

Perspectives

“Setting a **NEW STANDARD** for Christ-Centered Academic Excellence”

March 2009

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Perspectives is a monthly publication of the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools and is distributed electronically, via e-mail, at the beginning of each month. Past issues can be viewed online by visiting our website at www.actsschools.org.



ACTS Accreditation Program

Part 2 of 4

ACTS Accreditation Program Nuts & Bolts

In the February issue of Perspectives we introduced you to the ACTS Accreditation Program. In this second article we will delve more into the specifics (or nuts and bolts, if you will) of the program through answering such questions as: What is the accreditation process and what are the accreditation levels. A third article will address specifics such as the Pre-Visit, Self-Study, Team Visit and costs. A fourth article will conclude the series with a wrap-up of a discussion of various aspects of the accreditation standards.

What is the ACTS Accreditation Process?

Simply put, this is the process that a school goes through to come into compliance with the 12 ACTS accreditation standards from application to final approval. There are four stages of the

process: Applicant; Candidate; Accredited; and Cross-Organizational Transfer.

Applicant Status: To begin the process a member school sends in a completed application along with the appropriate fee to the national office. The Accreditation Commission and Executive Board must then approve the application. Upon approval a Team Chair is appointed. The Team Chair contacts the Applicant School and arranges the required Pre-Visit. The Pre-Visit is a one day evaluation of the school's current status in relationship to the accreditation standards. The Team Chair sends a copy of his/her Pre-Visit Report to the Accreditation Commission and Executive Board for action. The school becomes a Candidate following positive action by the Commission and Board members. Schools must move to the Candidate status within two years or be dropped from the accreditation process.

Contact Information

Remember, the first step is to become a member of ACTS!

ACTS
PO Box 5003
Springfield, MO 65801
Phone: (417) 865-4290
Fax: (417) 864-4289
E-mail: ACTS@actsschools.org
Web site: www.actsschools.org



Candidate Status: During the Candidate status the school's main focus is to complete their Self-Study. The Self-Study is a document that allows the school to document in a narrative format the manner in which the school meets each individual standard. This portion of the overall process compels a school to complete an in-depth review of how they not only comply with the standards but also allows them to come into compliance if they find that they should not fully meet one of the standards. During their Candidacy the school should maintain on-going contact with their Team Chair for guidance and direction on the accreditation process and to answer any questions that might arise. The school

must complete their Self-Study no later than 30 days prior to their scheduled Team Visit date. Candidate schools must complete their Self-Study and host a Team Visit within two years after becoming a Candidate or be dropped from the accreditation process.

Accredited Status: As the school nears the completion of the Self-Study they need to establish a date for their Team Visit. The Team Visit validates the school's Self-Study and provides the school with recommendations to improve their overall program. The minimum team will consist of three individuals, but the size will vary dependent upon the size of the school's student body. Upon completion of the Team Visit, the Visiting Team will submit a comprehensive report of their findings along with recommendations to the Accreditation Commission. The Accreditation Commission reviews and makes a status report to the Executive Board for final action. The Executive Board grants Accreditation after a positive determination of the Final Report. The accreditation standing is valid for five years. Prior to the end of the fifth year a school must submit an application for the fifth year re-evaluation, complete a new Self-

Study and host a Team Visit to continue their Accredited status beyond their initial five year Accreditation status.

Cross-Organizational Transfer: Cross-Organizational Transfer allows any school currently accredited by any NCPA recognized organization to transfer their current accreditation to ACTS with no interruption of their accredited status. The transferring member school must be in good standing with their current organization. The school must join ACTS and submit a complete application for accreditation along with the current accreditation fee. Upon acceptance, the school would submit the school's most current Self-Study instrument along with the latest Team Visit report to a designated Team Chair for review. The school will need to host the Team Chair for an on-site visit. After the on-site visit the Team Chair will submit a Final Report to the Accreditation Commission and Executive Board for Accreditation confirmation. All confirmed accreditation transfers will be valid for the school's current accreditation timeframe.

