

THE ENCOURAGER

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

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Maintaining a Magnetizing Influence

I was a bit overwhelmed at your request and also a bit shy about trying to answer.

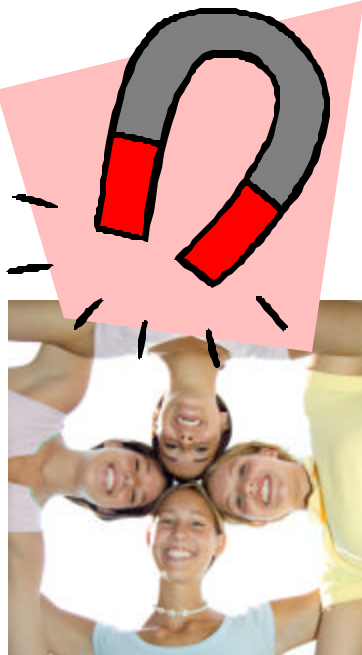
I guess we just go day to day trying to do what the Lord would have us to do without thinking about anyone taking any notice or doing anything other than what we are called to do. The Lord, of course, has his eye upon us and that is what keeps us going.

We do have kids following us around, that's for sure, but I never stopped to consider 'Why?' particularly. I tried asking some of them and I guess the main answer was knowing that we care about them. Kids instinctively know if you care about them. Of course this also gets translated into picking them up from work, letting them type their essays at your house, listening to their heartaches, lending them money, being on call at all hours, and at times letting them stay with you, i.e. mothering them. Feed them; there's the way to any teenager's heart. In short, you have to love them.

The work at the school where I teach began after a 'Hannah'-like prayer, I guess. I have really not told this to too many people as it is personal but here goes: At a very critical birthday, I cried to the Lord that if I were never to have any children to allow me to have some spiritual children. Two short months later, one of my students stayed after school and asked me about the Bible on my desk. This began a series of conversations and I began to realize God's hand. That summer I took my van around the city and began taking his friends to tent meetings. The Lord filled the van. The next year when the boy was saved, he asked if we could have a Bible study at school. That year (1990) the equal access law was passed which allows for an after-school Bible study if 1. a student requests it and 2. there is a teacher who will sponsor it. Thus the Lord opened up what has been a tremendous blessing. We started in a very small way but through the years the Lord has blessed in salvation and interest. Different ones would come from time to time to help when they could.

Then in 1996 I persuaded Don Draper, who has a gift with young people, to come to talk to the group. He was the Lord's person for this work. The kids love and respect him. In his consistent manner he has continued for 10 years and added many incentives for the kids to come - a scholarship, awards banquet. He also agreed to start a Bible study in my home as some of the kids had professed and needed more instruction. From these two groups (as well as his large work with city Sunday School kids) we are able to invite them to the gospel meetings. In the early years Gene Higgins would come whenever I saw someone getting very interested and through that means some were saved and are now added to the assembly. I really do very little but love them, feed them, listen to them and ask them to meeting. I feel a bit embarrassed telling you all of this, but would appreciate your prayers; I'm not sure whether much of this is useful for your purposes. Sincerely In the Lord, Trudy Odem

As you read - perhaps you can see that it is possible that Trudy doesn't even realize the tremendous power of her influence, but we may be sure that others have felt it and the Lord will reward it.



GOD'S LOVE is a
POWERFUL MAGNET

DO THOSE REFERENCES CONFUSE YOU?

Marlene Ryks from Alberta, Canada writes: One evening my parents came over for a visit. Our 5 year-old son, Kyle, decided to impress his grandparents by reciting his latest memory verse. He stood to attention—rattled off the verse famously, and we all listened rather proudly until he reached the reference, "Delusions 5:16."