of teachers and students follow the greatest Teacher of all.

Olson serves Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran, Lakeville, Minn.

BY PASTOR RICHARD ANDERSON

The local congregation has many responsibilities and challenges, especially in this day and age. The battle that rages for the souls of men is being engaged by the enemy of our souls in a very direct and forceful manner.

One of the most significant ministries that the church participates in is Christian education. Most people think of Sunday school for children. I have fond memories of my own mother, Esther, teaching Sunday school at Oiland north of Greenbush, Minn., and Trinity in Grand Forks, N.D. She was very adept at using the old fashioned flannel graph. Yes, Christian education does involve the great ministry of telling Bible stories to children, but it goes far beyond.

In Matthew 28:19-20 we have recorded for us the words of Christ: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The only command recorded in these words is the command to "make disciples." The phrases "go," "baptize," and "teach" all describe action (i.e., ministry of the church) on behalf of the hearers of those words. Jesus was saying, as you are going, as you are teaching, as you are baptizing, make sure that the focus is on making and developing disciples. Note the words of Richard C. H. Lenski in his *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures*, "... Jesus does not command, 'Go!' The participle is merely auxiliary to the main verb, 'having gone, disciple!'"

The essence of Christian Education is that of making disciples. The first step in making disciples is sharing the gospel

in the power of the Holy Spirit and seeing souls won to Christ. In many cases, as it was in my life, I had the great opportunity to personalize my faith in Christ when I was in early grade school years. Through the ministry of the church (a joint ministry between a number of churches in the Grand Forks-Portland, N.D., area led by Pastor Bob Lee, Pastor Gary Skramstad and Lillian Brekke of Mayville State College) I discovered Christian fellowship and the discipling process that was crucial to my growth as a young person finding my way in life. Christian education at its very heart is focused on leading souls to the reality of salvation and being together with like-minded people.

The teaching ministry of the local church can be a daunting task. In most cases we cannot afford to hire trained professional teachers and educators to teach and to train. Praise the Lord for faithful laymen and women who give of their time and energy in this ministry. We also struggle with the variety of souls (children, teens, and adults) who learn in different ways. Some like to read while others learn best by listening or by observing.

My own father (who passed away nearly 20 years ago) was for many years reluctant to go to a Bible study because he afraid that he would be asked to read. He only had a sixth grade education and felt intimidated in that area. I told my dad's pastor at the time, and he assured Dad that he would not have to read out loud. He then felt free to go to the Bible studies.

One of the key aspects of the teaching ministry of the local church is that the leadership of the church should get to know the souls under their care. Where are they in their journey as they learn about the many

aspects of the Bible and the Christian walk?

Jim was a new student in my confirmation class. But he seemed disinterested in the material and was very slow in answering any questions. In talking with him after class one day I found out that he could hear very little out of one ear. When he sat in a certain part of the room it was a problem. We made sure he sat where he could hear me, and he was a different person. I wouldn't have known unless he had told me.

One of the key ways that people learn is by digging into the Scriptures. Those of us in the teaching ministry love to relate information. There is a place for that ministry—it is called preaching, which is the foundational ministry of the church. But the teaching (didactic) ministry of the church also involves training people to search the Scriptures and discover truth and insight for themselves under the direction of the Holy Spirit. And in that searching we need to remind ourselves and our students of the words of Christ when He said, "You search *and* investigate *and* pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose *and* trust that you have eternal life through them. And these [very Scriptures] testify about Me!" (John 5:39, Amplified Translation).

There are facts, places, people and principles to learn about in the Scriptures. But the real purpose of our instruction is to know our Lord better day by day and to grow in His likeness.


May the Lord bless the work of His churches in the ministry of Christian education. Remember the Lord loves you just the way you are but too much to leave you that way.

Anderson, Elk River, Minn., serves Hosanna Free Lutheran, Cumberland Wis.

PROFESSOR HOWARD HENDRICKS' SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER



FEDUC

A photograph of students in a classroom. In the foreground, a student is using a laptop. In the background, another student is using a microscope. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern educational environment.

THE WAY PEOPLE
LEARN DETERMINES
HOW YOU TEACH

EDUCATION



MAXIMUM
LEARNING IS
THE RESULT
OF MAXIMUM
ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY

BY ANDREA CHRISTENSON

I hate science!” my daughter, Macy, declared after we had been slogging through her book for two weeks. “It’s too hard and too boring. Do we have to do science today?” she would moan and complain when it was time for us to do her lesson.

Up to this point, I had been reading the science lessons to her and then asking questions about what we had just read. Macy’s book was designed for multiple grade levels, and so far the language, activities, and new concepts were all a little difficult for my 6-year-old first grader. Something needed to change.

