

Feature Article

WHAT YOU SAY 'NO' TO DETERMINES WHAT YOU SAY 'YES' TO

At the beginning of the year in Children's Ministry we are always faced with a long list of things that we have to do to get things going for the year. So it is good to check off the things we should say NO to. This can save you time and energy but, more than that, it will determine what you can say YES to!

Roger Fields, Kidzblitz Ministry Director, compiled a list of 10 things he would never do as a Children's Pastor. Check them out, then write your own list.

1. **Never run a program without a great reason**

If I can't write down exactly why I am doing something, I stop it. If I had to, I would build a case about why the program costs too much time, money and space and produces too little. I am too busy to do something that is no longer essential.

2. **Never beg for workers**

I do not make announcements asking for volunteers. To me, that dishonors the children's ministry. Instead, I aggressively recruit one-on-one. I go after the best people in the church and share my vision of where we are going in children's ministry.

3. **Never be timid about asking for the best**

I ask for the best, knowing I often wouldn't get it. But I don't want my vision or lack of boldness to be the hold up. When you ask for money, resources or more space it shows you believe in what you are doing. I never

take it personally when I am turned down.

4. **Never pacify a chronically malcontented worker**

I want to hear honest criticism. That makes me better. But I have little patience for perpetually disgruntled workers even if they have been around a long time. They make children's ministry an uphill climb for everyone. I tactfully direct the chronic malcontent to another department, one where they will have less impact on other workers.

5. **Never make values the focus**

I believe in good values. The heart of the Gospel, however, is not about what we do for God but about what God did for us. Sharing is a good thing, but it will not take you to Heaven or even sustain you through the pressures of life. Only a relationship with the Lord can do that.

6. **Never do anything just because it's the way it's always been done**

There is no method sacred to me. I continually look for a better way to do things. If I find a better way of teaching, recruiting, communicating, etc., I do it. Period.

7. **Never treat salvation as a process**

I believe salvation occurs in an instant; growth occurs over a lifetime. I always make the distinction clear. Being birthed into God's family happens when someone puts their faith in Jesus. Growth is the result. If I wasn't clear about the difference, kids would



"Your mouth is saying "no, no, no" but your eyes are saying "yes, yes, yes."

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Be Encouraged

>> ELKE KEELING

START AN ENCOURAGEMENT JOURNAL TODAY

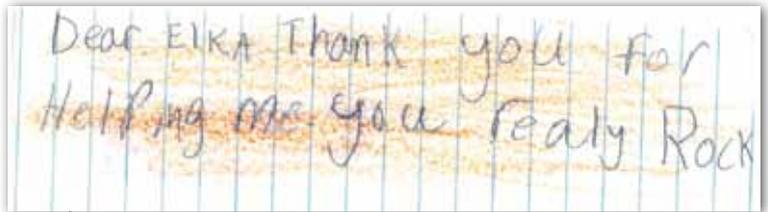
What would your volunteers say about you, their Children's Ministry Leader, if you decided to conclude your ministry? What legacy are you leaving? What vision are your volunteers carrying?

How do you find out – without leaving?!

Early in my ministry with children, I realized that it can be a seemingly thankless job, but there are always encouragements and people that give you feedback. I decided to start collecting the few given to me and stick them in a journal. It was amazing what I collected over the years once I focused on this rather than the negative. Let me share some goodies with you:

From parents: It is another milestone in our lives today – our first child's last day of Kidschurch. We want to say thank you so much for your input and shepherding in Luke's life all these years. We are so grateful for you. For your love for God and children, that just overflows! For your energy and spark and enthusiasm and commitment... Thank you for the amazing influence you have had and are having in our children's lives.

From a CM volunteer: Thinking back over all the great times we've had, from the very beginning when you sucked me into painting banners in your garage! Just wanted to say thanks for everything you've done, but more than that everything you've been – all the times you've been like a second mum to me!



From another CM Ministry Leader: Thank you for making me feel so welcome, for making time to chat or explain how and why things happen the way they do in Kidschurch. I have come away with a banquet (not just food) for thought for everyone involved with the children at our church.

From parents: We appreciate the solid biblical approach you have intentionally built into your very exciting programme. We have felt that your programmes have supported our efforts at home, and we realize the importance of partnerships between parents and the church in order to pass on our Christian faith to our children.

I am sure that the families and children in your church appreciate you more than you realize. Make this year a positive one and start collecting those precious encouragements. And don't forget to encourage children, parents and volunteers. It could transform the atmosphere of your ministry!

"The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl." Proverbs 25:11

Get Resourced

WHAT'S NEW??

Latest Elevate Family Resources – check them out on www.creativepastors.com/category.php?id=2011. We have not reviewed these as yet. Anyone out there used them? We would love to hear what you think.

BORROWING

A growing range of books, videos, and curriculum are available from our Resource Library. Contact Rachael on childrensministry@baptist.org.nz for a catalogue and borrowing conditions. Don't be shy, please ask.

DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

For children aged 9-12

Are you running a discipleship group for this age



group? Here is a great resource to get you started: "Raising Up Spiritual Champions" – Teach children to think and act like Jesus, published by Gospel Light. Order from www.gospellight.com. US\$40.

