

*The 2009 Sunday School
Teachers of the Year*

AG discipleship
ministries agency

*The 2009 Sunday School
Teachers of the Year*





¹Blessed is the man that walketh

not in the counsel of the ungodly,

nor standeth in the way of sinners,

nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD;

and in his law doth he meditate

day and night.

³And he shall be like a tree

planted by the rivers of water,

that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;

his leaf also shall not wither;

and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

-Psalm 1: 1 - 3 KJV

About the First National Teacher of the Year...
Billie Davis



Billie Davis

The First
National Teacher of the Year



As a writer, missionary, or educator, whether in a Sunday School classroom or the lecture hall of a university, Billie Davis is uniquely gifted to challenge others to pursue the excellence she personifies.

She has covered areas of education, curriculum and social issues related to migrant, multi-ethnic, Spanish speaking and disadvantaged children and youth as a lecturer and consultant. She has conducted several workshops sponsored by the *National Education Association*, state and local associations, regional conferences on migrant education, and national and state Sunday School conventions.

Billie wrote a story about herself called *I Was A Hobo Kid* that is about her experience as a migrant child who found that going to Sunday School profoundly affected her life. It has been featured in several publications and anthologies. The National Education Association created a film from this writing called, *A Desk for Billie*.

Presenting

THE 2009 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The 2009 National Teacher of the Year

Pamela Conley



Potomac District

Shenandoah Assembly of God

Shenandoah, VA

Pastor Dallas Carter Dean Jr.

When [Pamela] came to us and told us she had a burden for children and would like to volunteer to start a children's church for them during morning worship, it was an answer to prayer. My husband and I had been praying for God to give someone a vision for that ministry. Praise God she was obedient to His call!!!

...So she and her husband began the class with four children. Now it has grown to about 40 children. She makes time in her very busy schedule to study and prepare for her lessons. Pamela brings the lessons to life. They don't just read a lesson from the book, she tells it and demonstrates it, sometimes involving the children in acting it out. They love it!

To quote two of the boys when I asked them what they liked about the class, nine year old Andrew Dean said, "She is nice and creative and she really gets into the stories. She lets us be a part of them too. She really digs deep into the stories to find out a lot about them." 11 year old Tyler Lam said, "I like the way she makes you feel, like you are in the story yourself. I understand it better."

The children love, and I mean love her class. Pamela is kind, loving, and thoughtful to all the children. She always shows a positive attitude and it captivates the children and spreads. They learn scripture and are taught how to apply it to their lives. They go out into the community to invite people to church and bible school. They have prayer time in class as well as praise.

They visit nursing homes and spend time with the elderly, taking care packages and praying with them. Pam makes sure they know how to witness and to pray! They go to the widows homes and do yard work or whatever needs done. They are HIS hands.

Pamela always has them do something for pastor's appreciation day for the pastor and his family. She shows respect to her pastor and keeps him up to date in what is going on in her class as well as getting his approval for events she wants to do.

She involves the children in doing skits portraying stories from the bible for our congregation as well as singing. She also has events at her home with food and lots of fun. Pamela takes time off from work to take them to camp and also goes to the equipping classes offered by our district.

She has a heart for God and it spills over into the children. She really puts her whole heart into it, which has set the example to those who are now beginning to help in that ministry.

Jeanie Dean,
Senior Pastor's Wife

The reason for this letter is because Pam is such an inspiration to us as children's church teachers that we feel she should be recognized for her dedication to the Lord and obedience to what He is calling her to do. She is a spirit filled woman who loves the Lord with all her heart and shows it in her daily walk of life. We have such respect for her and all she accomplishes on so many levels. Pamela is someone you can look at and not only know she loves and obeys the Lord, but you also see it through her life. She knows joy in the Lord that is truly amazing.

The Shenandoah Assembly of God could not have such a wonderful children's ministry without Pam and her dedication. She is a wonderful children's church leader who cares for each one of the children on an individual level.

Some examples of the things she does is sing songs, do crafts, and have programs where the children get to dress up and act out people in the Bible. This makes them so excited about God's Word and makes us as workers for the Lord excited too. Pam is a role model for each one of the children and teachers in our children's church ministry. She makes us want to strive to be our best to help impact the lives of those kids we come into contact with so that we may help inspire them on a Godly level.

Brad and Julie Shifflett

There is one thing I know for a fact: you have to work hardest for the things you love the most, and when it comes to teaching Sunday School, you are in for the fight of your life. Every Sunday brings a challenge to teach and inspire even better than the Sunday before.

What a great, great gift to help children forget their everyday life and be uplifted, and better than uplifted, inspired—that is what learning God's Word can do.

Pam teaches with love and compassion toward ALL children. With this kind of teaching, a child can do great things for God's Kingdom. As the Sunday School class of Pam Conley, we believe that Pam loves not only God, but teaching God's Word to children.

Bridgett Baugher

HONORABLE MENTION

HONORABLE MENTION

2009 Tennessee District Teachers of the Year

Chris and Cindy Price



Every once in a blue moon, a pastor encounters an individual or a couple that literally change the face of ministry within their local church. Chris and Cindy Price are these kinds of individuals. Their service, faithfulness, creativity and selflessness have set them apart in an arena of ministry excellence seldom discovered in a local church setting.

