

# t<sub>he</sub> Chalkboard

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



## Creating an Effective Children's Day

In the beginning, there was nothing but God. Then God spoke. All things "visible and invisible" were created by him (Co. 1:16). When he made this world, he created the dry land, blue seas, colorful flowers, and green trees. God made every animal and insect which crawls, swims, squirms, or flies. After that, "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Ge. 2:7). God looked upon everything that he had made, and "it was very good" (1:31).

Humans are unique from every other creature because we are made in the image of God (1:27). He designed man with the ability to think, reason, and imagine. These God-like traits not only benefit us individually, but they should also serve for the good of others. How can we use these abilities for the cause of Christ and his church? Take a moment, look closely at your church and your local children's ministry, and then imagine what it can become.

What do you see? Is it good? Is your church a place where children are welcomed? Is it a child-friendly environment for learning about Jesus, where little ones can be trained in the Word to become fruitful disciples? As you take a closer look, what improvements and additions can be made to create a better learning atmosphere? Should you implement an outreach program or campaign to grow your children's ministry? Do you need to train more teachers to share the ministry responsibilities? Are your older students capable of beginning a ministry team such as puppets or drama?

Any ministry can become routine, stale, or even overwhelming. But the Lord can give us renewed purpose and direction. As children's ministers and pastors, we should continually strive to keep our local ministries fresh and interesting, asking the Lord to breathe life and creativity into our efforts.

One meaningful event that can add energy to your local children's ministry is Children's Day. Each

year on the first Sunday in June, Zion Assembly Church of God sets aside a day to emphasize ministry to children. If you have never celebrated Children's Day, this year would be the perfect time to begin. The day should be designed to make children feel extra special, focusing on their specific ministry needs. You can simply plan a service in which the children are active participants by giving each child a part on the program. Allow them to sing songs, recite Scriptures, perform a puppet show, or act out a Bible drama. Some churches choose to prepare a meal or plan a picnic for the children and their families. Others present small gifts to the children during the service. Whatever you decide, design a unique day to benefit your local ministry.

Finally, plan your Children's Day around a central theme. This year's theme is: "New Creations." The key Scripture is John 3:7 which reads, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again." Having a main theme will help you to organize your day. Choose songs, Bible lessons, and activities to reinforce the theme. Brainstorm thematic ideas with your students for how to beautify your classroom. Allowing the children to help by making pictures and decorations will create some added excitement. Most of all, be creative and use your imagination, making it so special that no one will want to miss out. Last but not least, do not forget to reach out to new families in your community with personal visits, phone calls, or letters of invitation. With some planning and prayer, you can create an effective Children's Day.

### *Chalk Talk:*

Let's Talk! I want to hear how you have implemented this or any other newsletter idea into your children's ministry. Please send me an e-mail to the address at the bottom of this page.

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