



March 21, 1986

Dear Children's Fellowship Teachers:

God bless you and greetings in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.

I recently received a letter from Pat Conger, the International Coordinator of Children's Fellowship, and wanted you to hear her great heart, information, and suggestions from the following excerpts.

CRAFTS AND SPECIAL "DOOS"

Regarding crafts, watching Cindy Bernardini's video is the best sharing on this subject (you may want to add some of your own heart, too). The book entitled I Saw a Purple Cow (by Ann Cole, Little, Brown and Co.) is very good for getting someone started in the wonderful "world of crafts." There are game ideas and recipes for clay dough, too. I rarely use the craft exactly as it is set forth in this book, but I get great ideas that can be adapted with the result being a tremendous "spiritual" craft for our children. Do you have a great craft book that has helped you in your fellowships? Please let me know the name.

A big THANK YOU for the "fishing for promises" craft. I adapted it by using styrofoam for the fish (easy to cut out) and straws and yarn for the line and pole. A twisted paper clip was used for the hook. The fish had a small piece of paper glued on with a retemory on the subject of believing. Each group of children (four or five) had a box on their table with the fish inside for them to "fish for promises" (with the help of the adult workers). Also, another benefit of styrofoam is that it floats.

To quote Cindy Bernardini, "After a good teaching your children will remember the record taught in sequence, be able to relate the principles learned, apply the principles, and TEACH OTHERS." This is from the "Teaching Techniques" video that you all have at your Limb Office. The craft has a big impact in helping to make all of this happen. The end result, of course, is speaking forth the Word.

CHILDREN TEACHING THE WORD

When you are working with children who desire to teach the Word in a fellowship, one of the best books to have them read (beside the Word) is Volume I, The Bible Tells Me So. The teachings are simple and concise. Then have them share what they learned from reading. Help them put together a sharing that is short and to the point. A child should not teach before he has shared his teaching with his parents first and he is mature enough to handle God's Word rightly divided. Also, you could show your school-age children how to use a concordance (and other research books). The children will love it. Some of them may already know how to work the Word with these books.

Children love to help with the fellowship, setting up and doing the craft, too. When I coordinated a Branch Children's Fellowship in Stockton, California, there were three wonderful Mini-Corps children who helped me tremendously. One time they did the whole fellowship themselves: one taught, one did the craft, and one coordinated the refreshments. It was wonderful (they were all over ten years old)! Of course, they did not do this every time (and you do not need to have a snack every time, either). But, their faithfulness to attend the fellowship (it was their home), and help the other children was a big blessing and fine example. The other children really loved Danny, Tommy, and Rene, and what they taught about the Word and the Family Way Corps.

I recently attended a Christian Family and Sex video class with a small group of Staff at Headquarters (it was for engaged individuals only). Many foundational truths in the Word regarding the family (and sex) are set forth in this class. Here are some statements Dr. Wierwille shared in the class that I thought would bless you and your family:

- *The Christian family is so dynamically important!
- *Children need to learn to work.
- *To work is an admirable thing.
- *Parents have a responsibility to teach their kids to work.
- *There needs to be lots of forgiveness with a husband, wife, and children (Colossians 3:12-21).
- *Parents need to be Christians walking according to the rightly divided Word.
- *Children have to be taught to obey--they don't like it (obedience).
- *In obedience there is the greatest freedom: without this freedom, there is confusion, disobedience, and trouble.
- *A parent has to mean what they say when reproofing his child. A child knows if you mean what you say.
- *Moving God's Word is always number one, not your spouse.

These are from Life Lines:

"Bring up our children in the sensitivity of the love of God--that's my vision."

"Sharing the knowledge of God's Word from generation to generation--that's the only way the Word remains alive and vigorous."

Regarding "honor" and "obey," a child should have love and respect for his parents; a doulos commitment (as slave). This comes from a faithful living and sharing of God's Word in the home environment first. Children need to get to the point where they are blessed to obey, to do the Word from their heart (not because a parent is always watching his actions). The Word is faithful! Obedience is learned (Hebrews 5:8). Jesus Christ became obedient and he had free will to

do whatever he desired. His desire was to do the Word. Who taught him? Did he learn it in fellowship? He did fellowship with other believers, but the foundation of his learning about life according to the Word was from his parents. God worked in their hearts to raise him according to the Scriptures. Christ was taught to obey and love his parents. His greatest love was for God and His Word. He knew who he was and what God had called him to be. What has God called you and I to be? What about our children? Ephesians sets it clear, "...he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...."

In Philippians 2:6-8 and 12-16, God shares on obedience. Jesus Christ listened intently in order to know the heart of God from the written and spoken Word. Then he could hold it forth with all boldness. First comes the receiving of the Word and then the shining "as lights in the world." Verse 16 states, "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Our labor is not in vain as we obey, hold the Word in our heart, and then release it with all boldness. That's the Word! Also, in verse 14 God shares that we are to "do all things without murmurings and disputings." It takes faithfulness to teach doctrine, and then reprove, and correct in love. Think of our children walking in love and sharing the Word to those with ears to hear. The benefits of obedience to the Word are abundant. Let's encourage our parents to keep on faithfully holding forth the Word to their children with vision in their hearts. Our goal is to move God's Word over the world and our children need to understand their vital part in that goal. See your children with a doulos attitude from the heart! Believing images of victory!

It would behoove (meaning, to be beneficial, proper, and necessary) you to really work this fantastic material and information from Pat - make it your own and then communicate it in your area.

I have been thinking a lot about the word attitude. When we see a "bad attitude" in our children, we need to reprove and correct that just as we would with outright disobedience. What is it to have a bad or good attitude? The meaning of the word was vague to me so I looked in the Young's Concordance, it did not appear there, so I looked it up in Webster's Dictionary. It means (1) the arrangements of the parts of a body or figure: posture (2) a mental position with regard to a fact or state (3) a position assumed for a specific purpose (4) a ballet position and (5) a state of readiness to repond in a characteristic way to a stimulus (as an object, concept, or situation). What does this all mean? Attitude is position of the mind. I think of the position that is allegorically taken in the Athletes of the Spirit production for speaking in tongues, - knees bent - hands poised in readiness - like an athlete ready to wrestle or return a tennis serve or to lunge off the line in football. When our mental position is poised in readiness to respond to the stimulus of the Word of God, we have a "good attitude." This I think will help us in working with our children on their attitude - because we have a clear picture in our mind of what to shoot for in building in them a good attitude...a poised readiness to respond to the Word of God.

How to Teach Your Children About Finances is available to send to you to hear and for your parents. It is a short, but very practical and educational tape that would benefit you all to hear.

I am awaiting to hear from you by way of your quarterly reports.

I love you and thank God for your faithfulness.

In Him,


Holly Hill