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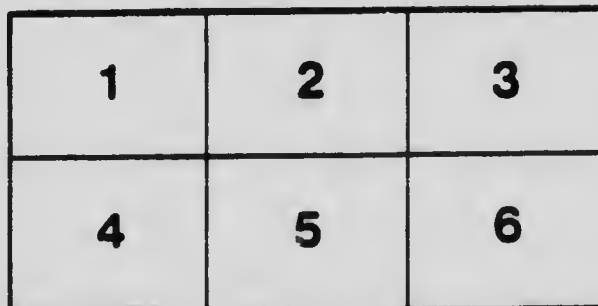
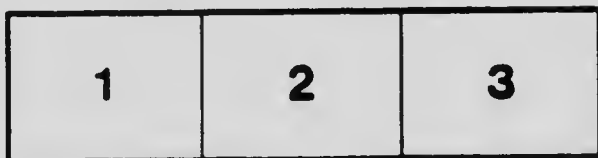
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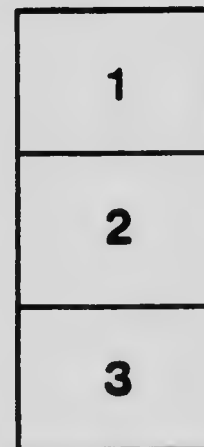
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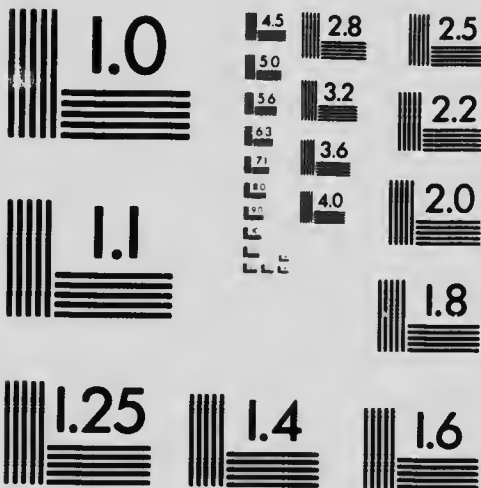
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The
Forward Movement
and
Christian Education



*A Survey of the Work of Christian
Education and its requirements for
the next five years, prepared by the
Board of Sabbath Schools and Young
Peoples' Societies, November, 1918.*



Issued by
The Committee of the Forward
Movement of the Presbyterian
Church in Canada

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OUR SUPREME INTEREST

To Make Ready our Boys and Girls for the New Era

They are Canada's greatest asset as she enters upon the New Era of unselfish service. To cultivate and conserve their powers and to prepare them for their high responsibility, it is essential to lead them to know and follow Jesus Christ.

The agencies at work are the Home, School, Church with Sunday School, etc., and Community.

The Public School, while a most important character-forming agency, is not responsible for teaching Religion. The Community forces—play, amusement, recreation—unless wisely directed, may be destructive in their influence rather than helpful. The Home, while central in every way, has frequently failed in its highest function as a definite teacher of religion.

The Church, with its School of Religious Instruction and Mid-week Organizations for Training, as the one agency devoted entirely to the teaching of religion, must, therefore, not only help the Home, inspire the School, and co-operate with Community forces, but also must undertake, in a much more thorough-going way, the task of giving adequate religious Instruction, Worship and Training for all.

The Great World War has been fought and won "to make the world safe for democracy." Another great task remains to be accomplished, namely, "to make democracy safe for the world." Two things are essential. Its citizens must be intelligent and thus able to think rightly on all the problems with which it has to deal. They must also be Christian and thus be able to choose and act rightly—"do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God." The first of these, the State is responsible for doing through its splendid system of Public Schools. Its aim is that not one child shall grow up in ignorance. The second, the Church is responsible for doing in such a way that none shall be deprived of the moral and religious training which is the birthright of every child.

