

A HANDBOOK

FOR

Sunshine Band Leaders

Volume I



THE A. B. KOGER, COLLECTION

Compiled by

MRS. LETHIA L. CRAIG
National Directress of the Young People's Department
of the Woman's Convention
Auxiliary to National Baptist Convention

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SUNSHINE SONG

Sunshine in the Soul

1. There's sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright;
Than glows in any earthly skies
For Jesus is my light.

Chorus

O there's sunshine, blessed sunshine,
When the peaceful, happy moments roll;
When Jesus shows his smiling face,
There is sunshine in the soul.

2. There's music in my soul today,
A carol to the King;
And Jesus listening, can hear
The songs I cannot sing.
3. There's springtime in my soul today,
For when the Lord is near;
The dove of peace sings in my heart,
The flowers of grace appear.
4. There's gladness in my soul today,
And hope and praise and love;
For blessings which he gives me now,
For joys laid up above.

Colors—Yellow and White

Sunshine Bands are important. The church should include a Sunshine Band in its religious education program. The child is still in "our midst" and we, as Baptists, should develop and give capable leadership to these boys and girls of Sunshine Band age.

Issued by
Authority of Woman's Convention
Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention

A HAND BOOK FOR LEADERS OF SUNSHINE BANDS

What Sunshine Bands Are:

Sunshine Bands are religious organizations of children from five to nine years of age, holding regular meetings and operating under supervision of the missionary society of the church.

Object:

The object is to plant the missionary spirit in the young tender heart of the child, by bringing the world with its spiritual needs before him early, that he may become a missionary later. "As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined."

We reach our objectives by:

1. Giving Instruction in God's Word
(Bible Study).
2. Giving Instruction in Missions
(Mission Study)
3. Training in Giving
(Stewardship)

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4. Training in Christian Service
(Personal Service)
5. Teaching Children How to Pray

The Study of God's Word

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway."

Teach the child that as the lamp gives light for the feet on earth, so the study of the Bible makes clear the pathway to our heavenly Father.

Prayer

Have the children realize the need of God's help at all times. Prayers should be offered in simple sentences, as:

Dear Father, we thank thee for the Sabbath day.
Dear Father, we thank thee for rain.
Dear Father, we thank thee for sunshine.
Dear Father, we thank thee for the Bible.

Mission Study

Children of Sunshine Bands all love stories, and there are many books which give missionary stories. If the story is written especially for children, it may be read by the leader. The best results are obtained by the leader telling the

story, for it is then that she can hold the attention, not only by the story, but by her personal magnetism.

A story must have a message. A story must be entertaining.

Characteristics of a Good Story-teller

A good story-teller must love the Master's work and love the children. A good story-teller must know the aim and purpose of a good story.

Study the children and their surroundings that you may intelligently provide what their lives demand.

Know the story so that it may flow from your lips with freedom and ease.

Good Books:

Stories and Story Telling

By St. John

How to Tell Stories

By Bryant

Sand Tables

These tables may be built with very little expense—something like three feet by three feet with a zinc pan for the sand. They may be larger or they may be smaller. Some use a big tin pan

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18 x 18, for baking, very effectively, where the sand table is not available.

The second problem is the sand. Beautiful white sand may be purchased for a nice little sum of money. The sand is much better moistened before it is used.

Then there is the problem of the objects for presenting the lesson. A mirror will answer for water. When you want grass instead of the natural earth, use sawdust colored green. Houses may be made of paper, cardboard, sticks, grass and mud. Tents may be made of paper or cardboard. Toothpicks, clothespins, matches, sticks, celluloid and china dolls can be used for people. Small toy animals may be secured from a toy shop. These materials should be kept in a cabinet or a box labeled for this purpose.

A shower may be given and each child asked to bring some object if the leader has no other way of getting them. Simplicity must be the keynote. It is well to have all objects present when the lesson is first presented. Objects may be moved or pointed out, but it destroys the interest in what you are saying to present a new object during the story.