I began to approach each lesson with the thought, “How can I make this more interesting?” For every science lesson, I looked for at least one thing we could do together to reinforce and apply the concept being taught. We watched videos. We did worksheets. We made scale models. We grew crystals. We tasted weird items. We collected rocks. We had a meteor shower in the kitchen. Macy made videos explaining the science concept she was learning. In short, I involved her in the process of learning in as many meaningful ways as possible—engaging all her senses. Instead of just listening, Macy began doing and participating. Pretty soon what once was the most dreaded part of our morning became her favorite subject in school.

The Law of Activity as laid out by Dr. Howard Hendricks, a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary for more than 60 years, states that maximum learning is the result of maximum involvement. Using meaningful activity to involve your students can reinforce a concept until they fully understand what you are teaching them.

Jesus, our Great Teacher, showed us this concept in the way He instructed His disciples. In Mark 3:14-15, we read that “He appointed twelve so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.” Jesus took these 12 men, whom He had specifically chosen, everywhere He went, teaching them along the way. The disciples spent countless hours observing Jesus at work and listening to His message. They learned who He was and why He came. After a certain point, Jesus knew it was time; they were ready to put into action the things which they had learned from Him.

So, “He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; They went out and preached that men should repent. And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them” (Mark 6:7, 12-13).

Jesus sent them out to become personally involved in the work of the Lord. Instead of just passively learning, the disciples were actively engaged. They preached the gospel. They healed the sick. They raised the dead. They ministered to all the needs of the people. Later they came back, “gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught” (Mark 6:30). Together with Jesus, they reviewed the results of these hands-on activities.

A few verses after this debriefing session with Jesus, we read about the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus had taken the disciples away for some quiet rest, but the crowds followed them. Jesus again demonstrated the principle of meaningful activity. When

the disciples saw the crowds and knew the people were hungry, Jesus could have just lectured them about how God provides for all our needs and then caused manna to fall from the sky. Instead He chose to involve the disciples in the miracle by asking them to participate.

“But He answered them, ‘You give them something to eat!’” (Mark 6:37). The disciples took part in a meaningful activity, reinforcing a concept. They went from person to person, feeding them with the food God miraculously provided from five loaves of bread and two small fish. I imagine with each piece of food they distributed, their understanding of God’s provision for all their needs grew.

The next time you have a lesson to teach, whether in Sunday school, Bible study, youth group, or as a parent or mentor, remember the Law of Activity—maximum learning through maximum involvement. Try to think of meaningful, interesting activities you can use to reinforce your concept. Try to engage as many senses as possible. Allow those you are teaching to experience the lesson in a manner which isn’t just rote instruction or a lecture. As your students, your youth, your children, or your Bible study companions become more involved in the lesson through meaningful activity, the concept you are teaching will become clearer to them. You will experience the joy of seeing them understand and embrace the truth you are sharing.

Christenson, chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, is a member of Amery Free Lutheran, Amery, Wis., where her husband, Licensed Pastor Eric Christenson, serves.

VITTY



COMMUNICATOR

PROFESSOR HOWARD HENDRICKS' SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER

BY BETH OLSON

When I was a little girl, we lived in the parsonage just outside the little town of Dalbo, Minn. I remember climbing on top of the picnic table and singing at the top of my lungs. Picture a curly, blonde-haired girl with pig-tails, petite frame, boldly stepping up three feet off the ground (to me it seemed like 30). I sang—or shouted—all the verses to “I have decided to follow Jesus.” Maybe you heard a strange noise if you lived nearby in the early 1970s. I seriously thought the whole world could hear me.

As told by my mother, I asked Jesus to come into my heart when I was 4 years old. I don’t remember that moment, but I’m thinking it wasn’t long after that I proclaimed on my “mountain” that I loved Jesus. It is a vivid memory of mine.

I am so thankful for wonderful parents who guided me and taught me about my Savior since my infant baptism. I had some excellent Sunday school teachers, as well, who were willing to teach me Bible stories and songs. And for nearly 20 years I’ve had the opportunity to teach children in either Sunday school, vacation Bible school, or a Wednesday night children’s program.

Even though I grew up in the teaching of God’s Word at church, Sunday school, Bible camps, youth group, Bible school at AFLBS, and teaching children, I have not always walked close to the Lord. And I haven’t always had the childlike faith of my 4-year-old self, not caring what others think, and desiring to tell the whole world about Jesus. There have been times in my life when other things became more important to me. I let worries, fears, and my selfish ways drown out that youthful zest for the Lord. The desire to grow through the daily reading of

God’s Word, prayer, and close fellowship with the Lord was the lowest of my priorities.

Through my life experiences, I’m learning what it takes to effectively communicate God’s Word to others. The first and most important practice is to be in a living, growing walk with the Lord Jesus. Philippians 2:12 says, “... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and work for His good pleasure.” If I say something, but don’t live it out, are students going to believe what I say? My life outside the classroom is so important, especially when some of the students are my own children and they see every day how I live my life. I’m learning to be honest with them, to let them know that I make mistakes. The patience, faithfulness, and unfailing love of God simply amaze me. Those times when I’ve distanced myself from God, He gently calls me back to Himself. God can use my messes to be His message if I let Him. Spending quality time with my Lord each day is the key to effectively communicating His love to others.

