

See how very much our
heavenly Father loves
us, for he allows us to be
called his children.
1 John 3:1

The Inward Focus

The Quarterly Newsletter of Kids at the Crossroads Ministry

Volume 1 Number 2

February 2004

Welcome back to the Inward Focus . . .

We are more than half way through the 2003/2004 session and praise God for everything going on in the Kids at the Crossroad ministry. This ministry includes Lil' Kids, Kids' Zone, Kids in the Word, Kids' Club and VBS Kids.

Our committed group of volunteers continues to build relationships and share their love of the Lord with our children. What a blessing they are to all of us!" Our kids gain so much from the adults who have a gift with children and a heart for God. During the last couple of months our Junior and Senior High kids have been helping us in Kids in the Word and Lil'Kids to provide our volunteers the opportunity to attend the monthly church building meetings. What a blessing for our younger kids to build relationships with our older kids. This has been an answered prayer for the Kids at the Crossroads ministry.

In this newsletter instead of hearing from the adults, we thought you would enjoy hearing the "**voices of the kids**". Here is what a few of our children had to say about the various ministries:

Lauren Cardozo says, "*I like playing in the nursery. I like Kate (Livingston) because she's my new friend!*"

David Lopez adds, "*I like playing with the other kids. I can't tell you their names. I like story time. That is the end.*"

Maddie Dean had this to say about Kids in the Word, "*I like singing, making crafts and learning about God*". When asked if there was something we should do differently she said, "*I like it the way it is, but would like more kids in my class.*"

Emily Verboncoeur had this to say about Kids' Zone, "*I like doing the crafts. I like the story time. The teachers are very nice.*"

Scott Lynn had this to say about our first Kids' Club, "*I liked the games and seeing my friends. I was glad I could bring my cousin.*"

There is so much more in the planning stages for the remaining 2003/2004 session, summer session and 2004/2005 session. Please pray for our Kids at the Crossroads leaders and volunteers that we may provide spiritual direction that glorifies God and help our children develop into loving adults.



Kids in the Word

We are currently in the last few weeks of our study of the character of God. The children have learned many attributes of God from A (Almighty) to Z (Zealous). We will be spending two weeks (2/15 and 2/22) reviewing the ABCs of God's character and our memory verses. Children can expect some special games, music, challenges, and other surprises during our wrap up sessions.

We will conclude the 2003-2004 Kids in the Word session by studying the Fruit of the Spirit. We have a fun, interactive curriculum that will provide a creative learning environment. The children will still be challenged with weekly scripture memory, so please continue to encourage and work with your child on his weekly assignment.



Make sure you ask your children about a special addition to our Kids in the Word Worship time.

The Worship team has begun exposing the children to a variety of instrumentation. The kids have been accompanying the worship team with rhythm instruments such as the tambourine and shaker. This is a chance for everyone to get involved, and they love it!

We are always looking for people with a flare for drama or a desire to get involved in our singing and worship. We are not looking for Academy or Grammy awarding winning performances, only people with a love for the Lord and willingness to commit themselves toward the spiritual growth of our children. If you have an interest, please see Laurel Dean.





Kids' Zone

The children continue studying Jesus, What a Savior!, a study for children on redemption during *Kids' Zone*. Parents, please continue to help your children with their memory verses. These lessons will take the kids to summer.

Starting in January, parents of our *Kids' Zone* kids have been invited to observe both the lesson and activity. We felt this would be a great way to receive feedback from our parents while working toward our goal of partnering with parents to build a bridge between church and home. We are so appreciative of the support we receive from in *Kids' Zone* parents.

During the summer months we are going to switch gears and start focusing on Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. There will be a lot of storytelling for the children to enjoy. We will share more information as we get closer to summertime.

Lil' Kids



What a quarter it has been for the Lil' Kids ministry. We have added so many new babies, and they just keep coming!! We are so thankful for all our little ones. God has truly blessed our church. Our new system is now in full swing. We have started a series of lessons for our young children, and in January the lessons were all about, "I Love My Mommy". February will be, "I Love My Daddy". The children sit down and listen to the teacher, sing songs about the lesson, pray, and then do a follow up coloring sheet. Make sure and ask your child for his/her coloring sheet and find out what they learned. We had a good turnout for our Lil' Kids worker meeting in January. In that meeting we discussed nursery procedures. Look for these laminated procedures in the box containing all the forms. These schedules/procedures should be posted in the Lil' Kids room each Sunday as a reminder of what needs to be done and when.

We want to extend a big thank you to all of you who help serve and take care of our little ones. We still need some slots filled this quarter, and we would urge those with kids in the nursery to try and serve at least four times. We also encourage everyone in the church to volunteer occasionally. We need everyone to make this a successful ministry. As a reminder, if you serve and have not filled out a Kids at the Crossroads Volunteer Disclosure, please do so the next time you work. Also, parents, make sure you have completed a form for each of your

children. We have everything at the sign-in table. Thanks and God Bless!



Kids' Club

The very first ever Kid's Club was held in November. Kid's Club is for our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The kids enjoyed a night of games, snacks and fellowship, and our kids did a great job inviting friends. There were 19 kids in attendance. Our next get together is in March with a request for a karaoke night.

We are planning to expand Kids' Club by ministering to this age group more frequently. One of our goals is to prepare our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders for communion. Starting in the fall, we plan to spend one week per month, during the service, teaching this age group more about the importance of building a relationship with Christ and the significance of Communion. This group has such energy, enthusiasm and interest in so many things.

We welcome and encourage parents of our Kids' Club kids to participate in any of the activities. We are always looking for creative outreach ideas. We also need places to hold the Kids' Club events. If you know of any place or would be willing to host an event in your home, or if you are interested in volunteering or leading this ministry in the future, please contact Angela Somers.



VBS Kids

Tired of the cold yet? Well, just a few months until.....you'll just have to wait and see.



Kid Bits

Mark Your Calendars!!

End of February

Early VBS Volunteer sign-up

March 5th

Karaoke night for Kids' Club (3rd - 5th grade)

March 7th

Kids in the Word children singing during service

April 11th

Easter Egg Hunt

April 24th

Spring Seminar

Topic: Helping Children Learn to Pray





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