



THE ENCOURAGER

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

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*"The walls
were
covered"*

Note: the Textools site
is NOW
www.textools.org



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IF IT IS WORTH DOING. . . IT IS WORTH DOING WELL!

In all labour there is profit. Any effort with children demands labour. Yet—it does not necessarily require tremendously more work to do it better.

What would it take to inspire a better effort? "It depends"—you say. "On what?"—says I.

"Well, on how important the matter is that we're considering." And I respond, "Exactly!"

How important is Children's Work? to you? to me? to the hearers? to God?

I can hardly speak about what it means to you. Though, like myself, I am sure that you can sense its importance as well. For myself, I think I can say that I know it is incredibly important as I consider what it means to the hearers and to God. It would be wonderful if all believers were impressed with the importance of this work. It would draw out more prayer for the teachers. It would cause more to volunteer, not only to teach, but also to make themselves available to help in any way possible.

It may mean everything to the hearers! In fact—you may be the only one who stands between them and a lost eternity. Who can measure what just knowing Him means? What about Salvation, light, hope, joy, peace, and a host of other things that accompany the new birth? Perhaps my appreciation of what it means is not what it should be. But my heart is not yet so callous that I cannot see that these things that are brought to us through the gospel have wonderfully changed my life. They have given me joys beyond compare, altered my destiny, and enriched me forever. How we wish others could share it too.

And what does it mean to God? His emphasis is clear when it comes to children. In the OT parents are counseled and required to diligently teach their children, and impress them with eternal things. In the NT—let us not forget that our Lord took them in his arms and blessed them. He took time. He cared.



Lord, help me to make a difference

WALLS OF OPPORTUNITY

Sometimes we miss opportunities. Some of those omissions may be more glaring than others.

Are you making use of your opportunities? What do the walls of your classroom look like? Did I hear you say, I only have one wall! Well, make the best use of it you can.

I recently visited a small assembly that has a growing Sunday School. I was given a tour of some of the classrooms and it wasn't hard to tell why they were growing. Now this observation does not undermine the effort they've put into visitation and other sacrifices they have made. But - it is clear that they have teachers who are using their opportunities. In one class, there were models (of the Egyptian plagues) on display in various stages of completion. There was paper work on the table in another. And the walls were covered! You couldn't miss it. Hard not to look at it. It was there. It was interesting. It had to do with the class and the lessons they were working on.

The classes were growing in number. Interest was keen. Those teens knew there was something going on. Are you using your walls? The next time you look at those walls—see if you can make them talk.