For more information on the ACTS Accreditation Program you may contact the national office by calling 417.865.4290 or emailing any questions to acts@actsschools.org. A free copy of the ACTS Accreditation Program Guidelines and Application forms can be downloaded by going on-line to the ACTS web site located at www.actsschools.org. Simply select the ACTS Forms button on the home page and that will take you directly to the page that contains the accreditation guidelines and forms for either a daycare, preschool or K-12 school. Or, you can request a copy of the appropriate standards as a PDF via email at acts@actsschools.org.





BJUP Curriculum Discount

Yes, it is time to start thinking about your curriculum order for the next school year! Once again, you can save big by ordering BJUP curriculum through ACTS. Best of all if you pre-order your curriculum between April 1 and May 15 you will get a 10% discount—that's right a 10% on all BJUP curriculum ordered—along with delayed billing! Below are the specifics on this deal:

By ordering through ACTS your school can get a 10% Discount on all BJUP Curriculum (between April 1st and May 16th). And best of all, if you ask for delayed billing your payment is not due until September 1, 2009. Remember, ACTS schools get a year-round 5% discount.

Some restrictions do apply:

- Delayed billing offer applies to conventional Christian schools ordering at least \$1,000 worth of BJUP educational materials from the BJUP Christian School Order Form. Your order is subject to credit approval. (This offer does not apply to BJ HomeSat DVD orders.)

- Delayed billing requests are only available through July 15th.

- To claim the discount, simply write "5% discount" on the front page of your order form. (Additional 5% discount is only valid between April 1st and May 15th.)

- Orders must be mailed to ACTS; PO Box 5003, Springfield, MO 65801-5003, sent via FAX (417-864-4289), or ordered online at www.acts-preceptdirect.com (on-line for preexisting customers with a valid BJUP account number)

- Use the standard BJUP curriculum order form.

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Web site: www.actsschools.org

Bob Jones University Press
Phone: (800) 845-5731
Web site: www.acts-preceptdirect.com



Update Your Contacts!

The Association of Christian Teachers and Schools has new contact information! We have an updated web address as well as e-mail addresses. Please update your contacts and favorites!

In regards to our web site, please be patient as we transition over all of the features from the previous site to the new site. We are working diligently to get the new site up and running (and to make some much needed improvements).

Web site: www.actsschools.org

Dr. Nelson's E-mail: jnelson@actsschools.org

Ike Stokes' E-mail: istokes@actsschools.org

General E-mail: ACTS@actsschools.org

For a period of time the former site and e-mail addresses will all still be operational, but you can help by updating your contact information for us!

Melty the Snowman

Supplies:

- White and colored felt
- Tacky glue
- White pom-pom
- Black puffy paint
- Craft foam (for nose)
- Twigs (for arms)

Time needed: Under 1 hour

Directions:

1. Cut a puddle shape from white felt and use tacky glue to attach a white pom-pom to the top.
2. With black puffy paint, add eyes, a mouth and buttons. Glue on a craft foam nose and twig arms.
3. Wrap a felt scarf around Melty's neck and glue it in place.



Did You Know?

The first city in the world to have a population of more than one million was Rome.

Eskimos use refrigerators to keep food from freezing.

The first illustrated book for children was published in Germany in 1658.

The first English dictionary was written by Samuel Johnson in 1755.

TIP is the acronym for "To Insure Promptness."



ACTS Vision and Mission Statement

We will join with Christian teachers and schools to build Christian leaders for the 21st Century who are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We will seek and promote Christ-centered, Bible-based, Holy Spirit-directed solutions to the educational challenges facing our world today.

We expect to accomplish this vision by:

- Enlisting every Assemblies of God or Pentecostal/Charismatic Christian teacher and school as active members of our Spirit-filled team.
- Valuing every Christian educator, family, and church ministry and combining mutually beneficial efforts when possible.
- Promoting excellence through Christian school and preschool accreditation.
- Providing ACTS teacher certification, student and educator training conferences and events, and recognition of outstanding achievement in the Christian teacher and school community.
- Developing, identifying, producing, and promoting quality resources consistent with Pentecostal distinctives for Christian schools, teachers, and students.

- Expanding state, district, and Pentecostal/charismatic alliances and affiliate organizations.

- Working with existing governmental and educational agencies to exert a positive impact in our society and to promote legislative and governmental regulations that are non-intrusive and friendly toward the Spirit-filled community.

