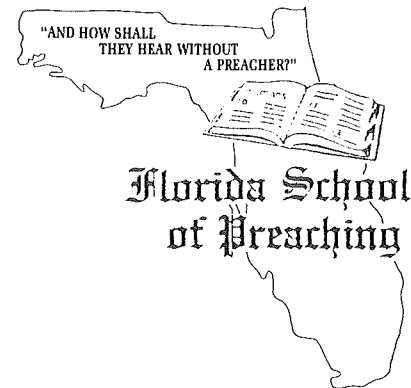


THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME VIII

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Something is Happening To God's Children

By
B.C. CARR

A Tale

Have you heard the tale about the man who saw an alligator catch and devour a small child. Naturally he was greatly excited—he rushed to the shack nearby, where a large number of children were playing unattended. After much shouting and inquiry he found the mother and with panting breath related the horrible tragedy he had witnessed. If he expected this mother to become hysterical he was wrong. To his surprise she merely yawned and said: "My! My! I been telling the ole man sumptin been gwine wid our chillun".

Per-
haps this in-
cident never
really hap-
pened. It, no
doubt, was told



to magnify the idea of having so many children that one would scarcely be missed. It suggests that in a multitude a few can be given up without alarm. It might even infer that bringing children into the world is more important than seeing to it that they survive until maturity. Anyway it's a shocking idea.

A True Story

The above reminds us of a story of our day that is all too true. It is the story of what is happening to God's little children, the newborn babe, the immature child who is being devoured by our adversary, the



devil (I Pet. 5:8). This is not just an occasional thing, it is taking place in just about every congregation throughout the land. It is past time for someone to sound the alarm that we might be made aware of our great loss and do something about it. It is not enough just to spend all our energies in bringing new babes into the family of God, only to let them perish. In fact, if we were to behave in such fashion with our fleshly families someone would be

prosecuted and punished for criminal neglect.

Just let us read in the paper about a child that has been starved or severely beaten until it dies. Watch our reaction. We are ready to condemn and punish the parents. Suppose the call goes out that the child is lost. Maybe it strayed from its parents and became lost in the woods. We blame the parents for not being more watchful. We excuse the child because it is a child. It does not know the dangers of going astray. To the last man we are ready to lay aside everything else and join in the search until the lost child is safely back home. This is as it should be.

Application

Let a child of God become lost. He is a babe; he strayed away from the fold. He is in danger of losing his eternal soul. Time may be running out for him. A cry for help goes out. There is hardly a stir, more cries, but little help is offered. One raises his voice to criticize the child of God for going astray. Another excuses himself because he is busy with other matters. Besides, this is not his responsibility. A child

dies; a soul is lost. The mourners are few. Why brethren--Why?

Running To Stand Still

Have you ever read the glowing reports we preachers send in to our papers telling how many have been baptized where we have labored? Brother "A" reports 600 responses during his stay with the church at Laodicea. (Wonder why more churches do not use this name?) Brother "B" who is known for his ability to do personal work and baptize people, not to mention his ability to attract young people, is called to work with this fine church. After six years of fruitful labor in which 600 more respond Brother "B" moves on that the elders might find the proper man to lead them forth. Just suppose a preacher who knew the church at Laodicea several years ago, when they only had 300 attendance on Sunday morning, should read the above reports and desire to work for a larger church. He decides to visit for a "try-out." What a shock when Sunday morning comes and he is greeted by about 350 people. How could this be? 300 plus 600 plus 600 should have made a congregation of 1500 people. What has happened?

The truth is that in spite of the 600 responses Brother "A" could see the church was not growing. He was discouraged. He wanted to find a church where he could see an increase for his labor. The elders were unhappy. They felt that perhaps another preacher could hold those converted, thus change after change is made. Figures are reported yet we are just gaining one soul to lose another. There are exceptions but they are too few. We still have a need to bring people in the front door (by baptisms) but we must find a way to close the back door thru which so many are falling away.

A church I know that kept records for a year, very carefully, reported these results: 137 baptized, restored or placed membership. During the same period 104 either

died, moved away, or ceased to attend regularly. This only listed an increase of 33, which seems very little for so much work. Yet I believe this is above average. Brother N.B. Hardeman used to tell about a horse that could pace all day in the shade of a tree; this is about what we are doing. In other words we must run hard to stand still. Brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Recruiting And Training Preachers

By

Jackie M. Stearsman

Preachers are not born. They must be motivated to become faithful servants of the Lord. They may avoid many pitfalls in preaching with training. *The Florida School of Preaching* is devoted to enlisting and helping to develop man for a life of service in teaching the Gospel.

We may succeed to the extent that we have faithful fellow-workers (III John 8). Financial support is needed and appreciated. There is also the need for each of us to recognize the importance of finding faithful men to train and encourage in preaching.

Jesus Recruited And Trained Preachers

Jesus chose and trained the Apostles. These twelve were selected from the disciples that were made by John and His followers. In Matthew 10 we have Jesus explaining to them what they may expect when they preach. In the same chapter they are told how they may expect to be supported. In the closing verses of this chapter he gave encouraging words to those who would be the supporters of those he was training and sending to preach.

Jesus had to recruit preachers. Do we have another method of finding men to preach? Jesus found preachers to train from among the faithful disciples? Do we think we can improve upon this? Jesus pre-

pared men to teach others. Do we think we can have men to preach without helping them learn what is involved in preaching? Jesus taught those he was training to seek support from faithful brethren. Do we think that support for men in training will come from someone else?

