

Sunday School Lesson

Background Scripture:
John 20:26-29; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3
Colossians 1:15-20.
Devotional Reading:
1 Timothy 1:8-14

We live in a "do your own thing age."

It was an idea whose time had come. There was a need for an emphasis urging people to take responsibility and control for their own lives. There was a need to break out of patterns that had become meaningless, whose purposes had long been forgotten.

But as with any new current of human thought, we have tended to push a good thing to absurd extremes. Many people have wrongly assumed that "doing their own thing" somehow freed them from responsibility and commitment to other people. It also became a justification for blatant selfishness and irresponsibility.

What we need to realize is that when we have taken both responsibility and control for our own lives it does not mean that we therefore need to go it alone. For one of life's paradoxes is that when I live only for me, I am not free at all. I am a prisoner to my own dark emotions, deep suspicions, hurts and unrecognized motivations. No one is more surely a prisoner of him or herself than the one who tries to live in isolation.

At the same time, if I am really a

free person -- my own person, so to speak -- then I have the capacity to commit myself to something beyond myself without the loss of my freedom or sovereignty. The old hymn puts it clearly:

*Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free.*

If we would really be doing our own thing, we need to give ourselves in commitment to Christ.

But that's where many of us have a problem: commitment. We don't want to commit ourselves. Jealous at our sovereignty, we don't want to give ourselves to anything or anyone. We want to run our own lives, little realizing that, without Christ, we cannot experience freedom.

Many people want the benefits of Christianity without making the commitment those benefits require. We are all happy to have Christ as our Saviour, one who frees us and heals us of the evil that touches our lives. But Christ is not offered to us as just a Saviour. When the angels announced his birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they proclaimed: "for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11) Jesus came as both Saviour and Lord. And when the Apostle John confesses Christ in the upper room, he cries "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

So Jesus came, not only to save us, but to rule our lives. If we want to be his followers, we need not only to allow him to save us from our sin, but also to be Lord of our lives. That means that we put our lives into his hands, letting him direct and guide them. When we have allowed ourselves to do that, then, and only then, will we be doing our own thing.

Over 100 Families Benefit From Yule Drive

In three days last week, more than 100 member families of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation have benefited from the LREMC Employees Association Christmas Care Drive.

The drive was set up in early November to assist families with special needs during the Christmas season. Numerous individuals and organizations like Cablevision of Lumberton and Piggly Wiggly of Red Springs donated toys, food, clothes and money to make the drive possible.

Christmas Care Drive chairman Earl Collins, a line foreman with LREMC, said the response to the drive was phenomenal. "What started out as a clothes and toy drive for some of our neediest members rolled into a full-fledged Christmas service," said Collins. "We as employees of LREMC can't thank the public enough for their response and help."

But the employees have themselves to thank for much of the success of the Christmas Care project. An organization of just 90 persons raised \$3,800 since December 9, according to spokesman Jim Autry.

"The employees of LREMC are extremely interested in the well-being of our members," said Autry. "To prove it, they gathered more than \$1,000 among themselves in less than one week."

The money raised was spent on food for the families. The total food basket amounted to nearly \$50 per

family when donated food items were added to the boxes.

"More than 500 toys and games were cleaned, repaired and fixed-up for distribution," said Autry.

"We even had a hobby horse which needed a new metal leg. Not only did the men fashion a leg out of scrap conduit, but the horse got a new coat of paint, too!"

Hundreds of items of clothing were sorted and cleaned for distribution to more than 350 individual members of the families. Most of the people got a pair of shoes and a coat along with other items, according to Autry.

With all the sorting of clothes, toys and food to be done; more than 12 nights of work were needed by the LREMC employees. Even Santa Claus was working hard to provide his service for deliveries earlier this week.

Now that all deliveries and pick-ups have been completed for this year, all of the leftover clothes and toys will be donated to the Lumbee Regional Development Association and the Robeson County Church and Community Center, according to Autry.

"Whether it was the anonymous donation of \$500, or shoes from the Quintet Shop, or hens from the Piggly Wiggly or toys from Cablevision or just a pair of pants from someone's attic; Christmas has been a little better for us all," said Autry. "If everyone could have seen those kids on the hobby horse, they would understand why we did it."



Santa Claus [LREMC lineman Hilton Revels] catches the eye of a young admirer who just received a new hobby horse from the LREMC Employees Association Christmas Care Drive.

Library News

NEW BOOKS AT LIBRARY

The following is a list of new books received this week by the Hoke County Public Library, a member of the Sandhill Regional Library System. They are available at the Hoke County Public Library and bookmobile in Raeford.

