

Verse by Verse 640

By Unknown

Al Sanders:

Today, we bring you a special broadcast from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles highlighting the various points of interest for the Annual Glass Sunday-School Convention, which begins tonight at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. We have with us today some special guests. But just before we introduce them to you, I'd like to make mention of the fact that Dr. Louis T. Talbot, our regular Bible teacher, will be returning to these microphones at about one week's time. As your friends probably know, he is ministering up in Portland, Oregon, at the Multnomah School of the Bible and also teaching in one of the churches there in the evening. We trust that you will be praying for Dr. Talbot and also be remembering his wife, who is still at the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital. We appreciate the many cards and letters which you friends have been sending to her. And she, of course, would extend her thanks for this wonderful courtesy, which you have given.

Now, for the first part of our broadcast today, we want to discuss briefly the work of the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association and more particularly the convention which begins this evening, as we mentioned a moment ago at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. And then for the rest of our broadcast, we want to put our panel of experts on the spot, so to speak, and ask them some questions regarding Sunday school, hoping to give you friends some good ideas for your local church work.

First of all, we have Dr. Cyrus Nelson, who is president of Gospel Light Press, and also chairman of the board of the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association, and also a

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member of the board of directors of the National Sunday School Association. Dr Nelson, we're very happy to have you with us today. We remember with great interest the wonderful work you did up at Mount Hermon. I remember seeing you lead the singing and playing the piano, and I think I shall never forget it. I suppose you've had that told you many times, however, but we're very happy to have you with us on our broadcast today.

Cyrus Nelson:

Well, thank you, Mr. Sanders. It is a real joy to be with you.

Al Sanders:

And then we have Miss Thelma Bain, who is the, shall we say, the rose between the thorn, or the ham between the sandwich. One of the two, anyway, Miss Bain. Miss Bain is a member of the Christian Ed. Department, or Education Department of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, teaching in the Biola of college, and also a member of the board of directors of GLASS, Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association. Miss Bain, we're glad to have you on the microphone today as well.

Thelma Bain:

I'm glad to be here, too, Al.

Al Sanders:

And then we have the Reverend Arvid Carlson, who is pastor of the Mission Covenant Church of Pasadena, located at Lake Avenue and Santa Barbara, in Pasadena. And Brother

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Carlson, we're glad that you found time to get away from your church and come down to this microphone today.

Arvid Carlson:

It's always a pleasure to do a program with you, Al.

Al Sanders:

Well, now, Brother Nelson, let's find out, first of all, just exactly what GLASS is, The Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association.

Cyrus Nelson:

Well, the cler--the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association is comprised of all those in our area who are interested in the work of the Sunday school, and are seeking to reach and teach for Christ. The work officially, we might say, is carried on by a board of directors of 27 members. These men and women are ministers, lay people, teachers, professional people, but they are those who are really and truly Sunday school enthusiasts. We have the three here this morning, that are representative and then we have 24 others. They come from various parts of our county, and as a matter of fact, some outside of the Los Angeles County now. We have, for example, the county administrator for Riverside County, a very active member of our board, and then a psychiatric worker from down in Orange County, and so it goes. Well, these people give of their time. We have no paid personnel. We have no office staff. All of these things would be wonderful. But we've carried on thus far without them. But we do meet in fellowship at least once a month and we plan our various activities. As you can see by the name GLASS, which so

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easily stays with us, is Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association. And it's a real joy to be with you this morning, Al, for this time.

Al Sanders:

What denomination is GLASS?

Cyrus Nelson:

It's the interdenominational, Al. We have 13 denominations represented on our board and by our constitution, no more than five can come from any one denomination.

Al Sanders:

Mr. Carlson, how does this organization exist financially?

Arvid Carlson:

We depend upon the contributions and freewill offerings at the conventions. We receive, of course, a registration fee at the conventions, as well as offerings. And we also receive, from time to time, gifts from interested people in the area, and occasionally a contribution from some of the institutes that we conduct every fall and winter.

Al Sanders:

Miss Bain, what are some of these services which GLASS renders to local churches in this area?

Thelma Bain:

Through various members of the personnel, we are able to participate in the area teacher training institutes. I believe there were six areas of Southern California in which these institutes were held last spring, and several thousand people were in attendance. Then we contribute through the quarterly special meeting, gathering all of the people in Southern California together in a convention situation. We are hoping to expand our ministry in the future, but these are the two main avenues through which we are working now.

Al Sanders:

Before we get some practical suggestions and advice from you folk, I think it would be well to delve into the actual program for the Sunday School Convention, which begins with registration this afternoon and the meeting for this evening. First of all, Mr. Nelson, what is the theme? I think I heard quite an interesting and timely subject.

