

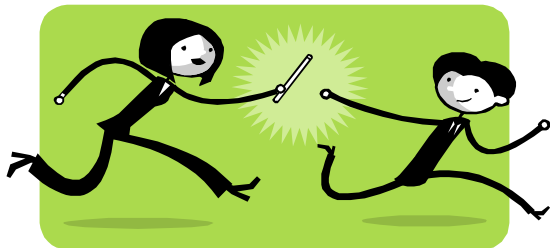


TREASURE CHEST

Quarterly/ Free
Feb 2010 issue

e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

Produced by Children's Ministry Network in W.A.
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Have you been passing on the baton to the next generation?

Working together as a team



Several years ago, at the Calgary Stampede in Canada, something unusual happened during a pulling contest. This particular contest is designed to determine which horse can pull the greatest weight. The winning horse pulled a little over 9,000 pounds, while the second-place horse managed to drag a little under 9,000 pounds. Afterward, the two owners decided to give the crowd a demonstration of teamwork. They harnessed the two horses to see how much they could pull together. To the crowd's surprise, it wasn't 18,000 pounds. It was 27,000! What a lesson for the onlookers! Teamwork allows us to accomplish so much more than we might ever dream possible. There is strength in numbers.



1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 talks about the body concept. We are all different parts of the Body of Christ. God has given us different talents, abilities and spiritual gifts. If we all work together as a team then we get so much more done for the Kingdom. Remember the words of John Donne (1572-1631) - "no man is an island".



Wardrobe Quick Change Game

Needed: 2 (or more) equal sets of large size old clothes e.g. shirt, skirt, jacket, shoes, trousers, etc (6-8 items/set)

Play: Form two (or more) teams with an even number of kids. If you have an odd number of kids, one can be the referee, otherwise the teacher can be the referee. Line up the teams at one end of the room and place a set of clothing for each team at the opposite end of the room. This will be a race to have each member of the team first put on all the clothes, then quickly take them off so the next person in the team can put them on. The team with their final person putting on the clothes is the winner. The referee is also important, because he will decide if the player has successfully put on the articles of clothing. Until the referee says OK, the next player in the team cannot begin.



750 Words from a fossil

(continued from Nov. 2009 issue ... part 2 of 2)

So, what keeps this old fossil going in kid's ministry after more than 30 years full time and 11 years voluntary before that? In the previous Treasure Chest I mentioned ...

- Be convinced of your calling**
- Be convinced of your message**
- Be regularly refreshed**
- Be disciplined**
- Be accountable**
- Learn to delegate**



Stretch your skills – Never stop learning to be a great kids' worker. Read lots, watch others, attend training courses and network with other likeminded people – 'as iron sharpens iron'.

Build your resources – The more resources you have, the less the stress when ministry demands are made on you. Have a squirrel mentality and bit-by-bit store away useful things you come across. Don't hide them in the back of a cupboard (you'll forget about them) but somewhere in view that has easy access. Maybe even keep a record of what you have and when you used them.

Share your passion, skills and resources – When you see others who are walking the same ministry path as you, encourage them and share what you have with them. Remind yourself that other people invested their time and energies in you, so 'go thou and do likewise'.

Strive for excellence – The longer you are involved in ministry, the greater the temptation to use shortcuts and to do your second best. Working smart is good, but second grade presentations are just not good enough. Why should the greatest message in the world be presented poorly?

Persevere – It was Sir Winston Churchill that reminded the students at Harrow School (October 29, 1941) to "Never give up. Never, ever give up." Galatians 6:9 says, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' Trust the promises of God. Stick at it!

Rely on God – After having told a Bible story 50 times, you can tend to rely on your own skills and past experience to tell it the 51st time in your own strength. You are involved in a spiritual ministry but, even though experience is a wonderful thing, you cannot win a spiritual battle just using human methods. Also rely on God to empower and enthuse you to keep on 'flying with wings as eagles' (Isaiah 40:31).