ADULT FACT

- Ecker, Martin D. - "Childron's Auto Repair Manual '82 ed. Radiation: All You Need To Know To Stop Worrying - Or To Start"
- "Growing Up Southern: Southern Exposure Looks At Childhood"
- Korsstygns boken, English - "Counted Cross-Stitch Patterns and Designs"
- Park, Jack - "The Wind Power Book"
- Ferguson, Thomas - "The Hidden Election"
- Schorsch, Anita - "Warner Collector's Guide to American Clocks"
- Sledge, Linda C. - "Shivering Babe, Victorious Lord"
- Spurr, Russell - "A Glorious Way To Die"

ADULT FICTION

- Craig, Alisa - "Murder Goes Mummung"
- MacLeod, Charlotte - "Wrack and Rune"
- Michaels, Barbara - "Someone In The House"
- Ray, N.L. - "There Was This Man Running"
- Van Loon, Antonia - "Sunshine and Shadow"
- Coleman, Terry - "Thanksgiving"
- Fitzgerald, Kathleen - "The Good Sisters"
- Names, Larry - "Boomtown"
- Wellman, Manly - "The Lost and The Lurking"

CHILDREN'S FICTION

- Shannon, George - "Lizard's Song"
- Chambers, John W. - "Finder"
- Duvoisin, Roger - "The Importance of Crocus"
- Giff, Patricia R. - "The Winter Worm Business"

Hurd, Thacher - "Axle The Freesay Cat"

- Lianni, Leo - "Mouse Days: A Book Of Seasons"
- Lobel, Arnold - "Uncle Elephant"
- Peterson, Jeanne - "While The Moon Shines Bright"
- Rounds, Glen - "Mr. Yowder and The Train Robbers"
- Scarry, Richard - "Richard Scarry's Best Christmas Book Ever"
- Stecher, Miriam - "Daddy and Ben Together"

CHILDREN'S FACT

- Aaseng, Nathan - "Eric Heiden: Winner In Gold"
- Johnson, Sylvia A. - "Penguins"
- Schwartz, Alvin - "Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark"
- Supraner, Robyn - "Merry Christmas"

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

- Jan. 11, WAYSIDE -- Cleva Newton, Doris Lyle, Lois Woodring, Violet Turley, Louise Plummer, Nancy Mason, Nancy Dean, Jean Thomas, Sarah Ozbirn, Virginia McCall, Ruth Clairmont, Kimberly Ferrell, Claire Everette, Neda Williams, Martha Lineberry.
- Jan. 13, PHILIPPI & ROCK-FISH - Clara Wood, Isabell Bundy, Ruby Halstead, Kathy Wright, Woody Ferrell, Terri Wright, Linda Tatum, Kim Wright, Kim Miller, Barbara Ann Ward, Judy Wolf, Gladys Cummings, Roberta Turner, Nancy Molchan.

College News

Gloria Prevatte of 316 McRae St. will begin studies for a Master of Business Education degree during the spring semester at East Carolina University where she recently completed requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. She graduated cum laude.

While an undergraduate, Miss Prevatte was active in the University Folk and Country Dance Club, served as a member of the house council of her dormitory during her junior year; was a member of Phi Beta Lambda, a business organization; served as secretary-treasurer of the Society for the Advancement of Management; and, in her senior year, was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, a national honor society.

Appeal Made To Finder Of Lost Present

A box containing a Christmas present was lost on Christmas Eve on 401 Bypass at the overpass where it crosses 211 (near Hoke Auto Co.).

The owner found the box Saturday, but the contents had been removed. The box contained a log carrier, which is a black metal stand, and a long cloth wool carrier with dowel rods at each end.

Since the log carrier was a Christmas present for the owner's parents, it would be greatly appreciated if anyone having information on the contents of the box would call 875-2162 or 875-5298.

In Elizabethtown

Are you interested in learning a new skill? Sixteen craft classes will be taught March 17-18 in Elizabethtown at a workshop sponsored by the Extension Homemakers in the Southeastern District.

To register and obtain information call the Extension Office at 875-2162. Classes will be filled on a first come first serve basis.



HELP FOR SISTERS -- Elder T. D. Adams and James Peterkin, Jr., of the Community Brotherhood deliver coal and water to the home of Daisy Stewart and Mrs. Mary Stewart McLean, sisters, on Rt. 1, Raeford. Adams is an elder in the Brotherhood. Peterkin said, "The sisters were very appreciative and thanked God and the Brotherhood for the coal and water. I don't think they felt as happy as we were for just being able to help them. I thank God for sending us to help them." The theft of their water pump left the sisters' well useless.

WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT
Now Open For Lunch
Sunday 11:30 - 2:00 P.M.
875-5752

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