Cyrus Nelson:

Well, the theme is The Sunday School and Space: How to Fill It. And then we have the various parts of that theme, as we go through the several days. For example, this evening--and incidentally, we begin at 6:30 with the Long Beach Municipal Band in concert, at 6:30. If you are not quite finished with your dessert and maybe a few moments late, why, that will have to be all right. Don't miss it because you can't be there at 6:30, but you're going to really miss something if you get a little late.

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Al Sanders:

You mean don't miss dessert, or don't miss the band?

Cyrus Nelson:

Don't miss the band.

[Group Laughs]

Al Sanders:

I'll bring the dessert and we'll all share it, how about that?

Cyrus Nelson:

And then as we move in to the session, the theme this evening, or the portion of this theme, following the space theme, is fuel up: check personnel. And Dr. Charles E. Blair of Denver, Colorado, will be the speaker. He is our key convention speaker this year, a real Sunday school man and one who has had outstanding success in building America's fastest-growing Sunday school. So be with us tonight and get off to a good start.

Al Sanders:

Now, Miss Bain, what are some of the other features for the rest of the conference which, or the convention, which concludes Saturday evening?

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Thelma Bain:

On Friday morning, all of the departments will be featured after Mr. Blair's message. There will be sessions for administrators, pastors, and teachers in every department from the cradle-role through adults. After lunch, the exhibits are being shown by various publishing houses and bookstores; opportunity to see the latest materials that have been produced for the Sunday school. These exhibit times are generally gathered around the meal hours, or after the evening meetings. On Friday afternoon, our theme is blast off: our strategies of spiritual development. We will be concentrating on spiritual growth, leading a child, or a young person, or an adult to Christ and then building them up in the Christian faith. Sessions will be for pastors, directors of Christian education and superintendents, secretaries, and teachers in the various departments. There are also elective hours at 3:40 this afternoon, one in visual education, one in the use of the cradle-role to reach young couples, one in missionary education, one in evangelical church architecture.

Al Sanders:

Now excuse me, those at 3:40, the electives, that's tomorrow afternoon?

Thelma Bain:

Friday afternoon.

Al Sanders:

Friday afternoon.

Thelma Bain:

That's right.

Al Sanders:

Excuse me, go ahead.

Thelma Bain:

Then on Friday evening, there will be a unique musical drama: Bring Up A Child, at 7:30. We're really looking forward to this. Mr. Blair will speak following this. Saturday morning, then, beginning at nine o'clock, we have registration and opportunity to look at exhibits, at 9:15 devotions with Mr. Blair, then a number of very interesting panels. One on educational trends, one on traditional versus new method of class instruction, one on shelving the building program, be featured over a multiple sessions, and then we will be having visual aid demonstrations with other electives. This occupies a very, very full morning. And we're hoping that people who work during the week, we'll be able to take this Saturday to come. Then on Friday after--excuse me, Saturday afternoon, we have back to earth and ready to work. There will be a treatment of practical Christian psychology at two o'clock with Mr. Lloyd Allam, Dr. Clyde Narramore, and Dr. Irving Alquist. With the banner banquet, at which Dr. Merv Roselle speaks at five fifteen.

Al Sanders:

Sounds like fuel up again.

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Thelma Bain:

It really is.

Al Sanders:

We start all over again, and put the people back into orbit in their own local church.

Reverend Carlson, who are some of the other speakers we've heard a few of their names, of course, the Reverend Charles E. Blair with this tremendous success story of how the Holy Spirit is blessed in his church. But how about some of the other speakers?

Arvid Carlson:

Well, Al, I think we have some of the finest Sunday school people in all of this area. Dr. Paul Culbertson of Pasadena College, and Dr. Vernon McGee, I think you know him.

Al Sanders:

I have heard of him. He's right here at the Church of the Open Door as a matter of fact.

Arvid Carlson:

(Chuckles) Right. And Dr. Edward B. Cole, the pastor of perhaps the largest Baptist church in all of the county, Pomona First Baptist Church. And also some very fine young ladies: Miss Betty Pershing and Miss Dorothy Jean Furlong. Really experts in the Sunday school field. Dr. Milford Sholund, and Miss Thelma Bain, I think you've heard of her, also.

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Al Sanders:

Mmhm, yes.

Arvid Carlson:

Ethel Barrat--

Al Sanders:

Oh, yes.

Arvid Carlson:

--the internationally famous storyteller, and oh, ever so many more. Or beside the ones that have been mentioned, already.

