

Successful Outreach Models

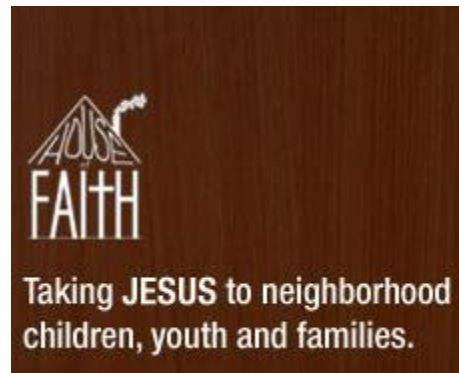
May 2011

Backyard Bible Clubs-Community Programs

Organization: House of Faith
Location: San Angelo, Texas

"Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth and families".

From hofministries.org



"We are a neighborhood based non-denominational organization targeting children and youth considered high-risk for substance abuse, delinquency and gang involvement headquartered in a converted warehouse at 321 Montecito Dr. in San Angelo, TX.

Rather than wait for young people to become involved in our churches and youth groups, we simply take Jesus to them. Modeled on the ministry of Jesus, where he came to our world with the message of God's love and kingdom, we go to their neighborhoods with the same message every week.

Story

Our First Day of ministry to kids was in 1994 in the barrio of San Angelo, TX and the Lord continues to put his hand all over it. We currently reach 2000+ children and youth a week through numerous groups of kids in locations all across the city of San Angelo; we equip others in surrounding cities throughout the State of Texas, and also cast vision for similar ministries all over the U.S. and the world through speaking, conferences, workshops, and curriculum.

Most importantly we have learned the critical value of stepping out as the hands and feet of Jesus and standing in the gap for those who need to know him.

Kids Programs

Our elementary age program Backyard Bible Clubs is a little like VBS but instead of one week out of the summer, it takes place one afternoon a week throughout the school year."

The children involved in local outreach clubs also attend month monthly regional Club Challenge events with kids from around the region.

"These events are a little like a mixture of one part *Billy Graham Crusade*, one part *Nickelodeon*, and another part *The Price Is Right*."

House of faith also runs Jr. High, Sr. High, family ministries, and summer camps.

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Saturday Sunday School & Bus Ministry

Organization: Metro Ministries

Location: New York



From metroministries.org

“Metro Ministries is a Christian, non-profit organization dedicated to serving inner-city children throughout New York City and various urban centers around the world.

For almost 30 years, Founder and Senior Pastor Bill Wilson has worked to rescue hurting children and offer a message of salvation and love that encourages them to stay in school and away from gangs and other destructive or criminal behaviors so common in inner-city environments.

With headquarters in the heart of Brooklyn, NY, Metro Ministries currently operates programs at more than 200 sites in New York City, as well as in the Philippines, Romania, and South Africa.

Metro Ministries is currently the world's largest Sunday School serving more than 42,000 children with Sunday School services, child sponsorship, special programs and personal home visits on a weekly basis.”

Metro Ministries started in Brooklyn, with Sidewalk Sunday school. This was based on the idea that kids don't always come to church, but the church can go to them. Sidewalk Sunday School is a mobile ministry with portable stages. It takes place after school everyday. Now there are 22,000 Students come each week.

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Sports and Values based Community festival

Organization: Kids Games
Location: Everywhere!

From Kidsgames.com



Model

"KidsGames is a sports and values based program for 6-14 year olds where companies, churches, schools, community groups, sports organizations and local government can all work together to serve children in the years when the Summer Olympics and World Cup of Soccer occur. The program includes stories by 10 Olympians and World Cup of Soccer players whose experiences provide practical illustrations for the children.

The KidsGames initiative is run on a local basis across a city, village or region involving hundreds up to tens of thousands of children. To date over three million children in more than 150 countries have participated in KidsGames."

How it's done

"Flexible model for use anywhere. Not an organization with its own office, but a program that any organization can use, but especially for cooperation by locally active groups.

"No KidsGames is done by just one group. The strength and purpose behind KidsGames is to draw many different groups together. In some cases this will mean 2 or 3 groups, in other cases it will mean hundreds of groups. If the situation arises that only one church, school, group or organization wants to be involved, run KidsGames and invite other groups to observe with the hope of more partners becoming involved next time."

"Sport is a universal activity that draws countries and people together in a unique way. This is particularly seen in the large global Sports events, like the Olympic Games or the World Cup of Football. KidsGames is a sports event that makes children the "heroes" and the celebrities.