- Anticipating dynamic changes in the technology and information communities that will significantly impact Christian education.

- Providing services to churches and Christian educators as they seek to meet the educational needs of their congregations and communities. This includes matching Christian school ministry positions with Christian personnel.

- Creating networking opportunities for Christian educators and Christian schools to better meet one another's needs.

We recognize that we can only attain this vision by maximizing the contributions of every Christian educator in our movement and by continuing to build an association and service that recognizes personal diversity within our fundamental unity.

Book Review

Book reviewed by Dr. Robert Harden

The word Biblical Hermeneutics sends shivers down the spine of even the most profound theologian. It conjures up all types of questions.

For a number of years it was my responsibility to teach Biblical Hermeneutics to those working on their Master's degree in either Education or Counseling/Psychology at Southwestern Assemblies of God University. The look on the faces of the students the first day of class was very similar to the look on a deer when you come up it with your headlights. The book *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible* by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays has taken a very difficult subject and made it very easy to understand.

Hays and Duvall write from an unashamedly evangelical perspective, and they are willing to suggest that the biblical texts do not and cannot mean whatever the reader wants them to mean. Though more liberal interpretative approaches would be alarmed by the certainty of their proposition, I found it to be refreshing. Without ever reaching a point of arrogance Duvall and Hays suggest that the human authors had a particular meaning intended when they wrote the Bible, and God has given us the necessary tools to get at that meaning.

The book was so well received by the academic world that it was revised into an even easier book to read. Now it is being used in the Church as curriculum. This book is a must read for every believer who wants to know what the Bible is really saying.

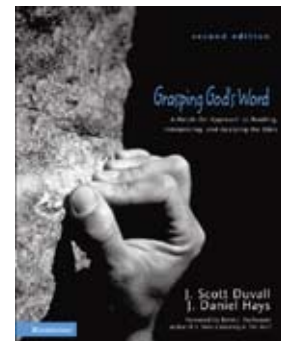
Book Details

TITLE: Grasping God's Word

AUTHOR: J. Scott Duvall
J. Daniel Hays

PUBLISHER: Zondervan

ISBN: 0310259665





ACCUFAX - Background Checks

ACCUFAX is a national organization that conducts volunteer and employee screening upon the request of clients. They can review up to five databases for each name submitted. Businesses and secular organizations are normally charged \$32.50 to search these databases. Through ACCUFAX, ACTS member schools can have the names of their volunteers and employees names checked against [five databases for \\$29.45](#) per search. ACCUFAX will research the following five databases for ACTS member schools and/or sponsoring church:

1. County Criminal Record
2. Department of Corrections Check
3. Wanted Fugitive Search
4. Known Sex Offender Status
5. SSN/Previous Address Search

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ACTS Accreditation Program Status

Congratulations to these schools that have recently achieved a new status in the ACTS accreditation program.

Applicant

Calvary Chapel Christian School - Bangor

Administrator: Dennis Harvey

154 River Rd.

Orrington, ME 04474

Accredited

Candidate



Why Accredit?

The ACTS Accreditation Program establishes high, uniform standards among its member schools. Accreditation requirements also identify educational and spiritual criteria which establish high expectations for Christian Daycares, Preschools, and K-12 schools. ACTS accreditation carries with it both national and regional accreditation along with state-level recognition in eight states.

The ACTS Accreditation Program is designed to meet or exceed the minimum standards recognized by the major Christian school accrediting associations as well as other state-level accrediting associations. It is important for all ACTS member schools to strive to be accredited. Only member schools may apply for accreditation. The initial process takes about one year. ACTS accreditation is an ongoing process promoting excellence in Christian school education.