Al Sanders:

Now, I'd like to get this straight. We can attend these meetings at the convention. Is this right, Brother Nelson, the registration fee, I think you mentioned, is a dollar?

Cyrus Nelson:

Yes. The registration fee is only a dollar, but we do not keep anyone away because he cannot register. This is just one of the ways of helping with the expenses of the convention. We want to point out this fact, Mr. Sanders, that the program has been carefully designed so that everyone, regardless of his place in the Sunday school, will find something important for him every hour of the convention. In other words, the morning hour is not for one part of the Sunday

school, and the afternoon for the other. No, a person can come anytime, and he'll find in the many sessions a specific session for him. And so, a person can spend the entire time, and many are taking up residence this year and the fine hotels and motels of Long Beach, from 4:30 Thursday through Saturday night. And he will have a complete, marvelous convention experience.

And then may I just stress the banquet, Al, if I may, on Saturday night. This is our big banner banquet. It's the climax to our convention. We'll have a thousand people there. And as I believe someone said, Merv Roselle will be the speaker. We're beginning at 5:15 and concluding at 7:45, so everyone can get on his bicycles, and get home, and be ready for Sunday morning. And then also at that banquet, we will have Bill Carl singing, and then we will have Jimmie and Ruth Dodd of the Mickey Mouse program. Jimmie Dodd is the leader of this program, and he's a born again Christian, and he'll give us something for Sunday school leaders of the importance of Sunday School. Think of someone who knows Christ and has responsibility of millions of kids. He'll be there. And as I say, his wife, and then Little Cubby and Karen, two of the little youngsters on this program. So it's going to be a marvelous climax to a wonderful convention.

Arvid Carlson:

Cy, could I break in just a minute and suggest that if the folks haven't gotten their tickets, they may try at least to secure tickets at the information desk, at the auditorium if there are any left. On the other hand, I would suggest that they contact their pastor or their superintendent, who may have some tickets in the local church. By all means, we don't want anyone to miss this tremendous banquet--a thousand people in the municipal auditorium.

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Al Sanders:

Oh, we're just having a little sidelight discussion here, whether or not there is a phone number that these people can call?

Thelma Bain:

Well, ordinarily, our phone number would be Madison 4 5 7 1 8, but this is Thursday.

Al Sanders:

Everybody is going to be there.

Thelma Bain:

Everybody'll be at the convention.

Al Sanders:

Well, perhaps they can make reservations by going there, that's another way to get them there. Incidentally, before we get into this general discussion of the Sunday school. We'd better point out where the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium is located. This is, of course, is the auditorium where Dr. Charles E. Fuller broadcast for so many years; the old fashioned revival hour. This is where? At American, is it?

Cyrus Nelson:

It's right at the very heart of the city, at the end of American. And we are very grateful. We've had a little fun about this thing, and commending the State Highway Department to over

completing the new freeway to Long Beach for our benefit. Of course, we really, seriously believe that others have benefited, too. But we are told that in the middle of the day, off the height of traffic, 29 minutes from Los Angeles to Long Beach, as all the necessary traveling time. Santa Ana freeway down to Long Beach Freeway, then turn to your left at the end, and three blocks over is the great municipal auditorium.

Arvid Carlson:

Course, Mr. Sanders, our very energetic chairman arranged to have the freeway opened, especially for the convention, you understand that.

[Group Laughs]

Al Sanders:

And the police officers will be glad to direct you to Mr. Nelson's headquarters. Now I want to ask you some of the questions here, pertaining to Sunday school in general. Let's open this as a panel discussion, any of you can answer. First of all, what are some of the problems of the Sunday schools today? As you have talked to pastors, and as some of you are pastors, what are some of the problems that you've come up against? How about you Miss Bain?

Thelma Bain:

One of the biggest problems is the problem of leadership education. The pastors who are alive to the fact that every church has enough leadership in it to man its own program does a good job of training those leaders. But, pastors who are not aware of this potential and their own

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membership do not provide for it. Sometimes this is because the church is small, and it is to help churches like this that GLASS has its particular function in encouraging people, so they may not get disheartened by long hours of service, and no one noticing, or appreciating, or seeing what is being done.

Al Sanders:

All right, let me ask you a question. Here is a church that would like to have some leadership training classes, where do they get expert help to guide them in this?

Thelma Bain:

On Saturday noon at the convention, Mrs. Robert Anderson, who is heading up our area teacher training institute program, is meeting with people like this, who would like to sponsor a teacher training institute in their area. And I would certainly recommend they get in touch with Mrs. Robert Anderson, or give their name at the information desk for such information to be sent to them.

