

A Teacher's 'Secret'

Years ago, a celebration was planned for a public school teacher who had reached her 80th birthday.

It proved to be a marvelous occasion, highlighted by the presence of a great many of her former students.

She had taught school in one of the worst sections of Baltimore. Before she came to that school, there had been repeated instances of juvenile crime and delinquency. When she began her work, however, a change slowly emerged.

The difference in attitude, discipline and performance was noticeable to parents, other teachers and the community at large because so many of her students were turning out to be exemplary citizens, people of good character. Some became doctors, others lawyers, educators, ministers, craftsmen, and skilled technicians.



It was no accident, therefore, that on an important anniversary like her 80th birthday that she was remembered with gratitude from a host of her former students.

A newspaper got wind of the festivity and sent a reporter to interview the teacher. He asked, among other questions, what was the secret that made her teaching so rewarding – to her and to the students.

“Oh, I don’t know,” she replied. “When I look at the young teachers in our schools today – so well-equipped with training and learning – I realize that I was ill-prepared to teach. I had nothing to give but love.”

Nothing to give but love? Isn’t that the true foundation for learning, and for life itself?

The adage is true: People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

It applies not only to the classroom, but it is a significant mark of leadership and a hallmark of service to those entrusted to us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

– Beecher Hunter