KidsGames involves sports and games in three ways:

- Traditional and new Competitive Sports – for those children that enjoy competing to win in their chosen sport. KidsGames provides an opportunity for play and for coaching these skills.
- Experiential Games – especially designed games that teach a lesson linked to the values and Biblical message of the day.
- Fun Games – a time to let children be children, to have fun, play and enjoy being kids.

The sports and games are demonstrated in the Opening Ceremony with the competition played in the days or weeks following. The finals are played in the Closing Ceremony with awards and medals given to all participants (not just the winners)."

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AWANA Clubs

Organization: AWANA
Location: Based out of Chicago
(With programs in churches worldwide)



From awana.org

“Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong children and youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Our programs offer a proven approach for evangelizing and discipling kids in the church and community.

Our Vision: We help churches and parents raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ using:

- Fully integrated programs for ages 2 to 18
- Evangelism tools to reach children, youth and families
- Teaching that builds an enduring biblical faith
- Resources that unite churches and parents to disciple the next generation
- Initial and ongoing volunteer training
- Healthy mentor and peer relationships
- Age-appropriate appeal for children, youth and adults alike

Awana is a program that local churches can adopt for their children's ministry. It often brings in children from outside the church who want to participate in the programs. Awana has a number of age-specific clubs where kids meet in large and small groups, where they learn and discuss lessons from the Bible. They go through a Bible curriculum, with awards and challenges for Bible verse memorization and participation. They also includes game times for all age groups. They integrate parent involvement to help the children learn and memorize their assigned verses.

“When parents and churches work together to teach God's Word across kids' formative years, they produce young adults marked by steadfast biblical faith and character.”

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Backyard VBS

Organization: Canyon Hills Community Church
(Pastor Larry Williams)

Location: Bothell, WA

Beginning

12 years ago at Overlake Christian Church, the children's ministry was running a Vacation Bible School on the church campus for preschoolers only, and they ran out of room with over 1,000 kids. They began to find daycares to cooperate with, and finally decided to move the Bible clubs into homes to be a light in different neighborhoods. When a new church was planted in Bothell, Canyon Hills, they kept this Children's outreach approach.

Approach

Canyon Hills runs several Neighborhood Outreach Clubs during each summer. They are not on the church campus, but homes around the community. There are usually between 10-15 homes in the community that open up their home to unchurched kids in their neighborhoods. About 80% of the kids come from unchurched families. Only after all the kids from the neighborhood have been invited do they invite kids from the church to join.

Towards the end of a five day evangelistic outreach program in the person's garage/home/backyard, each home hosts all the parents of the neighborhood to a Thursday night backyard barbecue. The kids show the parents what they have been learning that week. They tend to have a much higher ratio of unchurched families to that come to the barbecue, because it is in the neighborhood. The whole week is ended with an event at the church, where families are invited to meet the pastor, see the facility and get connected with the community.

Impact

Often after dropping off their kids, the parents will talk and pray with the leaders from the church. In one story, a woman broke down crying after dropping off her kids, because her life and marriage were in crisis. She needed someone to talk to and pray with, and the leader led her to the Lord. She reconciled with her husband and her whole family is now a part of their ministry.

The impact on the community depends on how committed and assertive the host home is. Sometimes, even months later, neighbors will come by during a crisis because they know there are Christians in the neighborhood. There is one story of a family who was initially aggressive towards the Bible Clubs. The ministry team handled it with grace, bringing by a gift basket and apologizing for the noise. After a few years of the outreach club in the neighborhood, this family allowed their kids to come, and even joined the end-of-week cookout. Now they attend the church.

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Kids Festival

Organization: Regional SS Association

Location: Upper Egypt

During three day children's ministry training in Egypt, the participants did a mapping activity of their community, mapping out the community needs and where the kids are. The children's leaders decided it would be a good idea to bring kids outside of the Islamic influence of the local villages and to a neutral location to present the Gospel. After the training forty Egyptian children's leaders organized a one day kids' festival.

"They asked each of their leaders who went to the training to go into unchurched villages and bring ten to twelve unchurched kids from these villages, to this festival which lasted five hours. On the day I was there we had 420 kids. Those leaders stayed with their 10-12 kids for the five hours. There was music, art projects. There were games, music and drama. They made them lunch. They just stayed with them all day and talked about Jesus, talked about a relationship with God. And a significant time was spent to present the gospel, using some of the gospel tools we gave them in the training. And time was spent to pray with each kid individually." (Larry)

After the event, the leaders follow up and go back to the villages every two to three weeks. They continue to reach out and encourage the kids in their faith. When children made decisions to accept Christ, the leaders only counted those who made the decision on their own with out any prompting. For the other children, they would visit their villages to check on them and make sure they understood. After the five hour event they estimate that about half the kids made decisions for Christ.