It would be impossible to enumerate the Bible and mission programs which can be given with the sand table. The following are especially good:

The Creation
The Ark

The Three Wise Men
The Good Samaritan
The Resurrection
The Sermon on the Mount
The Blind Man Near Jericho

Object Lessons

It has long been recognized that a large per cent of all knowledge comes through the eye. One rarely forgets what he sees and we need to remember this truth and apply this method of teaching missions to the little ones.

An object lesson does not necessarily mean a great amount of material, much time and a lot of hard work. Use only such objects as are necessary to convey the truth to the mind through the eye. Often just one picture, perhaps the cover from a magazine, is sufficient. You are trying to impart a spiritual truth to the child. Therefore, let the truth and not the object predominate.

One Illustrated Story Given as Help to the Leader

Creation Story

Genesis 1:1-31

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Introduction:

Speak of the beauty of nature, this earthly home of ours. Let the children tell who gave these beautiful gifts.

Explain to them that the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Speak in a low impressive manner.)

First Lesson:

Tell in story form verses 3-5.

Circle One: One-half of circle made dark with crayola, ink, or water colors; other half white, sky blue.

Second Lesson:

Verses 6-8 in story form.

Circle Two: All light blue upper half in circles like clouds; lower half smooth like a calm sea.

Third Lesson:

Verses 9-13.

Circle Three: Upper half light blue for the sky; lower half brown with grass, trees and flowers.

Fourth Lesson:

Verses 14-19.

Circle Four: One-half dark blue with light yellow circle for moon; gilt stars for stars; second half light blue with orange circle for the sun.

Fifth Lesson:

Verses 20-23 for story.

Circle Five: Upper half light blue for sky, using gummed birds; light blue for the sea with green for shore, using gummed fish in the water.

Sixth Lesson:

Verses 24-31.

Circle Six: Light blue sky and green earth, with trees, flowers and river. Secure trees, flowers, and animals from magazines. You may have to get a Bible story book for pictures of Adam and Eve.

Close with the thought that God created all these good, beautiful things and gave them to us to use and enjoy. "Shall we bow our heads and thank God for this beautiful home."

GIVING

“God loveth a cheerful giver.” It is easy to teach a child that one penny out of every dime belongs to the Lord.

The Sunshine Band leader first of all should be a tither. Tithing will encourage systematic giving. Giving is a part of the worship, therefore, should not be done in a careless way.

The leader should know state objectives, and direct giving accordingly. Our national objectives are Home and Foreign Missions and Education.

There should be maps and charts, pictures of missionaries on foreign fields, where stationed, etc.; pictures of the hospital at Liberia, erected by the efforts of the women of Woman's Convention, Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention. The child should be told in simple language what he is giving for and why. The National Training School for Women and Girls at Washington, D. C., should be discussed.

PERSONAL SERVICE

“Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Individual personal service is Christlike living with regard to those around us.

Preparation for Personal Service Meetings:

The leader should have every detail planned for the meeting before going to the church—the place to go, what songs to sing, how many if all of the children are to take part on the program, or, if only a few special numbers are to be presented. If fruits or flowers are to be presented this is arranged for before going to the meeting. Children should know whether they are to go on the street car so that they may have car fare. If they are to go in automobiles, have sufficient cars at the church to carry all of the children.

Group Plan:

There are times when it is not wise to carry too many children to one place. We have to exercise care with the really sick and the old people who are nervous. We reach more sick and shut-ins and visit them more frequently by having several groups. The groups may exchange places to visit. By not having the groups too large all may take part in the program by quoting a Scripture verse and singing; thus develop more children. When the group is large divide the children into two or more groups with a leader for each group.

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Whom to Visit:

1. Every church has some shut-ins.
2. Some aged man or woman too old and feeble to attend church may be visited.
3. Those who are sick with lingering illness. (Be careful never to carry children where they may contract a disease.)
4. Many elderly people who are not shut-ins enjoy a visit from children. This teaches them kindness to old people.
5. Visit homes for aged men and women. The children can render a great service with their songs and Scripture verses. It not only helps them spiritually, but brings back remembrances of their childhood days.
6. Where there is an orphanage, it is a beautiful thing for the children to go out and render a program, then invite the orphans to meet with them some time.
7. There are always patients in the hospital who would be glad to have the children visit them. Children may carry baskets of flowers and leave at least one flower in each room or at each bedside.
8. Children from the larger churches may render a great service to the mission church by rendering programs occasionally, inspiring and stimulating interest among children who are less fortunate in advantages than

they. Thanksgiving Day is a good time to go to the mission church.

