



Missions Emphasis Ideas

by David Boyd

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Some of the neatest things we learn about kid's church are the true stories that happened in Africa." An excited 9-year-old told me this at lunch the other day. I had asked if he remembered the true missionary story we told the group the week before.

Kids love to hear about missions. When they are exposed to the work of missions, they develop a heart of compassion to reach the lost.

Here are some ways to emphasize missions in your church:

Special Guests

Invite special guests such as missionaries or people you know who have gone on missions trips. Read true missionary stories to your kids. (The annual BGMC missions curriculum provides 12 of these stories. This manual is free to every church that gives an offering to BGMC. For additional stories, order previous year's missions curriculum.)

Prayer

Have the children pray for missionaries and their needs. Show them pictures of the missionaries your church supports and let the children lay their hands on the pictures while they pray. Give copies of the pictures

to the children to take home so they can continue to pray for the missionaries during the week. If possible, contact some of the missionaries on the field and take specific prayer requests.

Offering Contests

Here are some fun ways to get every child involved in raising money for missions.

◆ The kids collect dollar bills and tape them end-to-end. Choose teams such as boys vs. girls.

The team with the longest string wins.

◆ Each class collects offerings for a month. The class with the most offering wins. For variety, have them collect quarters. The class with the most quarters wins.

◆ Promote individual offering contests and give a prize for the heaviest offering, the one with the most money in it, the one

with the most quarters, dimes, nickels, or pennies.

Faith Promise

The best way to teach children about giving to missions is the faith promise. A faith promise is a goal the child sets after praying about the amount he or she should give. Children are then to seek ways to earn money to meet their faith promise goal.



Lost Change

Another great way of raising money is "Lost Change for Lost Souls." Instruct each child to ask their parents for lost change that is lying around in their homes, cars, and purses.

Questions For Further Study—

Brainstorm with other children's ministry workers in your church about ways you can emphasize missions in children's church. Write your ideas below.