

DIRECTIONS

GOD'S SOLUTION --

START WITH WHAT YOU HAVE!

Most of us are painfully reminded of what we don't have. In fact it is quite easy to get caught up in dwelling on what isn't rather than what can be with the help of our Lord.



During a recent "Focus Group" of Christian education leaders and workers it became apparent there was great opposition taking place in both private and personal ministry; **WE NEEDED A MIRACLE FROM GOD!** The reality of personal inadequacies, broken relationships, children and families being enticed into destructive behavior caused us to spend that time together in heartfelt intercession. While walking back to the office, the Holy Spirit spoke, "I'm

up to something great in the lives of these people! Yes, there is great opposition for wholeness for them...But GREATER IS MY PRESENCE AND PROMISE. Do not be overtaken by the lack for I love to FILL empty people!"

Later that day I ran into a friend, Tommy Barnett, who had just completed a new book entitled, *There is A MIRACLE in your House*. This book is based on Elijah's encounter with a desperate single parent who was about to lose everything including her sons (II Kings 4). Upon reflection I was able to glean the following thoughts that I would like to pass on:

GOD'S SOLUTION-START WITH WHAT YOU HAVE!

- I. KNOW WHERE TO GO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO - FIND GODLY COUNSEL

- A. The woman took her plight to the man of God.
- B. Don't mistake godly people for an earthly MESSIAH.
- C. God wants to show HIMSELF strong on your behalf!

II. FIND OUT WHAT'S IN THE HOUSE!

- A. Don't get caught up in what you don't have!
- B. Nothing, but a jar of oil - USE WHAT YOU HAVE
- C. God has given you the beginnings of a miracle!

III. GO IN AND SHUT THE DOOR!

- A. Meet God. Don't listen to the naysayers.
- B. Many miracles are stillborn because doubt remained in the delivery room!
- C. Don't leave until you know that you have met with the Lord!

IV. POUR UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE!

- A. You provide the effort - God provides the miracle.
- B. YES, there will be enough to satisfy.
- C. Move on with what God has for you, don't live in yesterday's miracles.

As I write to you this day God is divinely working in your behalf a miracle in your house, "YOU." Whether you are a teacher, children's ministries director, parent or Pastor's wife or all four combined GOD HAS A MIRACLE FOR YOU and HE asks "WHAT'S IN YOUR THE HOUSE" and "WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT."

Checking the house with you,

Rick Wulfestieg

Don't Abandon the Children!

They're God's children. Don't they deserve to know their heavenly Father?

...God doesn't

Article by Rick Wulfestieg

As Summer scheduling approaches I encourage you not to abandon ministries to the children that are consistent in showing the love of God. Children need to call on Jesus for salvation, and to keep making "**DECISIONS FOR CHRIST**" daily.

Some of the best learning can take place outside the classroom. It requires relationships. Some of my fondest memories of the church were the Summer Sunday school picnic, Sunday school outside on the lawn, VBS, summer camp and swim parties. Learning about Jesus in different environments needs to start early- -and stay long in the lives of children.

CONSISTENCY is crucial to the success of child discipleship. That's why SUMMER ministries such as Vacation Bible School, backyard Bible camps or an ongoing Sunday School or Children's Church are so important. Summer is a time for discovery! What a great opportunity for us as a church to help children discover the greatest treasure of all...**THE PERSONAL LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST!**

"Who will help us, we can't do it all?" You are right! God never intended for us to do it all. Be encouraged by Jesus' pattern found in Matthew 9:28 - 10:2 "What a huge harvest!" He said to the disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called those that He had, the twelve disciples, and sent them into the ripe fields. Look around and embrace those you have. They may be the answer.

Author and missionary E. Stanley Jones once wrote: "An individual gospel without a social gospel is a soul without a body, and a social gospel without an individual gospel is a body without a soul. One is a ghost and the other is a corpse."

Don't tell
them
God
loves
them until
you're
ready to
love
them too!

