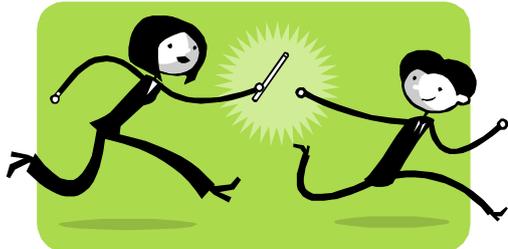




TREASURE CHEST

December
issue

e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.
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*Have you been passing on the baton
to the next generation?*

A Confidential Report on Candidates Being Considered for a Pastoral Position

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with not even one convert. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Solomon: Great preacher but our relocation costs for all his wives are out of our budget.

Deborah: Strong leader and seems to be anointed, but she is female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of a foreign river.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spat him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the



DEVELOPING AN EXTERNAL OUTLOOK IN YOUR KIDS' MINISTRY

One of our goals in discipling children is to help them develop a missions outlook, both local as well as overseas. Some parents have been able to take their children on mission trips overseas and have seen their children develop a global perspective. Not everyone has the ability or privilege to travel overseas with their children. So how can kids ministries help develop a mission minded / serving group of kids?

1. Go international. Your kids may not be able to take a trip across the world, but they can still make a difference to kids in need. Find a service project or, as a group, sponsor a child to get your kids excited about serving and missions. You can take your kids on a 'mock' missions trip to that country where you make passports, have maps, fly on a plane (*rows of chairs with leaders dressed as pilots or flight attendants*) and then when they 'arrive', the kids dress up in the local clothing and share food and music unique to that area. They will begin to realize that no matter how different our cultures are, God loves everyone the same.



2. Think small. Teach your kids that no service project is too small by having your group perform simple acts of kindness to people in their own local community. Have younger kids make cards for seniors. Have older kids put on a free carwash; no donations needed. Simple, one-day service projects are a great way to make a difference in your community and at the same time help develop a serving attitude in your kids.

3. Make it personal. Ask kids how they think they can make a difference. Find out what your kids have a heart for, and help them come up with projects they can do that follow their interests. Let them take ownership of their missions.

4. Go the extra mile. Whenever you ask kids to collect items like shoe boxes with supplies for needy children - have them come with you when you deliver the items to the local collection centre, and if possible, let them volunteer to stock shelves or do some basic cleaning.

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outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Timothy: Too young!

Methuselah: Too old . . . WAY too old!

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here! :)

HELPFUL HINTS

AFFIRMATIONS

af-fir-ma-tion

n. Something declared to be true; a positive statement or judgment.

Affirmations have helped countless people make significant changes in their lives and encouraged others to 'keep on going'. Why not affirm the kids in your ministry, your kids ministry volunteers or your ministry leaders. They will be pleasantly surprised and blessed. It can be done with words, actions or small gifts of appreciation. Whichever way you choose ... just do it!



Here are a few helpful ways to affirm your Kidsmin workers:

- Give a local store's gift certificate or 2 movie tickets.
- Send a thank-you card with a personalized note.
- Take a small group of your volunteers out to breakfast or lunch (you pay). Then next time take some of the others.
- Fill a coffee mug with a variety of upmarket coffee sachets (or similar) and give it to them with a note and word of thanks.

Affirming the children: Be aware that children may sense you are playing favourites if you affirm some children with 'gifts' while others may think they are missing out. That's why small gifts & cards need to be used wisely. Words of affirmation are usually the best approach otherwise give a special treat to all the children as a group.

WELL DONE!
NICE ONE!
EXCELLENT!
GOOD JOB!

- Thanks for being a part of our church.
- I'm glad you're at kids church today. Maybe one day you'll be a leader just like I am.
- Thanks for helping make our kids church so enjoyable.
- Make up a Bible bookmark using your computer and have each child's name on it with a special verse (e.g. 1 Timothy 4:12). Don't just hand them out 'in bulk' but individually and with an individual word of encouragement for each child.

Affirming your Kidsmin Leader: It's best to do this corporately as a group of kidsworkers to express together your appreciation for your leader. That way you can share the cost of buying the leader something memorable and limits the problems that may occur when the other volunteers think they have to buy something too, just because you did.

PRAY 4 SCHOOLS Day

Why not encourage your church to set aside in their service some time to acknowledge those who work in your local schools - class teachers, chaplains, parents on committees or canteen duty, Scripture teachers, Kids Hope leaders (or similar), SUPA group leaders, etc. Pray for the support and admin staff as well as the Principal.

Prayer Group for Schools has set aside the first weekend in February each year for this purpose. Those involved can have a positive input into the school community. Why not even send a letter of thanks on behalf of your church?



Christmas Tree Game

Game: Children have 50 seconds to decorate the human Christmas "trees".

Needed: 2 boxes of Christmas decorations (tinsel, plastic candy canes, bells & baubles with hooks on them, etc)

How to play: 2 children stand out the front with arms outstretched (trees). Each 'tree' has 2 other children each (*same sex as the 'tree'*) who have just 50 seconds to decorate their 'tree'. At the end, the audience votes with show of hands which tree is decorated the best.



At the end, you may be able to talk about some of the decorations and the real meaning of Christmas.

.... continued from page 1 (developing a missions outlook)

5. Meet missionaries. If you know someone who has served or is serving on the mission field, introduce them to your kids. If they can stop by, great - if not, ask them to write letters to your group and get the kids to write back to them. Kids will be encouraged by hearing from people who give their time to serve others. Plus, they'll have a name and face they can pray for, making them part of the missions team.

6. Share your own experiences of how you have been able to serve others or how others have served you. Show photos/ videos that you may have taken and tell stories of what happened.

7. Tell stories of missionaries from the past who went overseas and made a difference in another land. Child Evangelism Fellowship have flashcard stories of people such as Charles Studd, Hudson Taylor and Mary Slessor. (They have a lending library in most of their state offices)



SMILE :)

- Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Energizer bunny arrested. Charged with battery.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- Velcro... what a rip off!
- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

