

## THE NEXT LIFESAVERS

Children's ministry matters! We're passionate, we're visionary and we believe that God wants to use us to grow His church. The interesting thing is that all of the other ministry leaders think the same way. So, how do we keep our children's ministries before the congregation while understanding that we are a part of the whole? "Raising the Profile" of children's ministries will be the focus of our next Lifesavers – how do you do it?

Please send your submissions to:  
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(Please send ideas before February 20th so that we can include them in our March 2002 issue of Lifesavers.)

Lifesavers subscriptions are available!  
Contact Canadian Ministries at the National Office  
426-674-7878 ext. 230.

## God—Use Me

Holly Douglas-Winsor, Christian Life Assembly, Calgary, AB

I will never forget Stewart - lively, rambunctious with imagination and ingenuity to spare. He also had a deadly disease – leukemia. His diagnosis came as a complete shock to his family. As the Children's Pastor at our church, I had no idea how to help. What do you say? What do you do?

Through God's leading, I found out in the next year that spending time with Stewart and his family was the best thing I could do. During the first weeks, I spent a day or two at the hospital keeping Stewart company while his parents moved and reorganized their lives so that they could spend time with their son. That time was so precious. In the midst of building Lego, watching a movie, talking, or coaxing him to take his medication, we found time to talk about heaven, why bad things happen and God's love for Stewart and his family. Over the next year and half, I spent time visiting Stewart at home and in the hospital, taking his younger sister out for meals and talking to his mom over the phone. It was a special time. I found out that they didn't need me to have all the answers, they just needed to know someone was there to lean on and that they weren't alone. Stewart died a couple of years after his diagnosis.

Walking with a family through the death of a child is so tough and yet a privilege. There are no steps to follow or right words to say. Just be there so that when that question is asked or those tears are shed, God can use you to show His love and comfort to those who need to physically feel and see it.

## Getting Married Wasn't Difficult!

My name has changed from Carol Rice to Carol Wiebe, so we'll all blame Steve for the fact that this newsletter is late! Getting married to Steven Wiebe has not been difficult, but has been a God-story. I'm so glad that I waited for him!



Carol & Steven Wiebe - October 19, 2001



## The Difficult Issues



PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL CHURCH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - CHILDREN'S DIVISION

### AT YOUR SERVICE

**WE** want to be at your service! If you find you have any questions or concerns about ministering to children, or about the National Church Education Committee - Children's Division, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

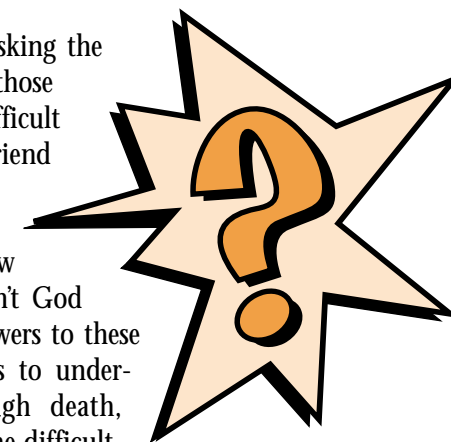
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Children have a knack for asking the hard questions. Many of those hard questions deal with difficult issues like: "Why did God let my friend Natasha die?" "How come God doesn't bring my Mom and Dad back together?" "Why would God allow Nathan to get leukemia?" "Why didn't God answer my prayers?" Some of the answers to these questions are hard enough for adults to understand, much less children. Although death, divorce and disease are just a few of the difficult issues that our kids need to deal with today, there is hope. God can bring healing to "The Difficult Issues." - Carol Wiebe, Chair



## From the Heart

When faced with disabilities, many of us begin to address the topic with the question, "Why?" Dr. Robert T. Henry, in his succinct book, "People with Disabilities – A Biblical Perspective," addresses this issue from his heart. From God's Word, he answers the questions we all ask and ends by painting this picture:

"Think of it – in the day of the Great Resurrection the first sight of those who are blind will be the face of their Savior! Those with mental disabilities shall then know all things perfectly, even as now He knows them.

Those whose physical disabilities restrict their movements shall be beside themselves in ecstasy. Those who cannot speak shall compulsively practice every possible phonetic sound for the sheer joy of hearing themselves speak. Those who cannot hear shall stand awestricken listening to every sound of heaven, from the shouts of the saints to the anthems of angels, from the whirl of seraphim wings to the mighty rushing sound of the Spirit of God. Even so, come Lord Jesus!" This book, "People with Disabilities," can be purchased for \$5.00 through the Canadian Ministries Department (416-674-7878, ext. 230).