Preparation is also very important when communicating important information. I know from experience—especially since I am a pastor’s wife with children—that Sunday mornings is not the time to go over a lesson or prepare anything other than myself and our children. I may think I don’t need to prepare because I know the Bible stories well enough, or the week has been so busy, or the children demanding my time, or something else came up, or, or, or ... But I do know that spending time on the Bible lesson, praying for the children I teach, and letting God speak to me through His Word are how He prepares me to communicate His Word. Proper preparation also means

that I will also be more at ease and less flustered.

Professor Howard Hendricks wrote, “If I know something thoroughly, feel it deeply, am doing it constantly, I have great potential for being an excellent communicator. In fact, the more thoroughly I know a concept ... the more deeply I feel it ... the more consistently I practice it ... the greater my potential as a communicator. But all three components have to be there.”

I’ve also learned that illustrations, visual aids, and personal stories are what keep the attention of children, as well as adults. My husband is very good at illustrations and will use them in children’s messages and his sermons. In my experience, using a variety of techniques to get the message across—acting out the story, visual illustrations, along with reading the lesson and Scripture—helps children remember information being taught. I’ve needed to ask myself, “When I finish, what do I want them to remember?”

So whether you are a teacher, pastor, Bible study leader, neighbor or friend to others in your community, what will you communicate with your life? The message God has given us to tell others is eternally important. We may not always have that mountain top experience, and standing on a table may not be appropriate in most places. But keep the lines of communication open, especially with the Lord. Then, He will use you to communicate His Word effectively. After all, hasn’t God given us something to shout about?

Olson, Golden Valley, N.D., is a member of the Trinity Parish, served by her husband, Pastor Tom Olson.

COMMUNICATION

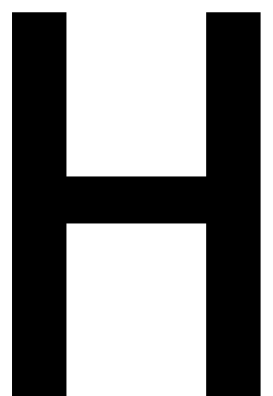
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TO TRULY IMPART
INFORMATION INVOLVES
THE BUILDING OF BRIDGES



TEACHING
THAT HAS
IMPACT IS
NOT HEAD
TO HEAD
BUT HEART
TO HEART



BY JENNIFER THORSON

As I sat on my couch, computer on my lap, working to finish my article while I had some alone time, my youngest child began crying in his crib. Typically a calm little boy who is easy to put to sleep, my son was bothered by something and he couldn't settle down. Finally I rose from my comfortable spot and went to him. As he reached out to me, I picked him up, prayed for him, and sang a Scripture song. Hugging me tightly, he calmed almost immediately and sang along. What he needed was for me to connect with him, heart to heart, for just those few moments before he drifted off contentedly to sleep.

Howard Hendrick's fifth law of the teacher reminds us that "teaching that impacts is not from head to head but from heart to heart." Even in the simple task of speaking Scripture over my child and taking the time to soothe him at night, I am learning what a heart relationship truly means as I guide our little ones.

The most important things my husband and I desire to teach our children are not facts and figures but the truths found in the Word of God. That is why the teaching relationship between the parent and the child is so important. Our role in their lives is like no other. As parents we are the ones who can shape our children's worldview by teaching them, *impacting them*, with the love of God.

We can encourage in them a heart for ministry and for prayer. We can show them what it means to forgive and extend grace to others. We can bring them alongside us as we study the Bible and let them see firsthand how faith in Christ and a firm foundation in the Word give us strong

convictions. We can show them how God's grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives as we wait for our Redeemer (Titus 2:11-12). We can pray for them and with them when they make decisions that are contrary to God's will.

We are the people whom God has called to instruct and nourish their hearts. Children cannot understand a truth they have never been taught.

How can we teach our children in a manner that impacts their hearts? Put simply, by the grace of God alone. As sinful men and women, we are not able on our own to be this kind of teacher to our children, but with the Holy Spirit guiding us through the Word, there is eternal significance in our efforts.

Jesus assured His disciples in John 14 that "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name" would teach them. The promise of the presence of the Spirit of truth is for every believer. The Holy Spirit enlightens us to understand Scripture, *which is the very heart of God*, written to His children. We prayerfully share this same Word with our own children and that Word allows the Spirit to work in our children's hearts, the same work begun in them through baptism.