Lesson Plans

Now here is a topic near and dear to an educator's heart—Lesson Plans—Right? Well, maybe not, but it is an aspect of teaching that can be very essential to positive class room results. We all have written them and are probably could do one in our sleep. That being said, here is a brief reminder of the basics:

1. Determine the subject/what I'm going to teach
2. Develop clear and specific guidelines/ learning outcomes
3. Materials needed for lesson
4. List step by step procedures to follow
5. Practice time for students
6. Assessment phase

When it comes to daily academic lesson plans almost all teachers have them completed and are always looking for that specific topic to add to their presentation. The Internet provides a plethora of free lesson plans for use. In fact, if you just Google "lesson plans" there are over 10,000,000 sites available. If you Google "lesson plans for teachers" there are 3,670,000 available. One of those sites is <http://www.>

[lessonplanspage.com/](http://www.lessonplanspage.com/) and it has 3,500 free plans for use. The site was developed by Kyle Yamnitz, students and faculty at the University of Missouri. The site was launched in October 1996 to provide help for teachers. It contains lesson plans for preschool through college-level subjects. It also has science projects and math worksheets and a section for teacher discussions.

There are several other Internet sites that you may also want to investigate. Here are a few:

- <http://www.edhelper.com/?gclid=CJX53sa2ZgCFQw9GgodlCgimQ>
- <http://www.lessonplanz.com/>
- http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/
- <http://teachers.net/lessons/>

These just represent a few of the sites available for teacher use. So, if you are looking for a lesson plan for supplemental use within you main lesson plan or as a new series for the class room give the above a try and see what you can find—Good hunting!

Weekly Devotions

March 2-6

Topic: Does It Pay to Pray?

References: Exodus 15:24-25; Judges 6:39-40; 1 Samuel 1:27; 1 Samuel 7:9-10; 1 Kings 9:3; 1 Kings 18:37-38; 2 Kings 19:19-20; 2 Chronicles 18:31; Ezra 8:23; Luke 1:13; Acts 4:31

March 9-13

Topic: Spiritual Surgery

References: Proverbs 10:31; Matthew 5:30; Romans 6:6; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:12; Colossians 2:11; Colossians 3:5

March 16-20

Topic: Procrastination

References: Genesis 19:16; Matthew 8:21; Luke 9:61; Acts 17:32; Acts 24:25

March 23-27

Topic: Obstacles That Test

References: Matthew 15:23; Mark 5:35; Mark 10:13; Luke 5:18-19; John 9:24; John 11:3-6

March 23-27

Topic: Water of Life

References: Ezekiel 47:1; Zechariah 14:8; John 4:10; John 7:37-38; Revelation 7:17; Revelation 22:1-2; Revelation 22:17

Meet... Joy Felt



Perspectives took the opportunity to ask Joy Felt, the ACTS Secretary, several questions to help everyone get to know her better. We hope you will find this interesting!

Birthday: October 19th

Married to: Ron

Anniversary: August 16th

Children: Tiffany, Justin and Evan

Hobbies: Photography

Favorite Food: Italian

Favorite Authors: Grisham, Fforde, Chiaverini, McCall-Smith

Favorite Sport: University of Oregon Football

Has lived: Born, raised and still live in Eugene, Oregon

Collects: Margaret Furlong angels

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Favorite Quote: "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." - William Butler Yeats

Would like to visit: Italy

Superpower?: Flight

Please Meet...

Every month Perspectives will feature a different individual either from the ACTS office in Springfield, MO or a member of our Executive Board.

Our goal is for each one of you to feel as if you know the various individuals who work so hard to make the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools the organization it is today.



Math Puzzler

Gentlemen and Ties

There are 3 gentlemen in a meeting: Mr. Yellow, Mr. Green and Mr. Brown. They are wearing yellow, green and brown ties. Mr. Yellow says: "Did you notice that the color of our ties are different from our names?" The person who is wearing the green tie says, "Yes, you are right!"

Do you know who is wearing what color of tie?

February Solution

He was born on December 31st and spoke about it on January 1st.

You Can Help!

Every month Perspectives will feature a different math problem. The solution to the problem will be given in the next month's newsletter.

Teachers and schools are invited to e-mail in suggested math or logic problems for the newsletter. E-mail can be sent to: ACTS@actsschools.org.