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THE HOME CENTRAL

Religion in the Home

"Any thoughtful survey of Religious Education will lead inevitably to re-emphasizing the primacy of the home in character formation. Not only can no other Institution take its place, but if it fails, none of the others can succeed. In the making of manhood and womanhood, the home remains the great school of character."—Report of Commission, Assembly Minutes, 1914.

Yet

Probably not more than 25 per cent. of even Christian families have any regular habit of family worship or systematic plan for instructing their children.

1. **Survey of Home Conditions.** The first necessity is a careful study and complete survey of Home Conditions extending through a number of years so that the Board may be able to reach wise conclusions and outline a strong constructive policy.

2. **Constructive Plans**, along the following and other lines, should be provided and systematically promoted throughout the Church :

(1) **Adequate Helps**, such as inspirational and educative pamphlets, magazines, small circulating libraries of suitable books, etc.

(2) **Family Worship**—Definite plans for securing this under different conditions and the provision of suitable helps.

(3) **Parents' Classes and Mothers' Meetings** organized and carried out so as to give help in meeting the responsibilities of parenthood.

(4) **Parents' and Teachers' Conferences** for the closer co-operation of the Home and the Sunday School.

(5) **Series of Addresses** of a popular and educative nature, both in the pulpit and the platform, on the Child and the Home.

"The foundations of national glory rest in the homes of the people."—KING GEORGE.

THE CHURCH'S HOPE

The place of the Child in the Church of to-day determines the place of the Church to-morrow. What about the **attendance of Children at Church** to-day ?

The "Commission on Religious Education" of our Church reported less than 20 per cent. of the Sunday School population regularly at one Service of the Church. Yet in one year the "Children at Church Movement" spread to 283 congregations, with an average attendance of 51 per cent. of all under 16, and last year 737 churches reported definite plans for encouraging children's attendance at Church. This is well, but over 800 churches report no special effort to bring about a better state of affairs. Probably 75 per cent. of our children do not attend the regular services and are not being brought into full communion with the Church. How can we expect them in the Church to-morrow ?

The Pastor of the Church is the Pastor of the children. Who should lead in the Religious Training of the youth of the Church if not the men who have been called and trained for that work ? The Master's instructions were not only "Feed my sheep," but also "Feed my lambs," and the record puts "Feed my lambs" first.

Some Conditions of Success

1. **A simple method like the "Children at Church Movement,"** as provided by Presbyterian Publications.
2. **A definite share in the service** (e.g., appropriate Hymn or Psalm as provided in the Curriculum, responsive Bible Reading, Brief Prayer, Sermon Story, etc.)
3. **Some expression and recognition** (e.g., giving back the sermon in occasional essay and some recognition as provided in the Curriculum).
4. **Definite training for Church Membership** through special Communicants' Classes in regular Sunday School groups, or as is provided in the Curriculum through the C.S.E.T. and C.G.I.T. Programmes.

" THAT NONE MAY BE LOST "

The Prayer of Jesus

The Report of the Commission to the General Assembly (Assembly Minutes, 1914) tells in diagram form the startling fact that the Sunday School loses 50 per cent. of its membership before reaching the age of 21 years.

From 9-12 years of age the enrollment was found to be 91 per cent. of the population and the average attendance 70 per cent.

From 13-16 the enrollment was 78 per cent. and the average attendance 58 per cent.

From 17-20 the enrollment was 55 per cent. and the average attendance 39 per cent.

From 21 up the enrollment was 65 per cent. and the average attendance 47 per cent.

Yet we know that "if you would put anything into the life of a nation you must first put it into the schools." Surely the world has had sufficient demonstration of what it means to put scientific and technical knowledge into the life of a nation without adequate moral and religious instruction.

"Thou shalt teach these words diligently to thy children" is the solemn injunction of the Scriptures, and Jesus said, "These words of mine they are spirit and they are life." Yet the Sunday School is the only organized effort to teach the Bible and the truths of religion to our youth. That we lose 50 per cent. from this, our only School of Religion, before 20 and that only 50 per cent. of those retained are brought into full communion with the Church makes a very serious situation indeed and should give the Church most serious concern.