How then should we teach? Teaching from a heart of love is much more effective than the rudimentary transferring of facts or information from our mouths to their ears. Our joy as parents is to see our children in a living relationship with God through His Word, not following a set of guidelines in order to please Him enough. Well-received teaching begins with the right motivation from the teacher. Is my goal to

get my child to simply obey a collection of moral rules? Or is it to pass on to them a heritage of faith through which their lives are lived for the glory of God, in thankfulness for His grace and mercy?

As we seek to teach these heart-to-heart truths to our children, there will be times of conviction, challenges, and failure on our part, but also much joy and a further reliance on the Lord. The result can be a relationship that grows deeper with time, both between us and our children and between our children and the Lord.

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

Let us speak the truth to all, especially those of our own household, each and every day. We can have confidence that the Holy Teacher will guide our efforts and live through us in this ever-important role as teachers of our children. Be encouraged that the impact on our children or the young ones in our care is life-changing when our teaching is rooted solidly in the Word of God, always keeping the heart-to-heart of God in mind.

Thorson is a member of Living Faith Lutheran, Larimore, N.D., which is served by her husband, Pastor Kirk Thorson.

HEART

ENCOURAGE

PROFESSOR HOWARD HENDRICKS' SEVEN LAWS OF THE TEACHER

BY DIANE BRUBAKKEN

Encouragement is vital in Christian education, and yet it runs the risk of being overlooked because it appears to be such a simple task. Applying it in an educational setting in a way that inspires people to dig deeper and work harder isn't always easy. Encouraging and motivating can be difficult because everyone learns and is motivated in different ways. More importantly, people need to feel that what they are learning is important for them and that they can apply it to their lives.

In his book, *Teaching to Change Lives*, Dr. Howard Hendricks writes about seven laws for the teacher. His sixth law, Encouragement, says: "Teaching tends to be most effective when the learner is properly motivated." Real encouragement should fuel a student's motivation to learn, and in turn fuel a desire to apply what has been learned. The real problem with many methods of encouragement is that they fail to motivate a person to continue beyond obligation. Motivation dictates the amount of actual effort put into learning and retention.

Hendricks identifies four aspects of training in regards to encouragement and motivation: telling, showing, doing in a safe environment, and then employing the application out in the world.

When training people within the church, we need to begin by telling: sharing Scriptures verbally, visually, and through movement and music—in as many ways as possible. Isaiah 55:11 says: "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." God's Word is the most powerful tool we have to encourage and motivate, as well as provide understanding of why it is so important.

The second aspect is showing students with our own lives—through teaching, modeling and mentoring—how to live out what we've been telling them. A quote from DC Talk's song *What If I Stumble* that I've never forgotten is this: "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." We motivate and encourage others to deepen their walk with God when they see us living out the truths that we've been telling them. Some of the most influential people we have in our lives are the ones who, every day, live out what they believe.

The last two aspects involve providing opportunities for people to apply their learning, first in structured (safe) situations and then in the real world. The first step prepares students for the second by providing opportunity to build confidence and make adjustments before entering real world situations. However, the last step is even more vital, because unless we get out and apply what we're learning to real life, we lose the reason for starting in the first place.

During my senior year of college, an adjunct professor that I'd never had before taught the "History of Christian Thought" class. I wasn't sure what to expect. She ended up being one of those professors who somehow found ways to motivate her students into digging as deep as they could into the material. She encouraged us in various ways throughout the quarter, beginning on the first day when she passed out a box with Legos, play dough, crayons, and many other items. Each student was told to pick one item and use it to show how we thought of Christianity. It was fun to see how each of my classmates responded with their items,

and how I would try to respond with my item (Legos). It wasn't the most academic of our classes, but it got us all interested and engaged in the topic.

Near the end of the quarter, as I was preparing to write a paper, this instructor took the time to sit down with me, find out what I was interested in and passionate about, and guide me toward a paper topic and resources that fit. That paper definitely wasn't the easiest to write, but it was one of the few times that I recall enjoying the process of researching and writing.

What that professor did was a prime example of how to encourage in Christian education. First, she made the topic interesting and important to us. Then, over the course of the class, through the lectures and the time she spent getting to know students (and giving students a chance to get to know her), she explained and showed us how and why the topic was important. Over the course of the class, we received the tools to then go and apply what we'd learned, first in our papers and then as we continue in our Christian walks.

It's not easy to take the time to figure out how best to encourage and motivate those around us, but when we do, the results can reach farther than we realize. My professor may not have realized the full impact she had on her students, but we all left that class far richer for having a better understanding of the topic itself, and of our own faith and belief—all because of a little encouragement.

Brubakken, Crystal, Minn., serves in the AFLC Parish Education office, and is a member of Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove, Minn.