I met someone the other day who had just seen a ghost. Not the familiar kind made by draping mother's bed sheet over the body of a fantasizing child. A real ghost? Or at least that's the way it appeared.

I met this person in a small alleyway in one of the poorest districts in the ancient city of Dhaka. With a Bible tucked under one arm and a "God Loves You" pin fastened to his coat collar, he was walking through the filthy, smelly alley "doing the work of the Kingdom."

I stood back in the shadows and watched. An emaciated mother with three filthy kids at her side was carefully picking through the garbage. Maybe there was a scrap of food worth offering the hungriest of her three children. The youngsters' round, hollow eyes looked, on, hopefully and hungrily.

At that point, our man with the Bible moved into action. With practiced speed he pulled out a pamphlet from between the covers of his Bible. It was not a coupon to purchase food at a local eatery, however. It was a gospel tract.

I couldn't see whether the tract was in English or translated into Bengali. It wasn't important. The artwork on the cover told me the contents. I had seen it so often before in similar circumstances. The first words were "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!"

The Bible-toting stranger I had met in the alleyway had seen a ghost, in fact, four of them. For when we see souls to be saved without responding also to bodies that are broken and diseased through malnutrition, we are seeing souls without bodies.

We are seeing ghosts.

How Your Senior Pastor Can Get To Know Your Kids

What to do when the shepherd of the sheep is out of touch with the lambs.

Excerpted and adapted from an article written by Brett Younger for Children's Ministry Magazine, Loveland, CO 80539. Sept/Oct 1992.

"Let the Sunday school teachers take care of the kids; my ministry is with adults." Senior pastors don't really think this way, do they? Did Jesus think that way?

As a senior pastor I know it's tempting to believe that ministry to adults is more important than ministry to children. But pastors are as responsible for the spiritual welfare of children as they are for adult church members. There are many ways to build strong relationships with children. Here are some ideas that have been helpful to me.

1. Pick up the phone. Children love to receive phone calls. On several occasions, I've gathered everyone in the church office to sing "Happy Birthday" to a child over the phone.

2. Know names. In some churches, the test for your skill as a pastor is the ability to tell twins apart. In all churches, the worst insult to a child is to receive a friendly hello with the wrong name. Be personal and loving, learn children's names.

3. Take a picture. Have someone take your picture with a group of children. Make a pyramid or wear crazy hats.

4. Attend a children's class. I visited a different adult Sunday school class each week. I was surprised when a children's teacher asked when I'd be in her class. I immediately made plans to visit the children's classes.

5. Become an aficionado of children's art. Cover the church walls and bulletin boards with children's drawings.

6. Ask your children's workers for help. I sent a letter to our children's workers asking for ideas on how I could improve my relationship with the children. I got several helpful ideas and a new-found partnership with the children's workers.

7. Read a book on children or an article on pastoring children. Understand children and their feelings on spirituality. Keep current on kids' needs.

8. Lead a special event for children. One pastor used to take children on an annual tour of the church facilities. Another had a pastor/children party once a year. Attend the Vacation Bible School Kick-Off.

9. Pray. Pray for children by name. Pray about your role as their pastor. Pray for the children's ministry and all the people who minister to the children.

Jesus said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me." In ministering to children, you'll experience Christ in a fresh way.

KNOW YOURSELF - WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

All of the leaders I talked with agreed that no one can teach you how to become yourself, to take charge, to express yourself, except you. But there are some things that others have done that are useful to think about in the process. I've organized them as the four lessons of self-knowledge. They are:

- 1 You are your own best teacher.**
- 2 Accept responsibility. Blame no one.**
- 3 You can learn anything you want to learn.**
- 4 True understanding comes from reflecting on your experience.**

On Becoming A Leader by Warren Bennis, Addison - Wesley, Jacob Way, Reading, MA 01867 \$19.95