Al Sanders:

And you mentioned the problem of teacher training. Let me ask you a very hypothetical question, which may not be quite so hypothetical. I think I'll put it to you, Brother Carlson, because I'm sure it's not a problem that exists in the Mission Covenant Church of Pasadena. Say, for instance, we have a teacher in our Sunday school that actually doesn't know how to teach, and looks like she has, or he has very little ability to teach. This is a situation into which the pastor has gotten, is a new preacher in the church, and the teacher has been there for some years.

Now, what should he do? How does he tactfully get rid of this person, if I may put it so bluntly, or what can he do?

Arvid Carlson:

Well, I suppose the problem of the problem teacher is even more acute than the problem child. But, we do have a way by which we can take this person and enlist them in a training program, because we do not permit any of our teachers to teach in our Sunday school unless they have gone through our teacher training program. And if such a person exists, no matter how long they have had a place in the teaching staff, they would still have to have a teacher training program that we conduct every fall.

Al Sanders:

How long have we had Sunday schools, Mr. Nelson?

Cyrus Nelson:

We've had Sunday school since the latter part of the 18th century--1760, 1780. And through the last century, of course, the Sunday school movement found its pattern. It started out, in the beginning, as a way of taking the youngsters, should we say, off the streets and keeping them busy for the Sabbath day as it was described. But soon, it was realized that this was the great opportunity of teaching, not only the boys and girls God's wonderful word, but also the young people and the adults. The Sunday school became, through its growth, the real teaching arm of the church, where people come to know God's word.

Al Sanders:

And how do today's Sunday schools compare with those of, say, 25 or even 10 years ago? Can you reflect back that far, Mr. Carlson?

Arvid Carlson:

Well, I'm not quite that old (Al Sanders laughs), but I, I do believe there is a difference. When I grew up as a boy, we did not have, even, adequate facilities. I met in a furnace room as a junior boy. And I also remember that we had very little, in those days, of real departmental activities, nor did we have any teacher training program. It was seemingly sufficient if a person was pious and godly; the superintendent would put a Bible in his hand and say, "Here, teach a class." Today I think we have advanced a great deal. The modern techniques, methods, laws of teaching, teacher training programs, the graded material, the departmentalized school, has all added to the necessity of the teacher being an expert. And that is what GLASS is trying to do: make every teacher, if possible, an expert Sunday school teacher.

I'm sure they're accomplishing their goal, too. And of course, this convention, which begins this afternoon with registration, and tonight with the meetings continuing through Saturday evening, is certainly going to aid that a great deal. I would like to ask this question, thinking of the adults for just a few moments. What different kinds and methods of teaching are there? I suppose just as many is as the old saying goes, as Mr. Hines has varieties of pickles and ketchup. But what kinds are the most effective, have you found in your work? Dr Nelson, could you answer that for us? Is it the discussion method, or the Bible teaching, or just what type?

Cyrus Nelson:

Of course, all methods are designed to teach God's word, but we are realizing that as those who are conservatives and believe God's word (pauses) today, that there must not only be a head belief, but there must be a real demonstration of life; that we know the Lord Jesus Christ, and know his word. And going back not many years--I would say even less than the 10, perhaps, or at least less than the 25--the usual adult class was someone who took all the time as the teacher or lecturer, and the class sat back, more or less, in a passive fashion. That is they were spectators, I call them spectators. You know, there's nothing more wonderful than to listen to God's word being taught. We all revel in it. How wonderful it is, especially if we have a good teacher. But, we must today find our lives counting for the Lord in the more vital way. And so, the teacher of the adult class is introducing into his program ways and means, so those who are a part of the class really wrestle, should we say, with the things of God's word, and allow a real depth (clears throat) or penetration of God's word by a spirit into the life. And so there is participation of various kinds: discussions, not only questions, yes, but real design and plan where the members have a part in the class; visual aids. All of these things, so when people leave the class, they know they've had a real experience with the Lord through his word.

Al Sanders:

What are some of the printed materials that are available to churches in the Sunday school program?

Thelma Bain:

Every denomination publishes its own literature. Then there are other publishers who go across denominational lines, because of theology. I'm thinking particularly of those in our evangelical framework, such publishers as Standard Publishing House, Gospel Light Press, Scripture Press. I think of David C. Cooke. There are probably a number of other publishers who publish their literature for those who are of various denominations.

Al Sanders:

Now, for people who attend the Long Beach convention, beginning today down at the municipal auditorium, will there be booths or places where they can get information on these different organizations?