Their service begins with our preschool children. The Prices teach and facilitate the volunteer staff for our entire nursery and preschool ministries. Sunday mornings find them checking in kids, personally teaching creatively entertaining and Biblically solid lessons, and loving children as if they were their own. In their weekly service following Sunday School, they encourage children to give to missions by placing coins in the mouth of a modified shop vacuum—completely painted and accessorized as the lovable character “Corky.” Children love to watch their coins get eaten by Corky, who consequently is a “coin”ivaur. Whether it is missions giving, authentic worship, or just a pat on the back, Chris and Cindy Price humbly labor week in and

Life Assembly of God

Mount Juliet, TN

Pastor Andrew Wharton



week out to transform the world one child at a time. Chris also leads a special needs small group in our Wednesday night youth services.

Besides their classes and programs with our little ones, the Prices have also spearheaded a groundbreaking new program called Buddy Break. Buddy Break is a respite ministry designed to give parents of special needs children one night a month to have a couple of hours to themselves. Adopting the model from an organization called Nathaniel's Hope, the Prices have successfully established the first Buddy Break program in Tennessee. They have trained a large staff of volunteers from our church who come out and love our “VIPs” one Friday night a month. The ministry is growing as we continue to touch the lives of an often overlooked demographic in our community. The Prices are solely responsible for Buddy Break. This program has been so effective that it was recently featured on the 700 Club. This exposure has spawned interest all over the country in the Buddy Break ministry model and the Prices are currently helping other churches nationwide establish Buddy Break in their own communities.

Reverend Andrew Wharton, M. A.

THE 2009 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

2009 Arizona District Teacher of the Year

Jean Campbell



First Assembly of God

Safford, AZ

Pastor Edmund Picker



Jean Campbell has been teaching for over 60 years. She teaches our Juniors Class in Sunday School. She has taught on the Indian Reservation also.

Jean is very active in our church besides teaching. She is on our official board and active in our women's ministry.

She prays at the altar for people and the Lord uses her in the gifts of the Spirit.

Jean is a team player. She takes care of a Downs Syndrom lady in her home also.

Pastor E. M. Picker

2009 Arkansas District Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Glenn Dorsey



First Assembly of God

Beebe, AR

Pastor Glenn Dorsey



Mrs. Dorsey deserves district and national recognition for her excellence in teaching. She is not only the wife of our Pastor, but has faithfully taught in our Sunday School for 24 years. She is always on time, has her lesson well prepared, and her students look forward to being in her class.

She is a fine example for ladies of all ages in our church. I strongly believe the classes she teaches each week are her hearts ambition and duty to perform and teach.

Roy Hooper
C. E. Director

2009 Hawaii District Teacher of the Year

Amy Cummings



Waimanalo Assembly of God

Waimanalo, HI

Pastor Janet K. Cordeiro



Amy has been very faithful, committed, devoted, respected, loved and trustworthy.

She's not only committed to the Sunday School department, but to all other ministries she holds within the church. Her attendance in service is outstanding.

Amy's commitment to the Lord, others, and family, gives her the recognition and award she deserves.

Marilyn F. H. Ah Yat
Sunday School Superintendent

2009 Indiana District Teacher of the Year
Cyndi Jay



Hulman Street Assembly of God

Terre Haute, IN

Pastor Patrick Newton



I think Sister Cyndi deserves to be the Teacher of the Year because she's always nice and she always brings snacks. Every time we have class, we get to do a lot of fun things. She lets us talk and make noise and ask questions and learn about God. Sometimes we get to make stuff too and that's fun.

Zeke Newton
Student, Age 7

Above is a letter from my son in his own words. He thinks his teacher, Cyndi Jay, is worthy of this honor and so do I. In all my years pastoring, I've never observed a teacher with Cyndi's heart for children. Many teachers say they love children but with Cyndi, you can actually SEE the love.

On several occasions she would go by the homes of those children whose parents don't attend church. She brings the children to church and then takes them home after service.

There have been a few occasions when my son had been the only child able to attend. I've told her just to let him sit with the adults for that class, but with tears in her eyes she always refuses. She sees the value of each child like no other. I wish I had the words to fully express the impact she makes on the children, their parents, and the church.

Reverend Patrick Newton

2009 Iowa District Teacher of the Year

Debbie Taylor



Lighthouse Assembly of God

Panora, IA

Pastor Kelly D. Gafkjen



Debbie's love for Jesus is seen in her face and through her actions. This love flows over into her teaching ability. All of the children who have had her as their teacher adore her.

I believe she deserves recognition because of her servant's heart. She is definitely "Jesus with skin on" to others and Jesus' hands extended.

Marilyn F. H. Ah Yat
Sunday School Superintendent

2009 Kentucky District Teacher of the Year

Anna L. Snyder



Calvary Christian Center
Assembly of God

Louisville, KY

Pastor David M. Lewis



[Anna L. Snyder] began teaching Sunday School in 1940. Other than a brief period serving as a Sunday School Secretary, she has taught for 68 years.

Sister Snyder has been a faithful, consistent, and devoted teacher through the years and she continues to teach today at the age of 90. She is a student of the Word of God, studying and preparing her lessons with diligence.

Though she never married, she has been a mother figure and Godly example to countless children.

Her commitment to Christ and her daily Christian life is above reproach. I have been her pastor for 20 years and I can say she has always maintained a sweet, cooperative, and submissive spirit.

