

KIDS MATTER

edition four

nov | dec | jan 2009/10

Feature Article

>> ELKE KEELING

HELP! MY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER SUCKS!

Now that I have your attention, let's get real! It is never simply that "the children's ministry leader sucks" or "the senior pastor is not supportive." Often it is misconceptions about the role, poor staff management or unclear expectations. Take time to evaluate your children's ministry and reflect on the following pointers.

Five Things Children's Pastors Wish Their Senior Pastors Understood About Children's Ministry:

1. Children's ministry requires the largest and hardest working group of volunteers in the church. Overseeing, training and resourcing them takes hours of hard work.
2. Children's ministry costs money. If you want it to be excellent, invest in it. The leader needs a salary, teachers need material and facilities should be inviting.
3. Children are the church of today. Don't devalue the ministry by implying that we hold onto the children until they become assets. They can pray, share their faith and minister God's love and grace now.
4. The children's pastor needs your support. An encouraged children's pastor will lead a ministry that revitalizes your church. Treat them as leaders.
5. A vital children's ministry will grow the church. People want their kids blessed. People are more interested in the well-being of their children than in new data projectors.

Seven Things Children's Pastors Should pay More Attention To:

1. **Super news:** Grace is what God has done for us, not what we do for Him. Your character is more important than your performance. Share a passionate vision with the church and set realistic goals and boundaries.
2. **Eat the Bible:** Make sure you are feeding daily from the Bible. Feed kids the Word.
3. **Kid potential:** Help kids see their potential. Chal-



lenge them to live out their faith in the world.

4. **Do cool stuff:** Don't settle for teaching a lesson, create an experience that involves the kids
5. **Hey, I know you:** Be real. Love your family, love kids, love parents, love your workers and mostly love God.
6. **Empower others:** Recruit the best team and train them on the job. Don't do everything yourself.
7. **Slow down:** Rest in God. Talk to God. Read the Bible. Trust God to work through you. Enjoy ministry.

As we near the end of the year, look back and marvel at what God has been able to accomplish. Approach 2010 with renewed clarity about the role of the children's pastor, the expectations you have of them and they of you and may your team serve together on God's mission to reach the children in your community for Christ.

(Content adapted from articles by Roger Fields, Kidzblitz Ministries and ColdWaterCafe)

For help with a review for your Children's Ministry please contact our team.



p: (09) 526 7958

e: childrensministry@baptist.org.nz

www.baptist.org.nz

Be Inspired

>> MARK ALTROGGE (www.theblazingcenter.com)

When Charles Spurgeon was a child, an itinerant preacher named Richard Knill stayed at his grandfather's parsonage. Upon spying the boy, he asked if they could meet the next morning.

"... in my grandfather's garden ... in the sweetest way, he told me of the love of Jesus, and of the blessedness of trusting in Him and loving Him in our childhood. With many a story he preached Christ to me, and told me how good God had been to him, and then he prayed that I might know the Lord and serve Him. He knelt down in that arbour, and prayed for me with his arms about my neck. ... on three successive days he taught me, and prayed with me; and before he had to leave, my grandfather had come back from the place where he had gone to preach, and all the family were gathered to morning prayer. Then, in the presence of them all, Mr. Knill took me on his knee, and said, 'This child will one day preach



jmacphoto.com

the gospel, and he will preach it to great multitudes. I am persuaded that he will preach in the chapel of Rowland Hill, where (I think he said) I am now the minister."

Mr. Knill gave the young Spurgeon a sixpence to learn the hymn "God Works in a Mysterious Way" and made him promise to have it sung when he preached in Rowland Hill. Years later, after Spurgeon had been preaching for some time in London he was unexpectedly invited to speak at – Rowland Hill.

"All unsought by me, the minister ... invited me to preach there. I went on the condition that the congregation should sing, 'God Works in a Mysterious Way' – which was also done."

Thank you, all who serve in children's ministry. Thank you, all who teach in Christian and public schools. Thank you mothers laboring at home to educate your children. May

this story inspire you. May this story encourage every parent, struggling to raise their children to love Jesus. That snotty-nosed squirmy boy who keeps asking to go to the bathroom may be the next Charles Spurgeon.

Quotes from "C.H. Spurgeon Autobiography: Volume I: The Early Years"

Get Resourced

BORROWING

The resources at the Baptist Resource Centre are growing! We are acquiring new and used books, DVDs and curricula every month. Contact Rachael on childrensministry@baptist.org.nz for a catalogue and borrowing conditions. Don't be shy, please ask.

CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS

Gear up for Christmas with resources from around the world!

>> MADE IN NEW ZEALAND

Especially for preschoolers and Mainly Music programmes: **The Christmas Musical Extravaganza** by Julie Young. It includes a CD with script, PowerPoints and advertising material, a DVD of a full production and two music CDs. Cost: \$95. To order contact Julie Young on julieyoung@paradise.net.nz.

Take One – Christmas publication from Mainly Music. Jo Hood, Mainly Music director, writes: "It has bothered me that there are few books in a price range that suit church budgets to give to mums telling the story of Christmas that scream, 'read ME.'" Enter ... Take One. This book is a bridge between mums and the Christmas message. If you'd like a file of four double-page spreads from the book,

please email Elaine at info@mainlymusic.org.nz.

>> FROM THE USA – AARON REYNOLDS – the BEST!

The Christmas Rewind: This high-speed, hilarious, and culturally plugged-in drama is 22 minutes of the Christmas story like you've never seen it. It's perfect for a multi-generational congregation to celebrate Christmas together.

Festival of the King: This hour-long musical is unlike anything your congregation has experienced. A festival of tribal proportions celebrates the King who came down to be with us.

