

Compass Points

Making course corrections along the way in our journey of faith
A Publication of Autumn Ridge Church Children's Ministries



The Briefing Room

Missions falls under one of our core church values of compassion yet it is a difficult concept to teach children. My own first memory of hearing about missions was watching slides of people from another country while a missionary talked about them, usually by name. It wasn't all that interesting to me and I remember it going on forever! I envisioned missions as a far off place that someone else goes for a very long time.

Several experiences during my college years helped reshape my understanding of missions as the activity of sharing Christ with others. I would like to broaden this view of missions within children to show that mission work starts with their own friends and neighbors and moves out to their community, region, nation, and beyond.

In order to imprint this view of missions on children's lives, it will take a partnership between activities we can provide through the church and experiences they share with their parents. By working together I believe we can raise this next generation to have a complete understanding of the importance of sharing their faith in Christ with others.

Pastor Pat

Navigating Together

One of the best ways for kids to learn is through shared experiences with their family. We have a great opportunity for families with children in 3rd grade or older to experience a taste of regional missions July 20-22, 2012 when Aaron and Erica Robertson, an Autumn Ridge supported missionary family, of *Here's Life Inner City* invite a group of 20 people from Autumn Ridge to join them in reaching out to the people of inner city Minneapolis. This kind of experience is invaluable for elementary and teen-aged children to help them gain a broader perspective of service and missions. It will also bring tremendous value as parents and children process their journey together.

As more details develop regarding this family mission trip we will add them to the church website. I would encourage you to talk with your spouse and children to see if this is an opportunity that you would like to take advantage of as a family and then let me know about your interest.



Checking Our Bearing

There are many ways you can help equip your kids to reach out to others around you. As I think back to when our children were growing up, I recall several opportunities our family took to reach out to those around us, especially to elderly neighbors. I recently asked my children, all now adults, what they remembered about those experiences with our neighbors. They all have vivid memories of sharing a cookie, raking leaves, talking, playing cards or games, dancing, and coloring pictures to brighten their elderly neighbors' days. Today all of my children are very comfortable having conversations with people much older than them. My son will even let them hug him, which his older neighbors always loved to do when he was younger.

Consider getting to know one of your neighbors that could use a friend or visiting a nursing home with your kids. Another way to help children reach out beyond their family is to have them invite their friends over to your house for a sleep over and then bring those friends to church the next day (with their parents' permission, of course). Be intentional, have fun, and be creative. You may find that it is also out of your own comfort zone to do some of these things, but it will create memories that you and your children will never forget.

Resource: *101 Things You Should Do Before Your Kids Leave Home* by David Bordon and Tom Winters. If you are interested in this resource, it is available at www.ChristianBook.com for \$8.99.

April 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	2	3	4	5	6 7:00pm Good Friday Service	7 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes
8 Happy Easter Nursery & Preschool Only No K-5th Classes	9	10	11 6:30-7:45pm Kids' Club	12 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	13	14 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
15 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	16	17	18 6:30-7:45pm Kids' Club Aloha Fest Night	19	20 6:30-8:30pm Redemption Cards	21 9:00am - 4:00pm Redemption Cards 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
22 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	23	24	25 6:30-7:45pm Kids' Club	26 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	27	28 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
29 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	30					

May 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 6:30-7:45pm Kids' Club	3	4	5 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
6 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	7	8	9 6:30-8:00pm Kids' Club Finale	10 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	11 MN Zoo Trip	12 MN Zoo Trip 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
13 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	14	15	16 6:30-8:00pm VBS Team Training	17	18	19 5:30pm Service 7:00pm Classes
20 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	21	22	23	24 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	25	26 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes for entire summer
27 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	28	29	30	31		

June 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 6:30-10:00pm Redemption Cards	2 8:30am - 8:00pm Redemption Cards 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes for entire summer
3 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	4	5	6	7	8	9 VBS Registration Begins Class Promotions
10 VBS Registration Begins Class Promotions	11	12	13	14 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	15	16 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes for entire summer
17 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	18 9:00-11:30am Art & Science Camps	19 9:00-11:30am Art & Science Camps	20 9:00-11:30am Art & Science Camps	21 9:00-11:30am Art & Science Camps	22	23 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes for entire summer
24 9:00 & 10:30am DiscipleKids Classes	25	26	27	28 9:30am-Noon Helping Hands	29	30 5:30pm Service 7:00pm NO Classes for entire summer