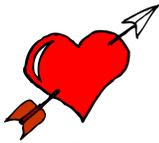


THE NETWORK

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

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SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Consider Valentine's Day an opportunity to share God's love. Children can make cards for shut-ins in your church or community; people in nursing homes; the local homeless shelter; your Pastor and spouse; single parents; a hospital ward; Veteran's; or your own Sunday School teachers. Our church sends valentines to Friends mission workers. Use your creativity and let us know how you share God's love!



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Kid-Friendly Service Projects

Get kids involved in ministry with these ideas:

- * Help prepare and serve the food at a soup kitchen or hospice.
- * Perform puppet shows, or musicals at soup kitchens, nursing homes or hospices.
- * Do yardwork or general cleanup from weed pulling to vacuuming.
- * Help prepare bulk mailings to benefit an agency.
- * Paint furniture, walls, or items that don't need to be "perfect."
- * Paint over graffiti.
- * Gather and deliver items for people in need.
- * Play with homeless children on day visits or by sponsoring a trip for children in homeless shelters.
- * Visit and serve people in an elderly community.
- * Plant trees and shrubs at a location in need of care.
- * Organize the canned and boxed goods in a food pantry.

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TEACHER ENCOURAGEMENT :-)

P.E.T. is Prayer & Pampering Especially for Teachers. Ask parents to adopt one leader for a year. Give the parent a profile with birthday & hobbies. Parents send anonymous notes & gifts to support and encourage throughout the year.

Net Support



Bright Bulbs Service Project Idea:
http://www.childrensministry.com/Ideas_for_lessons/service_ideas/bright.asp

Easter Ideas:
http://www.childrensministry.com/seasonal_ideas/spring/heisrisen.asp

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JELLY BEAN JOY!



Jelly beans come in all the right colors to tell of God's love.

- Orange** is for the sins we've done,
- Red** is for the blood of God's only son,
- White** is for the grace he gives,
- Green** is for new life in him,
- Yellow** is for your place in heaven,

Invite Jesus into your life and be truly forgiven. Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me even though I've sinned. Thank you for dying on the cross in my place. I'm sorry for my sins and want you to be my Lord and Savior today. Amen.

Give each child an egg filled with two of each jelly bean color & the poem & prayer to share with a friend who might not know Jesus.

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RESURRECTION ROLLS



A fun way to help children understand the meaning of Christ' empty tomb.

1 pkg. frozen rolls, thawed; 25 large marshmallows; 1/4 c.melted butter, 6 tb.sugar; 2 tsp.cinnamon. Flatten each roll. Dip marshmallow in butter. (embalming oil) then dip in cinnamon & sugar (anointing spices) set on dough and wrap tightly (wrapping Jesus' body after death). Bake 350 10-12 min. (Oven represents tomb.) Cool. Open roll and discover marshmallow melts into dough. (Jesus has disappeared, He is risen!)



CHRISTIAN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

Round up your Kingdom workers for a great mid-winter spiritual boost. The annual Christian Workers' Conference in Peoria, IL - EQUIP 2004 - is coming! This helpful 2-day conference provides speakers, workshops, and worship times; and it features an interesting "menu" of topics of interest to every Christian worker.

Sessions begin at 9:15 AM, Friday, Feb. 20, '04, and continue through the afternoon of Sat. Feb. 21. Participants can go for all or part of the conference. This might be of interest especially to those of you in eastern Iowa. (Peoria is 2+ hrs. from Salem/Mt. Pleasant.)

Cost \$20 each or \$30 after Jan. 30.

For more information: call 309-688-0625, or see the website: www.equipconvention.org by Jan Palmer

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TEACHING ADULTS (from the '94 Herald)



Teachers in the adult classes have just as great a responsibility to challenge and motivate their students as do teachers in any other department. Here are some things you will want to AVOID as you teach in the adult department:

- * **Poor climate for learning.** Comfortable seating, good lighting, chairs arranged so that everyone can share and be heard and visual aids are all important.
- * **Lack of motivation.** They desire to do things that are relevant to daily living, such as family, job and social life.
- * **Boredom.** In most cases, it is not the lesson materials, but the teacher's presentation and leadership that make the difference in this area.
- * **Fear.** Lack of confidence, fear of failure and ridicule are blocks to adult learning.
- * **Irritations.** Interruptions, delays, & poor planning create a barrier to a meaningful lesson.
- * **Lack of friendship.** Adults find it hard to break into a new group. An adult who does not get to know others on a first name basis will quickly lose interest and drop out, no matter how good the teacher may be.

A genuine love of your students and a sense of the responsibility that is yours to effectively teach them are necessities to successful teaching. Diligent, in depth preparation and daily prayer for each of your students will allow the Holy Spirit to work through you.

BURNOUT

(Children's Ministry Magazine 1996)



Burnout is no stranger to those in ministry. Christian educators have several burnout seasons every year. Think about your high energy times; holiday programs, musicals, teacher recruitment, VBS and back-to-school. Burnout seasons can also be a pastoral change, or a building program.

Burnout can fry you unless you recognize the characteristics of a burnout season and PACE yourself with these de-sizzlers.

Prayer – Daily communication with God must remain your top priority. Pray for wisdom about the use of your time, strength of your staff, and renewed leadership direction from God.

Alternatives - Since you'll have less available time, look for additional assistants, teachers & leaders. Consider people who can only make a short-term commitment. Ask someone outside the staff to perform tasks that require little training, such as decoration or craft preparation.

Communication – Are expectations realistic? Plan with family members how this season will affect daily family activities and how each family member can share in achieving your goal. Ask a friend to call you to remind you to pace yourself. Maintain ongoing communication with your teaching staff. Use newsletters & notes, prayer partners & meetings to keep morale high.

Enrichment – Remember to exercise, eat right, and connect with friends.

Because you've paced yourself, you'll have the freedom to focus on God's work and know that you're protected from the dangers of burnout.

IF YOU'RE ALREADY FRIED...

1. Pray for joy. Read scriptures that focus on joy.
2. Focus on the goal.
3. Communicate. Have a staff conference. Ask for help.
4. Laugh! Protect your attitude with humor!
5. Sweat it out. Try a new way to exercise. The physical exertion and new challenge will relax you.

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Statistics show that over 90% of all adult Christians came to Jesus Christ by the time they were 13 years of age. Successful Sunday schools realize that if the children of their community are not won to the Lord and brought into the church and Sunday school at an early age, the odds of successfully reaching them goes down rapidly as they get older.