We are convinced, however, that this state of things is not necessary. Where right principles of work are followed, these conditions are entirely changed. One city reports an increase of 30 per cent. in the attendance of 'teen age boys after one year of aggressive work with the C.S.E.T. Programme. Teachers and Ministers report whole groups of boys being brought into full communion after definite work along these lines. Understanding and consecrated leadership under Divine guidance is all that is necessary.

ENLISTMENT—REACHING THE UN-REACHED

During the last 10 years there has been an increase of 1,000 Sunday Schools, 10,000 teachers and 100,000 pupils. In the same time Junior, 'Teen-age and Young People's Organizations for mid-week training increased by nearly 800, and in membership by over 23,000. This is good.

BUT

There are 50,000 to 100,000 under 20 years of age not enrolled in any Sunday School.

1. In Organized Churches

In the regularly organized churches probably only 25 per cent. are regularly at the Church Service for Worship, only 50 per cent. at Sunday School for Religious Instruction, and only a very small percentage at midweek meetings for training.

2. In Unorganized Territory

In our vast Home Mission territory there are 1,000 preaching places without a Sunday School and 2,000 without any plan for midweek training.

In 90 Public School districts in British Columbia only 15 Sunday Schools were found. In 300 School districts in Saskatchewan no Protestant services.

3. In Non-Anglo Saxon Districts

In Saskatchewan 45½% are Non-British—how serious the situation is and how necessary that we should make larger provision for giving the Gospel Message to the children of the strangers.

4. In the Foreign Field

This field is almost unlimited in its scope and needs. We must make larger provision.

URGENT NEEDS

A great campaign for **Enlisting the Last Boy and Girl and Young Man and Young Woman in the Schools of the Church.**

Hundreds of new Schools organized in the next five years and teachers secured for this work.

“Seek diligently **until** he find it.”

TRAINED LEADERSHIP

The need was never more apparent than to-day. The world, as well as the Church, is crying out for Trained Leadership.

Much has been done. In 10 years over 6,000 teachers have received certificates for work done in Teacher Training Classes. Over 500 young people follow short courses of training each year at Summer Schools. Thousands of workers have received inspiration and help in doing their work, through Institutes and Conferences. But of our 30,000 teachers only a fraction have had any standard training course.

Wanted—in next Five Years—

Trained Leaders

1. 500 Recruits for the Ministry

These must first be nurtured and inspired in our Homes and Sunday Schools.

2. 100 Special Church Workers

Both men and women are needed as Directors of Religious Education in the Local Church, as Social Workers, Deaconesses, etc. The demands for leaders are greatly in excess of the supply.

3. 50,000 Trained Lay Workers

The New Standard Teacher Training Course is ready. Special Courses are also available for Leaders in Boys' and Girls' Work. Four ways for securing this training are suggested :

(1) **A Training Class** in every Church for the help of the 30,000 teachers now at work.

(2) **A Normal Class** in every Sunday School for the enlisting and training of 20,000 Young People in preparation.

(3) **A Co-operative Community Class** for Leaders of Older Boys and Girls, Young People, etc.

(4) **Special Classes** for Leaders in Missions; Social Service, etc.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.”

UNIFIED ORGANIZATION AND CURRICULUM

1. Organization

The local Church should be so organized as to provide adequately for the religious needs of all in the simplest way. The work of the Sunday School can be related to the mid-week organizations, so that one organization may serve both purposes. A Committee on Religious Education, consisting of representatives from each organization, could in a year or two bring about more correlation of effort. The following grouping is simple and easily worked in almost every place: (1) Cradle Roll, 0-3; (2) Beginners, 4-5; (3) Primary, 6-8; Junior, 9-11; Intermediate, 12-14; Senior, 15-17; Young People, 18-24; Adults, including Home, Parents, Teacher Training, etc., 24 up.

2. Curriculum

Our Board has outlined a complete Curriculum of Instruction, Worship and Training for each of the grades and is providing recognition through suitable certificates and diplomas.