Some Suggestions for Personal Service Programs

1. Let them sing several songs. Use piano where there is one. The older children may be able to sing some favorite hymns for old people which is pleasing to them.
2. Nothing pleases old people more than to hear the little ones repeat verses of Scripture.
3. If children read well, have them read some passage of Scripture. See that they read well before you go for the program.
4. Have at least two prayers—one after the song and one at the close of the program. Children may give sentence prayers. Always give the one visited an opportunity to pray.
5. Some child, good at story-telling, may tell one of the Bible stories, provided he knows it well enough to tell it interestingly.
6. A good reading might be given occasionally. The selection should not be left entirely to the child. Children often insist on readings, many of which are not suited for religious meetings.
7. Use vocal solos and duets if you have the

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voices. It may be possible to use a violin or piano solo occasionally.

8. Sometimes a song and prayer are sufficient, or just leave flowers. Never make a program over thirty minutes long.

Suggested Program

Three Minutes: Song—"Jesus Loves Me"

Two Minutes: Prayer—Children following leader

Three Minutes: "Scatter Sunshine"

Eight Minutes: Verses of Scripture by children

Three Minutes: Song

Two Minutes: Let shut-in give favorite passage

Seven Minutes: Bible story by some child

Two Minutes: Closing prayer by leader

DUTY OF COMMITTEE

- (a) Encourage little deeds of love and kindness among the children during week days while they are at home and at school. Have them to remember always that they belong to the Sunshine Band and should let their lights shine.

Book—Children Story Sermons

By H. T. Kess

- (b) Arrange a box with a slit in the top large enough to drop in a slip of paper. When

children have done some kindly deeds they write them on slips of paper and drop in the box at the meeting. Do not let them put their names on the slip, then you know they do it from love and not from show. Keep box on table each week, for by having them report weekly gives better results for the leaders' report than by reporting monthly.

- (c) Somewhere in the missionary room, have a table or a stand arranged to receive religious magazines, papers, and tracts of every kind to be distributed wherever needed. A fine way to get this started is to give a shower and tell each child to bring good papers or magazines. This may be mentioned at each meeting until they form the habit of bringing them. Tell them some of the places to which you carry this literature and how it helps those who receive it.
- (d) Make books for the children in the hospitals. They should be made of canvass or stiff paper covered with a bright flowered wallpaper. The older boys and girls, with supervision of the leader, can do most of the bookmaking. These boys and girls may also assist in teaching the young Sunshine Band children. This should be done some day other than the regular

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meeting day. When the work is done the leader may serve some light refreshments.

- (e) Arrange a box for the children's ward in the hospitals. The box may consist of picture books, games, dolls and toys of various kinds. Children take a great interest in the missionary showers. Have a meeting at least once a year when the pastor, leader, or some consecrated woman speaks to the mothers on early dedication of their children to the Lord.

SUGGESTED ARTICLES FOR EACH MONTH

(As often as the leader thinks wise the children may carry something to the sick and shut-ins.)

January: At this time of year, jellies, jams and preserves are always acceptable.

February: Christmas flowers are gone by this time and a pot plant will cheer and brighten during the cold winter days. The children may grow these plants themselves.

March: Violets, pansies and other flowers are blooming.

April: Strawberries are always enjoyed.

May: Wild flowers are pretty.

June: It is warm enough for lemonade or sherbet and roses are beautiful in June.

July: Peaches and plums are plentiful.

August: Ice cream and watermelons are refreshing.

September: Grapes, fruits, nuts.

October: A delicious pumpkin pie is always enjoyed.

November: Thanksgiving basket and dinner may be given.

December: Give some little gift or basket of fruit.

The joy and happiness which comes from these little deeds of love and kindness may lead many on to a larger and greater field of missionary endeavor.

