

t_{he} Chalkboard

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



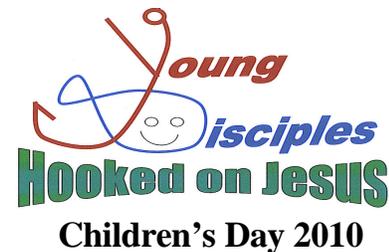
Fishers of Men

Fishing requires activity. Contrary to popular belief, fishing is not a sport of leisure. Much preparation takes place before the act of fishing begins. The avid fisherman gathers his supplies ahead of time. The nets, rods, hooks, lures, bait, and boat are all essential resources which must be maintained. Without the proper tools, the fisherman will be unproductive.

In Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus saw two fishermen who were busy casting their nets into the sea. He called to Peter and Andrew, saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This challenge was not to fulfill an earthly occupation, but to begin a ministry with Him which would have eternal significance. As Jesus walked farther down the seashore, He encountered two other fishermen who were mending their nets. James and John were skillful and passionate about their careers. With nets to repair and boats to maintain, being a fisherman was a demanding job. Jesus recognized the commitment to hard work which these men possessed. He needed dedicated individuals who would complete His mission. Jesus invested time helping this crew to become "fishers of men." He trained them to pray, teach, witness, and to attend to the needs of hurting people. Jesus taught them to be Christ-like. In Matthew 28:19-20, He charged the disciples to teach and train others in the things He had taught them.

Today, Christ is still calling for dedicated workers to become "fishers of men." He is recruiting individuals who will commit themselves to the ministry of discipleship. Just like the fishermen who followed Jesus, it takes strong, hard-working Christians to minister to the needs of children. A Children's Minister spends valuable time gathering materials and executing the lesson. While the process of preparing and casting is tiring and may seem endless, the compensation for laboring in this overwhelming task is the pleasure of leading children to the Lord. Jesus promises unlimited reward for exceptional effort. After obeying Christ's

command, Peter and the others stood in amazement as their net began to break under the weight of an enormous catch of fish (Luke 5:9). Our greatest incentive in Children's Ministry is a net full of children. Get your nets ready!



Sunday, June 6, 2010 will be the 3rd Annual Children's Day in Zion Assembly Church of God. With this special day just around the corner, begin making preparations. In an effort to facilitate planning, Kara Spicer, a fellow Children's Minister, and I have put together a page of ideas. We pray these basic suggestions will give you a starting point as you set your objectives for this important day of ministry. Decide which activities will be most useful for your local congregation. The theme for this year is: "Fishers of Men." Make a display of the theme to build anticipation and excitement. Trace each child's footprint and have him/her decorate it to resemble a fish. Hang these on the classroom wall, using the theme as the caption. Continue adding new fish each week. The children will be amazed as the number of fish multiply.

Chalk Talk

Let's Talk! If you have great Children's Day ideas which you would like to share, I want to hear from you. Tell me how you conduct your morning service and what exciting activities you prepare for this special day.

Cheryl McDonald

Cheryl H. McDonald, International Children's Ministries Director
204 Circle Drive NE
Cleveland, TN 37312
423-476-3337
youngdisciples@att.net