

SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR RALLY DAY - 1948

75th Anniversary Program - September 26

Theme: "The Diamond Anniversary" - "The Eternal Gem"

After the opening service, in which various departments also take part, the following little presentation is suggested. Might be thought of as an interview in a radio skit.

The Questioner or the Interviewer

I understand that United Evangelical Church is to have some sort of special celebration these next few months of 1948. Could you tell me what all this planning is about?

Second Speaker - giving the answers.

You possibly know that our United Evangelical Church was founded in the year 1873 by Pastor A. Schwartz. This year we are therefore to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Church. This Anniversary is called the diamond jubilee.

The Interviewer - What do you mean by a diamond jubilee? Tell me more about this.

Second Speaker

I think I can show you what we mean by the diamond jubilee or anniversary by calling your attention to the diamond shaped figure which had been cut out for us and which four (boys and girls) will tell us about.

(Diamond shaped figure will be held up, each one of the four holding one end) Note: Make the figure in blue color.

Second Speaker

Will you tell us what the first point of the diamond stands for?

First boy or girl

The diamond is a jewel and gem of great value. The prophet Ezekiel in Chapter 28, Verse 13, speaks of the diamond as one of the

great jewels in the garden of God. Since our Church is celebrating the diamond jubilee through the grace of God, we, therefore, think of it as one of the great and precious and valuable things God has given us. We also know that the Holy Scriptures which we have entrusted to us is such a great jewel. It has been brought to us through our fathers and mothers who founded and kept up our church and Sunday School. Our Lord Jesus is of course our most precious jewel, because He is our Saviour and through the Holy Spirit guides us. So we naturally can sing together the hymn ~~the~~ No.182 "Fairest Lord Jesus" ~~4~~.

Interviewer

That sounds interesting too and I am anxious to find out more about the meaning of diamond as a symbol of your celebration. Tell me what does that second point of the diamond mean?

Second boy or girl

The diamond is a jewel which has a strange name coming from the ancient languages. The original word is "adamant" which means "the invincible" or unconquerable. It is an imperishable jewel. It stands for "The Eternity Ring" and is used as engagement ring, as an expression of love and loyalty and faithfulness. It would take at least 760 to 850 degrees of heat to melt it. It cannot be shattered with a hammer. According to ancient stories it has the power to protect the wearer, to give courage and devotion.

Interviewer

I just wonder now how that would fit into the idea of Christ and your anniversary celebration?

Second boy or girl

It means that the Church through the grace of God, that the Holy Scriptures, that Jesus Christ, that great spiritual things are eternal, everlasting and can never be destroyed. Our Church and our Lord are invincible, unconquerable, and, therefore, we prize them so much.

That is why the Hymn (314) "How Firm a Foundation" has a place here.

Interviewer

This all sounds good to me and I wish you might give me information on the meaning of the third point in the diamond.

Third boy or girl

The diamond is known as the hardest jewel among all the jewels. Just because of its hardness it is used in so many ways. Diamond dust is used to polish diamonds. It takes "diamonds to cut diamonds." Diamonds will cut glass and great diamond toothed saws are used to cut the hardest marble and stone. Diamonds are used in watches, precision instruments and for drilling.

Interviewer

Stop here, a minute, for I am puzzled and wonder what this has to do with the Church and our celebration of the 75th Anniversary.

Third boy or girl

You know there is an interesting passage in the prophet Jeremiah in the 17th Chapter in the last verse where he writes: "The Sin of Judah is written--with the point of a diamond; it is graven upon the table of their hearts." Here the prophet writes of the diamond used as cutting and writing instrument. Our sins are etched with the diamond into our character and hearts. The good things are also engraved into our lives. Therefore, the Church brings to us the forgiveness and grace of God which alone can remove sins. It also suggests to us that as "diamond polishes diamond" so the best in us can be brought out through study of the Scriptures, constant prayer, attendance upon Sunday School and Church, getting in touch with the best people and above all Jesus Christ. It is thus that we can become finer and better Christians.

Interviewer

This is really inspiring to think of all that a diamond might

suggest to us. However, my curiosity has been aroused and I would like to ask what the fourth point of the diamond represents.

Fourth boy or girl

Before I try to answer that I wonder if we might turn to a hymn that sums up some of these thoughts --No.274 "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee."

Now to come back to your question. The quality of the diamond which we enjoy so much is its beauty. As the sunlight shines upon it, it reflects all the colors of the rainbow. At first when the diamond is taken from the earth, where it has been produced by God by "Fire in the earth" it is ugly. But as it is polished, its beauty and reflective power is brought out. In Exodus 28:18 we are told that the ^{ird} three jewels in the second row of the breast-plate of the highpriest was a diamond. This was used to indicate that the best is none too good for our Lord. That diamond reflected the brilliant rays of sunlight. It added to the sacredness of the beauty of holiness.

So we are really reminded that we as a Church and we as Christians must reflect out into the world the beauty of the grace and power of Jesus Christ our Lord. People must see in our bearing, in our character and in our life, that we are really Christians.

Interviewer

This has been very interesting to me. I wonder if you have anything else to say about the diamond anniversary.

Second Speaker

The thought has come to me as these boys and girls were speaking that we are all "diamonds in the rough" and that we need much cutting, polishing, in order that we might be more like the great and precious jewel -- Christ Jesus. I am also reminded of a book by Dr. Russell Conwell" --"Acres of Diamonds" in which he tells us that we need not search far afield for diamonds, for worthwhile things, we can find

them right where we are. So we ought to dedicate and give ourselves as the blueish color of the diamond reminds, in true-blue and whole-hearted devotion to our Church, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. I am going to call upon our Pastor to lead the officers and teachers, the scholars of our Sunday School, and the parents and the entire congregation in a service of re-consecration. After this we will sing Hymn No. 252 "Take Thou Our Minds."

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Martha

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Second Speaker - giving the answers.

Both

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Second Speaker

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First boy or girl

John Mohr

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Interviewer

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Second ~~boy~~ girl

Thelma Splendtt

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Interviewer

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Third boy or girl.

Leona

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Interviewer.

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Fourth boy or girl

Jenny Eckert

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