RAGLE- MEMENT

no.
6

TEACHING
TENDS TO
BE MOST
EFFECTIVE
WHEN THE
LEARNER IS
PROPERLY
MOTIVATED



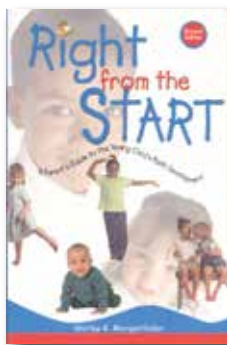
resources

These resources and more are available from Ambassador Publications. Visit the publishing department's Web site at www.ambassadorpublications.org or contact Parish Education at (763) 545-5631 or parished@afcl.org for more information.



Give Them Grace

Many Christian parents and teachers strive to transform behavior with the Law. Armed with threats, manipulation, and guilt, they may try to create change that is only possible through the gospel of Jesus Christ. This book points to the grace of Christ and shows how to be instruments of that grace in the lives of children, helping them to know the dazzling love of Jesus and respond with heartfelt obedience. \$11.95



Right From the Start

Discover how young children learn and the countless ways your interactions teach about God and His love. This book includes an extensive resource list plus discussion questions with each chapter. \$9.95



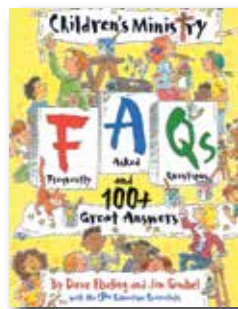
Teachers Interaction

Created especially for Sunday school teachers, this colorful magazine published quarterly is packed with innovative ideas and tips for teaching all ages. \$20/year



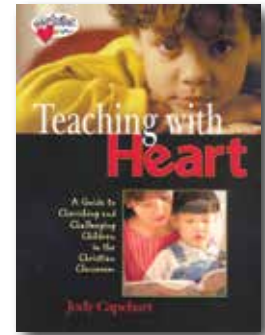
TCL Teaching

Sound, easy-to-use, practical suggestions. An ideal resource for Sunday school and VBS teachers, staff, children's ministers, pastors, parents, and anyone else involved in children's ministry. \$11.50



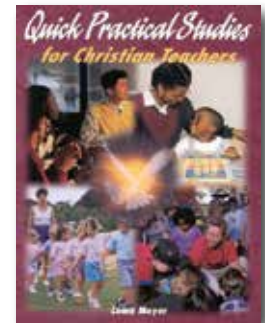
Children's Ministry FAQs

Answers to more than 100 frequently asked questions with creative, tested ideas for outreach, involving volunteers, equipping teachers, maximizing the teaching session, planning special events, and more. \$10



Teaching With Heart

This valuable guide helps teachers understand the unique personalities and learning styles of each child while challenging them to grow in Christ. Also familiarizes teachers with educational theory while providing the information in a practical, useful form. Includes reproducible worksheets appropriate for teacher training. \$18.50



Quick Practical Studies for Christian Teachers

A helpful tool for teachers, offering insight and ideas to refine teaching skills. Each 15-30 minute study focuses on one specific topic such as varying your presentation style, asking questions, interactive learning, students with special needs, discipline, and more. For individual or group study with reproducible participant pages. \$10

Forget none of His benefits



RIGHT: Viola Lunde and Grace Hagen stand next to the banner they made for the 25th anniversary of the WMF in Canada.

BY DAWN JOHNSON

This year the Women's Missionary Federation in Canada celebrated its 25th anniversary and AFLC Canada celebrated its 30th anniversary. We remember the milestone of 50 years that we in the States reached last year for both the WMF and the AFLC with much praise and gratitude to God for His blessings through the years. And this year the WMF in Canada is celebrating a similar milestone.

AFLC Canada's WMF Day and annual conference celebration took place April 5-7 in Lake Alma, Saskatchewan, the birth place of the AFLC in Canada. The theme of the WMF day was "Bless the LORD," taken from the theme verse from Psalm 103:2, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits" (NASB). Having served as the first national WMF president in Canada, I was honored to be asked to come back to speak at the 25th anniversary celebration.

AFLC Canada began with one church, Faith Free Lutheran in Lake Alma Saskatchewan, and has grown to 10 churches spreading from Saskatchewan to British Columbia. As the number of churches began to increase and a desire grew for a women's group to form, the WMF in Canada was officially established in the fifth

year of the AFLC Canada. When the Canadian WMF was structured it was determined to use the WMF in the United States as the guide. Because of the national boundaries, the WMF in Canada had to form its own organization and function separately.

As we came together for the WMF Day to celebrate this momentous occasion, those of us attending focused on the end of Psalm 103:2, "forget none of His benefits." What is a WMF Day conference like in Canada? Much the same as the one we celebrate each year here in the States, only on a smaller scale. Our afternoon began with a time of praise and worship. The devotions given included some of the history behind the formation of the AFLC in Canada, as well as the formation of the WMF. I spoke on the theme verse Psalm 103:2. The business meeting followed, which included the president's report, missions report, treasurer's report, nominations and elections, new business and the 2013 resolutions. We closed the afternoon with prayer and fellowship.