(1) **Worship**—Congregational Worship adapted to meet the common needs of all. Group Worship provided through the various classes or departments of the Sunday School. Private Worship encouraged.

(2) **Instruction**—The Sunday School organized to meet the special needs of each grade. The chief element under instruction is Bible Study, as outlined in our own departmentally graded lessons. Instruction will also include memorization of Scripture, Catechism and Missions.

(3) **Training**—One hour on Sunday does not give enough time to do all that the Church ought to be doing for boys and girls and young people. The work of the Sunday School must be extended through mid-week meetings, especially for Training. Provision is made for this as follows: Ages, 9-11, Junior Programme of Topics; 12-17, Older Boys, C.S.E.T. Programme; 12-17, Older Girls, C.G.I.T.; and 18-23, Young People's Programme.

“Babes have need of milk, but strong meat be longeth to them that are of full age.”

BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

The Commission of the Assembly found that, on the average, for every \$100 spent on Church buildings only \$14 was spent on Sunday School buildings. For every \$100 spent on Church maintenance only \$6 was spent on the Sunday School. While \$13 was spent on Church music, only 5 cents was spent on Sunday School music. This is surely not commendable.

I. The Requirements

The principal requirements for suitable building and equipment for Sunday School work are :

1. Room for the entire school to meet together at stated occasions for special school or church programmes.
2. Smaller rooms where departments may meet for worship.
3. Class rooms where classes may meet for instruction.
4. Provision for mid-week training and recreational activities.
5. Provision for Maps, Charts, Blackboards, Reference Libraries, etc.

II. The Best Plan

All these requirements can be met quite effectively by some such plan as the following :

1. By using the Church auditorium for all sessions of the entire school.
2. By providing a two-storey building closely adjoining the Church, with separate rooms for departmental and class work.
3. By equipping the basement of the Church for mid-week training and recreational activities.

In the Next Five Years

thousands of dollars should be spent in Canada for proper equipment for the teaching of religion. Will there not be many men of whom it may be said : "He loveth our Nation and hath built us a Church."

OUR MISSIONARY POLICY

The Church will be filled with missionary zeal and true ideals of Christian Service when we provide adequate missionary education for our youth.

Last year about 2,000 Sunday Schools received some missionary education and gave nearly \$80,000 to the Missionary Budget of the Church.

But

there are still 1,500 Schools receiving little or no missionary education and giving nothing to Missions.

The Aim

1. Definite and systematic missionary education, inspiration and training of all—(a) At the regular Church services; (b) in the Sunday School; (c) at mid-week meetings. Provision is made for this in all our programmes.

2. Definite share of the missionary budget of the congregation—the Sunday School one tenth, the Young People one fifteenth, or both together one sixth.

The Method

1. Adopt the Budget Plan

This should be thoroughly explained to the teachers and officers and definitely adopted and then presented to the whole School.

2. Accept the Budget Allocation

The financial objective agreed upon should be set before the School as a whole and voted on among the various classes and departments.

3. Appoint a Missionary Secretary

No plan will work itself. Some person or committee must work the plan.

4. Use the Duplex Envelope System

The best is none too good. This is the one best way.

The missionary spirit and outlook are essential to the growth of Christian character.

OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Church's Opportunity for Decision, Training and Service

The years 12-24 are the Church's harvest time for decisions for Christ and for Christian Training and Service. The Commission Report shows that only 3 per cent. join the Church under 12 years of age and 28½ per cent. over 20, so that 68½ per cent. take this step between 13 and 20. It is also asserted, as a result of various inquiries, that fully 75 per cent. of those who enter upon Christian and Missionary Service at home and abroad make the decision during these strategic years. Yet during these same years only 45 per cent. are regularly in Sunday School and under 20 per cent in Young People's work.

The New Canadian Ideal of Four-Fold Development

Recognizing these facts, the Board, along with other bodies, has during the last few years carried out a remarkably successful campaign among Older Boys and Girls and Young People, through Leadership and Boys' and Girls' Conferences and Summer Camps. Last year 10 to 12 thousand leaders, young people, boys and girls were touched in this way and thousands led to make Forward Step Decisions for the Christian Life, Church Membership, Christian Service, the Ministry, etc. These ideals are embodied in :

Canadian Standard Efficiency Training,
for Older Boys, 12-17.

