

THE NETWORK

NURTURING EDUCATORS, TRAINING WORKERS, AND
ORGANIZING RESOURCES FOR THE KINGDOM

CETALK Discussion List: goodhome@adiis.net

September, 2002



ON THE ROAD SEMINARS

Members of the Christian Education Board are willing to come to your church or quarterly meeting to share ideas about:

- * Creative Sunday School Program
- * Incorporating Music into Your Children's Program
- * What's New in Vacation Bible School

If you are interested in these contact Margaret Good (486-5977) with your open dates. goodhome@adiis.net



HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE



When Halloween strikes, strike back with the light of God's Word!

Unchurched families are open to coming to your church at this time of year because they want a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. What an opportunity!

This year, along with the repertoire of booths and games at your fall festival, add this living museum that brings three Bible heroes to life right before people's eyes. They'll meet Joseph, who was thrown into a pit but saw God's power in his life; Joshua, who obeyed God even when it seemed foolish; and Ruth, whose loyalty won her honor and fame.

Each story comes to life in its own multisensory environment. CCM can give you room-decorating ideas, hands-on activities, snacks, & storytelling ideas.

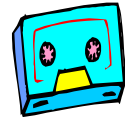
To add to the fun, encourage people to come dressed as people in the Bible - anything from Goliath to Zacchaeus!

Form three groups of families at the start of the evening, and have the groups rotate from one room to another.

By the end of the night, you'll have everyone thinking your church is a place where Bible stories are never mundane or boring!

For detailed suggestions go to the following: http://www.cmmag.com/Bible_Land.pdf or purchase the fall issue of Children's Ministry Magazine.

TOTAL-TV NETWORK



At Woolson Friends we have found an effective video based curriculum guaranteed to keep your teens' attention. The "Unfiltered" series from Total-TV provides action packed insight in a 20-minute video package, tailored especially for teens ages 13-19. The series comes complete with a leader's guide and enough video material for a six-to-twelve week session depending on how fast your class proceeds.

"Unfiltered" features nationally known youth speaker and founder of "Passion Conferences", Louie Giglio, in a concise teaching format. The program also features a guest couple that leads the viewer through the session. Teens are often featured in personal interview segments and entertaining "commercials" offer humorous breaks within the program.

At this time, Total-TV offers three different "Unfiltered" series, with a fourth scheduled to be available in September. Total-TV network has also produced a "Parenting by Heart" program that is a four-part video seminar for Christian parents. This powerful teaching series features Christian counselor Dr. Ross Campbell.

This curriculum has a similar format as the "Unfiltered" series only in a more adult oriented format. But have no fear thrill seekers; "Parenting by Heart" also features witty "commercials" and humorous breaks that keep the viewer interested.

You can check out Total-TV by phone at 1-888-TOTAL-TV, online www.bluefishtv.com, or by writing: Total-TV PO Box 869100 Plano, TX 75086-9100.

Ned Van Nostrand, pastor at Woolson

NET SUPPORT



MSS Crafts and Resources for Bible Stories:
<http://www.msscrafs.com/lessons/junior/>

Kids Sunday School Place
<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/index.htm>

Teen Games, Discussion Questions & Resources
<http://www.teensalive.org/games.html>



GLOBAL PRAYER PROMISES HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Drugs and violence empty our children's souls and rob them of hope. Prayer offers children hope through divine intervention and fills their souls with Light. On Pray for the Children Weekend, October 18-20, 2002, people of all faiths will raise children up in prayer, praying that they might be drug-free and safe. The simple mission of Pray for the Children is to generate as many prayers for children as possible.

The seeds of Pray for the Children have been sown around the world. In South Korea there are commitments from 27 different faith communities to pray for children on October 20th. People in Germany and Okinawa will also be participating. In today's society, children are dangerously vulnerable to drugs and violence. Drugs become gods. Children are made slaves. Human life is devalued.

Concerned adults everywhere are struggling with how to save children. The power of prayer is unequalled, and when many pray miracles happen and changes occur. For the last five years, individuals around the world have reached out and embraced the simple concept of Pray for the Children, and as a result thousands of prayers have been raised up for children. Prayer vigils, breakfasts, interfaith services, rallies, special worship services and other activities are planned for the weekend.

For more information, view the website at www.prayforthechildren.net. Or, contact Pray for the Children at 630 420-9493.

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

- Schedule special activities and a special service for *Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day, October 20*.
- Plan a reception, lunch or church family picnic to honor all your CE Workers.
- Pastors can plan sermon topics around teachers and the importance of Sunday School. Relevant passages from Scripture include Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:14; Luke 2:52.
- Recognize their contribution by awarding certificates of appreciation. It might be fun to have students from each class give their teachers the awards. Make it personal!

DELEGATE OR DIE!

(From http://www.cmmag.com/july_aug02/delegate.pdf)

Moses learned the hard way about doing the job alone. In Exodus 18, we're told about how Moses did everything in ministry by himself and it caused problems on the job. It was tough on the people, Moses, and his family. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave him wise advice and counsel. Simply put. . . he told Moses to delegate or die.

That's good advice for us in children's ministry, too! When you do things that others can do, you keep from doing things that only you can do. And when you do the things in ministry that only you can do, that's when you hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."

*Identify what you need to be doing. Identify what others can do and let them do it!

*Qualify all workers. Train & teach all those you recruit.

*Define exactly what you want done.

*Support and encourage those who help.

*Establish accountability. Dare to confront those who are doing it wrong.

*Don't let volunteers get in a rut.

*Don't fret about what you don't have.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TIPS

Suggestions from <http://www.sundayschoolhelp.com/>
A National Service of the Pennsylvania State Sunday School Association

Why not have one of those "Progressive Dinners" where you eat one course at each house and go to 3-5 houses. I was talking to my parents the other day (both in their 50's) and asked them if they've ever gone to a progressive dinner. They answered "yes" and proceeded to give me every detail about a Sunday School function that happened nearly 20 years ago. By the way, it was a pleasant experience (*smile*). How many SS functions make that kind of impact? This idea works for any age, from Senior High upward.

Consider having a class "covenant". This covenant could include provisions to pray for each other, study the lesson during the week, and other such agreed upon options. Groups are more successful if they know what is expected of them.

Do you have persons within your communities who are elderly or shut-in? The winter months are especially hard for them. Some of them cannot get out of the house and many of them do not even have anyone checking to make sure that they are okay.

An idea might be to organize a "Tele-Care Program" where you have persons from your Sunday School call each of these elderly or shut-in persons each day. A schedule could be established where a different person calls someone each day.