



REACHING UNREACHED KIDS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY DIRECTION

Why must evangelism be the central focus of our ministry to children?

- It is the will of the Father for every child to be evangelized (Matthew 18: 14; John 3: 16; II Peter 3:9).
- Children are capable of receiving salvation (Matthew 18:3-6a).
- Children are lost (Romans 3:23).
- Children are the most receptive to receiving the gospel. 85% of all Christians make their decisions for Christ between the ages of 4 and 14.
- Children are dying. No child is assured that he will live to adulthood. Violence, disease, accidents, war, and hunger take the lives of many children.
- Children need the Lord. Children today experience violence, abuse, the disruption of family, peer pressure, and much more. They need what only the Lord Jesus can give.

IDEAS YOU CAN USE!

Holiday Outreach Ideas

CHRISTMAS

Everybody's Birthday

Send a birthday party invitation to every child in our community. Play birthday party games. Have birthday party favors such as party balloons, noisemakers. Serve birthday cake and other birthday treats. Conclude the event with a presentation of the Christmas story, Jesus' birthday. Invite the children to receive Christ as Savior and experience another birthday, their birth into the kingdom of God.

EASTER

Egg Hunt

Invite the children of your community to participate in an Easter egg hunt sponsored by your children's ministry. At the end of the hunt, bring the children together to hear a creative presentation of the Easter message. Give an opportunity for children to receive Christ as Savior.

Easter Bonfire

During the early years of Christianity Christians would celebrate with a huge bonfire the night before Easter. The bonfire symbolized Christ bringing light to the dark world. Encourage the children of your congregation to bring friends to the bonfire. Before lighting the fire, tell the story of Christ's death and resurrection emphasizing that without Christ we live in a world of darkness. Then light the bonfire. Sing songs of praise for Christ's sacrifices the bonfire blazes. Provide marshmallows for the children to roast after worship is ended.

Resurrection Bags

Collect fruit and Easter candy. Ask each child in your ministry to write brief Easter messages on slips of paper and decorate with symbols of Easter. Let the children place these messages in plastic eggs. Place pieces of candy and fruit, a plastic egg, and children's salvation tract in plastic bags or in small paper bags that the children have decorated with Scripture verses and Easter symbols. After the bags have been assembled, ask the children to pray for the salvation of each child who receives a resurrection bag. Distribute to children in a shopping area or an apartment complex.

How to Have a Successful Outreach

PRAY! Remember Jesus' words, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44, NIV). Ask the Father to prepare children's hearts to receive the message that you will share with them.

PLAN. When planning an outreach event, determine the age of the children, the location, the time, support staff, ministry team, and the program.

PROMOTE. Make sure that unreached kids will hear about the awesome event you are planning. Motivate the children of your ministry to invite friends. Pass out flyers as children leave school, sporting events, etc. Place posters in places where kids and parents are. Put ads in the newspaper or on the radio.

INVOLVE. Don't try to do outreach ministry alone. Involve the kids, the youth, and the adults of your local congregation in reaching out to the children of your community.

FOLLOW UP. What happens to these kids after they hear the gospel message? Did you get addresses? Did you give them information on the location of your church and the ministries available? Do you have a plan for personal visitation of each child who participated in this outreach event?

Outreach Ideas

Back To School Supply Kit

Collect school supplies such as paper, pencils, crayons, and markers. Let the children in your ministry help assemble these supplies in clear plastic bags. Be sure to include a children's salvation tract and a card giving information on the location and ministries of your local church. After the kits have been assembled, ask the children to pray for the

salvation of each child who receives a kit. Let teams of children and adults distribute the kits to needy children in the community.

Tutor a Child

One afternoon each week provide tutoring for elementary children in your community. Ask capable adults and youth in your congregation to serve as tutors in subjects such as math, reading, writing, or English as a second language.

After School Specials

One day a week provide a program for school age children in your community. The program could include help with homework, snacks, games, and a brief devotional time.

Neighborhood Breakfast

Once a month ask church families in various neighborhoods to host a neighborhood breakfast for the children in their neighborhood. Have teaching teams present at each breakfast to lead the kids in songs, share a gospel message, play games or direct a craft activity, and pray with children who desire to receive Christ as Savior.

Carnival

Develop a Bible-theme carnival for the children to attend with games and activities related to various stories in the Bible. Encourage the children to bring their friends. At the close of the carnival, present the gospel message and invite the children to receive Christ as Savior.

Story Hour

Obtain permission from apartment managers to use the recreation rooms once a week for story hour. Include activities such as singing, Bible games, crafts, and a gospel message in each week's program.

Finding Kids

A Children's Watch

To find kids who are not attending church, conduct a children's watch. Divide the community surrounding your church into small areas of a few blocks each. Assign a man/woman team to the area. Give each team packets containing the following:

- Literature describing your church and its ministries to children.
- Literature to give to children such as Bible story booklets, children's tracts, etc.
- Other promotional gifts for the children such as an imprinted pencil, balloon, etc.

On a designated Sunday have the teams drive through the assigned areas. When a team finds a home where children are playing outside, the team should stop and talk briefly with the parents. Before leaving, they will give them a packet and invite them to bring their children to your church.

Kids Reaching Out

Circle of Concern.

Ask each older child to develop a circle of concern.

The circle should include two Christian friends and three non-Christian friends.

The child would be responsible to pray for the spiritual growth of his Christian friends and the salvation of his non-Christian friends. Throughout the year, encourage the child to invite those in his circle of concern to outreach events.

Prepare Your Testimony.

Ask each of the older children to prepare a short testimony of their conversion. The testimony should include:

- What my life was like before I received
- How I received Jesus as my Savior
- How my life is different now that I am a Christian
- What I am doing to follow Christ and live for Him

Review each child's testimony and help make any necessary revisions.

Encourage the child to become very familiar with his testimony so that he is always ready to share the story of his own conversion.