100 Years of...

Vacation Bible School

Fun With A Purpose -- A Fresh Look at VBS in the 90's By Wes Haystead

Can Vacation Bible School—a ministry to families that began in the 1890's—be vibrant, original, and contemporary in the 1990's? Is it still possible to enlist enough capable willing volunteers, to attract and involve children, to provide teaching that has a lasting impact? Judging by the recent experiences of thousands of churches, the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

After a full century, Vacation Bible School is showing no signs of aging, becoming timeworn, threadbare, or tiresome! Church leaders, volunteers, parents and children see VBS as a real highlight of the year in terms of evangelistic outreach, excitement, participation, positive results — and good clean fun!

In a disposable society that is attuned to upgrades, trade-ins, and anything labeled "new" or "improved," how does VBS manage to keep on capturing the imagination of successive generations of children? What keeps VBS producing a positive, lasting impact in the lives of individuals and entire communities?

Over and over, two common factors surface when people describe what makes VBS so continually successful:

Fun - 100 years of experience have proven that successful Vacation Bible Schools have a strong component of fun. From the earliest planning stages, VBS leaders search for materials and ideas that "click" with kids. Churches know that a VBS theme and curriculum resources which appeal to children, regardless of their church background, are essential to attract interest and build enthusiasm.

While fun is an important dimension in attracting children, it is also a big factor in building positive expectations and attitudes among the children and staff. A climate of having a good time together promotes interest and receptivity.

While it's hard to overemphasize the value of creating a fun environment for children, there is another big factor needed for any VBS to truly succeed. Fun has to have a meaningful purpose.

Purpose - Once the whoopla and excitement of VBS is over, if fun had been the only component of Vacation Bible School, no one would make comments like the following:

"... one of the most successful VBSs we have ever had! ... Our attendance was one of the largest ever ... a rewarding experience to see those children teaming about and reflecting God's love." Sandy Carpenter and Kerry Harris, Erwin, Tennessee

"It was our greatest VBS yet!! We had 230-250 students each day. We had approximately 20 children come to know Christ." Donna T. McGowan, Boca Raton, Florida

It's intriguing to notice that *Fun* and *Purpose* are closely related factors. A successful VBS is not built with a "fun" factor that attracts and entertains and then stops when it is time to get down to "serious" stuff. When that happens, children feel they have been manipulated.

Instead, the successful VBS combines *Fun With a Purpose*, linking both dimensions throughout the program. Here are some important ingredients that help make this happen:

Theme - An effective theme is not a gimmick unrelated to the content to be taught in VBS. A good theme is a child-friendly expression of that content and is woven throughout the entire VBS. Colorful decorations serve to accent the theme and surround the children and staff with visual reminders of what they're learning.

Bible Stories/Verses - Children remember and are influenced by stories and verses which connect closely to the rest of their VBS experiences. All other VBS activities should tie into the Bible content.

Music - The best songs are fun and easy to sing and clearly state a key truth to be remembered.

Brenda Pugh of Sunfield, Michigan, wrote of her experience as music director for her church's VBS: "I especially enjoyed the music.... the kids really responded by teaming the words and tunes quickly... always being fun for the kids!"

Skits - Whether done with live actors, puppets or video, kids love to see situations acted out. And they learn a great deal when the situations introduce or illustrate the lesson truth.

Crafts - The best crafts are more than a "filler" project with a Bible verse attached. Children enjoy--and learn--when craft projects fit the theme.

Snacks/Games - These are not "breaks" in the learning process, but exciting, rich opportunities to build relationships and reinforce learning. And, as children enjoy theme-related snacks and games, they become increasingly receptive to the learning in other segments of the program.

