

# t<sub>he</sub> Chalkboard

A Quarterly Publication of Children's Ministries  
Zion Assembly Church of God



## Having a Heart for God

The Lord desires for His people to have a heart for Him. In the wilderness, the children of Israel were afraid to hear from the Lord. They told Moses they would surely be consumed if the Lord spoke to them personally. So the Israelites asked Moses to go up on Mount Sinai and inquire of the Lord for them. They assured Moses that whatever the Lord wanted them to do they would obey. The Lord heard the words of the people and responded, "Oh that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always" (Deut. 5:29a). He knew their good intentions. But, He also knew the weakness of their hearts. Almighty God realized life would go well for them and for their children who would follow their example, if His people obeyed His commands.

Lord help us keep our hearts pure before You. When we---children's ministers, pastors, and parents---reverence the Lord by keeping His commandments, we demonstrate an awesome model for our children to follow. God told Moses to teach the Israelites His statutes and commands that they could live well and have a prolonged life (Deut. 5:31-33). Just as God instructed Moses, He is challenging us today to be diligent in teaching His commands to our children (Deut. 6:7). What are His commands? Dueteronomy 6:5 says, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Jesus calls this the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:38). By teaching our children to love the Lord with their whole heart, it will be only natural to always obey all of His

Word. Obeying the Ten Commandments will not be a grief to us if we really possess the love of God in our hearts (1 John 5:3).

### Upcoming Children's Ministry Opportunities

♥ **Sunday, June 1, 2008**, is being recognized as **Children's Day** in Zion Assembly Church of God. Each local church should design a special service to promote the work of children's ministry. The theme for this service is "Write Them on Their Hearts" (Hebrews 8:8-10).

♥ Local churches are encouraged to conduct a **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** in the summer months. Traditionally, VBS provides a one-week opportunity for outreach to children in the community. VBS focuses on Bible stories, crafts, songs, and activities. To get started, I would suggest purchasing one of the following kits:

Power Lab VBS (Group Publishing)  
[www.group.com/vbs](http://www.group.com/vbs), \$129.99

Cactus Canyon (Lifeway)  
[www.lifeway.com/vbs](http://www.lifeway.com/vbs), \$99.99

God's Big Backyard (Standard Publishing)  
[www.vacationbibleschool.com/vbs2008](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/vbs2008), \$69.99

### Chalk Talk

Let's Talk! After your Children's Day, I want to hear from you. Email, write, or call and let me know about the success of your special day.

*Cheryl McDonald*

Cheryl H. McDonald  
International Children's Ministries Director  
6872 Highway 70 North  
Crossville, TN 38571  
[youngdisciples@earthlink.net](mailto:youngdisciples@earthlink.net)  
931-456-0131