

VBS! 2014

But I have prayed for you, that your faith fails not: and when you are turned around again, strengthen your brothers! **Lk 22.32** This is an “intercessory” moment!

The intercession... Is not the just the prayer... *It is Jesus getting in the way of the strategy of the devil to destroy Peter...* And by extension, the church!

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour...” **1Peter 5.8** Devil had “designs” on disciples! Hell focused on our defeat!

The strategy can be doubt, pride, selfishness, unforgiveness, worldliness, vanity, impurity, self indulgence... We know it’s all used to destroy the church/people/kids! Peter’s issue was confusion, fear, lack of conviction... **But Jesus got in the way on his behalf!** He failed his test... But his faith came back stronger...

The intercession, the intervention, did not make Peter perfect, but with it, and his determination, he won!

We just had an “intercessory” moment called V.B.S.! Intentionally getting in the way of the devil’s strategy to snatch our kids... And turn them away from God... We took them off the world stage and brought them into a safe environment! Surrounded by God and volunteer “angels!” (260 plus interns and staff!)

V B S! Asides! Intentionally in the way of any strategy that would hurt our kids... Had to turn a buddy away because he wasn’t vetted to be on site. If a child is having a hard time acclimating we don’t have a problem... But if a person has just come to watch it creates a problem... Because then, to maintain integrity, have to let anyone else hang out...

Had a guy walk up to me, empty handed, asked if he could go see his wife in the kitchen... YES! Was asking because he was already told couldn’t be a “Visitor.” Next, approached by a leader who sees a guy out in the field w/video camera... Was told the Pastor ok’d it!

Gal shows up on the last day with kids in tow... wants to enroll kids/toddler... Don’t have a toddler class except for workers kids... Ok, going to drop off toddler and come back with other kids... NOT HERE FOR VB BBBBBS! Here for a day at the water park!

Our VBS is not for entertainment... it is a strategized reach to a generation! The church of Jesus does not exist to entertain people! The church is fun because God is loving... People are fun(ny)... And there’s a great hope ahead of us... But people who go to church for to be “entertained” will soon be gone... next!” **The Church is an army with a purpose...**

“For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, to destroy the works of the devil!” **1John 3.8**

It’s why we wear armor of God! **E6.11** “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...” **1Tim1.15** Why we use all methods to save some! **1Cor9.22**

We utilize fun in the learning process, we would be foolish not to... But we are all about getting in the way of our enemy... and we need parents cooperation!

V B S! Parents... you need to keep VBS alive for your kids! Read a story to them and ask them to tell it back to you! Keep the Word of God alive in your house! Will find it helping you too! Engage your imagination to make God and His word real to your kids! Play the “I’m thinking of...” Bible game!

They are heading into some deep waters!

Atheist based, Protect Portland Children Project: The Good News Club is a youth ministry in which children are taught about sin, Jesus, and holiness through engaging songs, games, and Bible stories. On its website, Child

Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) states that "the purpose of Good News Club is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living." Critics of CEF and the Good News Club say the program teaches fundamentalist beliefs to children, and encourages fear, judgment, and divisiveness in youth. Attorney and blogger Eric Ceynar wrote on his "Intrinsic Dignity" blog that the Club uses shame and fear indoctrination, thought control, attacks on science education, authoritarian conditioning, and deceptive marketing to negatively influence students.

A Seattle parent, John Lederer, said that the Good News Club is not appropriate for young children. "When I read their mission statement and values and principles it was clear that this was a very theologically conservative, right wing and evangelical form of Christian faith..."

Protect Portland Children seeks to "spread the word that the Good News Club's extreme teachings can be psychologically harmful to children," said member Kaye Schmitt. However, the CEF states that the Good News Club shares biblical principles in ways that engage children, and also encourages moral enrichment. "Each club includes a clear presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity for children to trust the Lord Jesus as Savior. Every club also includes strong discipleship training to build character and strengthen moral and spiritual growth."

Dan Brewster, Compassion International, "Evangelism, or providing Christian training, even to children is neither exploitative nor unethical. It is common to all faiths. It is commanded in the Scriptures. It is a central feature of our Christian faith commitment. Their view is that we should evangelize only parents and, in turn, parents will evangelize their own children. However, this position is not scriptural. The biblical pattern of evangelism is to proclaim the gospel to everybody. No one is excluded."

The war on children... Violence... 41 active wars! Targets for many types of predators! Having to grow up way ahead of their time! Deal with high levels of fear! Parental breakups, acceptance, war, terrorists, cataclysms, poverty... These are the seeds of a harvest we don't want in the future! We have to take our Children's ministries seriously! Together we need to value all Bible based time with our kids!

With our lives we can do nothing greater than point young and older toward Christ!