Reverend David M. Lewis, Senior Pastor

2009 Louisiana District Teacher of the Year
Sandra Shelley



Cullen Assembly of God

Cullen, LA

Pastor Donald Hicks



I like Sis. Sandra. She is a nice person. She puts up with a lot of things, because she loves us. She tells us about God and she teaches us how to pray. She tells us that God listens to what we say when we pray. She teaches the little children how to read. She told us we can't get to heaven without being saved and God will forgive us but we can't keep doing the same things over and over. We have to change. She teaches us that when people try to put you down to just go for it. She told us about how her dad was a preacher. She did bad things when she was little and she doesn't want us to do the same things that she did. She told us she got saved in 2000. I'm glad Sandra Shelley is my teacher today.
Kecorya Lane, student

She is very nice. She helps me learn about God. She teaches me to pray. She told me I had to change my life so I could go to heaven to be with God. She prayed with me to ask Jesus into my heart. She always tells me to behave. She teaches us praise. I want to be a preacher when I grow up because of her.
Janiro Lane, student

Our church is in a rural community that has a very urban type society. Many problems that exist in urban communities are very prevalent, such as, drugs, sex outside of marriage, vandalism, shootings and so much more. Many times Sandra has had a lesson prepared and the children ask difficult questions regarding their life or someone in their lives and she has to change her lesson to meet the needs of the children. God has allowed her to be able to share what the Bible says in regard to these topics.

Five years ago Sandra went on a missions trip to New York City and came home with a dream to have a Sidewalk Sunday School. This past summer, she was able to start a Backyard Sunday School program each Saturday morning. She coordinated all of the volunteers to prepare Bible lessons, life experience stories, puppet stories, memory memorization, refreshments, and so much more.
Lisa Balentine

Sandra's life is all about helping the hurting and reaching lost children. She is always looking for new things to do with them and how she can reach them better.

Carolyn Parker

2009 Michigan District Teacher of the Year

Jim Daughtery



New Hope Assembly of God

Mio, MI

Pastor Russell Bowman



One can always go to [Jim] for Bible references and counsel in God's Word.

He's a great teacher of God's Word and studies it daily. He delves deep into the Word to find out God's thoughts and commands.

Shirley Long

The teaching style Jim uses grabs your attention and expectation as to how the Word of God speaks to our individual life situation with answers that we would not otherwise have received.

He is also not afraid to call his students into account on any particular issue that the Lord may be speaking to us.

Jim knows that teaching is his calling. He puts forth efforts to stay current and sensitive with modern times and teaching methods. The love he has for God is openly expressed! Likewise, the love and care he has for a person is always obvious and through his life we are all challenged to do the same.

Pastor Russel Bowman

2009 Minnesota District Teacher of the Year

Rosalie Fearing



Assembly of God Tabernacle

Verndale, MN

Pastor Jill J. Holm



My six children have loved having [Rosalie Fearing] as a Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, and doing Vacation Bible School for years. She is exciting and fun. She is cheerful despite health issues and life's trials.

Janis Rolli

Rosalie has served as an enthusiastic leader in Sunday School for many years. All age groups love her. New ideas are her specialty, especially if there is music involved.

Besides teaching the teen class, Rosalie is serving as Sunday School Superintendent, which she has done at various times in the past. Her young-at-heart attitude is to be commended. Despite two eye surgeries in both eyes, Rosalie continues to demonstrate her faith in times of great adversity and has seen God move in her life.

Pastor Jill J. Holm

2009 Mississippi District Teacher of the Year

Carolyn Sumrall



Evangel Temple Assembly of God

Laurel, MS

Pastor Jerry Paul Edwards



I have not found any other teacher that is as faithful and dedicated as she is. She will volunteer to work or teach when there is a need. She is the first to step up and tell me "I will if you want me too."

The Word of God tells of the gifts to the church and one of them is teachers. I do believe she is a gift to the church and I thank God for her. My prayer is, Lord, give us more teachers like Carolyn Sumrall.

Pastor Jerry Paul Edwards

As her pastor for the last 16 years, I have watched [Carolyn] give of herself each Sunday morning to her class. She has taught just about every class in Sunday School. I do not know how many years she has been teaching, but many of the young adults tell of her teaching them when they were a child.

2009 Montana District Teacher of the Year

Joy Burden



Central Assembly of God

Great Falls, MT

Pastor Bill Balance



I choose Joy Burden for the Teacher of the Year because of her heart. She has genuine love and concern for the 5th and 6th graders she teaches. Her accountability to me is wonderful. She has been a great communicator and teacher. I know I could trust her to teach the kids the Word of God.

God has truly gifted her with His Holy Spirit and the fruit is evident.

Pastor Tania Miller
Children's Pastor

2009 Nebraska District Teacher of the Year

Mary Krems



Mary has been teaching Sunday School at Big Springs Assembly of God for over 35 years and taught children's church for 12 years before that. And this does not mean she has recycled old truth over and over again. One of the best aspects of Mary's life and ministry is that she stays fresh, excited and best of all, anointed in her teaching ministry. Her relationship with Jesus remains close and up to date. She is still passionate about the things of God, teaching, and the Word of God.

She also teaches weekly at our Wednesday night elementary kids program. Even there, with most of the children attending coming from outside our church and many with no church background, Mary's teaching leaves them in complete attention, interest and awe. I believe it is because her students, no matter what setting or age group, know that she loves them.

Big Springs Assembly of God Church

Big Springs, NE

Pastor Chris Wadle



There is a Scripture in the gospels referring to Jesus that declares "they were amazed at His teaching, because He taught with authority and not as the scribes and Pharisees." (Matt 7:28 – 29) I believe Jesus' authority and impact came from His intimate relationship with the Father. He wasn't preaching somebody else's news or simply rehashing Old Testament Law, He was declaring the Heart of His Father, a heart that he knew intimately because of His close communion with God! I believe this is the secret to Mary's teaching as well. She is not just teaching a lesson, she is teaching her students. And she speaks not like one who knows about God, but like one who knows God.

