**Dear Readers,**

This is our third issue of encouragement email passages and activities for our RE Teachers.

Since we have come to the end of Year 2009, this is also our last issue on the theme “Teacher As Christian Model”

Although it is not easy to be a Christian model but let us remember that our Lord Jesus has showed us and set the example for us. Let us have the heart of the Lord’s servant and be willing to sacrifice ourselves for God's people.

Hope you enjoy this issue as well!

Do send us your feedback and/or contributions using this email: scb.edu@tjc.org. We hope to hear from you!

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**JESUS HAS SET THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE**

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave us a new commandment: "[L]ove one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12).

John says that whoever has this world's goods, sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart, he does not have God's love abiding in him (1 Jn 3:17). "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 Jn 3:16)." Laying down our lives for our brothers" encompasses all the ways we show love to others (e.g., giving to another in their time of need).

Service to the Lord does not require memorization of a complex set of rules or the following of a detailed formula for behavior. It really boils down to something very basic: how do you show love to others?

The type of love and zeal possessed by the Lord Jesus for God's people is an example for us to follow, so that we might know what is required of each of the Lord's true and faithful servants.

Even though each of us may have a zeal for God's house, it is hard for us to make the sacrifices the Lord made. So Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master" (Mt 10:24-25).

When the disciples saw Jesus' act of cleansing the temple, they remembered what was written in Psalm 69:9: "[Z]eal for Your house has eaten me up." Now John 2:17 also repeats, "Zeal for Your house will eat me up." But why did the New Testament account shift to the future tense?

Jesus’ zeal for the Lord’s house would indeed end up consuming the Lord, that is, it would lead to His death. But the death of His body released the old temple and reawakened God's temple anew.

Therefore, the Lord’s cleansing of the temple was an act of prophetic symbolism that the disciples were blessed to behold. For in this way they could understand how the Lord would renew God's temple and once again draw in and gather God's people to Himself.

To always have a zealous heart that is concerned with God’s temple and willing to sacrifice is not easy, but an easy sacrifice is no sacrifice at all, really.

If we do not love God’s house or possess a zeal or concern for God’s house, it will be hard for us to follow the Lord as His servant. The sacrifices required would cost too much and we might then lay God’s work aside.

But the Lord has given us Himself as an example of the heart of a servant, so that we could both witness and know what it means to possess the heart of a servant.

"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (Jn 13:17).

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Like a mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings (Mt 23:37), the Lord understood that in order to gather God's children, who were scattered abroad, a sacrifice of His own life would be required. This was a price the Lord was willing to pay to restore and re-gather God's children, who were scattered and abandoned.

When Jesus said to the Jews, "Destroy this temple..." He did not mean the physical temple but "the temple of His body" (Jn 2:19, 21). By releasing His own temple for the higher uses of God, being obedient to death, Jesus was able to raise God's servants up and reawaken God's temple anew.

This was a price the Lord was willing to pay to reawaken God's temple anew. His body released the old temple and it would lead to His death. But the death of Jesus' zeal for the Lord's house would indeed consume the Lord, that is, it would lead to His death. But the death of His body released the old temple and reawakened God's temple anew.

Although it is not easy to be a Christian model, but let us remember that our Lord Jesus has showed us and set the example for us. Let us have the heart of the Lord's servant and be willing to sacrifice ourselves for God's people.

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**The Heart Of A Servant** – Part 3 of 3

*Manna Issue 45 – Jul-Sept 04, Jason Hsu-Baldwin Park, California, USA*

Service to the Lord...really boils down to something very basic: how do you show love to others?

Your students learn much from you by the way you live your life. They absorb messages about God's love and the Christian faith each time they interact with you or watch you in action. Don't underestimate the power of your lifestyle. Your students look towards people in their lives who can demonstrate how to love God and live as a Christian. Ask God to make you a servant and humbly pray in front of him each and every day.
The Teacher
by Cardinal Spellman

I took a piece of Plastic Clay
And idly fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still;
It moved and yielded to my will;
I came again when days were past;
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore;
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay;
And gently formed it day by day;
And moulded it with power and art;
A young child’s soft and yielding heart;
I came again when years were gone
It was a man I looked upon;
He still that earl impress bore
And I could change that form no more.

Site for Christian Music Ministry
http://www.hallelujahpraise.net

* This site is not managed or owned by the church or RE Department but rather a member of the Church.

It is without saying, the value and importance of music in the church is unquestioned.

For centuries music has been used of God in the church to accomplish His purposes. It is the universal language for the Christ-filled heart and is the medium through which the soul reaches out to God.

In Music Ministry:
- we express praise, prayer, and gratitude to God
- we promote the spirit of devotion and worship, and
- we share and preserve on the truth

Finally, music ministry is expressed through the playing of musical instruments, singing hymns and praise songs, the choir, and soloists.

“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.” Psalm 14:3