Word of the Week

March 2-6

reconcile • \REK-un-syle\ • verb

- 1 : a : to restore to friendship or harmony b : settle, resolve
- 2 : to cause to submit to or accept something unpleasant
- 3 : a : to check (a financial account) against another for accuracy b : to account for

March 9-13

kinesics • \kuh-NEE-siks\ • noun

: a systematic study of the relationship between nonlinguistic body motions (as blushes, shrugs, or eye movement) and communication

March 16-20

cryptic • \KRIP-tik\ • adjective

- 1 : secret, occult
- 2 : meant to be puzzling or mysterious

March 23-27

debonair • \deb-un-NAIR\ • adjective

- 1 : suave, urbane
- 2 : lighthearted, nonchalant

March 30-April 3

impresario • \im-pruh-SAHR-ee-oh\ • noun

- 1 : the promoter, manager, or conductor of an opera or concert company
- 2 : a person who puts on or sponsors an entertainment (as a television show or sports event)
- 3 : manager, director



This Month in History...

March 1, 1790 – Congress authorizes the first United States Census

March 1, 1872 – Congress authorizes the creation of Yellowstone National Park

March 2, 1836 – Texas declares independence from Mexico

March 3, 1931 – The *Star Spangled Banner* is adopted as the National Anthem of the United States

March 5, 1770 – The Boston Massacre takes place

March 9, 1945 – Anne Frank dies

March 12, 1912 – The Girl Scouts of America are founded

March 15, 44 BC – Julius Caesar is assassinated by a group of nobles

March 19, 1918 – Congress approves daylight-savings time

March 20, 1852 – *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published

March 23, 1775 – Patrick Henry gives his speech with the words "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

March 24, 1989 – The largest oil spill in United States history happens in Alaska with the *Exxon Valdez*

March 27, 1794 – President George Washington and Congress create the United States Navy

March 28, 1979 – The Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania nuclear reactor accident occurs

March 29, 1943 – Meat, butter and cheese are rationed as a result of WWII

March 30, 1867 – Alaska is sold to the United States by Russia

March 30, 1981 – There is an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C.



Daylight Savings Time

Daylight saving time (DST) is the convention of advancing clocks so that afternoons have more daylight and mornings have less. Typically clocks are adjusted forward one hour near the start of spring and are adjusted backward in autumn. Modern DST was first proposed in 1907 by the English builder William Willett. Many countries have used it since then; details vary by location and change occasionally.

The schedule through 2006 in the United States was that DST began on the first Sunday in April, and changed back to standard time on the last Sunday in October. The time is adjusted at 02:00 local time. By the Energy Policy Act of 2005, daylight saving time (DST) was extended in the United States in 2007. DST started on the second Sunday of March, which was three weeks earlier than in the past, and it ended on the first Sunday of November, one week later than in years past. This change resulted in a new DST period that is four weeks (five in years when March has five Sundays) longer than in previous years.

The practice is controversial. Adding daylight to afternoons benefits retailing, sports, and other activities that exploit sunlight after working hours, but causes problems for farming, entertainment and other occupations tied to the sun. Traffic fatalities are reduced when there is extra afternoon daylight; its effect on health and crime is less clear. Although an early goal of DST was to reduce evening usage of incandescent lighting, formerly a primary use of electricity, modern heating and cooling usage patterns greatly differ, and research about how DST currently affects energy use is limited and often contradictory.

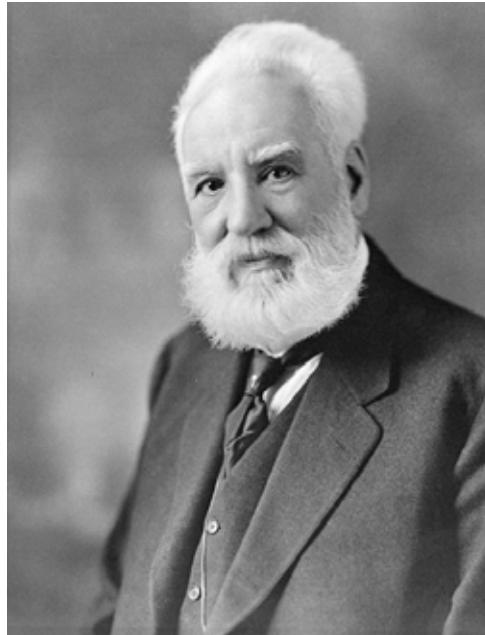
DST's occasional clock shifts present other challenges. They complicate timekeeping and can disrupt meetings, travel, billing, recordkeeping, medical devices, and heavy equipment. Many computer-based systems can adjust their clocks automatically, but this can be limited and error-prone, particularly when DST rules change.

Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was an eminent scientist, inventor and innovator who is credited with inventing the first practical telephone.

Bell's father, grandfather, and brother had all been associated with work on elocution and speech, and both his mother and wife were deaf, profoundly influencing Bell's life's work. His research on hearing and speech further led him to experiment with hearing devices which eventually culminated in Bell being awarded the first U.S. patent for the telephone in 1876. In retrospect, Bell considered his most famous invention an intrusion on his real work as a scientist and refused to have a telephone in his study. Upon Bell's death, all telephones throughout the United States "stilled their ringing for a silent minute in tribute to the man whose yearning to communicate made them possible".

Many other inventions marked Bell's later life, including groundbreaking work in hydrofoils and aeronautics. In 1888, Alexander Graham Bell became one of the founding members of the National Geographic Society.



Quick Facts

Born:	March 3, 1847 Edinburgh, Scotland
Died:	August 2, 1922 Beinn Bhreagh, Nova Scotia
Education:	University of Edinburgh University College London
Occupation:	Inventor, Scientist, Professor
Known For:	Inventor of the telephone
Spouse:	Mabel Hubbard (Married 1877-1922)
Children:	2 sons, 2 daughters

St. Patrick's Day: A Brief History

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. There is some



dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.

During his time in captivity, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors, and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also



believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christian during his captivity.)

After more than six year as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice – which he believed to be God’s – spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation – an angel in a dream told him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of

study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission – to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.

Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish. Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick’s life became exaggerated over the centuries – spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.



Pot of Gold

Supplies:

- 2" wooden circle
- 1 each black and gold chenille stem
- 5 medium gold glitter pom-poms
- 5 medium gold glitter pom-poms
- 8 green sequins
- Black acrylic paint
- Paint brush
- White craft glue or hot glue gun
- Magnet or pin back

Time needed: Under 1 hour

Directions:

1. Paint the wooden circle black.
2. Cut both the black and gold chenille stems in half, save the halves for another project.
3. Twist your trimmed-down black and gold chenille stems together to form the pot handle.

4. Glue the ends of the chenille stem to the back of the wooden circle.

5. Glue the pom-poms to the top portion of the black circle so that they hide the top of the circle.

6. Glue the green sequins under the gold pom-poms for the pot band.

7. Glue the magnet or pin back to the back of your project.

Tips:

- Sequins are available in the sewing section of most discount department stores and craft supply stores.
- This project can be completed with white glue, however the use of a glue gun does speed up the process when adding the handle and the gold pom-poms.
- If you don't have sequins, try green beads or use a green chenille stem.



March Madness

March Madness is a popular term for season-ending basketball tournaments played in March (Brent Musburger is generally regarded as the individual who first used that phrase in conjunction with the college tournament, using it during CBS Sports' coverage of the tournament back in 1982), especially those conducted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and various state high school associations. The phrase was not associated with the college tournament in 1939, when an Illinois official wrote "A little March Madness [may] contribute to sanity." March Madness is also a registered trademark, held jointly by the NCAA and the Illinois High School Association.

H. V. Porter, an official with the Illinois High School Association was the first person to use March Madness to commemorate a basketball tournament. Porter published an essay named March Madness in 1939 and in 1942 used the phrase in a poem, Basketball Ides of March. Through the years the use of the term "March Madness" gained popularity, especially in Illinois and other parts of the Midwest. During this period the term was used almost exclusively in reference to state high school tournaments.

Fans began connecting the term to the NCAA tournament in the early 1980s. Evidence suggests that CBS sportscaster Brent Musburger, who had worked for many years in Chicago prior to joining CBS, popularized the term during the annual tournament broadcasts.

Only in the 1990s did either the IHSA or NCAA think about trademarking the term, and by that time a small television production company named Intersport, Inc., had already done so. IHSA eventually bought the trademark rights from Intersport and then went after GTE Vantage, Inc., an NCAA licensee that used the name March Madness for a computer game based on the college tournament. In a historic ruling, Illinois High School Association v. GTE Vantage, Inc. (1996), the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit created the concept of a "dual-use trademark," granting both the IHSA and NCAA the right to trademark the term for their own purposes.