Canadian Girls in Training,
for Older Girls, 12-17.

Young People's Curriculum,
for Young People, 18-24.

In the next five years these plans of work and this inspiration and vision ought to be brought within the reach of all the 100,000 Older Boys and Girls and Young People in our Local Churches.

"Jesus increased in Wisdom and Stature and in favor with God and Man."

THE CRUSADE

The Forward Movement is a Christian Crusade for a better Canada and a better world. To that end the urgent needs and remarkable opportunities in Religious Education must be brought more insistently to the attention of the whole Church. This will require :

I. Organization

We need better organization :

(1) **Of Presbytery Committees** : (a) Departmentally for cities and towns ; (b) territorially for rural fields ; (c) co-operatively to unite with others.

(2) **Of Local Church Committees**, to correlate all the efforts of the Local Church and see that it is organized to provide an adequate programme for each grade.

II. Inspiration and Education

(1) **Of Church leaders**, through Theological Colleges, Church Courts, etc.

(2) **Of all the people**, through :

(a) Series of addresses on Religious Education.

(b) Books and literature provided and read.

(c) Congregational Visitation and Rallies.

(d) Presbyterial Institutes for groups of schools.

(e) Summer Schools and Training Camps.

(f) Leadership & Older Boys' & Girls' Conf'ces

(g) Young People's Rallies.

(h) Provincial Conventions and Congresses.

III. Leadership

Trained and qualified executive leadership must be provided. This will require :

(1) **A Small Number of Trained Leaders**, for general leadership and in such special fields as Boys' and Girls' Work, Teacher Training, Missions, Home, etc. — as territorial Field Workers assisting and training local leaders.

(2) **A Large Number of Volunteer and Part Time Workers**, carefully selected and trained, to promote this work in every Presbytery and give adequate help to every local Church.

The Goal of all our work is Spiritual.

OBJECTIVE AND REQUIREMENTS

A Summary of the Objective and Requirements of the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies for the next five years.

I. THE OBJECTIVE

1. Religion in the Home

A careful study of the home and a complete survey of home conditions with a view to putting into effect such comprehensive plans as may best help the home to take its right place as the primary agency in the religious nurture of the child, including : adequate inspirational and educational helps in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines ; definite plans for securing Family Worship, with provision for suitable helps ; Parents' Classes and Mothers' Meetings for training in the duties of parenthood ; Parents' and Teachers' Conferences for closer co-operation between the Home and the Sunday School ; and such a propaganda through the pulpit and public platform as will arouse general interest in the significance of the child and the home.

2. The Children at Church

The perfecting and promoting of such a movement through the Church as will result in bringing back into the regular services of the Church (or through Junior Congregations) that large percentage (75 or 80 per cent) who at present are not in attendance and thus provide for all our children that adequate training in **Worship** which we believe to be essential to their religious growth and future of the Church.

3. Sunday School Extension

The carrying out of such progressive plans, surveys, visitation, rallies, etc., in organized Churches as will ensure the enlisting of that 50 per cent. not now regularly in attendance at the Church and Sunday School ; the organization of hundreds of new Schools in unorganized territory ; the extension of effort in non-Anglo Saxon districts, both through literature and workers ; and the co-operation in work among children in our Foreign Fields, until the last boy and girl for whom our Church is responsible is reached with the Gospel Message and

has a fair chance of receiving the Christian Instruction and Training, which is the birthright of every child.

4. Trained Leadership

The training of an adequate number of consecrated Christian men and women for the purpose of winning our boys and girls and young people to Christ and the Church, and enlisting them in His Service. This will include co-operation in securing recruits for the ministry from our homes and Sunday Schools; the training of Church Workers (men and women) for special leadership; and the training of an army of volunteer lay workers, through Classes in the local Church, Normal Classes in Sunday Schools, Co-operative Classes in the community, Summer Schools and Camps in the district, Presbyterian Institutes, etc.

