

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE

by John Tasch

Once while playing basketball with some friends, I made one of those long-distance shots. As the ball was in midair, I found myself making gestures telling the ball to move over! Suddenly, the Spirit of God spoke to me saying, “You’ve got to put everything into the ball before you release it. You can cry, moan and groan all you want, but once the ball is released from your hand, it’s too late.” Then He said, “You’ve got to put everything into your children before you release them.”

As one working with or teaching children, I believe it is much better to prepare lives than to repair lives. I never met a person who was sorry he came to Christ at an early age, but I’ve met many men and women who were sorry that they didn’t. They’re doing a lot for God, but just think what could have happened if someone had reached them when they were just a little child. It is so much easier to prepare a child for life than to repair an adult.

THE LITTLE FISH

Jesus said, “I will make you fishers of men.” Children are like little fish—we can catch them for Christ so easily. But what do we do when we catch a little fish? We throw it back in the river saying, “You’re too little.” That’s what the church has been doing to our children for centuries. We’ve been sending them back into the world because of our stupidity.

The Church seems to be the only ones who want to wait to influence a child's mind. The child abusers don't wait. The advertisers certainly don't wait. The secular humanists and cults don't wait. Wake up Church! We've got to reach the children while they are young.

BECAUSE SOMEONE CARED ENOUGH

I grew up in Buffalo, New York. My mom and dad were divorced when I was three years old. My mom worked twelve to fourteen hours a day to keep the three of us clothed and fed. We lived in a government housing project, which was very near a church. I loved going to church, and every time the doors were open, I was there. I asked Jesus into my heart when I was six years old.

Every time I walked through those big doors, there was a man waiting there for me. He made me feel like I was his favorite kid in the whole church. He would bend over and hug and squeeze me really tightly and sometimes pick me up and swing me around. Not only did he love me on Sunday, but throughout the week he would call me on the phone to ask how my family was doing. He would come by sometimes and take us all out for ice cream.

This is why I do what I do with such a passion: because I realize what one man or one woman can do for just one child. Did he know when I grew up that I would be traveling the world doing mission trips with young people? No, but he loved me just the same.

MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

There are three types of people in the world today: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Those working with children need to be the kinds of people who make things happen. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:4, “My preaching and teaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” Demonstration is the manifestation of the Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit shows up, there are demonstrations of the Spirit and power. God is not expecting you to come up with eloquent words to minister to children. He’s expecting you to minister with signs and wonders.

CHILDREN CAN MINISTER TOO!

A child doesn’t have a junior Holy Spirit while we as adults have a big Holy Spirit. It doesn’t work that way. When God gives out His Spirit, He gives it without measure and without size. Children just need someone to train them to do the work of the ministry.

Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature ... And these signs will follow those that believe ...”(Mark 16:15, 17a). For many years we’ve been taking children all over the world. What do they do? They preach, they teach, and they lay hands on the sick. I step back and watch.

While ministering on one of our mission trips, I asked those who needed healing to raise their hands, and about 200 hands went up. I said to the kids, "Begin to pray for those who have their hands raised." As I watched, there was a nine-year-old boy who prayed for a woman in a wheelchair. He told her to get up and walk; however, she tried but could not get up. With his faith in full force, and with his own physical strength, he helped the lady out of the chair. She not only stood up but she began to walk!

GOD HAS SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST

It is an exciting time to be alive! God is pouring out His spirit upon all flesh and our sons and our daughters are prophesying and speaking forth God's word with boldness and power.

God is an awesome God and He is faithful. And he has saved the best for last!