Johnson, the executive secretary of the national Women's Missionary Federation, is a member of Christ the King Lutheran, Wilson, Wis.



TOP LEFT: Breanna Rick, Lino Lakes, Minn., receives her diploma from Pastor Joel Rolf.

ABOVE: Tim Papillon, Sheridan, Ill., writes a note to a classmate prior to the graduation service.

TOP RIGHT: The graduating class of AFLTS includes Martin Hlavenka, Jerrell Hein, Kurt Hein, Sam Menge and Luke Emerson.

RIGHT: Members of the AFLBS Concert Choir sing "O Day Full of Grace" under the direction of Andrew Hanson.



AFLC Schools host graduation



Luke Emerson (left) graduated from AFLTS 40 years to the day after his father, Pastor Curt Emerson, graduated from seminary.

Emersons mark special graduation

May 18 is turning out to be a pretty special day for the Emerson family. Forty years to the day after his father, Pastor Curt Emerson, stood before family and friends to receive his seminary degree, Luke Emerson also stood and received his diploma from AFLTS. He has accepted a call to serve Newark Lutheran, Newark, Ill.

“It is an amazing work of God that He is patient and that He has a plan for all of our lives,” said Luke. “To be ordained 40 years after my father is just awesome.”



TOP: Pastor Joel Rolf, AFLBS dean, brings the commencement address during the graduation service.

ABOVE: AFLBS graduates Jared Nash and Hannah Ruth Patterson welcome family and friends to the service.

LEFT: Andrew Hanson directs the Proclaim Choir in “This Is My Word.”



AFLC India dedicates multipurpose building



TOP RIGHT: The three-story building, located in Chirala, India, is the headquarters of AFLC India and will house a dormitory, school, chapel, orphanage and training center for pastors. The building was dedicated on May 30. Taking part in the dedication were AFLC President Pastor Elden and Faith Nelson, AFLC World Missions Director Pastor Del and Karen Palmer, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, and head of the Ambassador Institute Pastor Kevin and Pam Olson.

TOP LEFT: The Shiloh Chapel is decorated with Scripture passages on every wall.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Pastor Eugene Enderlein, former director of AFLC World Missions, prays for people during a service.

ABOVE: Pastor Elden Nelson speaks during the dedication service while D. Luther Sastri, president of AFLC India, interprets.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Faith Nelson sits with a class of students after teaching a lesson on the English language.



Relational ministry

BY PASTOR PAUL NASH

The Apostle Paul often mentioned special relationships with individuals in his writings in the New Testament. Here is just a sampling of some of his relationships with believers:

“Onesiphorus, he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains” (II Timothy 1:16).

“Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner” (Colossian 4:10).

“Justus, these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision and they have proved to be an encouragement to me” (Colossians 4:11).

“Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bond slave of Jesus Christ” (Colossians 4:12).

“Greet ... also Nympha and the church that is in her house” (Colossians 4:15).

Wherever Paul went, he started relationships with people to lead them into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Then he mentored or disciplined them by simply doing life with them God’s way. These new believers formed a common community with one another in a church. Those friends, Paul’s relationships, were there for him and supported him in the hard times—even when he was in prison.

Relationships have been and continue to be vital to God’s kingdom work. Never have I ever seen more clearly the impact of our relationships in the AFLC than this spring. To be honest with you, there have been days when I have wondered how in the world we would meet some of the needs in Home Missions. Can I share some exciting examples of how God has provided through relationships?

Esther Long felt God’s call to be on our vacation Bible school team that will head to five Alaskan villages this summer. She called her friend, Stephanie Kantonen, and asked her to pray

about going with her. Stephanie said yes, and we now have the fourth member for that Alaskan VBS team.

Members of Marantha Free Lutheran, Glyndon, Minn., challenged their Sunday school children to raise money for remodeling work at the Gathering in Hastings, where some of their friends and family attend.

A fired-up Missions Committee at Hope Free Lutheran in Ishpeming, Mich., wanted to take a work team to Naknek, Alaska. Not only did they send eight workers in early June, but they also raised the funds to pay for new windows in the radio station there.

Paul and Tress Anderson moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota because they believe God is calling them to start The Black Hills Gathering. Their home church of Abiding Savior Free Lutheran in Sioux Falls, S.D., sent them with their blessing and helps provide financial support.

I am so grateful for the support of our AFLC family for Home Missions. You pray for us through our KneeMail, you give of your finances, you lend us your teens for our Barnabas teams, you let your young adults serve as our Parish Builders, you step forward to start new Gatherings, and more than 40 volunteers are going to work in Alaska this summer. Only eternity will show us the results of you saying yes to God’s prompting. Thank you all for your partnership in the gospel.

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:4-6).

Nash, the director of Home Missions, is a member of Solid Rock Free Lutheran, Anoka, Minn.