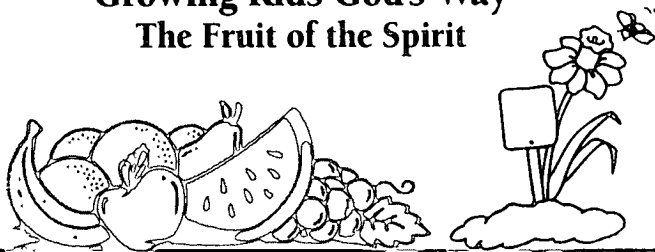
After 100 years of Vacation Bible School, this exciting ministry can still be fresh and vibrant when the staff clearly defines their purpose and designs their ministry program to reach children and their families with the love of Christ.

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Gospel Light VBS



Growing Kids God's Way
The Fruit of the Spirit



This summer, take your children to a place they're going to **LOVE**. You'll discover the **JOY** of showing kids how to grow God's way. With Gospel Light's VBS materials you'll have more **PEACE** of mind knowing that the planning and preparation is practically done for you. You'll be amazed to see how easy it is, with just a little **PATIENCE**, to turn your church into **Son Country Farm**. You'll be blessed to see your children grow in **KINDNESS** and **GOODNESS** as they learn about the fruit of the Spirit. **Son Country Farm** is fun for you and your teachers too, making it easy to show **FAITHFULNESS** as you prepare each day's lesson. There are plenty of built-in teaching tips to help even your newest teachers lead lessons with **GENTLENESS**. When you see all the good things growing on the farm, you might not want to wait to have your VBS. Don't worry, just use a little **SELF-CONTROL**.

See Order Blank inserted in this mailing.

Gospel Publishing House VBS



For one tremendous week, the **Peace Patrol** will turn your church into a case-busting center. Your genuine spiritual detectives will solve the mysteries of "**The Talking Arrows**," "**The Puzzling Voice**," "**The Spilled Perfume**" and more. Each session has been carefully crafted to engage a different sense: taste, sight, touch, hearing, and smell. Your kids have never been to a VBS like it!

Our Official **Peace Patrol** Supply Center will help you outfit your agents with the latest in mystery-solving attire: bright, colorful **Peace Patrol** T-shirts, name tags, detective glasses, hats and more -- at a price your church can afford!

Check out the **Super Slueth Center**. We've taken all the mystery out of preparing and presenting an all-school activity center. You'll get the whole gang involved like you've never been able to before.

See Order Blank inside this mailing for details!

Look For Lots of Ideas

"Nothing is more dangerous than an idea when it is the only one you have.

Emile Chartier, philosopher

When two-time Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling said, "The best way to get a good idea is to get a lot of ideas," he was describing the low-probability nature of creative thinking. The odds that any particular idea will help solve your problem aren't that high. But the more you get, the closer you are to reaching your objective. Thus, it's important to get as many "right answers" as you can. You may not be able to use all of them, but that's for you to decide. Thus, your attitude should be that everything has some value; nothing is worthless.

This is why a professional photographer takes so many pictures when shooting an important subject. He may take thirty, fifty, a hundred or more shots. He'll change the exposure, the lighting, the filters, and so on. That's because he knows that out of all of the pictures he takes, a few of them will be good.

Computer scientist Alan Kay (the man who coined the term "personal computer") believes in the value of looking for lots of ideas.

"If you take the smartest people you know and if they really level with you, they'll tell you that nineteen out of every twenty ideas they have aren't any good. But it's because they generate so many ideas that they're able to come up with a few exceptional ones."

Inventor Ray Dolby (the man who took the "hiss" out of recorded music) has a similar philosophy. He says:

"Inventing is a skill that some people have and some people don't. But you can learn how to invent. You have to have the will not to jump at the first solution...because the really elegant solution might be right around the corner. The most likely inventor candidate would be someone who says, "Yes, that's one way to do it, but it doesn't seem to be an optimum solution." then he keeps on thinking."

When you look for more than one right answer, you allow your imagination to open up.



YEAR-ROUND OUTREACH MINISTRIES



FOR CHILDREN



Our example is Jesus Who went out among the people which included children. We can follow this example by going where the children are - find them and then keep them in our local churches and church family. The wolves are out there seeking to destroy our children (lambs) but the Shepherd goes out to find the "one."