Chris A. Wadle

2009 New Jersey District Teacher of the Year
Reverend Samuel Calhoun



I have observed many Sunday School teachers during my childhood, and over the course of our 27 year ministry. Pastor Sam goes above and beyond, week after week, as he prepares and brings forth the Sunday School lesson for the adults of our church. If there is a theological question or simply a question as to where to find something in God's Word, Pastor Sam is the go to person.

Not only is he extremely knowledgeable of God's Word, but he daily puts it into practice. Jesus is very evident in his life and he has a real love, not only for God's Word, but for his people. He has a great sense of humor as well. This sense of humor, combined with his biblical knowledge creates an energy charged atmosphere that elicits an eagerness to learn from all of the adult students in Pastor Sam's class.

First Assembly of God

Freehold, NJ

Pastor Jerry Philhower



2 years ago Pastor Sam was diagnosed with throat cancer. He was under treatment for approximately 9 months, during which time he lost his voice, his appetite and even his will to live. During this time he continued to stand on God's Word and to believe in God's promises regardless of the bleakness of the situation.

I believe as a testimony to God's glory, he was offered the chance to become a "guinea pig" for a new type of throat therapy. With access to this therapy, the prayers of many Christians, and Pastor Sam's personal faith, God healed him. The following year he was able to resume teaching the adult Sunday School class.

Heather Philhower
Pastor's Wife and
Sunday School Superintendent

2009 New York District Teacher of the Year
Charles Augello



Brother Charles serves as the Head Teacher of our Sunday School Department. He is a wonderful teacher of the Word of God. He is 73 years old and he has a wealth of stories and testimonies to share. Every time he tells one of his many stories, his eyes well up with tears as he recalls the goodness of God. The lessons are well presented and always invoke good discussions. There are people who have to work on Sundays and are unable to attend our worship service, so they attend his class and leave for work.

El Bethel Assembly of God

Staten Island, NY

Pastor L. Nelson Naicker



His love for teaching the Word of God goes beyond the official program of the Church. He has a Bible Study group that meets at his home every Monday night. This group is comprised mostly of Catholics. As a former Catholic, he has a passion to reach them.

Brother Charles serves as a wonderful role model and mentor to the younger people in our congregation. He teaches at our annual Vacation Bible School and has led many children to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Dr. L. Nelson Naicker

2009 Northern California-Nevada District Teacher of the Year
Shari Argyropoulos



Greek Assembly of God

Oakland, CA

Doctor Peter Vourliotis



...[Shari is] a very dedicated Sunday School teacher for a growing number of children from ages 5 – teens. Her class consists of students who are exceptionally gifted and full of energy, as well as very spiritually challenged students whom she brings with her to the class...

Last year... they relocated to a house surrounded by spiritually challenging neighbors. Her one concern was not for their own privacy and protection, but that the Lord save her neighbors.

She is a lady with a great vision to tell everyone she meets about the Love of God and His plan of salvation for all the world. She has brought in many who were unreached before...

Even though her Sunday School class is challenging by many levels of Bible training, all of the students are learning scriptures during each class, and they are always ready to participate with wonderful children's presentations to the entire congregation at special times such as Easter and Christmas.

Robert and Rebecca Creel
Missionaries to the Greeks

2009 North Dakota District Teacher of the Year
Nick Ybarra



Watford City Assembly of God

Watford City, ND

Pastor Sheldon McGorman



[Nick] teaches at the high school level and is a strong leader with a gentle heart when it comes to teaching or whatever task he is doing. He is one of those guys that if you ask him to do something he may not know how to do it, but he will come up with something.

Almost every Sunday morning, Nick makes breakfast for his class. He bonds with his class in a way that is indescribable.

He helps out when needed. When he preaches, he is very personable. He doesn't just preach what God tells him to, he preaches from the heart. He is a guy that will listen and wants to help people.

Kathy

2009 North Texas District Teacher of the Year **Jean Taylor**



For Jean, the focal point of Sunday School is “to teach children about Jesus.” They need to know that Jesus died for their sins, rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of God. And they need to be given the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior. But, they also need to know that Jesus is always with them, even when there are no adults watching. They need to know Jesus will help them live a godly life, but He will also hold them accountable. They need to know about and experience Pentecost. “We are Pentecostals and our children need to know about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and experience it in their lives,” Jean told me. She feels that Sunday School is the place for them to begin to learn about the power that is available to them to help them not only know about Jesus, but to live like him.

Teaching about life application is the most important aspect of Jean’s teaching. Each week she tries to teach her students about what others in the faith have done and how their life situations are similar

First Assembly of God

Mineola, TX

Pastor Jerry Williams



to ours, that we can learn from those who went before us and apply the same principles to our own lives. Jean encourages her students to try out the Sunday School lesson during the coming week and report back the following Sunday about the results. She said some of the students are shy about telling what has happened during the week, but at least one student will always come with a story of how well the principles apply.

...when I asked Jean what it takes to be a Sunday School teacher, she responded, “You have to love children, really love them and want to see them learn about Jesus.” She also said, “You need to be called by God. Not everyone is called to be a teacher. The body of Christ has many different members and each member has their own part to play...I can’t play musical instruments, sing, or preach, but I can teach. And that is what God called me to do for them.”