Thelma Bain:

Yes. I understand there are over 30 booths going to be featured, and some of these will be from publishing houses.

Al Sanders:

This is a good time to take an inventory of what the individual's church is now doing and possibly find other materials that might even be more helpful.

Thelma Bain:

Yes, they would be very happy to help.

Al Sanders:

Now, we just have a few moments left in our broadcast today, and we certainly appreciate you folk coming in. Miss Bain, let me ask you another question, and that is this: what is the term "brainstorming" and how is that applied to Christian circles?

Thelma Bain:

A group of Christians get together to discuss a certain problem, and rather than being negative in their thinking, they try to make suggestions that would solve this problem by spontaneously speaking, whatever first comes to their minds. If any negative thought is suggested, it is rejected--only those which are positive. And sometimes there are hitchhikers, so that if when somebody's idea gives you another idea, you say hitchhike and you move on. It's a very effective technique to move ahead with the Lord. It needs to be carefully handled, or it may run away with itself because some ideas are quite wild. But generally out of a brainstorming suggestion (pause) time comes a great deal of new idea.

Al Sanders:

You say a group gets together, could you do that with three people, let's say?

Arvid Carlson:

Oh, I think we could to a limited degree here at least.

Al Sanders:

All right. That puts us all on the spot. Let's take an instance, here is a church that is about to enter the International Sunday School Contest, which is sponsored by Christian Life Magazine. The church, incidentally, has selected as its theme for the contest the title: Now: Now is the Time. And perhaps they're even using some of the ideas that you folk have used in outlining, so wonderfully, your program for the convention in Long Beach, beginning tonight. Now let's get a few ideas. How can we pack out the Sunday school in these weeks that are open in the contest? The church is a small one, and it has a new educational unit it wants to fill up. What are some of the ideas that you would offer to these people in this church?

Arvid Carlson:

I would say study every winning church's technique over the past 6 or 7 years.

Al Sanders:

All right. Very good.

Cyrus Nelson:

I'd get a copy of the new book on how to win a contest the Scripture Press has just put out.

Al Sanders:

Can you give us the exact name, Miss Bain?

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Thelma Bain:

How to Win a Sunday School Contest. It's come out of Christian life's experience through the contest that they have conducted.

Al Sanders:

Let me put a little hitchhike, if I may. I've never done the brainstorming before, but this is on sale, I'm sure, at the Biola book room.

Thelma Bain:

Yes.

Al Sanders:

Probably available at the convention as well. Go right ahead. Any other ideas?

Thelma Bain:

I find that children are the best evangelists, and if a teacher can encourage a child to bring others in their community, this is very effective.

Al Sanders:

All right.

Arvid Carlson:

A Sunday school parade down the street, if it's permitted in the district.

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Al Sanders:

Good.

Cyrus Nelson:

Telephoning is one of the very best methods. And then, organizing the convention or rather the contests, you're part of the contest, around departments. Because the way you introduced or interest high school, of course, is so much different in the way you introduce some other departments, such as the children.

Al Sanders:

Good. Some other ideas, the Sunday school contest.

Arvid Carlson:

All of the publicity that one can possibly secure, such as newspaper advertising, flyers, tickets to send home with the children, balloons that may be released in the air and contain some measure of reward if brought in, and so forth.

Al Sanders:

Good.

Thelma Bain:

The participation of adults in the church is very vital, also. We like to start as car squadron so that Sunday school teachers are bringing children in their community, adults are bringing children, everybody gets in the contest.

Al Sanders:

One more idea, we have just about time for one more.

Arvid Carlson:

Possibly a spot announcement on a broadcast like this.

[Group Laughs]

Al Sanders:

Good. Well, thank you very much. And I think with that, we better draw to a close. This very interesting panel discussion for today, composed of Dr. Cyrus Nelson, who is chairman of the board of directors of the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association. And with him, we have had several members of the board of directors of GLASS, Miss Thelma Bain, and also the Reverend Arvid Carlson. And we do want to strongly urge you folk to attend all of the conference sessions of the convention down at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. Now, remember, that starts this afternoon with registration, the band concert at 6:30, with Mr. Nelson playing the piccolo and some of the other members participating.

[Group Laughs]

Cyrus Nelson:

That's right.

Al Sanders:

And at 7:30, then the keynote address by the Reverend Charles Blair of Denver, Colorado. All of these sessions are open to you. Registration is just one dollar.

We trust that you'll join us again tomorrow at the same time, over this same station, for another broadcast from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, featuring an address by Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson of the Bethany Baptist Church of West Covina, California.

Announcer:

The preceding program has come to you from the station of the American Home. 30--

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