AFLC memorials: May

AFLBS

Ruth Claus
Pastor Laurel Udden
Dr. Francis Monseth (19)

AFLTS

Lillian Johnson (2)
Julia Pederson
Bill Moe
Dr. Francis Monseth (97)

General Fund

Dr. Francis Monseth

Home Missions

Candice Hausauer
Blair Duff

Parish Education

Dr. Mary Lindquist
Lillian Johnson
Dr. Francis Monseth

World Missions

Allen Hanson
Dr. Francis Monseth
Gordon Gunderson
Norma Rye

Vision

Doris Lindquist
Dr. Francis Monseth



Slim Buttes adds members

New members were installed May 19 at Slim Buttes Free Lutheran Church of Reva, S.D. Pictured are (front row, from left) Bill Vroman, Verona Vroman, Dorothy Holt and Tony Holt (back row) Eric Schuchard, Patsy Wilkinson, Margaretta Hanson, and Pastor Henry Mohagen.

Conradson remembered

Alvina Rebecca Conradson, 92, died of a stroke April 16 at Opelika, Ala. She survived her husband, AFLC Pastor Willard ("Connie") Conradson by 22 years. Her family includes two sons and one daughter, five grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

"Becky" (Fosmark), a graduate of Luther College and the University of Michigan, was a faithful pastor's wife, serving with her husband at Fairfax and Fairmont, Minn.; the USAF chaplaincy; Anaheim, Calif.; and Salem, Ala. A regular contributor to *Christian News*, she was recently declared their 2013 "Role Model for Christian Women."

She was confirmed at Spring Prairie Lutheran Church near Madison, Wis., with the confirmation service sermon text from Jude 3: "While I've been very eager to write you, dear friends, about the salvation we share, it is now necessary that I write you and urge you to fight (contend) for the faith once entrusted to the holy people." This text was the theme of her life. Blessed be her memory.

People and Places

Pastor Bill Mitchell has retired from the staff of Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D. He and his wife, Gail, are moving to the Hendersonville, N.C., area to be close to family.

Pastor Joel Baker, Minneapolis, has accepted a call from Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, where he has served on the pastoral staff since 2010, to be the senior pastor of the congregation.



Pictured (from left) are Pastor Cal Willard, Bill Fish, Bud Haugen, Mike Impola, Terry Park, Char Park and Pastor Ken Moland.

Pacific NW president honored for 25 years

During the Mid-Winter Bible Conference held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Everett, Wash., the Pacific Northwest District recognized 25 years of service by Bud Haugen. First elected president in 1988, Haugen has overseen the spiritual, financial, and administrative needs of the district, including the care for 13 congregations, two annual conferences, 25 Bible conferences, and 25 family Bible camps. Bud and his wife, Adeline, are members of Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, Wash.

A retired steel worker, Bud, now 88, wants to spend more time with his grandchildren.

Elected as new district president is Mike Impola, also a member of Atonement, along with his wife, Annette, and their four children.

AFLC BENEVOLENCES Jan. 1-May 31, 2013

FUND	REC'D IN MAY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	PRIOR YEAR-TO-DATE
General Fund	\$26,252	\$146,275	\$118,246
Evangelism	8,644	65,299	61,313
Youth Ministries	7,024	50,329	36,324
Parish Education	8,308	47,708	45,048
Seminary	32,397	127,600	100,408
Bible School	61,914	224,513	197,196
Home Missions	32,626	183,709	210,713
World Missions	27,339	187,601	167,663
Personal Support	35,156	189,010	225,956
TOTALS	\$239,661	\$1,222,045	\$1,162,866

Contact the individual departments for further information about specific financial needs.

no.

7

THE LAW OF READINESS

It was John Milton Gregory (1822-1898), Superintendent of Schools for the State of Michigan, who first devised a simple list of laws for teaching, and Dr. Howard Hendricks, long-time seminary professor and author who died in February, adapted them as an acronym for use by Christian educators. Our Bible school dean has reminded faculty members of them at the beginning of the past two school years, and this writer teaches them to the Christian Education classes as other instructors have done in the past.

The seven laws, which spell the word “teacher,” are the topics for the theme articles in this issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

The seventh and final law is defined as follows: *The teaching-learning process will be most effective when both student and teacher are adequately prepared.* Gregory explained it when he

wrote, “Many teachers go to their work either partly prepared or wholly unprepared. They are like messengers without a message. They lack entirely the power and enthusiasm necessary to produce the fruits which we have a right to look for from their efforts.”



Pastor Robert Lee

It seems that a special responsibility for readiness rests with the teacher. Yet the student also bears the responsibility for readiness. “Classes would be so much more enjoyable,” a young lady stated, “if we didn’t have to take notes and be tested.” Another student told his instructor that he wasn’t getting anything out of the class. “What are you putting into it?” the teacher asked. “Are you reading the assignments, doing the worksheets, etc.?” It was not a surprise that the answer was negative.