Stories

"One of the leaders went to the village to gather kids and get permission from the parents to take the kids to the festival. The parents were a little apprehensive about letting their kids go to a village about 40 minutes away, so they said "Well, we're not sure, but you can take our girl children but not the boys." Because the boys are more highly valued, and they were willing to risk losing their girls and letting them go to the outreach.

"So the girls came, and some of the girls clearly understood that they were of less value than the boys, that's why the boys couldn't come. So the leader explained what their value is to God, and God ordained for them to come here and here the good news, because God loves them so much. As the girls began to give their hearts to the Lord, their response immediately was 'We have to take this news of Jesus to our brothers. We've got to take this to our brothers. They have to know how much God cares for them.'"

Another boy who accepted Christ was very concerned for his dad, who was a merchant and dealt dishonestly in his business. He begged one of the teachers to come and speak with his dad, but the teacher told him that it was the boy's responsibility to tell his family. He went home and tried telling his dad the Gospel, but he wouldn't listen. He came back to the teacher, who agreed to come and speak to his dad. When the boy's dad saw the teacher, he said "Are you coming to preach to me? Then you can leave!"

Walking the teacher back home, the boy said "I'm not going to give up I'm going to keep praying for my dad and God's going to change his heart."

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Good News Clubs

Organization: CEF
(Child Evangelism Fellowship)
Location: Warrenton, MO
(with clubs around the world)



“*Good News Club*® is a ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® in which trained teachers meet with groups of children in schools, homes, community centers, churches, apartment complexes, just about anywhere the children can easily and safely meet. Each week the teacher presents an exciting Bible lesson using colorful materials from *CEF Press*®. This action-packed time also includes songs, Scripture memory, a missions story and review games or other activities focused on the lesson's theme.”

“Each club includes a clear presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity for children to trust Jesus as Savior. Every club also includes strong discipleship training to build character and strengthen moral and spiritual growth. All children are encouraged to attend a local church.”

“Christians who are concerned for boys and girls work together volunteering their time and energy to teach *Good News Club*. They are trained by *Child Evangelism Fellowship* to have a club that is exciting and informative so that children will want to keep coming. Teachers are asked to sign the *CEF* Statement of Faith and agree to abide by the policies of the organization. Adults working with the program are screened according to our child protection policy.”

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Kindergarten Planting

Organization: Network of Churches/Orgs

Location: A closed Asian country

“Many churches and ministry perceive the kindergarten ministry as an easy kind of ministry, they only teach the children to sing, to play and to eat and when all of it are done, they could go home. This is a wrong perception. Early childhood education is a very strategic ministry because we are building not only a child but also a generation.”

A few weeks after God gave “Brother Steve” a vision of a quality kindergarten being built in his Indonesian village, both a pastor and a church elder approached him asking if he would build kindergartens in two different villages. He and his wife began training young Christians to be kindergarten teachers. They planted new kindergartens, and they often result in full-fledged church plants in the area within a few years.

Each kindergarten is staffed by two teachers as a team. They are trained for one and a half years, and are required to serve at least two years in the ministry. They want to train very skillful teachers, who are well equipped to handle and teach children of the age group.

Once the kindergarten is planted, it can take about three years until a church is planted as well. The first year they focus on ministry to children, the second year they share the good news around them and the third year they begin to disciple people and a new church begins. The kindergartens are still there, and the churches grow.

Involving the community

Early on the team learned that it is very important to involve rural leaders and the community early on. The kindergartens worked best when the teachers had a strong connection in the community.

Often the teams have faced persecution from religious fundamentalists, who have tried to throw the teachers out of the village or to destroy the schools. In one case, a kindergarten was established in a rural area and welcomed by the community leader, who even helped the school with registration. The kindergarten began with full support of the village. District religious leaders in the area sought to provoke the community to against the kindergarten, but the community protected the school and the teachers. A mob from throughout the district gathered and marched on the kindergarten, burning all the chairs and tables. But the community quickly responded, putting out the fire. The parents of the children helped to repair everything that had been damaged.

The group also found it important to do a feasibility study before planting a kindergarten, to ensure that there are enough young families with children who will come to the school.