"Raising Up Spiritual Champions" helps kids answer the big questions about what it means to think and act like Jesus! This eight-session discipleship program provides the tools teachers need – from meaningful discussion questions to creative activities, from student pages to parent pages – to nurture lifelong spiritual growth in their students.

Stepping Up

COACHING TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children and Family Ministry National Team is gearing up for a bumper year of coaching, encouraging, mentoring and training. Some of the changes, visits, opportunities and training coming up in the first quarter are:

THANK YOU, NICOLA

Nicola Fraser has done a great job in the Wellington region beginning to develop a coaching role there. After a year, Nicola has decided to move on and we want to thank her for building good foundations in the region that will give a good start to a new person in the role. Nicola completed her role in December. Thank you for your hard work Nicola and all the best as you move onto other projects and focus on your family.



VISIT TO INVERCARGILL

We are planning a visit to Invercargill on February 19-21. This is being planned together with Invercargill Baptist. If any other churches in the region would like to join workshops or have some input from the National Children and Family Ministry Leader, Elke Keeling, please email elke.keeling@baptist.org.nz to discuss options.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WELLINGTON AND BAY OF PLENTY

We are looking for suitable people to join our coaching team. The Wellington region is looking for someone to replace Nicola. The Bay of Plenty region has

decided to appoint a coach for their region.

BAY OF PLENTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Regional Children & Families Coach: The Bay of Plenty Baptist Association is seeking a suitable person to help the Baptist Churches in the Bay of Plenty region grow healthy ministry among children and their families in the church and community.

Key responsibilities will include aspects of:

- Consultancy
- Support / Networking
- Training and Resourcing

This is a 1 day per week position with an ideal start date of early 2010. For more information and a copy of the job description, contact Brian Cochran at brian@obc.org.nz.

SEE US AT THESE TRAINING EVENTS:

February: One Generation from Extinction – Volunteer Workshop (Auckland)

March: WAY2GO – Leadership Workshops at Way2Go (Auckland)

July: St Albans Leadership Conference – Team Building Workshop (Christchurch)

We hope 2010 will be an exhilarating year in Children and Family Ministry for you and your teams. As always, if there is anything we can help you with we are only an email or phone call away.

>> feature article cont.

inevitably assume they earned salvation by works.

8. Never use video curriculum

Video has its place, but I refuse to use it in any weekend services as a replacement for a real teacher. We would never tolerate video teaching in schools. Why should our standards be lower in church? There is no replacement for a born-again, spirit-led person for inspiring children in their walk with the Lord.

9. Never accuse God of being the source of pain and suffering

I don't see anywhere in the Gospels where Jesus inflicted someone and then told them He did it to teach them a spiritual lesson. I don't know why some things happen the way they do, but I would never tell anyone,

especially a kid, that God made them suffer.

10. Never teach without involving kids

I understood early on in children's ministry that kids were not wired to sit up straight in metal chairs for long periods of time. I refuse to turn them into mere spectators. I involve them with games, skits, music and a variety of interactive teaching methods. I almost never have discipline problems. Kids want to be there. They want to be involved.

May God guide you in 2010 to know what to say NO to and then enthusiastically and with passion say YES to a ministry that honours God above all else.

Content adapted from articles by Roger Fields, Kidzblitz Ministries. For help with a review for your Children's Ministry, please contact our team.

Mark your Diary

FEBRUARY

One Generation from Extinction –

Helping kids encounter Jesus

>> **Christchurch** – February 2

>> **Wellington** – February 4-6

>> **Auckland** – February 11-13

Conference organized by the Anglican New Wine Movement featuring Mark Griffiths from the UK. See the website for more details and registration – www.newwine.org.nz.

MARCH

Scripture Union WAY2GO training events

>> **Auckland** – March 6

>> **Dunedin** – March 13

>> **Wellington** – March 27

For workshops and registration information go to www.scriptureunion.org.nz.

Childsafe training at all WAY2GO venues

Need to make your ministry safe for children, need policies and procedures to do it? 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!

Unlimited Children's Ministry Conference – Christchurch

March 12 (6:30-9:30pm) to March 13 (9am-5:30pm) @ Grace Vineyard - Beach Campus (New Brighton)

Keynote speaker: Rob Bradbury

The Unlimited 2010 Children's Ministry Conference will give you fresh eyes to see the greatness that God has called you to in children's ministry, and leave you with the expectation that greater things are yet to come! It is designed to inspire and equip you and your whole team, so round them up and join us. Register at www.grace.org.nz. Enquiries to unlimited@grace.org.nz.

APRIL

The Orange Conference – April 28-30

Have you heard of "Orange"? Do you want to learn more about it? Then you need to attend The Orange Conference. Several leaders are going to this conference in Atlanta, America, this year.

Let us know if you want to join us. Email Elke on elke.keeling@baptist.org.nz. For more information visit www.theorangeconference.com.

Bethel School of Supernatural Worship – Conference for Children

April 14-16 – Liberty Christian Church

Enquiries to sue@liberty.net.nz.

The Team - Here to Serve You



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BAY OF PLENTY COACH

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