

DIRECTIONS

SUMMER 2004

Foursquare Christian Education



▶ A PROMISELAND FOR YOUR KIDS

BOB BENNETT

highway56@tcotw.org
Director, Hwy 56 and Kid's Church
The Church On The Way, Van Nuys, CA



Willowcreek Community Church, www.willowcreek.org, is one of the largest churches in America with a Children's Ministry, called Promiseland, of over 3500 kids and 1000 children's volunteers each week. Bill Hybels began Willowcreek in the mid 1970's, from a cutting edge youth revival where thousands came to Christ. As a children's pastor, I wanted to find out how Promiseland would work in a Foursquare church. Contacting Foursquare leaders in several churches who use Promiseland, I received some great feedback. Here are some of the questions that I asked:

What do you like about Promiseland?

"It's current," said Linda Westmoreland, Children's Pastor in Moline, Illinois. All of the churches agreed that Promiseland is a very current curriculum including subject matter, video, drama, humor, etc. One children's director really liked the small group format where the message is applied to each child's life.

Does Promiseland work in a Foursquare church?

While Promiseland is not a Charismatic or Pentecostal curriculum, none of the Foursquare churches who were surveyed said that they found no conflicting theological opinions in the curriculum. Spiritual ideas like the full armor of God are presented in a very visual way for understanding.

What do you dislike about Promiseland?

Many churches have grade levels structured through sixth grade. If you decide to use Promiseland, which is structured through grade five, you will have to adapt it to fit your sixth graders. Another church mentioned that it might be harder for a "starter" church or a smaller church to use Promiseland, because of the "large group into small group" format.

Would you recommend Promiseland to other Foursquare churches?

Basically all said yes. The only hesitation came from a children's director who made it clear that it takes a dedicated team to facilitate the dramas and small groups.

After visiting Willowcreek myself, I was very impressed with the level of excellence in every detail of their ministry. I walked away with many great ideas. One of them was a concept called experiential learning, where active learning, the use of senses and emotions, are used for high retention. Their style of drama, music and the use of small groups has radically changed and impacted the way we teach our kids here at The Church On The Way.

DIRECTIONS ON-LINE GOES LIVE!

ROD LIGHT

rlight@foursquare.org
National Minister
Foursquare Christian Education



DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THIS HELPFUL RESOURCE

We will stop the print version of Directions within the next few months. The only way to receive this valuable newsletter will be via email. Here are the benefits of subscribing to *Directions On-Line*:

- *Directions On-Line* can be shared with other leaders without losing your copy.
- *Directions On-Line* provides direct instant links to other web resources.
- *Directions On-Line* is available in two versions (one for printing, one for viewing).
- *Directions On-Line* is more economical allowing us to provide free resources to churches.
- *Directions On-Line* allows us to equip leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- *Directions On-Line* will provide us with immediate feedback from you, the reader.

Visit ce.foursquare.org for more information.

bytes & fax

(REV. magazine Mar/Apr 04)

- 78% of Americans under 60 like having so much information available on the web.
- Three-quarters of Americans over 60 recognize they feel left behind when it comes to computers, however 69% of them say that computers make life better for Americans.
- Through ce.foursquare.org, we give away what people want faster than ever before.

IN THIS ISSUE

ADULT MINISTRIES

- The Friendship Filter
- Building Leaders at Home
- Web Sites for Parents and Families

▶ Page 2



CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

- Child Safety Guidelines
- Online Survey
- The Christian Mind

▶ Page 3



CHILDREN'S CAMPING

- Champions for Christ
- Is Camp Worth the Risk?
- Great Kid Web Sites

▶ Page 4



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Investment in Children's Leaders
- CM Connections
- Reaching Out

▶ Page 5

