

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP: MENTORING KIDS TO BE EMPOWERED DISCIPLES OF JESUS NOW!

FOOTPRINTS *in Faith*

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO DISCIPLE OUR CHILDREN

Imagine watching nearly 100 participants—pastors, principals, teachers, and parents—standing in circles as school teams. Imagine listening in as they pray around their small circles for the children in their school system.

“It was a scene that moved me,” says Kathy Goddard, director of training and curriculum development for the Kids In Discipleship (K.I.D.) Ministry. “As they prayed, I thought about all the girls and boys these people represented.”

Teachers, administrators, pastors, and parents from across the Southern Union gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Atlanta, GA to work in teams during the K.I.D. School training event, February 24-26.

K.I.D. School is a 3-day training event designed to mobilize school teams, consisting of a teacher/principal, pastor, and parent, to work together with an evangelistic mindset to disciple every student in a church school system to Jesus Christ.

The training was led by Kathy Goddard, Pastor Don MacLafferty, executive director of K.I.D., and K.I.D. Ministry volunteers.

“The spiritual growth, motivation, and vitality in those who participated was so refreshing, palpable, and



Participants at K.I.D. School Southern Union listening to a presentation by Pastor Don MacLafferty and Murray Cooper, principal of A.W. Spalding Elementary School.

exciting,” says Rita Henriquez-Green, education superintendent for the Gulf States Conference.

Educators were grateful for the practical ideas shared to disciple their students to Christ. One teacher in particular, Teresa Littell from A.W. Spalding Elementary in Collegedale, TN, shared how she has made T.A.G. (Time Alone with God) meaningful to her students by using a whale tent

and relating it to the story of Jonah and the whale.

“K.I.D. School showed me how my own walk with Jesus is vital to being able to disciple my students,” says Regina Hill, a teacher from Adventist Christian Academy in Panama City, FL.

“I praise God for each participant committed to being intentional in leading children to follow, trust, and share Jesus,” says Goddard.

K.I.D. TRAINING GOES “ON THE ROAD”

This year the Kids In Discipleship (K.I.D.) Ministry is launching a new initiative by taking K.I.D. University training “on the road.” K.I.D. University is a 3-day discipleship training event for church teams who are interested in learning how to lead parents and other mentors to intentionally disciple their children to Jesus. The K.I.D. Ministry is working with local conferences that have at least one church that has attended K.I.D. University and implemented discipleship training on the local level. This church becomes the “model” for

other churches in the local conference to learn how to equip parents and other mentors to transmit their faith to their own children.

Participants who come to K.I.D. University learn how to prepare their churches to support a discipleship training ministry for families. They return to their churches equipped to lead adults to go deeper in their own walk with God and to spiritually mentor their own children. Church teams also learn how to lead intergenerational small groups to help adults disciple children in the

context of the family.

This year K.I.D. University “on the road” training will begin in the Pacific Union Conference with 5 of out 7 conferences hosting events (Southeastern California, Southern California, Central California, Nevada-Utah, and Arizona conferences). Arnold Trujillo, vice president of the Pacific Union Conference, has made it his initiative to have Kids In Discipleship be in every church in his union.

To find out more about these trainings please visit us online at www.kidsindiscipleship.org/trainings

CHILDREN MAKING BIG COMMITMENTS FOR JESUS

After attending the small groups for more than five months, Kevin finally understood what it meant to accept Jesus as his personal Savior. Kevin along with his brother Moses and several others who attend K.I.D. City-Atlanta small groups have decided to make one of the biggest commitments of their lives—publicly receiving their Savior through baptism.

Sam and Rebecca Pomianowski have

been coordinating K.I.D. City-Atlanta for more than a year, working with four small groups in the Atlanta metro region.

K.I.D. City began as an evangelistic initiative created to train full-time missionary couples, located near major cities, on how to reach the children and families in their neighborhoods. This missionary couple then trains willing churches within the city to utilize the K.I.D. curriculum as an evangelistic tool

for families. Atlanta has served as the pilot city for the K.I.D. City initiative since March, 2009.

Kevin and his brother Moses attend the Conyers SDA Church in Conyers, GA. Through their *Footprints* small group experience they have learned about T.A.G. (Time Alone with God), using their time, talents, and treasures for Jesus, and what it means to be a part of God’s church family.