2009 Northwest District Teacher of the Year

Hilary Ayars



"I appreciate Hilary because she shares from her life. She makes us think about God in a deeper way. She's inspired me to read my Bible more and get to know and love God more."

"Hilary is kind and she loves God. She helps us understand God in a real way. I love her. She helps us learn more about God's Word and how to apply it to our lives. I've learned so much from her."

"She's nice and she helps people. If they mess up, she helps them do it again. If they don't know what to write, she'll write it on the board. She helps us know God, by helping us read our Bibles. We read out of the Bible every week during class, everyone in my class. My favorite part of the class is that we get to do memory verses, because they teach us more about God. I also like to do offering (it goes to the poor and those in need.) She's kind and she helps us look in our Bible."

Students

Mountain View Assembly of God

Marysville, WA

Pastor Scott Cooper



The fruit of God's new life growing in Hilary brings life and joy to those who have the blessing of spending quality time with her. She is self motivated, disciplined, and a marvelous example of Christ shining through a person...Her passion is taking kids deeper with God...the kids learn to open up their Bibles and read them for themselves...She seeks out additional resources to enrich her class... She is a Spirit filled believer, and when lessons arise about the Holy Spirit, she gives them the opportunity to be prayed over...she has sought out and trained many of her helpers asking God who she should ask...She enjoys sharpening her skills as a teacher...Sharing God's amazing grace, and creating true, life long disciples is her goal and mission.

Teresa Christianson
Children's Pastor

2009 Ohio District Teacher of the Year

Pat Snodgrass



Bethel Temple

Canton, OH

Pastor Terry Kirschman



...the thing that sets Pat apart from everyone else is her constancy. The dictionary says that word means, "the quality of being unchanging or unwavering, as in purpose, love, or loyalty; firmness of mind; faithfulness." That describes Pat. She has always been filled with purpose, love, and loyalty to the Lord, her church, the teachers who have worked with her, and most of all, the children she has taught. Throughout her life—in joy and trouble—she has had a smile on her face and has brought happiness to children and parents. Her long hours of preparation, her absolute love for each child individually, and the joy she wears on her face continually have shown Christ's love over the years.

Terry Kirschman
Lead Pastor

Sharon Peterson
Christian Education Director

2009 Oklahoma District Teacher of the Year

Luther M. Pepper



Brother Pepper has been teaching for over 30 plus years at various Assembly of God church Sunday Schools. He has been in this church for many years.

He not only has taught in our local church classes, but he has taught in our district Indian mission programs and children for youth camps.

Mr. Pepper is on the executive council for the Kaw nation here in Kay County, Oklahoma in Kaw City. He was recently honored with a certificate from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians. Mr. Pepper's name was added to the new Honor Wall of the National Museum of American Indians in Washington D. C. for his leadership and achievements. He travels the nation for his Kaw Nation, but returns to teach his adult class.

First Assembly of God

Newkirk, OK

Pastor Charley Hudspeth



Our church family at First Assembly of God in Newkirk, Oklahoma are very proud and appreciative of the dedicated teaching ministry of Luther M. Pepper. He has, and is, a blessing in our church and in our Sunday School Department. His adult class is growing as he prays, prepares, and presents his lesson each Sunday morning. We are blessed having Brother Pepper teach our adult class.

Pastor Charley Hudspeth

2009 Oregon District Teacher of the Year
Shireen Malpass



On the first Sunday I came to this church as a prospective youth pastor, I sat in the High School class to meet the students I would soon be pastoring and I was surprised at how well Shireen interacted with them. She is a middle school Physical Education teacher and has been for over 30 years in Junction City, Oregon and has more energy and fire for reaching our youth in the community than five youth pastor's combined. Not only is she heavily committed to reaching the youth in the community, she is heavily involved in community events as well. Her support for local agriculture has also made an incredible impact in the community that only contributes to her success as a teacher of Christian Education.

... We have replaced our annual evangelist (Revival) style services with a community outreach that has seen much better results than a church service ever would that is absolutely relevant for our local church culture. Shireen has done very well recruiting and promoting this event [which we call the "CVC Rodeo"] and we have been turned on to many new faces and met many new people in the community as a result...

Central Valley Church

Halsey, OR

Pastor Eric M. Harless



... During Sunday evenings in the summer time, we have canceled our evening service in favor of serving the community with work projects... Shireen is always there, as she sees the value of serving in order to open doors into people's lives.

... Oregon is the number one unchurched state in the Union and the United States is the number three unchurched nation in the world. We face a huge challenge and as a pastor I wish every church had a Shireen to better shine the light of the gospel into the dark places of our world.

In Christ,
Reverend Eric M. Harless
Senior Pastor

2009 Peninsular Florida District Teacher of the Year

Tracy Tvaroch



Gulf Coast Assembly

North Port, FL

Pastor Tracy Tvaroch



Tracy Tvaroch is a fine teacher. Her love for children and the dedication she shows in teaching is a model for many.

Tracy is always ready with a lesson whether it is for one or 21 students.

I can depend on her at all times to do what she needs to do and be where she needs to be to help me out.

When I need a volunteer for special events, she is the first to say, "Here I am, what can I do to help?"

She not only teaches her class, she is back up singer and ministers on the street as well.

I admire her dedication.