ACTS Endorsed Conferences

ACTS REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Middle Atlantic States

March 19, 2009

Woodbridge, Virginia

Contact: Rev. Paul Miklich

(703) 590-6695

pmiklich@christchapel.org

ACTS NATIONAL CONFERENCES

ACTS/FLOCS National Educator's Conference

November 12-13, 2009

Orlando, Florida

Contact: FLOCS Office

(863) 683-5726, x250

flocs@penflorida.org

Purim

Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people of the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to annihilate them, as recorded in the Biblical Book of Esther. According to the story, Haman cast lots to determine the day upon which to exterminate the Jews.

Purim is celebrated annually according to the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar (Adar II in leap years), the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies; as with all Jewish holidays, Purim begins at sundown on the previous secular day. In cities that were protected by a surrounding wall at the time of Joshua, including Shushan (Susa) and Jerusalem, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, known as Shushan Purim. Purim is characterized by public recitation of the Book of Esther, giving mutual gifts of food and drink, giving charity to the poor, and a celebratory meal; other customs include drinking wine, wearing of masks and costumes, and public celebration.

Jewish exiles from the Kingdom of Judah who had been living in the Babylonian captivity (6th Century BCE) found themselves under Persian rule after Babylonia was in turn conquered by the Persian Empire. According to the Book of Esther, Haman, royal vizier to King Ahasuerus planned to kill the Jews, but his plans were foiled by Esther, who was made queen after his previous queen Vashti was dismissed, and Mordechai, a palace official who raised Esther when her parents died, though he was her cousin. The Jews were delivered from being the victims of an evil decree against them and were instead allowed by the King to destroy their enemies, and the day after the battle was designated as a day





The History of Women's Suffrage

In the early nineteenth century, women were considered second-class citizens whose existence was limited to the interior life of the home and care of the children. Women were considered sub-sets of their husbands, and after marriage they did not have the right to own property, maintain their wages, or sign a contract, much less vote. It was expected that women be obedient wives, never to hold a thought or opinion independent of their husbands. It was considered improper for women to travel alone or to speak in public.

With the belief that intense physical or intellectual activity would be injurious to the delicate female biology and reproductive system, women were taught to refrain from pursuing any serious education. Silently perched in their birdcages, women were considered merely objects of beauty, and were looked upon as intellectually and physically inferior to men. This belief in women's inferiority to men was further reinforced by organized religion which preached strict and well-defined sex roles.

The Seneca Falls Convention

The Women's suffrage movement was formally set into motion in 1848 with the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

The catalyst for this gathering was the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in 1840 in London and attended by an American delegation which included a number of women. In attendance were Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who were forced to sit in the galleries as observers because they were women. This poor treatment did not rest well with these women of progressive thoughts, and it was decided that they would hold their own convention to "discuss the social, civil and religious rights of women."

Using the Declaration of Independence as a guideline, Stanton presented her Declaration of Principles in her hometown chapel and brought to light women's subordinate status and made recommendations for change.

Resolution 9 requesting the right to vote was perhaps the most important in that it expressed the demand for sexual equality. Subsequent to the Seneca Falls Convention, the demand for the vote became the centerpiece of the women's rights movement.

Suffrage During the Civil War

During the Civil War, women's suffrage was eclipsed by the war effort and movement for the abolition of slavery. While annual conventions were held on a regular basis, there was much discussion but little action. Activists such as slave-born Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony lectured and petitioned the government for the emancipation of slaves with the belief that, once the war was over, women and slaves alike would be granted the same rights as the white men. At the end of the war, however, the government saw the suffrage of women and that of the Negro as two separate issues and it was decided that the Negro vote could produce the immediate political gain, particularly in the South, that the women's vote could not. Abraham Lincoln declared, "This hour belongs to the negro."

Women Unite

With the side-stepping of women's rights, women activists became enraged, and the American Equal Rights Association was

established by Stanton and her colleagues in 1866 in effort to organize in the fight for women's rights. In 1868, the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment proved an affront to the women's movement, as it defined "citizenship" and "voters" as "male", and raised the question as to whether women were considered citizens of the United States at all. The exclusion of women was further reinforced with the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870, which enfranchised black men. In a disagreement over these Amendments, the women's movement split into two factions. In New York, Stanton and Anthony established the radical National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and Henry Blackwell organized the more conservative American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) in Boston. These two groups later merged in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) under the leadership of Elizabeth Stanton.