The first step in readiness, of course, should be the preparation of prayer. Students, remember your teachers before the throne of grace. Prepare your heart and mind to receive what the Lord may have for you and others through each class period, whether it’s connected with Sunday school or the secular school setting. Parents, encourage your children to pray for their teachers and to be prayerfully prepared to learn.

Teachers, practice the readiness of prayer. It is good to prepare our own hearts through a meeting with God in His Word and in prayer, and instructors have the unique privilege of bringing each student before our Heavenly Father. One instructor maintains that the great advantage of Christian educators is the work of the Holy Spirit who is our Teacher.

Readiness also involves class preparations. The first law of the teacher applies especially to the instructor: *If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.* Those of us who have enjoyed the privilege of teaching have doubtless been impressed by how much we have learned in the process. Studies show, in fact, that teachers retain personally an impressive amount of what they teach—some

would even say that the teacher learns more than the students.

Lack of preparation by the teacher is a serious problem. A speaker at a Sunday school teachers’ conference declared that there’s a world of difference between the instructor who has ten years of experience and the one who has one year of experience that he or she has repeated ten times. But the students’ lack of preparation also hinders them from receiving all that might have been gained from the class time. Dr. Hendricks wrote:

You are thoroughly prepared, having drenched your mind in a certain passage of Scripture; *they*—or at least most of them—have not even read the passage once in the last six months. *You* come with enthusiasm, because in that passage you’ve found answers to questions and solutions to problems. *They* come with nothing. (*The Seven Laws of the Teacher*, p. 161)

The Law of the Teacher
The Law of Education
The Law of Activity
The Law of Communication
The Law of the Heart
The Law of Encouragement
The Law of Readiness

It is vital that both teacher and student come with something, and that something is the readiness of preparation. This preparation begins in the presence of God and continues as lessons are carefully readied by the instructor and assignments completed by class members.

Perhaps some readers of this issue have concluded that, since they are not teachers, there is nothing that applies to them in these pages. Wrong! Don’t forget that the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is for every believer, not for a special few ... and the command of Jesus to make disciples includes teaching. Some of our readers are parents and grandparents, and you are teachers, too, for home and family are the primary vehicles for Christian instruction. Others serve as teachers in Sunday school or for special Bible classes. All of us carry the responsibility for readiness as students, a privilege that is lifelong.

Offer the gift of readiness to each of your learning opportunities. You will be receiving and sharing the special blessing that comes to all who prepare to receive it.

association retreat center

Balanced wisdom

BY PASTOR DAVID JOHNSON

We are a culture of extremes. We seem determined to run ourselves into the ground. We measure everything by gain and conclude that any moment without a productive end is a waste and should be discarded. We miss the eternal value of many seemingly meaningless activities in life: playtime, family mealtime, and rocking-on-the-front-porch times.

Many feel this way about their spirituality. They want it quickly like instant coffee. But there are no gimmicks or shortcuts. Spiritual life takes time to grow, and it is sometimes in the seemingly insignificant times that God teaches the most. That is one thing people experience when they come to places like the Association Retreat Center—God working in the common events of life.

At the same time we have become a highly sedentary culture. Many people spend their days sitting: sitting in cars, sitting in offices, sitting in school, sitting in front of TVs, computers, or cell-phones. We have raised a generation of kids who are perfectly content to sit and do nothing, as long as they have their smartphone.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 gives a more balanced perspective on life and learning: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

In three verses God reveals balanced wisdom. First, we are told the importance of prioritizing our lives, beginning with our relationship with God. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and

mind. Matthew 6:33 states it this way, “Seek ye first His kingdom and His righteousness.”

Second, life isn’t about “the economy, stupid,” greater prestige, or the new series on TV. God’s Word and principles are to be our passion and motivation. They should be planted into the very fiber of who we are. They should drive all that we pursue, achieve, and long for.

Third, passing on these principles are to be part of our daily routine. My wife, Vicki, and I didn’t want our children to learn about the Lord just in Sunday school. We wanted them to cultivate a constant sensitivity to the presence of God. Christian music played on the radio and *Veggie Tales* on TV. We played and discussed countless hours of *Adventures in Odyssey* episodes as we traveled. Besides all this, we would look for those “God moments” that are oftentimes hidden away in life. We wanted our children to cultivate eyes for those sometimes elusive lessons.

Fourth, we have activity. Sit, walk, lie down, rise up—in all the activities of life, God’s Word can be taught and caught. It is in the common, everyday activities of life that Jesus often reveals Himself in the most profound ways.

And whether you invite Him or not, whether you look for Him or not, He is there. I challenge you, as you set your itinerary for the summer, make time to seek out those “God moments” each day. You can do that in the midst of your usual routine, or you can come away and join us for time of rest at the ARC.

Johnson, a member of the ARC Corporation, serves Disciple Lutheran Fellowship, Reading, Pa., and Living Faith, Boyertown, Pa.