5. Adequate Organization, Curriculum and Equipment

The Christian training of all these young lives under the care and guidance of the Church requires that their life needs must be fully met. This involves: a unified organization of the local Church School, from Cradle Roll to Adult Department; an adequate programme of Religious Instruction, Worship and Training to meet the needs of each grade; and the provision of suitable buildings and equipment for the carrying out of the work.

6. A Comprehensive Missionary Policy

The extension of our policy of missionary education and training to all our children and young people and the realizing of one sixth of the Budget in their missionary givings.

7. All Older Boys and Girls and Young People in Training

The systematic extension of evangelistic and educational work among boys and girls and young people through Conferences, Rallies, and Summer Schools, etc., so as to secure an adequate programme of work in every Sunday School to the end that all may be led to definite decision for Christ, to enter into training in the Church and dedicate themselves to Christian Service.

II. THE REQUIREMENTS

1. Workers—For the carrying on of this work and reaching this objective there will be required : **first**, a limited number of General Leaders and of Special Leaders in various departments and especially of Territorial Field Workers, for giving effective direction to the work and for the training of volunteer workers ; and **second**, a large number of Volunteer and Part Time Workers, who will make special preparation and give necessary assistance, in each Presbytery, to promotion in the local Churches and to extension work.

2. Money—For effectively reaching this objective it is estimated that for the next five years the revenue of the Board should be increased by at least \$5,000 each year beyond that of the preceding year. This would mean an annual revenue at the end of five years of about double the present annual revenue.

LEAFLETS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Prepared by the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies. (In addition to the full line of Lesson Helps, Illustrated Papers and other supplies published and sold by Presbyterian Publications, Toronto.)

These will be found of practical value for leaders in the various departments of the work of the Church, to whom they will be sent free, on application to the General Secretary, Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Cradle Roll, Beginners and Primaries (ages up to 8 inclusive) :

“Children and Their Religious Nurture” (3 cents, sample free).

Cradle Roll leaflets.

Outline Curriculum for Beginners and Primaries.

Juniors (ages 9-11) :

“Juniors and Their Religious Care” (3 cents, sample free).

Junior Topic Card and Outline Curriculum.

(Juniors' Mission Study book—"Talks on the Land of the Maple," 50 cents each).

Older Boys (ages 12-17) :

"Boys and Their Religious Needs" (3 cents, sample free).

Older Boys' Topic Card and Outline Curriculum.
Leaflets on "Canadian Standard Efficiency Training."

(C.S.E.T. books : Trail Rangers, 40 cents ;
Tuxis Boys, 50 cents ; Leaders, 15 cents.)

Older Girls (ages 12-17) :

"Girls and Their Religious Needs" (3 cents, sample free).

Older Girls' Topic Card and Outline Curriculum.
Leaflet on Canadian Girls in Training.

(C.G.I.T. booklet—"Canadian Girls in Training,"
10 cents.)

Young People (ages 18-23) :

"Young People and Their Religious Training"
(3 cents, sample free).

Y.P. Topic Card and Curriculum (18 cents per
doz., sample free).

Suggested Order of Service for Y.P. Meeting.

Installation Service for Y.P. officers, etc.

(Y.P. Mission Study book—"His Dominion,"
40 cents and 60 cents.)

Men and Women (ages 24 and up) :

Men and Women and Their Religious Welfare
(3 cents, sample free).

Outline Curriculum for Men and Women.

Home Department leaflets.

Other Leaflets :

The New Teacher Training Course.

Forward Missionary Movement.

Missionary Special Objects.

A Graded List of Books for Libraries.

Scripture Memory Passages (50 cents per 100).

Selections Book of Praise for Memorization.

Certificates and Diplomas for Memory Work.

Standard of Excellence for Sabbath Schools.

Plans for Church and School Building.

Plans and Programmes for Presbytery Conveners
and Other Leaders.

Report on Religious Education.