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest . . . And he called unto him his twelve . . . These twelve Jesus sent forth, and charged them, saying . . . Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. . . . What I tell you in the darkness, speak ye in the light" (Matt. 9:36-38; 10:1, 5, 16, 27).

Paul Recruited And Trained Preachers

On Paul's second preaching

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

trip he revisited Lystra and Derbe (Acts 16:1-5). There he becomes aware of Timothy. Timothy was well known and well respected by brethren who knew him. Paul recruited Timothy to go with him and took certain measures to insure his success as a fellow-worker. In this we have a great model of a man being recruited and trained to preach the saving message of Christ.

Paul often sent Timothy to troubled churches and called upon brethren to receive him and support him.

"Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; . . . And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily (Acts 16:1-5).

Are any so uninformed that they can conceive of Timothy becoming a preacher without the selection of Paul? How did Paul learn of Timothy's potential as a preacher? Was it not from faithful and interested brethren who knew him. How was Timothy trained? (Phil. 4:9; II Tim. 4:13).

The Apostle Paul had to recruit preachers to train. Do we have another method? An inspired Apostle had to train preachers. Do we think that preachers can merely begin without some assistance and direction? A person can use assistance in learning the gospel (Acts 8:31). A preacher can be assisted in learning to preach. Whom does God expect to help preachers in training?

Some need more assistance in developing their preaching potential than do others. John Mark is a classic example. He was not prepared as a preacher to do what Paul thought he should do at one time in his life (Acts 15:37-41). In time, with additional edification from Barnabas, Paul recognized his potential and sought to recruit him for greater service (II Tim. 4:11).

Barnabas and Paul had much to do with recruiting John Mark. John Mark was a relative of Barnabas. Do you have a relative that has the potential of a John Mark or Timothy? Are you sure? Have you sought to recruit them in service for the Lord? Would you support them should they be willing to serve? Mark is indicative of one who needed additional help in developing his potential as a preacher. None are born preachers. All of us who are preachers have sought and found others to help us. Let us be willing to help others.

Let Us Recruit And Train Preachers

Jesus and the Apostles had to recruit preachers. Jesus and the Apostles had to train preachers. Faithful brethren helped to recruit preachers. Faithful brethren supported faithful preachers (III John 1-8).

To Congregations

Do you have a potential Timothy or John Mark in your midst? Are you sure? Consider it prayerfully. This is what the Lord admonished us to do (Matt. 9:37-38). If you were seeking a preacher where would you turn? Are you think of securing a preacher with no training? If he is to have proper training where will he secure it?

Preachers for the coming generation must be trained now. Where are they to be found? In the world? Who is to assist them in making the necessary preparation for future service? Do not congregations need to consider helping to enlist and train preachers for the

future?

To Individuals

John Mark and Timothy had relatives who played a role in their development. Have you considered encouraging those near to you to become preachers. If you did where would they be most likely to receive the essential foundation for future service?

Conclusion

We are committed to recruiting and training preachers. In the coming months we will be making a concerted effort to recruit new preacher students for the fall. We will be encouraging present students to continue and we must enroll new students regularly.

Will you consider the need for preachers and encourage those you respect and have confidence in to prepare for preaching the greatest message man ever heard? Every generation must have preachers. If we do not recruit them who will?

THANK YOU

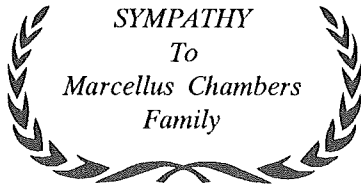
*To the Florida School of Preaching
Our deepest thanks to each
one of you for your prayers, do-
nations, and love. All is deeply
appreciated.*

Sincerely, and deepest love,

The Charles Austin family

THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the May 1990 meeting three men were added to the board of directors for the *Florida School of Preaching*. They are **Paul W. Eubanks**, preacher for the Pinycastle Church of Christ in Orlando, Florida; **Willis Pack**, preacher for the Lake Placid Church of Christ; and **Jackie Stearsman**.



The Florida School of Preaching lost a long time friend and supporter with the passing of brother Chambers. The Chambers family came with the original group who started the South Florida Avenue Congregation. Brother Chambers served as an elder of the South Florida Avenue Congregation. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Services were conducted in the South Florida Avenue building, Saturday, May 5, 1990, by brothers B.C. Carr, Robert McAnally and Glen Sheumaker.

LECTURESHIP NEWS

January 21-24, 1991 is the date for the Sixteenth Annual Florida School of Preaching Lectureship. The theme will be *Understanding The Will of God*.

The speakers have been selected and preparation is underway. A special feature this year will be the "Difficult Passages Forum." This will be conducted each afternoon at 3:30. Mark your calendar, clear it with the boss and bring family and friends.

**HELP RECRUIT
PREACHERS**

"And he gave some . . . evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).

FALL SEMESTER 1990		
8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:30	MONDAY English Grammar Old Testament History	Newell Stearsman
8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:30 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	TUESDAY Greek Gospel of John Old Testament Survey	Stearsman Carr Blackman
8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:30	WEDNESDAY Church History Acts	Stearsman Newell
8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:30	THURSDAY Major Prophets Personal Evangelism	Newell Stilwell
8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:30	FRIDAY Books of Poetry Educational Program Of the church	Stearsman Newell
Daily 10:00 Break	Daily 10:15 Devotional	Daily 2:30 Break

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