

# THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

The ENCOURAGER

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## SALVATION O SALVATION

*This story (set in Vancouver, BC) was sent to us from David Alves (Missionary in Puerto Vallarta, MX) and ought to encourage all of us who work with the young.*

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I started Sunday School in September 1980 at age 6 at the Victoria Drive Gospel Hall. I remember Jim Frith picking me up every Sunday and driving me to church. I attended Sunday School at Victoria Drive for almost eleven years. In 1991, at grade eleven I decided not to attend Sunday School anymore because of the heavy work load in high school, and later in college. However, I always knew in my mind that there was a God and this why I would continually pray to Him.

Even when I got married I knew that God has led me on this path. It was not until I had Karina and Ryan that I really started to think of going back to Victoria Drive. I knew how important it was for our children to grow up, to go to Sunday School, and most importantly to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, I always had some sort of excuse not to take the kids to Sunday School. It wasn't until we found a house that was close to the Victoria Drive Gospel Hall that my conscience started to make me feel really guilty inside. [At the time, she told David that while the real estate salesman drove them around the East Vancouver area showing them different home listings, she prayed that God would lead them to a house close to the hall so that they could attend there again.] Although I felt very fortunate to be able to purchase the house, deep, down inside I really believed that God's purpose and plan was for us to attend this Victoria Drive Gospel Hall.

On Sundays when my husband, Hoy, was with his friends playing sports, I finally decided in the summer of 2005, after being absent for 14 years to take the 2 kids to "Rally Sunday", the start of another Sunday school year. As the cold and rainy weather started to approach us, my husband had no more excuses not to drive us to Sunday School and since he was there, he decided to attend the teenage class upstairs as well. From that day forward, our life has changed for the better. Every Sunday we would go as a family, even in the summer because Hoy had decided that it was more important to go to church than to play sports.

I attended Barb Frith's class (by then her first husband, Jim Frith, had passed away) and I remember her telling each one of us how she trusted the Lord and was saved through that most well known verse, John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." I never really thought about getting "saved" until David Alves Jr. invited our family to a meeting at Nanaimo Gospel Hall. In March of 2006, both Hoy and I, along with our 2 kids were attending the gospel meetings being held at Nanaimo Road. There we met David R. Alves Sr. who came all the way from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for this series of special meetings. One thing I really remembered that

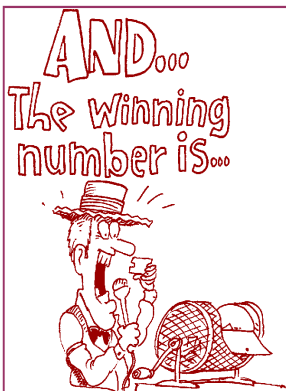
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**By the numbers..... 21566582395562154**

The doorbell rang and the little girl ran to open the door. In the doorway stood a man with a clipboard. He explained he was from the Census Bureau and wanted to know how many were in the family. Coming over, drying her hands on her apron, the mother said, "Let's see. There's me and my husband, and my children Tracy, Katherine, Amanda, Alfred, Benjamin--" The census taker interrupted, saying, "I'm not interested in the names. The numbers will be enough." The little girl pitched in. "We don't use numbers. We haven't run out of names yet!"



Picture was taken shortly after Hoy & Karen were saved. They now have a third child.



helped me answer the questions I had was staying behind and talking to David Alves after the meetings. I specifically remembered on numerous occasions that he would tell me to read in certain chapters of Romans. (ie. Romans chapter 3:23, 6:23, 10:9 & 13)

On Sunday, March 19, 2006 at around 6:30pm, just before a gospel dinner at Victoria Drive Gospel Hall was to begin downstairs David made it even more clear to us when he took out his little chart which showed the two roads in life. He asked Hoy and myself which road we were on right now. We both agreed we were on the Broad Way which leads to Hell and the Lake of Fire. After some discussion and many questions and answers which David Alves helped us to clarify, I realized that I have now entered onto the Narrow road which leads to Heaven. As that verse in Romans chapter 3:23 which tells us that we were born into this world as sinners. I realized for the first time that I was a sinner before God because it says, "For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God". And Romans chapter 10:9 & 13 shows us how we can be saved. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I finally realized that it was this simple. That by putting my trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and believing that his death on Calvary was for my sins that I was now saved.

Both Hoy and I were saved literally a few minutes apart and we both showed our obedience to God in baptism in May 2006. On July 16th, 2006 we were both received into fellowship.

Hope this will be of help and encouragement to all Sunday School teachers. Warmest regards, Karen Hoy

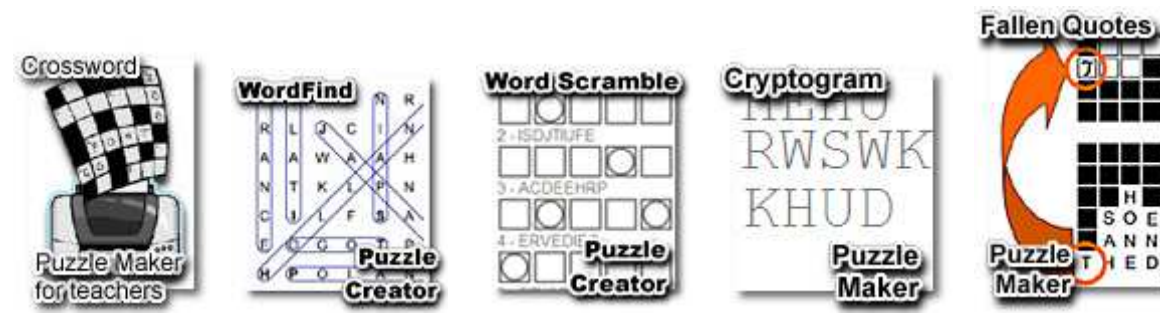
## Resources for Sunday School Teachers at GospelHall.org

### 1. Lessons outlines and Activities.

- 254 [Lesson plans](#) - A kick-start to help you prepare for next class.
- 82 [Printable activities](#) - Crafts, foldable paper models, worksheets, PowerPoint and other items to make your lesson more interesting and active.



### 2. Sunday School Worksheets. Over 300 pre-made worksheets with the tools to create your own...



### 3. The Newsletter for Sunday School Teachers - The ENCOURAGER (you are reading it!)

- 4. **Sunday School Teaching Help** The [Sunday School Helper](#) is an online book with ideas for organizing a lesson, maintaining discipline in the classroom, selecting an appropriate Bible verse, learning styles and much more.