

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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The following survey of the educational program in our church for this year is divided into age groupings, specialized programs, and administrative functions. Each area of work is prefaced with a description of some effective and positive changes which have occurred in the lives of those working in this program. This is being presented in this manner to emphasize that fact that the ultimate aim of our work is to produce Christian experiences and growth in Christian maturity in the lives of all persons involved in our program. This is the only valid criterion by which we can evaluate the effectiveness of our work.

I THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION

In the primary department, one of the children was a perennial discipline problem. Following a shift in the teaching procedure which provided for more individual attention for the pupils, this child reported in a conversation one Sunday morning that God could not be like her father because she didn't have a father, and that her mother didn't love her either. Following this lead very carefully, the teacher began to work more closely with the child both at church and at home where she visited with the mother. With this expression of concern and genuine Christian love, this child has come to feel the affection and warmth of a Christian teacher who is mediating to her the love of God. It is interesting to note that this child is no longer a discipline problem.

The teacher mentioned above was, until last September, one of the many "unknown" and "uninvolved" members of our congregation. Her selection, recruitment, training, and work have contributed to her growth as a "participating Christian".

Other examples could be cited as evidence of growth of persons in the children's division; space will permit me to cite only several of the important activities in which this growth occurred.

1. Our Vacation Church School last August utilized 51 staff persons to give Christian teaching to 109 children. This year's school will be conducted July 20 to August 1.
2. A workshop for the teachers in the Nursery department was conducted last September and provided the stimulus for a more efficient teaching program in the three-year-olds class.
3. The Home Department of the nursery children was re-organized late last summer to provide an enlarged and improved ministry of visitation and contact with parents of new-born infants and pre-church school aged children. The five visitors at work here have enrolled 45 babies in their group.

3. A Youth Activities Week was held jointly with the Subdistrict.
4. In the Kindergarten, the introduction of new curriculum teaching materials has enriched their program considerably. Also the remodeling of the five-year-old room has contributed to better learning situations.
 5. The Primary department has made an excellent change in its teaching program, and has separated the first and second grades by moving the second grade to a new room. The first grade teachers made a trip to Greensboro to observe the teaching program in West Market Street Church. These steps have improved our work greatly.
 6. The fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in the Junior department have this year for the first time used effectively the team teaching plan. The teaching staff in these grades has produced the kind of group work that makes Christian learning the most effective.
 7. Mrs. C. G. Bookhout, the Superintendent of the Children's Division, and the devoted teachers and workers here are to be commended for their tireless service. Through departmental meetings, council meetings, visiting, teaching, planning, recruiting, studying, and working they have spent many hours providing for the growth of our children.
 8. While our work with children is good and improving, much remains to be done. More space for teaching is needed badly. Additional leadership needs to be trained. Further separation and more closely grading needs to be done in the Nursery department. Additional teaching sessions and weekday classes should be set up. Further work in arts and crafts, recreation, and day camping needs to be initiated. Perhaps the greatest single need here is the development of a plan for greater cooperation between parents and teachers in the teaching program. This would involve the organization of a church school P T A and the setting of parent's study groups.

II THE YOUTH DIVISION

Last fall there moved into our community a family with three children, one of whom was a teen-age girl. Several visits were made with little response on the part of the family in terms of attending our church. About a month later three of our M Y F girls were asked to visit the new-comer and if possible get her into the M Y F program. Our girls reported that the new-comer was very shy and lonely, and not too well adjusted, having moved three times in the last three years. With encouragement, however, they brought her to the evening programs at the church. But they did not stop with this; recognizing her need to belong and for affection, they carried her to parties and arranged for blind dates. Sometime later she began to show signs of responsiveness and assumed responsibilities in our program. During the last several months she has grown in her maturity and seems to feel a strong sense of devotion to our Christian fellowship. This is an excellent example of the redemptive fellowship in action.

Our youth program contains many varied activities which provide opportunity for growth in the Christian Faith. Following are some of the most effective ones accomplished this year.

1. The Senior M Y F conducted a visitation program last July to activate their inactive members. This type of person-to-person evangelism proved to be helpful both in recruiting members and creating a sense of useful service on the part of the visitors.

2. A Youth Activities Week was held jointly with the Subdistrict.
3. Two retreats were held, one a recreation week-end, the other a planning session to set up the youth program for the new year.
4. The Older Youth Class was re-organized in the fall and served the college aged group during this year.
5. The Senior M Y F evening group visited institutions, did a mission study of Japan, helped organize fellowship teams to visit and improve other M Y Fs, presented the Easter sunrise service, conducted a car wash, and in general was busy throughout the year.
6. An excellent dramatic production was given by the Senior group at Christmas.
7. The Intermediate department, comprising the 7, 8, and 9 grades, have managed to exist with a meager program this year. Without enough leadership and interest, the department has lost membership and morals. Much needs to be done in this area of our program.
8. One stimulating effort in the Intermediate work, however, has been redemptive. Reverend Thor Hall, a Divinity Student from Norway, has worked for the past six months with the evening group and has made a lasting impression on these youth.
9. Mr. Irving Allen, who for many years has given freely of himself as Superintendent of the Youth Division, has asked to be relieved of this position so that he might return to teaching a class. He is due our most profound gratitude for the fine service he has given. His loyalty and willingness to work in the interest of the young people, and his concern for their personal development has long been a good influence on our boys and girls.
10. The Youth Program, however, needs to continue its growth. Additional adult leadership is needed, more ambitious and creative program activities need to be undertaken, a new building is needed to permit the development of a new and creative type of recreational program. These and other needs should get our official attention immediately.