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All for Kids/NED School Assemblies

Organization: All for Kidz

Location: US, UK, Canada, Australia



“The NED Show – America’s Most Popular School Assembly”

This is not outreach in terms of Evangelism, but a “pre-evangelism” character-based assembly program.

“The NED SHOW is America’s Most Popular School Assembly. We encourage more than two million kids a year in all 50 States, plus Canada, England and Australia. More than 23 million kids have experienced NED to date! We have also performed many times at the White House!



The NED SHOW is high energy and lots of fun for kids. More importantly it teaches students what it takes to be champions at school and in life! NED stands for:

These three simple principles can make a profound difference in every student, as well as create a strong impact on the culture of your entire school.

Never Give Up (focus and persistence)

Encourage Others (kindness and shared learning)

Do Your Best® (diligence and excellence)”

“We encourage kids to become champions at school by working hard in the classroom and by doing things “the best” way as their teachers instruct them. Many schools tell us The NED Show® inspired their students to achieve more academically and that it is a great “kick off” and motivator for testing.

The NED Show® emphasizes the importance of good character and helping others. Also, at your request, our performers can incorporate specific themes or topics important to your school such as anti-bullying, anti-drug, or character building program.”

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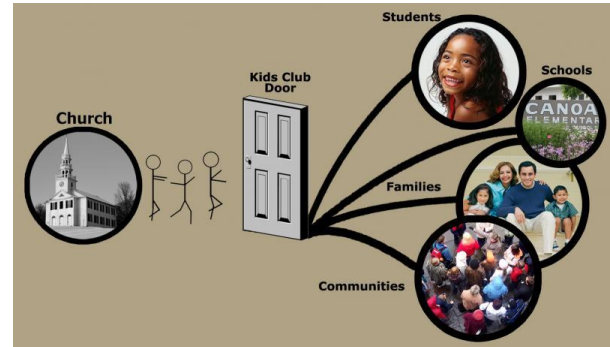
Adopt-a-School After School Programs

Organization: Kids Club Consultants

Location: Greater San Jose area, CA



Kids Club Consultants is a non-profit group that works with 50 churches in 46 public schools, with over 3500 kids. Rather than directly organizing outreach clubs, Kids Club Consultants serves to connect local churches with local schools to run free after-school Bible-based programs. They serve as a sort of middleman between the churches, schools and districts. They help the churches to understand the unique nature of working in a school, to ensure everything is legal and above board. A consultant is assigned to each club, and they provide curriculum and training for the churches involved.



Working in a public school setting, they have found that many churches are unprepared to handle and understand the difference between a school and church setting. Church groups need to be very careful to comply with all the school rules, liability insurance, and background checks. Kids Club Consultants also helps churches handle the sensitive relationships between churches and principals, schools and school districts. Often if groups do this improperly the door is shut for future involvement in schools, including for other groups, and has further ramifications regionally and nationwide.

Rather than beginning their own programs, Kids Club Consultants work to serve the churches that are interested in outreach in schools. They strive to not just teach head knowledge, but real heart change, through discussions and activities with Biblical teaching and application.

Some small churches have been involved in running kids clubs have ended up with more kids in their kids clubs during the week than in their entire church. They average 50-200 kids per club. They have found that schools are one of the best places for outreach because the kids are already there.

Results

Through these clubs many children come to faith in Jesus Christ. One school reported an increase in test scores and behavior, which the principal attributed to the club's presence on campus. A team from the state office was sent to investigate and interview kids, and found that their involvement in the club was the reason for the improvement.

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Homework/Bible Clubs

Organization: Casino Road Ministries

Location: Everett, Washington

During Bible college, Tyrone McMorris was assigned to do an practicum in Everett's low-income Casino Road area. He began with a homework club at a local apartment complex, and a kids club at a local church. When his practicum ended, he realized that no one was doing continuing work in the area, so he decided to stay on. Within seven years he started Casino Road Ministries as a non-profit.

CRM now runs several homework clubs at schools and apartment complexes, and a twice-a-week kids' Bible club during the school year. They also serve dinner for kids and families twice a week.

"Casino Road Kids Clubs will offer a safe and encouraging place for the youth of our community to grow. Based on the club you will receive help with your homework and learning skills or learn more about the Bible and how it realtes to you today. These clubs are open to any 1st-8th grade students..."

-From Casino Road Ministries club information brochure

During the summer Casino Road Ministries organizes two camps for different age groups.

Casino Road Ministries shares facilities with several other ministries, churches and organizations that serve children. On the campus other programs take place, and many resources are available for kids and families. This creates a visible place where children and families can go for help, support and safety.