Winning the Vote

Susan B. Anthony was arrested for attempting to vote for Ulysses S. Grant in the 1872 presidential election. Six years later, in 1878, a Woman's Suffrage Amendment was introduced to U.S. Congress. With the formation of numerous groups, such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and, the Women's Trade Union League, the women's movement gained a full head of steam during the 1890's and early 1900's. The U.S. involvement in World War I in 1918 slowed down the suffrage campaign as women pitched in for the war effort. However, in 1919, after years of petitioning, picketing, and protest parades, the Nineteenth Amendment was passed by both houses of Congress and in 1920 it became ratified under the presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

Amendment XIX

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
2. Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation.

Ratified August 26, 1920

Equal Rights Amendment

Upon this victory of the vote, the NAWSA disbanded as an organization, giving birth to the League of Women Voters. The vote was not enough to secure women's equal rights according to Alice Paul, founder of the National Woman's Party (NWP), who moved to take women's rights one step further by proposing the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.) to Congress in 1923. This demand to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender failed to pass.

The push for the E.R.A. continued on a state-by-state basis, until the newly formed National Organization for Women (NOW) launched a national campaign during the 1960's. Despite many heated debates and protests, the E.R.A., while passed by Congress in 1972, has never been ratified.

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Prayer Corner

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Please pray for:

- Jay needs physical healing.
- Alisya needs God's favor.
- Bethany want to become a missionary.
- Billie needs physical healing.
- Sara needs physical healing.
- Cindy needs a miracle for her unborn child.
- Lisa's transplanted liver has cancer.



"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." John Wesley

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Missions Focus - Ireland

Ireland is the third-largest island in Europe, and the twentieth-largest island in the world. It lies to the north-west of continental Europe and is surrounded by hundreds of islands and islets. To the east of Ireland, separated by the Irish Sea, is the island of Great Britain. Politically, the state Ireland (described as the Republic of Ireland) covers five-sixths of the island, with Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, covering the remainder in the north-east.



The first settlements in Ireland date from 8000 BC. By 200 BC Celtic migration and influence had come to dominate the island. Relatively small scale settlements of both the Vikings and Normans in the Middle Ages gave way to complete English domination by the 1600s. Protestant English rule resulted in the marginalization of the Catholic majority, although in the north-east, Protestants were in the majority. A famine in the mid-1800s caused deaths and emigration. Following a war of independence, Ireland was split into: the independent Irish Free State and Northern

Ireland, which remains a part of the United Kingdom. The Free State left the Commonwealth to become a Republic in 1949. In 1973 both parts of Ireland joined the European Economic Community. The Troubles in Northern Ireland led to much unrest from the late 1960s until the 1990s, which subsided following a peace deal in 1998.

The population of the island is slightly under 6 million (2006), with 4.2 million in the Republic of Ireland and an estimated almost 1.75 million in Northern

Ireland. This is a significant increase from a modern historical low in the 1960s, but still much lower than the peak population of over 8 million in the early 19th century, prior to the Great Famine.

The name Ireland derives from the name of the Celtic goddess Ériu (in modern Irish, Éire) with the addition of the Germanic word land. Most other western European names for Ireland, such as French Irlande, derive from the same source.

Quick Facts

Population:	6 million
Area:	43,670 sq. miles
Capital:	Dublin
Bordered by:	Atlantic Ocean, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea
Language:	English, Irish
Religion:	Roman Catholic
Literacy:	99%
Average income:	US\$47,800
Currency:	Euro



Mark Your Calendar!

March

Daylight Savings Time Begin	March 8
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
ACTS Middle Atlantic States Conference	March 19
First Day of Spring	March 20

April

April Fool's Day	April 1
Palm Sunday	April 5
Good Friday	April 10
Easter Sunday	April 12

May

May Day	May 1
Mother's Day	May 10
Memorial Day	May 25

Perspectives

"Striving for **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** Through Holy Spirit Empowerment"

Perspectives is a publication of the
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools.

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