

Sunday School Lesson

GROWTH THROUGH WITNESSING

By Clint H. Denman
International Uniform
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
FOR DECEMBER 3, 1961
Scripture: Matthew 5:13 - 16;
Luke 10: 1-24; Acts 4: 13-21.
Memory Verse: "We cannot
but speak of what we have
seen and heard." --Acts 4:20

In speaking about Growing as one witnesses, what could be a stronger and more complete remark than the one found in the Book of Acts and suggested as our memory verse:

"We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

There are many ways and means by which a Christian can witness of his Lord and Savior. The fact that we must surely be witnessing to the truth of a Risen Christ must be uppermost in our hearts as we speak, or act, or silently meditate.

Actually if we are Christian men and women, have we not been with Jesus? In our walk of life day by day we witness, often times unknowingly to the things that have been impressed on our minds. These impressions may be good and worthwhile; or they may be bad and create problems.

It is as easy to witness of things which are wrong, as it is to witness of things which are sacred and good. This surely was often the situation even in the days of the disciples and apostles.

Laymen in all walks of life witness to new ideas and to new ways of doing things. We can be "professionals" in one field of endeavor, but laymen in another.

So it was that the people referred to Peter and John as "common men." They were!

They were also men who had seen Christ!

Those in the synagogue attempted to squelch the witness of these common men, but they could not, because when one has witnessed such a magnificent life as that of Jesus, silence is impossible.

The joy that is brought by His presence; the peace that is shown by His grace; the hope that is shared by His love

for mankind make for unhesitant witness.

Witness must but be an essential part of Christian Growth, because we can only grow as we witness through the impressions that he has made on our life. As we work and play; as we visit with others or remain alone, we are confronted with Christ's call to His children to "go ye therefore" and witness of a compassionate God.

As Christians we must constantly be alert to ways in which we may carry out this task of witness. Sometimes it will not be as easy as we might like it. One can rest assured that when a hard chore of witness is completed it is a happy one for that simple fact; that we have learned to appreciate God's gift to us more completely. Many of us fall in having the enthusiasm to witness for the endeavors of the Church like we speak out, and speak for, the purposes of clubs and organizations other than the Church. This is not to say that these are not valuable in our life. They surely are. This is to say that the Church must have its proper relationship to them; or better still they should have their proper relationship to the work of the

When was the last time that you were ashamed to speak about the Church of Jesus Christ to someone, or in some particular, uncomfortable setting? These are great challenges to us! Unless we accept them and do as Peter and John, unhesitatingly speaking about Christ, then we fall into a pit of failure.

Where Christ is involved the personal relationship of the individual warrants our witness as a constant reminder to the greatness that he brings to our lives. Only as we come to know Him more fully will we more fully witness of His power.

With one comes the other! With both comes a growth that makes our act of Christian witness an asset to the Kingdom!

(The above lesson was written for Clint H. Denman by his nephew, Harry L. Denman)

(Lesson topic and scripture selections by permission of the International Sunday School Lesson Committee.)



CLOTH MENDER -- Mary Clifton works in the mending room at Pacific Mills, catching (and fixing) minute imperfections in the famous Raeford 2-80 worsted. Miss Clifton, of Red Springs has worked 10 years without a lost-time accident, for one of the leading safety records in the plant.

Community Development Organizes In Rural N. C.

By TOM WOOD

Thousands of Tar Heels are learning a new approach to "Keeping up with the Joneses."

For the record, the approach is "community and area development." This concept of progress was put to work in 1950, officially. As a chief result, today there are 917 organized communities and ten organized areas in North Carolina.

But these warm statistics give only a bare hint of achievements in North Carolina's people-to-people program of progress.

The real story can be seen in a slip cover, a country ham, a cobbler's bench and a place mat.

Mrs. Charles Graham of Linwood (Davidson County) tells about the slip cover. She is chairman of the Community Development Division of the Northern Piedmont Area Development association.

"You start out making a slip cover for a chair, and before you know it you've remodeled your house -- and your pocketbook," she says. The face-lifting spirit is very contagious in a community says Mrs. Graham. Mr. Jones brightens his home inside and out, and his neighbors soon follow suit. The whole community becomes a better place to live as its citizens work together on improvements for the benefits of everybody.

The country ham, produced

by Coke Marion of Sparta (Alleghany County), is a fast selling item in the Trading Post at Glendale Springs on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Marion sells hundreds of hams each year at this "country store", a project of the Northwest North Carolina Development Association.

Eighty-six per cent of the Trading Post incomes goes back to the people of the 11 Northwest counties who sell their homemade articles there.

Mayleck Industries in Wintgate (Union County) produce the cobbler's bench along with 150 other decorative pine items for the home.

"We're doing a business of \$1,500,000 a year and we're \$300,000 behind in orders," says Bernard Helms, an official of this eight-year old firm.

Helms says that "anyone who lives in this community and asks for a job gets it. If he can't do the first job we give him, we find one he can do."

The restaurant place mat is one facet of the Northern Piedmont Association's campaign to entice tourists "to spend another night" in the area. On the mat is a map of the seven-county area, with places highlighted of interest to tourists.

"Tourists spend \$30 a day on the average," says John Gaddy, chairman of the association's Travel and Recreation Division. "The longer we can get them to stay in North Carolina, the more North Carolina benefits."

Community Development, Agriculture, Industry, Travel and Recreation. These are the tools of progress in the Area Development Program.

The neighbors are watching the Joneses with high interest -- not just to see whether they have a new car or a color tee-vee. They're looking in a spirit of friendliness and cooperation for the community's sake.

And the Joneses are watching the Joneses in other communities and counties and areas, where they may be ideas at work for progress that could work just as well back home.

Greensboro leaders realized a few years ago that bank deposits were bigger and per capita income higher in North west north Carolina than in the Northern Piedmont. The Northwest record in area development convinced Greensboro leaders that they, too needed an area progress program.

Bland Worley, chairman of the board of the Northern Piedmont Association, believes the people of his area learned a great lesson from other areas.

"We no longer feel that an industry must come to Greensboro for our city to realize benefits from it," he says. "No city or county can go it alone, for prospective industries look at adjoining counties where much of their labor force may come from."

"All of our organizations have one objective: To make the Northern Piedmont a better place to live in."

Jim Farthing, Alexander County banker and a judge this fall in the Northwest Associa-

tion community development contest, put it this way: "If you think Mr. Khrushchev has a philosophy that bears ours, you get out and see what our people are achieving in this program."

Americans drank about 133 quarts of milk per person in 1960, three quarts less than in 1950.

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