

THE FOLSOM
VIEW

“...HAVING THE EYES OF YOUR HEART ENLIGHTENED...” EPHESIANS 1:18

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING AT 900 E. NATOMA, FOLSOM, CA 95630

Teaching: A Privilege and a Responsibility

BY DAVID POSEY

Tonight, we'll take a few minutes to focus on the need for teachers. We won't hide our purpose: we want to encourage those of you who have either never taught a class or have not taught a class in the last few years to think seriously about how you can play a part in the edification of our children here.

We won't minimize it: teaching classes of children takes a lot of hard work. Most of the classes are large and getting larger, especially at the very young ages. The classes are held on Sunday and Wednesday, requiring almost constant preparation during the week.

We have great teachers here at Folsom who have set a high bar in terms of creativity and devotion to the task. The problem has never been the ability or reliability of those who teach; it's just that we need many more to step up and take on the responsibility.

We have a little under 60 members who teach regularly. That sounds like a lot but with the number of classes we have, that means each teacher presently teaches at least twice a year. Our goal is to raise that number so that each teacher will only have to teach once per year, at least in the "lead" role. David Byrd will talk more about the numbers tonight, but keep in mind that when we expand the building and add another 10-plus classrooms, we will need teachers for those classes (the upside is that the classes should be smaller, at least for awhile).

Not everyone has to be a "lead" teacher. We need assistants, we need those who want to learn to teach and we need people who can write and/or illustrate lessons. We feel there is a job for you, if you're willing to do it.

Our aim in the next few months is to set up a teacher training program that we will repeat on a regular basis. In the meantime, every member can fill some role in the edification of the children (and adults, too).

On the next page, you'll find a "Teacher Profile" sheet that we would like every member to fill out. This sheet will also be handed out

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and collected tonight at the meeting, but we wanted you to have it ahead of time so you can consider carefully how you can help. It will also be distributed to our members via e-mail so that everyone has an opportunity to fill it out.

You'll note that the form has several levels of service, all centering on teaching. Some of you feel, for whatever reason, that you cannot take a lead role in teaching and that's OK. We need people in other roles as well, even outside the classroom.

In the past, all of the people on the teaching committee were also those who teach regularly. But even if you do not actively teach in the classroom you can serve on the committee or help in other ways (e.g., in the resource room, in preparing material, etc).

The elders hope that each and every member, regardless of age, returns the profile so that we will be able to take an inventory of one of our most precious assets: our teachers and those who aid the teaching in some way. We feel that virtually everyone can have a role in this important work.

Bible Class Teaching Profile

Name: _____

I would like to (please circle all that apply):

Teach a class

Assist in a class

Learn to teach

**I am willing to teach the following age groups (please circle all that apply).
Indicate the age groups you *prefer* to teach with a checkmark (✓).**

18 months

1st Grade

Jr. High (6th – 8th Grade)

2 year olds

2nd Grade

High School (9th – 11th Grade)

3 year olds

3rd Grade

College Age (12th – mid 20's)

4 year olds

4th Grade

New Converts

Preschool

5th Grade

Adult

Kindergarten

I can teach during the following quarters (please circle all that apply):

Fall (October – December)

Winter (January – March)

Spring (April – June)

Summer (July – September)

I would like to help with the following (please circle all that apply):

Train teachers

Design and develop curriculum

Serve on the Bible Class Committee

Make changes to or "revamp" existing curriculum

Research curriculum (materials for purchase)

Word process some curriculum items

Make copies of some curriculum items

Help color or draw some curriculum items