III THE ADULT DIVISION

The Duke Memorial Weekday school has been conducted this year for some wag many years ago came out with the erroneous proverb that "adults are too old to learn". This is now known to be an untrue addage. With every major industry in the country operating a leadership training program for its employees, and Dale Carnegie, the Y M C A, and college night classes filled with adult learners, the old saying has lost its meaning. It remains now for the church to recognize that its adult members can also still learn much about the Christian Faith and Life.

In at least one instance that I know, this has been taking place in an adult class in our church. This class operates its teaching program on a discussion group basis. At the conclusion of one of the intensive units of study one lady commented to me that "the ideas I have just learned have exploded a whole background of misinformation about my faith and opened at new world to me. For years I have been afraid of God, now I feel a new warmth in the relationship." Indeed adults can learn, grow, and change!

Some of the following actions which have been taken this year will do much to help us get into a sounder adult educational program.

1. An Adult Council, composed of all the teachers and officers of the adult classes, was organized last fall. It has met four times and has elected a Superintendent for the Division, set up two projects, and discussed ways of improving the program in the classes. From this group may grow the new ways of meeting more adequately the crucial needs of adults.
2. Two of our adult classes have now begun to use the unit system and discussion method of teaching, allowing class members to select subjects that meet their specific needs.
3. I am pleased to report that all the classes cooperated in our efforts to develop a unified budget this year. The adult classes evaluated their Sunday collections and increased their collective giving to the church school. We are especially grateful for their willingness to cooperate.
4. Some of the pressing needs in our adult program are:
 - a. to organize immediately another Young Adult class for married couples. This project is now beginning to gather interest and probably will be started in September.
 - b. A special ministry needs to be given to the more than 300 older adults in our membership.
 - c. Adult teacher training workshops need to be conducted for our workers with adults.

IV SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

A great deal of our work in Christian education is done outside the Sunday morning class period. Some of the most significant contributions which we make toward developing Christian experiences are done in these weekday programs. We need to view our work here at Duke Memorial especially in terms of programming beyond the confines of Sunday morning since we are in a better position to provide specialized forms of creative Christian education. Following are some of the things we are doing in this field:

1. The Duke Memorial Weekday school has been conducted this year for 82 pre-school boys and girls. This interdenominational school has made a real contribution to both parents and children with its cooperative program. This spring the Commission on Education set up a special committee to study the work of this school with the view of improving its profession standards so that it will be eligible to become accredited by the State Board of Instruction.
2. Preparatory Membership classes were conducted for Juniors and Intermediates with 30 joining the church this spring from the classes. Additional work needs to be done here in securing cooperation of parents and congregation in providing a stronger program.
3. Our Scouting program is one of the best in the city. This year it has added additional adult leaders and revised its Council charter to secure increased participation of adult committees and resource people.

4. The Church Basketball Program was conducted again this year through the Y M C A church league. Mr. Charles Ball involved 25-30 of our Junior and Intermediate and Senior boys in a winning year.
5. Family Night Fellowship Suppers were conducted five times this year and provided good fellowship and information to about 180 people each time.
6. A Leadership Training Program was developed this year to prepare teachers for work in the church school. More than a dozen persons completed this course and are ready for service. Another course is planned for next year.
7. The Durham area Christian Workers School was attended by about 40 of our workers, many of whom received certificates.
8. Our small church library was used extensively during the last six months period by classes and individuals. A lending system has been set up and it is expected that others will find this program useful.
9. Duke Memorial was host this year to the Conference Coaching School and provided housing and meals for about 65 participants. We also were hosts for the District Vacation Church School Institutes in March.

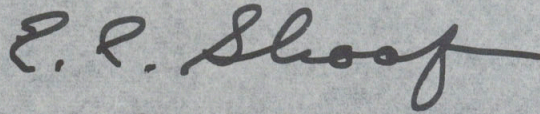
V ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

The Minister of Education conceives of his role in the work of the church as a professional resource person whose duty it is to give guidance and stimulation when and where it is needed in the educational program. This principle is important in terms of developing lay leadership. When the Minister takes over the function of a church official or worker he has done great harm. For this reason the administration of the Minister of Education has been delegated to the Commission on Education and its officers. This function and relationship has been developed this year, and I recognize it as a progressive step. The following progress is noted:

1. The Commission on Education has met each month this year with excellent attendance and interest. It has faced realistically its problems and set itself about finding solutions for them. No issue has been evaded! Its committees and officers have worked hard and efficiently. This is the kind of work that will build a strong program here at Duke Memorial.
2. Changes in personnel are inevitable. The changes made this year have been made in the best spirit. While the recruiting of new workers has at times seemed almost an impossibility, many people have responded to our calls.
3. Wherever possible, when we have recruited new persons, they have been oriented to their work. Last September a special orientation program was conducted for all our new church school workers.

4. Some work has been done this year on our battered rolls and records. Additional work needs to be done at this point.
5. Additional secretarial help is needed badly for the staff.
6. During the second semester of this year we were assigned three Divinity students who are majoring in Christian Education to do clinical work in our church school classes. These persons did excellent work and were greatly benefited from this kind of supervised training.
7. The Minister of Education is grateful for the opportunity to attend the Leadership School at Lake Junaluska last August, and the National Conference on Christian Education in Cincinnati, Ohio, in November.
8. I should like to express my appreciation for the warm reception given me by everyone here at Duke Memorial this year. It has been a real pleasure to work with such a responsive group. I should also like to give special commendation to the Chairman of the Commission, the Church School Superintendent, and all the officers, teachers, and workers, for their cooperation and good service.

Respectfully submitted,



E. C. Shoaf