A young girl in the Grayson, GA small group has also made the commitment to be baptized and some un-churched children from the Austell, GA group are considering baptism as well. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, these small groups have been impacting children in a powerful way and more and more children are making life-changing decisions for Christ.

“Week after week, it has been a blessing to work with these kids,” says Sam. “I love working with young people and leading K.I.D. City has been such a major blessing to work with church and un-churched kids alike.”

Kevin and Moses are hoping to be baptized soon. Please join us in praying for each one of these children as they go on their new journey with Jesus.



The Conyers, GA small group enjoying a fun, interactive activity to open their lesson for the morning.

FOREST LAKE CHURCH FOOTPRINTS SMALL GROUPS OVERFLOWING WITH PARENTS

BY: PASTOR BARBARA MCCOY, FOREST LAKE SDA CHURCH, APOPKA, FL

My two year prayer request was answered when three church members, Tami Marks, Aimee Layson and Jodi Burrill, joined me at the Collegedale Church for K.I.D. University training, November 2009. Right from the start these women sensed that God had not just sent them for training but validated their calling to ministry for families.

Following the training, our team put together an action plan to begin our first class of *Footprints for Parents and Mentors* with an expectation that 20 might come. It was a surprise when the room was overflowing with 52 people and requests were made for a future class. The weekly class of 40-48, has been exciting and enlightening. Parents have mentioned how they have been in Bible studies before, but nothing like this. They have felt God's guidance in making new choices and applying what they have learned to mentor their children. They have also made new friendships with other families, which has been a blessing.

One of our team leaders is conducting a small parent group in her home with five families who just completed *Footprints for Parents and Mentors* lesson nine entitled

Teach Your Child to Love God's Word. Following that lesson she shared this experience:

In my Friday night group, I was moved to use "the blessing" portion of our lesson as our family activity. First, I went through the five basic parts of a formal blessing based on the book, The Blessing, which are touch, affirmation, shared activity, needs/concerns, and God's promises. Then we separated by families. I started to give a blessing to my 13-year-old daughter. All the while she was mumbling "this is weird." Then my 5-year-old came near and I did my blessing for her. She was squirming and asking why I had my hand over her head. While all of this was happening, my 16-year-old was in the far corner of the room. After I gave my 5-year-old daughter a hug, I turned and there was my 16-year-old daughter saying, "Mommy, can I have my blessing too?" I was speechless for a moment, then gave her my blessing.

Our group admitted that at first it felt awkward and uncomfortable because we were not used to it. But in spite of this, the blessings of the experience



Parents from one of Forest Lake Church's small groups participating in a bridge activity.

emerged. A dad verbalized that it made him feel good inside, a single mom said she knows she will use this often. A young couple said they were glad to have learned how to instill the love of God's word in their 2-year-old. What a blessing!

We will complete our *Footprints for Parents and Mentors* small groups by mid April and already have plans in place to begin more than six small groups that will involve with these parents mentoring their children in *Footprints for Kids* and three more *Footprints for Parents and Mentors* small groups. The K.I.D. process has been a huge blessing to our church families and we look forward to mentoring many more for the kingdom of God.

PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is a core value of the Kids In Discipleship Ministry and this March K.I.D. University training event was no exception. After attending a K.I.D. School training one month prior in Atlanta, GA, Pastor Roger Schmidt knew that the K.I.D. ministry would be the perfect fit for the Highland SDA Church. A quickly-assembled team of four was truly an answer to prayer as one team member shared how his patient schedule was for the most part cleared for the two work days of the event. He fully recognized that this



Highland SDA Church group team and Canadian pastor, Royce Odiyar (right), at K.I.D. University training with trainers Jill Howe (bottom right) and Kathy Goddard (top right).

wasn't a coincidence and knew that God brought Him to this training.

The Highland Church team learned how to share the Biblical vision in order for parents to transmit their faith to their own children. They watched a *Footprints for Kids* small group in action and experienced a *Footprints for Parents & Mentors* small group. The action plan that the Highland church team created will unite their church and school to equip adults in their homes, school, and church to lead children to follow, trust, and share Jesus.



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

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I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 4

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2010

K.I.D. University, Southern California Conference,
Glendale, CA-April 23-25

K.I.D. University, Arizona Conference, Phoenix, AZ-May 21-23

K.I.D. Plant, SEEDS Pre-Session, Collegedale, TN-June 18-20

GC Session, Atlanta, GA-June 23-July 3