Rob Adams joined OAC Ministries in 1977 and lives in Western Australia. He is mainly involved in presentations in primary schools but also does kid's ministry in churches & camps as well as training children's workers.

"Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing."

John Henry Jowett

CHOOSING CURRICULUMS a few points to consider

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| Are the goals/ objectives of the lessons "SMART": specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely? |
| Are lessons based on biblical truths? |
| Is the perspective in line with your church denomination? |
| Will the lesson engage your students? |
| Do the lessons help children develop deeper relationships with God, each other, their parents, etc? |
| Do the lessons actively involve the children? |
| Are the lessons applicable to your student's daily life in the 21 st century? |
| Do the lessons appeal to a variety of learning styles? |
| Do the lessons make students feel good about themselves when they are finished? |
| Does the curriculum include appropriate worship and devotion ideas? |
| Are the activities fun for your students? |
| Are songs suggested that the students would enjoy? |
| Are crafts/ activities age-appropriate? |
| Are materials included or readily available? |
| Do games/ activities "tie" to the Bible Story? |
| Is the curriculum suitable for the size of your class? |

SCRIPTURE UNION RESOURCES

Online resource

There is an excellent online resource called LightLive which provides free bible based lessons for children's and youth groups. People sign up (free), add the details of their group, including size and availability of equipment etc, and they are provided with activities and lessons on particular topics. Great resource for leaders - www.scriptureunion.org.uk/29656.id



Curriculums

- JAFFA (Jesus A Friend For All) - series of three books for primary age kids, each with 32 sessions.
 - Many of our SUPA leaders use this resource and find them very useful.
 - Bubbles (for 5s and under)
 - Splash (for 5 to 8s)
 - XStream (for 8 to 11s)
- These are produced each term by SU in United Kingdom (each book has 13 sessions) and are available in Australia from your local SU office or at www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources_ministry.htm

Seen on a car bumper sticker in Perth

*I don't have trouble with God.
It's just his fan club that annoys me.*

Choosing Curriculums ... a few comments

Be careful about choosing a curriculum that has everything done for you as that means you may become slack in your preparation and in owning the program. Teachers become tempted then to just read the presentation. That's a no-no!!!

*Be careful in using a 'multimedia only' course as that can lose the relational component between teacher & students during your presentation. Good multimedia is wonderful (use it), but it should be there as a supplement/ support to your presentation and not the main format of teaching (which should be person to person). For me, I only allow multi-media as the main medium of about 20-25% of the presentation part of the program - the rest should be 'human' presentation which uses other forms of visuals to assist. Ensure there is **engagement** by the kids which can often be lost when relying solely on a DVD presentation.*

www.logosdor.com – Oasis is a Bible discovery curriculum for ages 7 to 11 years that is contemporary, fun, energy-packed and deliberately designed to help churches to grow their children's ministry.

www.christianedwarehouse.com – a great place to source a variety of curriculums

www.gospellight.com – uses fun discovery learning & creative activities

www.youthworks.asn.au - Covering ages 3 to 11, Kids@church encourages all ages to build the practices of the Christian faith into their lives and to grow in their faith.

www.tammytolman.com – Aussie material

www.christiananswers.net/kids/lesson-plans.html - not a full curriculum but has some helpful lessons plans

www.godspace.org.au - GodSpace is lesson materials to support outreach to children who are not part of a local church.

www2.hillsong.com/hillsongkidsbig/ - interactive multimedia based curriculum for 5-12 year olds.

www.kidsreach.org.au/index_files/Catalogue.htm - Discovery Club teaching program

www.kidmo.com - KIDMO is an interactive, media-driven curriculum for grades 1-6 containing everything you need for a complete program experience.

www.group.com/grapple/ - from Group Publishing, for older primary aged.

www.oktv.com.au - OKTV DVD Curriculum – A 40 week top quality inter-active DVD curriculum. A promotional DVD is available from OKTV



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