

A silhouette of a person with arms outstretched, standing behind two young green plants growing from a pile of rubble. The background is a blurred, grey, rocky or rubble-filled environment. The plants are vibrant green with yellowish-orange tips on their leaves, symbolizing growth and hope amidst destruction.

# Helping Christians Grow



# Helping Christians Grow

second edition

by Dwayne E. Turner

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*AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK*

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## THE GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This independent study textbook is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the GU Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for sequenced study. The Christian Service Program is divided into three units of six courses each.

You may study this course by itself or study the entire series in proper sequence.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program are designed in a self-teaching format for Christian workers. This program will provide a student with the necessary Bible knowledge and skills for practical Christian service. These courses have been especially prepared for Christian workers in all nations and cultures.

### ATTENTION

Please read the preliminary instructions for this course very carefully. By following the instructions you should be able to achieve your goals for the course, and you should not have difficulty preparing for your unit student reports.

# Course Introduction

Have you wondered, “Why does the church include teaching programs in its ministry?” or “How does teaching relate to what the church is seeking to accomplish?” Christian nurturing is very important to the church’s ministry. The teaching ministry helps us grow and mature in the Christian faith. It is also very helpful in preparing and training us to become involved in outreach ministries to other people. Studying this course will help you to grow toward spiritual maturity and to become aware of your own need for more Christian teaching. It will also help train and equip you to take advantage of opportunities to involve yourself in teaching others about the Christian faith.

Christians recognize the Bible as the highest authority in matters of the Christian faith and practice. They try to build ministries on concepts and principles from the Bible. In this course you will gain a better understanding of the Christian nurturing ministry by studying directly from the Bible and by studying some practical matters about teaching and learning.

Teaching methods where you live may not be the same as those with which I am familiar. However, the Bible gives us broad principles to direct our ministries. As a result we have plenty of room to apply those principles in different methods as need requires. As we examine the nature of spiritual life and principles of Christian growth, we shall evaluate some biblical guidelines for the development and growth of our spiritual life. In addition, we shall consider biblical principles for nurturing Christian growth in others and ways to apply those principles right where we are to meet people’s spiritual needs.

## Course Description

*Helping Christians Grow* is a study of the biblical basis for the nurturing ministry and the practical application of teaching in the church today. It gives emphasis to the needs of the pupils in various stages of human development and to the various opportunities for Christian nurturing through the ministry of local church programs, sharing groups, and the Christian home.

## Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the biblical rationale for Christian nurture.
2. Explain how Christian nurture relates to teaching-learning theory and processes.
3. Recognize and take advantage of opportunities available to you to nurture the spiritual life of others.
4. Relate nurturing to the growth and development process of natural and spiritual life.
5. Know the importance and effects of Christian nurture in the interaction between the teacher and the learner.
6. Discuss the role of Christian nurture as it applies to family relationships.

## Textbooks

You will use *Helping Christians Grow* by Dwayne E. Turner as both the textbook and study guide for this course. The Bible is the only other textbook required. Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version, 1978 edition, unless otherwise noted.

## About the Author

Dwayne E. Turner writes from a broad background of training and experience in the field of Christian education. He has served churches as pastor, associate pastor, and minister of



Christian education, gaining experience in various facets of the ministry. He was ordained in 1970.

From 1968 to 1974 Mr. Turner served on the faculty of Northwest College, Kirkland, Washington. In 1975 he commenced his missionary career as he moved to Cebu City, Republic of the Philippines, where he served for three years as the Administrative Dean of Immanuel Bible College. As a missionary educator, Mr. Turner has been involved with curriculum development for Christian education in the Philippines. He also served as Principal of South Pacific Bible College at Suva, Fiji. In 1986 he rejoined the faculty of Northwest College where he continues to serve. Mr. Turner travels widely in missionary and Christian education ministries.

Mr. Turner earned a bachelor of arts degree in Bible and Theology from North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota and his M.R.E. degree from Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He holds an M.A. degree in missions from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri, and earned his doctor of ministry degree at Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married and has two sons.

## Your GU Instructor

Your GU instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you study *Helping Christians Grow*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

## Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

## Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

*Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer.* If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help

you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

## How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - (b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.
  - d)** 2 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

### *Example*

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
  - (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
  - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
  - (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

### *Example*

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| . <u>1</u> <b>a</b> Received the Law at Mt. Sinai    | 1) Moses  |
| . <u>2</u> <b>b</b> Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| . <u>2</u> <b>c</b> Marched around Jericho           |           |
| . <u>1</u> <b>d</b> Lived in Pharaoh's court         |           |

Phrases a and d refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

## Ways to Study This Course

If you study this GU course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although GU has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

## Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according

to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

## Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your GU instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

A stylized globe composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent wireframe spheres in shades of gray, serving as a background for the text.

# Unit 1

Unit

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# Nurturing Spiritual Growth

## Lessons

- 1 Alive and Growing
- 2 Toward Maturity
- 3 Helping Christians Grow