Both kits come with the script, video of the production, original artwork, prop list, produced music (in the case of Festival of the King) and loads of extras to set your team up for a dynamic Christmas. Visit www.creative-arts-ministry.com for the full production.

>> FROM THE UK

Children and family ministry in the UK recommends a resource website for Christmas called Christmasjourneys: www.christmasjourney.org.uk/team.html.

>> FROM AUSTRALIA

Funky Christmas music from Colin Buchanan. Check out "The King of Christmas" on www.colinbuchanan.co.au.

Stepping Up

>> ELKE KEELING

CELEBRATING OUR JOURNEY THIS PAST YEAR: INVESTING NOW IN A NEW GENERATION.

"I pray that God will allow me to look at this church from heaven 50 years from now and find out that the fruit of what we did is lasting." (A church leader with a legacy perspective)

We want to ensure that Baptist churches can look back many years from now to see immense harvest from what we are putting in place for our children today.

So what kind of a legacy are we leaving? Have we seen children as gifts from God who are being nurtured in a vibrant faith that will release all the potential that God has placed in them when he created them? Is it imperative to us to teach children about Jesus and offer them the opportunity of a living relationship with God? This is what we have been challenging churches with around the country.

This year we have seen an encouraging openness from churches willing to engage in conversation, visioning and strategizing on how to more effectively reach the new generations for Christ. To keep up with this demand we have been able to increase and improve consultancy, coaching and training services. In the last year our team of regional coaches has grown from three to five part time people around the country; the number of children's ministry leaders involved in networking and cluster groups has grown from 19 to 53; we are developing resources that provide practical tools that you have asked for; and we are daily putting people in touch with resources that suit their needs.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the growing number of children's pastors and children and family pastors engaging in leadership growth, training and mentoring. Churches are recognizing the value of these ministries and are resourcing them with salaries and training. This is very encouraging for the future with a growing momentum around children and family ministry as a strategic investment in impacting the health and future of our churches, as well as a key to community involvement in a huge variety of ways.

At a strategic level our executive board is keeping the vision high and the strategy sharpened. We are involved in a National Project Group to provide training for children's ministries across denominations and organizations; we are partnering with numerous organizations that provide resources and training for children and family ministries around the country.

The Faith at Home movement crosses children, youth and family ministry zones. There are exciting times ahead to see where this will lead us to be so much more effective in keeping our young people connected to church communities and receiving a legacy of faith that is vibrant, loving and authentic, lasting a lifetime.

As we continue to strive to reach the new generations with the love of Christ, Psalm 78:1-7 encourages us, "so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands."

We are privileged to partner with you as you seek to reach the new generations for Christ.



Children's Ministry Leaders gather to plan strategically for their ministries as they look ahead. What an inspiring bunch, seeing the vision!

Mark your Diary

EVENTS TO TRAIN AND INSPIRE YOU IN 2010:

FEBRUARY

One Generation from Extinction –

Helping kids encounter Jesus

>> **Christchurch** – February 2

>> **Wellington** – February 4-6

>> **Auckland** – February 11-13

Featuring Mark Griffiths – www.newwine.org.nz.

MARCH

Scripture Union WAY2GO training events

March 6 - Auckland

March 13 - Dunedin

March 27 – Wellington

More details coming soon: www.scriptureunion.org.nz.

Unlimited Conference

March 12-13 - Christchurch

Speaker: Rob Bradbury

Childsafe training

Need to make your ministry safe for children, need policies and procedures to do it? Then this all day training track with Maureen Gunston is for you! Maureen will introduce you to resources that make safety easy. Come with your youth pastor to streamline safety in your church to all children

0-18. Several of our Baptist CM leaders raved about Maureen's workshops and recommend them highly. Contact Raewyn Moodie for her feedback on moodies4@xtra.co.nz.

APRIL

Bethel School of Supernatural Worship –

Conference for children

April 14-16, 2010 – Liberty Christian Church

Enquiries to: sue@liberty.net.nz

ReTHINK ministry at the Orange Conference – April 2010

Several leaders are going to this conference in Atlanta next year. Let us know if you want to join us. Dates: April 28-30. Venue: Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Check out details on www.rethinkgroup.org.

OCTOBER

Strategic Planning Workshops –

Popular annual retreats led by Elke Keeling

>> **Auckland** – Saturday, October 2

>> **Christchurch** – Saturday, October 9

>> **Wellington** – Saturday, October 16

NOVEMBER

Baptist Assembly – November 4-7

The Team - Here to Serve You



NATIONAL CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM LEADER

>> **Elke Keeling**

ph: (09) 526 7958 | 021 279 0919

email: elke.keeling@baptist.org.nz



WAIKATO COACH

>> **Rachel Cooke**

ph: (07) 838 0375 | 027 497 9329

email: rcooke@hcbc.co.nz



CANTERBURY/WESTLAND COACH

>> **Wendy Weusten**

ph: (03) 342 4359 | 027 445 4694

email: weustenfamily@fspnz.com



WELLINGTON COACH

>> **Nicola Fraser**

ph: (04) 586 7048 | 021 136 7398

email: wandnfraser@xtra.co.nz



ADMINISTRATION

>> **Rachael Hayward**

ph: (09) 526 7957

email: childrensministry@baptist.org.nz



AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND COACH

>> **Jacolize Becker**

ph: (09) 473 2498 | 021 204 9629

email: jacolize@xtra.co.nz



AUCKLAND/NORTHLAND COACH

>> **Raewyn Moodie**

ph: (09) 416 7974 | 027 304 9646

email: moodies4@xtra.co.nz