

***"Volunteers are to the church  
what the heart is to the body —  
they keep the local church  
alive."***

**Volunteers: Hope for the Future: Maxine Marshall  
Discipleship Resources, Nashville, 1980**

***"Go therefore and make disciples  
of all nations, baptizing them in  
the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey  
everything that I have  
commanded you ..."***

**Matthew 28: 19-20**

***"The gifts he gave were that  
some would be apostles, some  
prophets, some evangelists,  
some pastors and teachers, to  
equip the saints for the work of  
ministry, for the building up the  
body of Christ ..."***

**Ephesians 4: 11-12**

## **Resources Used:**

*Blueprints for Building Christian Education*  
Edited by Douglas Cripe, Christian Board of  
Publication, St. Louis, 1997

*How to Train Volunteer Teachers:* Delia  
Halverson, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1991

*Teaching Today's Teachers to Teach:*  
Donald L. Griggs, Abingdon Press, Nashville,  
2003

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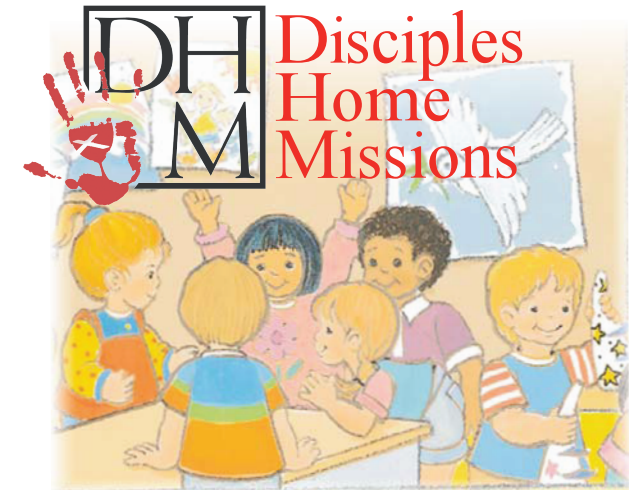
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# **Nurturing and Supporting the Teacher**

Provided by Christian Education Ministries, a  
program of Disciples Home Missions, this  
brochure is a tool for leadership development  
and congregational transformation.

# Who is a teacher?

*You are a teacher when  
you share yourself and  
your faith with others.  
That is what God is calling  
you to be and to do.*

## Ten tips for recruiting teachers

1. Be prayerful.
2. Be honest.
3. Be enthusiastic.
4. Be persistent.
5. Be open.
6. Be observant.
7. Be thorough.
8. Be communicable.
9. Be personable.
10. Be resourceful.

## 20 Ways to Nurture and Support Teachers

1. Covenant with your teachers, insuring them that their ministry is important.
2. Dedicate your teachers during worship service acknowledging their "Call to Teach."
3. Make a teacher handbook providing information and support.
4. Provide experienced teachers to serve as a mentor or buddy for inexperienced new teachers.
5. Pray unceasingly for your teachers, and advocate for them.
6. Prepare a monthly newsletter highlighting events, tips and new resources.
7. Encourage teachers to have a study place, prayer partner, resource library and support group.
8. Feature "Teacher and/or Class of the Month" in church newsletter, bulletin or bulletin board.
9. Publicize teachers' successes: church bulletins, newsletters, bulletin boards and pulpit.
10. Take pictures of teachers and students while engaged in class activities and create a display.
11. Create a video or slide presentation and show during special gatherings.
12. Recruit substitute teachers and plan "Sundays Off" to give teachers time to attend a class.
13. Plan an annual "Open House" and invite congregation to visit classrooms.
14. Provide lists of substitute teachers (teachers are away) and helping hands (additional activities).
15. Provide necessary resources, basic supplies and equipment.
16. Give a gift of appreciation such as certificate, tote bag, resource book, flowers or book mark.
17. Provide an occasional treat as they arrive on Sunday morning.
18. Have an appreciation meal to express, "We Love Our Teachers!"
19. Reimburse teachers for incurred expenses.
20. Stay in contact with teachers through phone call, notes letters and cards to say "We Care!"

**A teacher** ... learns a lot, ... cares a lot, ... shares a lot, and ... grows a lot.

**A teacher** ... nurtures others on their faith journey, ... assists with art and creativity, ... encourages participation through discussion, ... leads others to express themselves through drama, ... guides the study of God's Word, ... invites others to follow Jesus, and ... shares friendship with the learner.

— Donald L. Griggs

Volunteers, especially teachers, have always been necessary to carry out God's work within the life of the local congregation. They spend countless hours preparing and teaching various classes. Some may have more natural ability, and others may have more educational opportunity. Looking for teachers is not simply a matter of filling slots. You are calling people to the ministry of teaching on behalf of the congregation. In preparation for calling people to teach, be encouraged to spend some time alone or with your team in Bible study and prayer.

Those who are motivated and committed to teach can be helped to become more effective and creative teachers. Supporting, encouraging and nurturing teachers is as important as equipping them with the information and skills necessary for teaching. We must care as Jesus taught us to care. During the last supper that Jesus arranged to have with his disciples, he washed their tired and dusty feet, and did not ask them to pay for their own meal. He expressed love and concern for them. How do you nurture, encourage and support the teachers within your local congregation?