

# *Pastor's Ponderings*

August 2007

## *"VBS is Good Soul Food"*

by

Davey L. Lefler

*"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>I assure you, anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God." <sup>16</sup>Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them."*

Mark 10:13-16 NLT

According to the Gospel text above (also in Matt 19:13-15 & Luke 18:15-17), the disciples of Jesus Christ kept children from Jesus. The disciples may have thought Jesus had much more important things to do than to take His precious time and waste it on little children. Or maybe they thought these particular children didn't really need Jesus. After all, the text does say they had parents. The disciples may have thought the parents should see to their children's needs. We are not told the reason the disciples were sending the children away. We are told that they were sending them away. We can only guess at the reason(s) they had for doing so. Whatever their reason for sending the children away was, it did not make Jesus happy.

What are some ways we (as Jesus' disciples) forbid children to come to Jesus? What could we do differently to allow more children to come to Jesus? Who are the children who are missing from our gatherings? When are we going to start making all of our ministries children friendly? Is there something you can do to help children find Jesus? How can you involve yourself in some ministry of the church

to make it more children oriented? Where in our walk with Jesus are we being like the disciples and keeping the children from coming? How can we fix what is wrong?

These are extremely important questions we must continually ask ourselves. These questions can't be asked and answered one time, they have to be asked and honestly answered over and over again.

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) has been absolutely awesome. We had over 40 children come to VBS and 13 adults help and teach. Our theme was *"Ridin' the Trail with Jesus."* Every child was thrilled to be there and every adult who helped was thrilled to help. I can honestly report, God's blessings were poured into every soul. We sang. We prayed. We played. We made crafts. We studied God's Word. We ate food provided by wonderful folks in the congregation. We made new friends. We grew closer to Jesus and to each other. Old and young had fun!

Here are some things that happened to us adults. We were privileged to serve God. We saw children's eyes light up and hearts and minds open up as they learned about Jesus. We saw children shout to the highest heavens their very best praise to God. We heard children sing their very best songs to their Savior. We watched children share with each other, work together, and help each other. *We got to be children again.* All of us adults learned we could do some things we didn't think we could do. We saw our older children look out for our younger children. And we saw the appreciation and admiration in the younger children's eyes as the older ones did so.

Yes, VBS was absolutely awesome. I can only say it was a totally supernatural experience provided by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is alive and well at Shelley CommUNITY Church. We were drawn closer to God and closer to children this week. I am convinced this greatly pleased the Lord. To Him be the glory, honor, and praise. To you who helped, served, taught, and touched the lives of the children who came and will come again, "Thank you and may God richly bless your soul!!!"