Jackie Church

Director of Sunday School
(Sunday Bible Institute)

2009 Pennsylvania/Delaware District Teacher of the Year
Deania Rice



[Deania Rice] was saved in 1969 when she was 27 years old and started teaching four year olds, almost immediately. Over the years she has taught all age levels including nine and ten year olds, college and career and adults.

Deania has taught many, many different elective courses including new convert classes, evangelism explosion, etc. She has been active in teaching Sunday School classes almost non-stop all these years. She says that when she is not teaching, she is lost.

She has always and continues to strive to be a life-long learner. Over the years she has attended many seminars, Sunday School conventions, district events and so forth. She has a genuine call of God and anointing on her life. She loves and has a passion for studying the scriptures, preparing lessons, and being led by the Holy Spirit.

Assembly of God North East

North East, PA

Pastor Troy Keith



Deania has personally lead many people to the Lord and walked them through the scriptures, one-on-one in the classroom. She loves people and people love her. I hear from her students, almost weekly, about how much they appreciate her class. She draws young adults and senior adults! Her students know she spends time with God and in the Word.

Deania is a top-notch, class act, real, personable, genuine, authentic, faithful, faith filled, woman of God. Without question she has and uses the gifts of hospitality, teaching, encouragement, and intercession. She is absolutely the type of person you want to go to and feel drawn to go to for prayer. She ministers in the power and joy of the Holy Spirit. It is not uncommon to hear her powerfully praying in the Spirit.

Pastor Troy Keith

2009 Puerto Rico District Teacher of the Year
Ana E. Caraballo Rodriquez



Iglesia Asambleas de Dios
Sierra Bayamon

Bayamon, PR

Pastor Ana Dipini



[Ana E. Caraballo Rodriquez] has been in the teaching ministry for 30 years. She has taught children, youth, and adults. In addition, she has given workshops. She has worked as a missionary in Haiti, Honduras, Santo Domingo, and Venezuela for five years.

She has been a faithful member and active worshipper in our congregation. Her positive attitude and generosity demonstrates her intimacy with God and His calling to serve others.

She is highly respected in our congregation and is one of our distinguished leaders and teachers.

Pastor Angel Roman
Director of Christian Education

2009 South Dakota District Teacher of the Year
Josephine Defender



Good News Assembly of God

McLaughlin, SD

Pastor Rocky White Mountain



Josephine lives and ministers in one of the most difficult areas in our country—on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Our particular community is a violent alcohol and drug infested one.

Josephine grew up in an alcoholic home and endured all types of abuse and neglect. She totally identifies with the children of this reservation. She has children in her Sunday afternoon class that witness all sort of horrors—suicide, assaults, and alcohol and drug abuse. Nevertheless, she will not give into any of them. She fearlessly goes into these homes and encourages not only the children, but the adults.

Josephine is known community wide as a loving, generous, and compassionate person.

Pastor Rocky White Mountain

2009 South Texas District Teacher of the Year

Doris Ringo



Oak Grove Harvest

Fred, TX

Pastor R. Scott Briggs



I have attended many Sunday School classes and have come across several different types of teachers. Based on this experience, Ms. Ringo is a jewel. I am proud to nominate her for the Teacher of the Year Award. I base this nomination on three key elements that differentiate her from the others...

First, she is a woman speaking from experience. Her teaching style is definitely 'old school,' however, she speaks with such conviction as to convince you that she tried it and it works.

Secondly, Ms. Ringo instructs from the heart. Her walk with God radiates from her heart, body and soul. It is not unusual to see hands raised during her class or to hear a hearty AMEN. Her anointing permeates the classroom. You always depart her class refreshed, challenged, and blessed.

Finally, she is a woman of the Word. Ms. Ringo knows her Bible. She carries one of those Bibles whose pages are curled, stained and frayed. Her Bible contains many self-made marks to emphasize points of Wisdom given during her personal study by the Holy Spirit. She does not just teach the Bible, she lives and breathes scripture all from a humble heart.

Ms. Ringo is rapidly approaching her 80th birthday. Her health is good and my prayer is that she will remain until the coming of our Lord. If she does not, than Oak Grove Harvest in Fred, Texas will have a large hole in its Sunday School department. You do not replace a Doris Ringo, you can only wait until another is groomed to fill this key spot in the body of Christ.

Reverend R. Scott Briggs

2009 Southern California District Teacher of the Year
Caroline Murie



Beacon Hill Assembly of God

Norco, CA

Pastor Rene Parish



I generally have a policy that members are to focus on a single area of ministry and not to overextend themselves, but Caroline is the exception to the rule. She has such a passion to teach children, and her passion cannot be bridled. Caroline is available to help at any children's outreach, whether it is Vacation Bible School or a Halloween alternative.

Although Caroline has taught in all areas of children's ministry, her true passion lies in the spiritual development of pre-school to kindergarten students. That passion is evident in her teaching. She doesn't merely teach the lesson, but uses all sorts of creative devices to communicate the truth of the lesson to her young students. I have seen her use handicrafts, life lessons from the plant or animal world, age appropriate science experiments, and so

forth to enable her students to grasp the spiritual truth of the lesson. The parents of these young students remark to me on a regular basis on what an amazing teacher Caroline is and how fortunate we are to have her teaching our children.

Her love for her students, however, extends beyond the classroom. She also cares for their parents and siblings. She has been known to take groceries to needy families, rally the church around a crisis in a family, and just show love in simple ways. An example that happened just this past month is that one of the mothers in our church was confined to be a rest during her pregnancy. Her two young daughters were concerned about their mommy and unborn brother. Caroline purchased the girls T-shirts that said, "I'm the Big Sister," and through that gift taught them what it meant to be a big sister and how to help mommy. Since then their baby brother has been born and the parents are amazed at how responsible their four and six year old daughters have been. The girls are very proud of being the "big sister" and are taking their role very seriously.