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

MUSIC

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord: come before his presence with singing.”

Music is an expression of the heart or emotions, whether it be a feeling of joy or of sorrow.

Melancholy music will often produce a sad low-spirited feeling, while bright joyful music will cheer and gladden the heart.

The children come to us laughing and singing, so full of life with its joy and happiness, and we should keep the young lives singing. Plant the love of Christ in the children's heart gardens that they may sing with their hearts and with their voices.

Music should be played well for children. Therefore, secure the best pianist available, one who will give time and thought to the work. Select good music and be sympathetic with the children in their programs. They cannot sing to this hit and miss system of playing, but they do respond to that which is harmonious and will sing without urging if the music is good. You want the children's lives to be bright and happy, therefore, give them cheerful yet reverent music. Disorderly music develops disorderly lives and this age is too important with the children to subject them to music carelessly or improperly played. Unless you have a child who plays exceptionally well secure some adult to play for you.

Programs should always begin with soft music to secure quietness and reverence. It is well to have the children rise and sit to chords. It always pays to teach children to do the right thing in the right way and at the right time. Simple hymns such as "Jesus Loves Me," "Good Evening," are good. Select songs with words and

music adaptable to the children's age and knowledge.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A GOOD LEADER

1. Possess a knowledge of the Bible and be old enough to understand children. One who works with children must reflect a youthful spirit.
2. A Christian who loves God's Word.
3. Prayerful. If you linger at the throne of grace your countenance will shine forth the glory of Christ to the young heart.
4. Concentration. No one who does not put Christ and His cause first in her life should attempt to lead children. A leader cannot let Sunday trips and other pleasures interfere with her appointments with children.
5. Consecration. Do you let the children walk and talk with you that you may show forth his presence?
6. Faithfulness. May the task committed unto you be so executed that the King of Righteousness may say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."
7. Cheerfulness. Cheerfulness begets cheerfulness. The mood or temperament of the leader is always reflected in the conduct of the children. Children are naturally happy and should not have this

cheerful spirit crushed by a melancholy leader.

8. Love for nature. Nature is God's great school of learning for the child. Much of our teaching with the child must come through nature.
9. Love for children. We must win the child before we can teach him. We must love him before we can win him. He will love you because you first loved him.
10. Love for all humanity. There should be love for all colors and races of people in this beautiful world of ours.

Duties of the Leader

The Sunshine Band may be too large for the leader to handle all of the children. In that case enlist young women who are talented to work with children and who are members of the Red Circle and Young Women's League, and who will be willing to prepare themselves as teachers of Sunshine Band age. Their youthful manner appeals to children.

Stories should be selected by the leader, and teachers should be coached for awhile. Teachers should be supplied with necessary literature.

Suggestions to Leaders Concerning Home and Foreign Missions

Tell the children we must have some one look after all mission work at home, and the Baptists

have chosen Rev. T. Theodore Lovelace, of Chicago, Ill., as Corresponding Secretary for the Home Mission Board. Tell them of the new work undertaken by the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention on the Bahamas Islands. Pictures and leaflets can be secured by writing the Home Mission Board, 4834 Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Observe Week of Prayer for Home Missions during the month of March.

Foreign Missions

Tell the children of the Christmas Drive each year in December for the work of Foreign Missions. Tell them that Rev. J. H. Jackson is the Corresponding Secretary with offices at -----

----- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tell them of the thousands of little children who have never heard of Jesus, the children's Friend, and how much he loves them, and that we want to send missionary teachers to tell them the story. Beginning with this year, 1937, young people will observe the Emma B. DeLaney Week of Prayer in December.

Education

Tell them of the National Training School for Women and Girls located on Lincoln Heights,

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Washington, D. C., Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, President; an institution fostered by the Woman's Convention.

To all of these objectives we are committed.

CONSTITUTION OF SUNSHINE BAND

This society shall be known as the Sunshine Band of -----Church.

Article II

Its object is to enlist and teach the child to love and serve his Creator, and to plant the missionary spirit in his heart by bringing the world with its spiritual need before him early, that he may become a missionary later.