1. **MAILBOX CLUB** (Bible Correspondence Courses for Children)
404 Eager Rd,
Valdosta, GA 31602
2. **BACKYARD CLUBS**
Evangelizing in your own neighborhood. Children feel comfortable in familiar surroundings. It creates a natural setting for teaching. Transportation problems are solved. Allows for increased flexibility and fewer workers.
CHILD EVANGELISM "A BACKYARD PARTY WITH THE SON" - Teaching, singing, activities, crafts, etc.
P. O. Box 348, Warrenton, MO 63383
3. **CHILDREN'S CRUSADES**
A five day theme or series of evening gatherings for children Preschool to 6th grade. For information write:
MARY LOU CANATA
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., #116
Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 484-2400, Ext. 301

OUTREACH MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN (cont)



4. **DAY CAMPS**
Day Camp is an outdoor activity and learning program just one step removed from resident camping. It is great for children who have a difficult time being away from home overnight. Day camps also provide a setting for developing relationships between counselors and campers. Hikes nature studies and crafts augment the Bible exploration time. This type of outreach is especially popular with 2nd graders and up. Teens can be used to assist with the various outdoor activities, crafts and refreshments.

5. **STATE INSTITUTIONS**
Juvenile Hall where children are placed for a short time. These institutions are in need of Chaplains and workers to conduct Sunday school, etc.



6. **CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS**
Contact the Chaplain in the hospital for opportunities, schedules, rules and regulations. This ministry requires stamina because what you see, hear and feel can break your heart. Try to plan times when the children may not be getting a lot of attention (after Holidays, etc.)

7. **STREET MINISTRY**
This ministry is strictly evangelism using a picture Bible, Wordless Book and effective tracts. Teams of three are recommended; two will witness to the child; pray, etc. while the third person watches for another opportunity; danger, etc.

8. **GOVERNMENT HOUSING**
You must seek permission from management. Recreational centers are often offered free of charge; however, restrictions may be placed upon you insofar as your Bible teaching is concerned.

9. **DOWNTOWN MISSIONS**
Many of our missions now house more women and children than they do men due to the tremendous need which is a result of homeless families who need shelter.

10. **TRACT DISTRIBUTION**
Outside public places; in the mail; helium balloons; parks, etc. Write for sample packet of excellent tracts for children on salvation, holidays such as Valentines, Halloween, Christmas, etc.

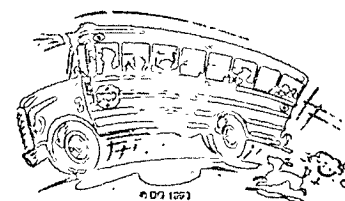
AMERICAN TRACTS

Garland, TX 75046-2008

11. **MOBILE EVANGELISM** (Taking the church to the children)
HAVE BUS, (VAN) WILL EVANGELIZE
Often referred to as the "Satellite Church" This is an extension ministry of the local church.

A **BUS** is used as a classroom in a neighborhood; parking lot; fairs, etc.

A **VAN** designed for evangelism among children. Van pulls up to a park; onto a beach area; church parking lot; government housing, etc. Seek out information on rules and regulations plus permits that are sometimes needed.



12. **PARK MINISTRY**
Setting up your props in a park that is safe. Provide a tarp or blanket for the children to sit on. Expect adults. Law: You are permitted to speak as long as you cannot be heard 200 feet beyond the place you are standing.

13. **RELEASED TIME CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**
Write to: **CALIFORNIA RELEASED TIME CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (916) 967-3972 No. California
5230 N. Clark Avenue, Suite #24 (310) 866-5383 So. California
Lakewood, CA 90713

Released Time is a program offering religious instruction during school hours for students in Elementary Schools. It is legal. (California Education Code (section 46014) and gives permission for local School Boards to release children with parental permission for religious instruction off school property. The maximum time allowed is one hour per week.

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