Pastor René Parish

2009 Southern Missouri District Teacher of the Year
Matthew Lee



Steelville First Assembly of God

Steelville, MO

Pastor Jerry Beers



I have known Matt Lee for about five years. He has been a very dedicated Christian here in the Steelville First Assembly of God Church.

He is a teacher and the Head Commander in our Royal Ranger program. He is the teacher of the Homes of Honor Sunday School class. He also serves as part of the praise and worship team. He has been on several missions trips in the U. S. and Mexico.

Matthew is a hard working family man, husband and father of four children. He owns his own business and is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Elizabeth Dunn
Sunday School Superintendent

2009 Southern Pacific District Teacher of the Year
Vicenta Carrillo



Bethania Assembly of God

San Diego, CA

Pastor Refugio A. Tejada



[Vicenta Carrillo] is a faithful member of our church, achieving EVERYTHING under the General Supervision of the Christian Education Department, as also with her obligations with God and the Church under my care.

In the branch of Biblical Teachings, she has the distinguish and the know how to give importance experience. She is at present studying in one of our Assemblies of God Bible College branches here in California.

Pastor Refugio A. Tejada

2009 Spanish Eastern District Teacher of the Year
Galia Cabera



Sister Cabrera has been a Sunday School teacher for 15 years. During her tenure in the Sunday School department, she has not only been a teacher for the adults, but was the General Superintendent for the Sunday School Department.

Sister Cabrera has also been the teacher for all of the Sunday School teachers. None of the adult teachers can teach on Sunday if they do not take the teacher's class given during the week. She is faithful to her ministry and is highly responsible in her attendance and punctuality.

Sister Cabrera has earned the respect of the rest of her staff and loved by everyone, especially the ladies that she teaches on Sundays.

Reverend Anibal Maldonado,
Pastor

Reverend Virginia Maldonado,
Director of Education

Siloam Christian Church

Bronx, NY

Pastor Anibal Maldonado



[Galia Cabera's biography lists too many achievements to fit within the space constraints of this publication. The most recent and relevant to her role as a Sunday School teacher are listed below. . .]

- She has visited the prisons preaching and teaching the Gospel since 1979
- She graduated with first honor at the School of Theology of the Spanish Eastern District with a Bachelors degree in Theology
- She received training of the Women's Ministries, Missionettes, and APTOS (ACTS)
- At Siloam Christian Church she has functioned as Adult Sunday School Teacher. She was superintendent of the Adult Sunday School Department
- She is an active member of the ministry of prisons "Good News of Salvation" of the Church
- She was a teacher of the Spanish Eastern Bible Institute of the Assemblies of God Section of the Bronx for twelve years
- She has given Bible Studies and counseling in "Path of Blessings, Inc." rehabilitation program for drug addicts in the Bronx for approximately five years
- She has preached and taught Bible studies and conferences at a local level, in the prisons, churches, radio stations, and at an international level in the Dominican Republic and Honduras

2009 West Florida District Teacher of the Year
Kelly Hudson



Kelly is very faithful to her young charges and is loved by them without reservation. Kelly is an elementary school teacher for special and exceptional children and she brings the skills from that role coupled with her compassion to her Sunday School Class.

Kelly is in her early twenties and in her second year as a schoolteacher. She is now in her fourth year as a Sunday School teacher and is doing an exceptional job. Her students are anxious to get to class and reluctant to leave. Sometimes in the evening or mid-week service when they come in the door they gravitate toward the Sunday School classroom near the entrance of the sanctuary wanting to go to Kelly and the class.

Cedar Springs Assembly of God

Westville, FL

Pastor Roger Hagan



Kelly's students are kept in order and are quick to explain what the lesson is about. To maintain this age group's attention is within itself a feat. Kelly does this by being prepared when she comes and provides the right amount of visuals and activities. You can tell her class is first in her heart. Her classroom is always orderly, clean, and cheerful. She spends time making the environment ready for the students. Many times she has spent her own resources for something she needed without thinking to come to me or the church board.

Gary Newell
Sunday School Superintendent

2009 West Texas District Teacher of the Year
Seferina Guzman



Seferina Guzman has been teaching Sunday School here for seven years. Her first year was with the primary class, six years in Middle School, and now she teaches the High School class.

On National Sunday School Day, during our annual LIFE Breakfast, Severina shared with our church family that one of the things she loves most about teaching Sunday School is our curriculum (Radiant Life). She loves the sound biblical doctrine and application that is faithfully brought out. "It helps me teach on their level... a lot of biblical principles and it shows them how to apply it to their lives. The object lessons enhance the lessons, and so often end with challenges to step out of their comfort zones to share Christ. Recently the curriculum suggested that we share Christ by sending a card to someone, a friend, family or someone at school. We did that."

When I have observed Seferina in class, her lessons are well planned and organized, with a nice flow. She uses a lot of Bible, with timely life application, object lessons and class participation. I like the way she uses good eye contact, and speaks to her students at their level.

Fairview Assembly of God

Amarillo, TX

Pastor Cliff H. Houghton



Michelle Vigil worked with Seferina for four years as the Assistant Middle School Teacher. She shares, "You can see that Seferina cares about the kids no matter what, and is trusting God for their lives. She has a way of getting shy kids to open up. She believes God has called her to be a teacher. It is something she takes seriously."