Article III

Officers shall be (1) a leader who shall have general oversight of the work, directing officers when needed; (2) president; (3) vice president; (4) secretary; (5) assistant secretary; (6) corresponding secretary; (7) treasurer.

Article IV

Boys and girls under 9 years of age may become members of the Sunshine Band, and are expected to take part in the activities of the Band.

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Article V

When Sunshine Bands are organized, a report is to be sent to the state leader.

Article VI

Election of the officers of this Band, semiannually or annually, is left to the discretion of the leader. Meetings shall be held weekly. The leader is elected by the Woman's Missionary Society.

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION

Name of Leader -----

Address of Leader -----

Name of Sunshine Band -----

Name of Church -----

Name of Association -----

Date of Organization -----

Number of Members -----

Remarks: -----

When this blank has been filled send to state
director of Young People's Work.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Woman's Convention

AUXILIARY TO

THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

MRS. LETHIA L. CRAIG

National Directress

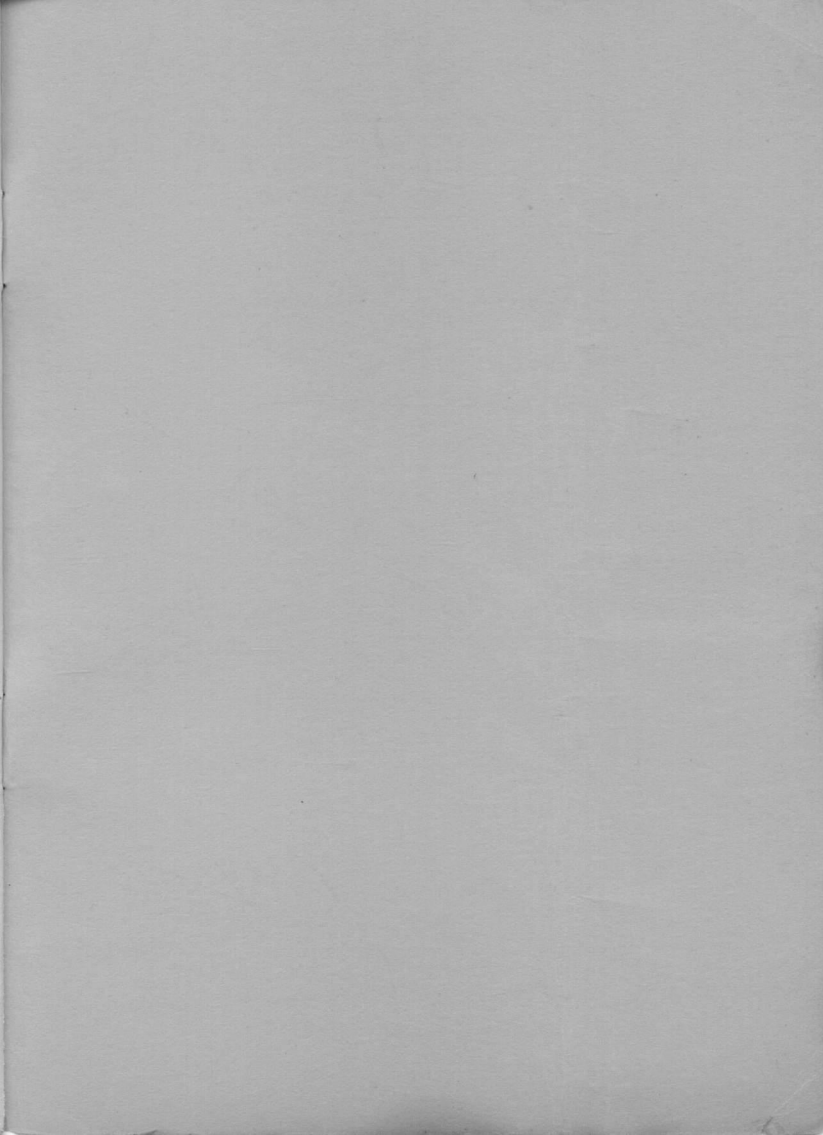
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