

# The Recommended List



**In talking with different Children's Pastors about discipleship for kids, there were certain resources that they have placed on their "recommended list."**

## Disciple Makers - Susan L. Lingo, Standard

These 13 theme-oriented lessons help kids discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, understand why they want to be disciples and explore how they can be Jesus' disciples every day of their lives. This Power Builders curriculum is one of four books – Value Seekers, Faith Finders, Servant Leaders and Disciple Makers.

## Faith Shaped Kids - Steve and Valerie Bell, Moody Press

As one chapter is titled, "Your Family is a Living Link in a Chain of Faith." Relationships and authentic modeling of faith need to be practiced daily in families. Helps with the roller coaster discipleship ride called parenting.

## Spiritual Growth of Children – Helping Your Child Develop a Personal Faith John Trent, Rick Osborne, Kurt Bruner, Focus on the Family

Parents want help in the spiritual development of their children. They want to pass their faith on to their children, but where do you begin? Here is a planning and coaching guide for those who want to begin, but are intimidated by the task. It will help parents develop a plan that targets the unique mix of ages, personalities and challenges found in their homes.

## With All Their Heart - Christine Yount, Moody Press

For parents who want to be intentional about their parenting and want a concrete plan to help their children walk with God for a lifetime. A parenting book based solely on the Word of God.

# Excellent and Cheap!

What a great discovery it was to find an excellent resource that also happened to be cheap! "Welcome to the Family" is written by Valerie Wilson and published by Regular Baptist Press (1-800-366-8004) for a cost of \$3.19 Canadian. This discipleship resource is a 13 lesson book that helps kids to grow in their new found faith. "Youth 2000" is our Grade 5 and 6 "mini youth group" that meets on Wednesday nights. We have between 25 and 30 kids who show up to work through the book together – filling in the blanks, writing out their testimonies and sharing in group discussion. In that group, we have kids who have made recent decisions for Christ and others who have been on a spiritual journey for a while. "Welcome to the Family" has helped all these kids realize the significance of the decision they have made. This resource covers topics from "The Celebration of your New Birth" to "Living like God's Child," to "Helping Others Join the Family." As I was looking for a good discipleship resource that would challenge our older kids, "Welcome to the Family" proved to be excellent and cheap!

*Monique Hodge, Moose Jaw Alliance Church, Moose Jaw, SK*



## A Letter From Our Leader

If you are reading Lifesavers and this article, chances are, you have a ministry with children. I applaud that ministry with all of my heart. At the same time, I want to comment further on the term "ministry to children."

Let's approach it this way. The ministry of the local church is "modalic" or it has multiple purposes. The ministry of a parachurch organization is "sodalic" or it is more singular in its purpose. The ministry of a denomination or a "family of churches," like the C&MA in Canada, is also modalic because it needs to advance on several fronts at the same time.

Multiple ministries are exciting because they are wholistic and because they provide diversity, but they also face the danger of being "thin" or even fragmented. Just what does this have to do with ministry to children? Let me explain.

In the Christian and Missionary Alliance, many organizations help our family of churches advance the great cause of Christ – His great commandment and His great commission. Church Planting Canada (CPC) helps us plant churches, Natural Church Development (NCD) helps us evaluate church life, Sonlife helps us train our leaders for church health, and so on.

Now, back to what I want to say about "ministry to children." The word "ministry" is modalic and means multiple. Could I be so bold as to suggest that ministry to children become more sodalic or singular in its focus and that it be focused specifically on the discipleship of children? It is just for this reason that we have included some helpful material in this issue of Lifesavers. And it is for this reason, that I am so excited about the "Weekend Walkabouts" and the "Coaching Clusters" or the "Coaching Connections."

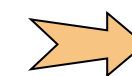
Someone needs to deliberately move into the disciple-making zone for children, youth and adults within every language and cultural group. Others lead in worship, others greet at the door or take the offering, others visit the sick and so on. All are important in the total "ministry" of the church – without question. I would like to propose that you become a champion for discipling children.

I want to suggest that all our National Church Education Ministries focus more deliberately on discipling children, youth and adults. Some have suggested that the term "to make disciples" is dated. Perhaps it is. How about "to help children imitate Jesus," and youth, "to become students of Christ's life," and adults, "to become fully devoted followers of Christ"? It is so easy to get side-tracked when really the main thing needs to be the main thing.

Ministry, yes – it's a good word. But, I think "discipleship" is a better word because it is more focused, intentional and it will set our Church Education Ministries (CEM) apart with a specific agenda that directly reflects our Lord's last command. Discipleship – yes!

*Dr. Stuart Lightbody, VP/Canadian Ministries, The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada*

**"to make disciples"**



For more information on Dr. Lightbody's thoughts on National Church Education Ministries, please read "Canada's New 'D-Team'" in the June edition of "Alliance Life."