Seferina received her All Church Training Series (ACTS) Certification, with a specialization in Sunday School/Youth in 1999. She faithfully attends our teacher's meetings, and is committed to ongoing teacher training.

Leslie Stewart
Christian Education Director

2009 Wisconsin/Northern Michigan District Teacher of the Year
Mike Williams



Mike has displayed a high level of character and competency in his eleven years of lay ministry here at Oak Creek Assembly of God. His credibility amongst our congregation as well as within the community is of the highest caliber. Mike is not only a Sunday School teacher, but he is also the lead trainer for all our teachers, the altar ministry director, and a part of the men's ministry leadership team here at church.

Oak Creek Assembly of God

Oak Creek, WI

Pastor Jerry Brooks



I think the simplest way I can say why I think you should consider Mike as Teacher of the Year, is that he consistently, appropriately, and relevantly invests in people no matter their life stage or spiritual maturity. Currently, Mike has been involved in crafting an engaging discipleship process to help people get from an altar of decision to a small life group, Sunday School class, etc. where Christian community and growth takes place. Not only is he leading a team in developing this, but also he is personally walking two newly saved individuals through this process.

Reverend Mark McKinstry
Minister of Christian Education

2009 Wyoming District Teacher of the Year
Virginia Parker



Virginia loves Jesus and children and likes to do hands on projects to teach her lessons, such as planting flowers in the church yard to illustrate points. She is very creative and can teach on a level children can understand.

One of the most outstanding things about Virginia is that during the tough times in her life, she continued to teach and live a life as a testimony for Christ. About a year and a half ago, she was diagnosed with lupus. She began to experience severe pain and suffered from other disease as well, including severe arthritis. She loves the outdoors and was no longer able to go back packing and do other activities.

At times this past year she could not attend church because of the severe pain. On Easter 2008 she persevered and prepared the children to do a simple but very meaningful presentation about the cross. The tears flowed as she and the children described the love of Jesus. A month later Virginia was sitting

Platte Valley Christian Center
Assembly of God

Saratoga, WY

Pastor Gene Smith



in morning worship. She was simply just being a worshipper when she felt a very warm presence healing her body. That day she walked her dog for a mile and hasn't stopped going since then!

Pastor Gene Smith

To say Virginia loves children is not enough. She has a great rapport with children from broken homes. She goes out of her way to care for and be a part of the lives of not only her Sunday School children but all of the children in our village.

She is creative in her lesson, sacrificial in her giving of time and talent to our young people, and has a passion to see these children and their families saved and growing in the Lord. Being a small church we have little resources for children's ministries but that doesn't daunt her and she makes her lessons interesting with all kinds of unique and homemade things. Her style of teaching is participatory rather than lecturing and the kids are responding well to this new approach to teaching. She is very innovative and when called upon can be very spontaneous too. She has a deep compassion for what children are going through in our area these days and many of her young students do not come from stable or Christian family backgrounds. She has a wonderful way of encouraging their faith to grow and to be applied to their everyday living situations.

Cindy Pattishall-Baker

September 2009

National Discipleship Month

September 27, 2009
National Sunday School Day

resources available
www.discipleship.ag.org
May 2009



And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that
bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:3 KJV

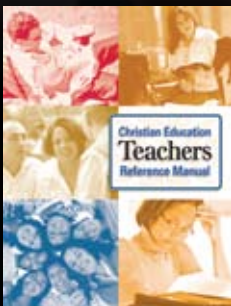


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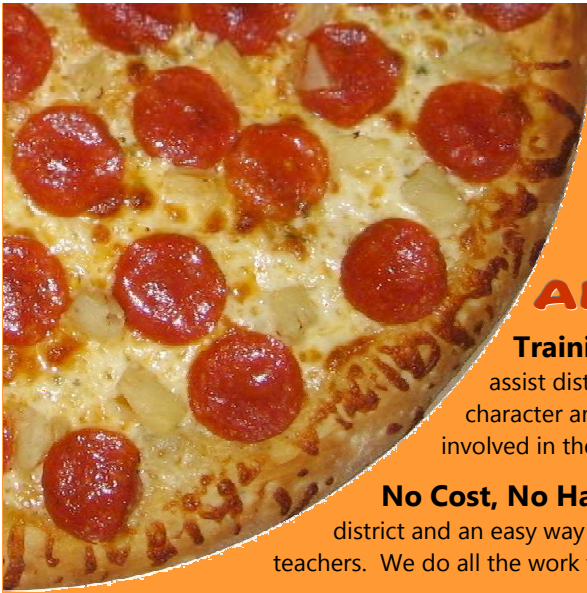
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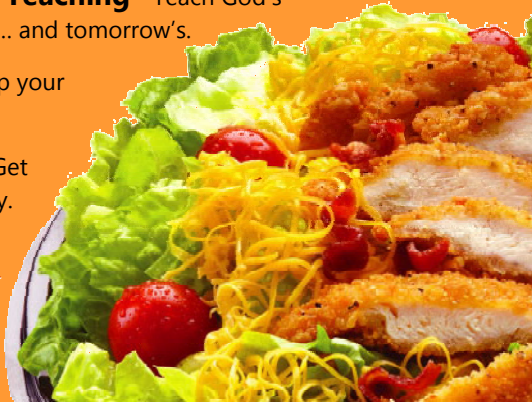
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