

# Lifesavers

 **32nd EDITION**  
**MARCH 2006**

## at your service

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One of our favourite bedtime stories is "The House on the Rock." One man plans to build his house on a big, gray rock. It is hard work. He puffs and pants and grunts and groans all day, until the work is done. There is another man who wants a house. He wants it now. He wants it quick. This place on the sand will do. It won't take long and he whistles as he works.

The 'Building' of a foundation is important in the "Description of a Discipled Child," ([www.cmacan.org](http://www.cmacan.org); canadian ministries; church education ministries; a description of a discipled 12 year old). It is hard work, but it is wise work and so, for this year, we are going to focus three issues of Lifesavers on the important work of 'Building.' As we talk together about winning, building, equipping and multiplying and sending, we want to talk about what that means for kids and what that means for children's ministries.

*Carol Wiebe  
National Children's  
Ministry Facilitator*

## Building 2.1

### Bible Knowledge & Application

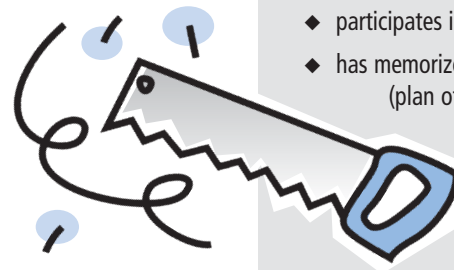
We know the Bible truths and doctrines, and, we apply the Bible truths to our daily lives

- ◆ understands that the Bible is God's absolute truth
- ◆ knows the major Old Testament and New Testament stories and characters
- ◆ understands basic Bible doctrine (God the Father, Jesus the Son, Holy Spirit, Bible, sin, salvation, church, second coming)
- ◆ has learned the essentials for Christian growth (prayer, Bible reading, forgiveness, overcoming temptation, fellowship, witnessing, faith, stewardship of time/money/talents)
- ◆ demonstrates Bible truths in everyday life (honest, truthful, thankful, patient, humble)

### Bible Memory

We are involved in systematic Scripture memorization, and, we understand, memorize and apply God's Word

- ◆ participates in a Bible memory program
- ◆ has memorized key verses and passages (plan of salvation, 10 commandments, Great Commandment, Great Commission, Psalm 23, Lord's Prayer, Fruit of the Spirit, Armor of God)



## OUR VISION, OUR PRIORITY

"The purpose of the National Children's Networking Team of the National Church Education Committee is to affirm and promote the importance and value of reaching and discipling children, and to inspire local Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches to enhance the quality of their ministries to children.

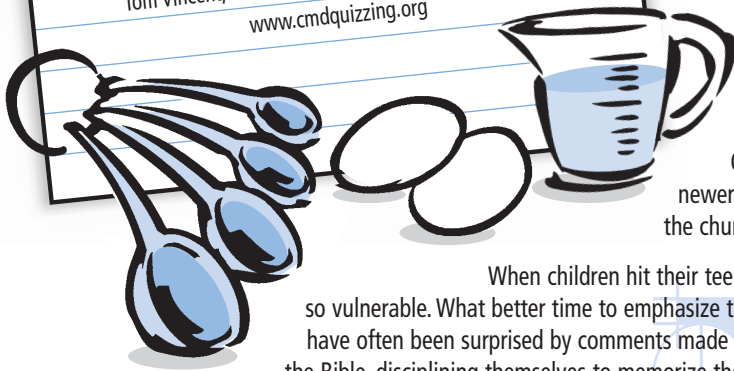
This purpose will be accomplished by utilizing communication tools, resource information and personnel, as well as assisting the networking of individuals involved in children's ministries."

OUR VISION AND OUR PRIORITY IS TO:

- Disciple children's ministry leaders, **who will**
- Disciple children's ministry volunteers, **who will**
- Disciple children.

# Bible Quizzing A Recipe for Success

Tom Vincent, Director of Canadian Midwest Quizzing  
www.cmdquizzing.org



**Y**ou are what you eat! So, just what are the teenagers of today eating? And what kind of diet is the church feeding its kids?

Young people today are bombarded with unlimited information and encouraged by society to dabble in every new experience available. The result can be disastrous. Teenagers have become 'masters' of their adolescent years. For the most part, these developing lives are void of the most powerful influencing ingredient ever known to mankind – the memorized supernatural Word of God.

The world isn't the only culprit when it comes to feeding junk food to teens. Often the church itself withholds hearty spiritual food as they experiment with newer and bigger and better programs. Bible illiteracy has become rampant even inside the church. There is no shortcut to knowing God – to know God is to know His Word.

When children hit their teen years, their young minds are so capable of memorizing. And yet, their lives are so vulnerable. What better time to emphasize the living and active Word of God? Through many years of directing youth work, I have often been surprised by comments made by parents and youth leaders. They talk of teens' resistance to routinely studying the Bible, disciplining themselves to memorize the Word and being accountable to others. However, it is the young people who welcome and benefit from this unusual commitment. These key elements of Christian growth combined with the fun competitive environment is the recipe for the success of Bible quizzing.

All six of our Canadian Alliance Districts offer Bible Quizzing to 12 - 18 year olds interested in systematically memorizing books of the New Testament. To help teens learn the material, it is broken down into key words and key verses. Every couple of months throughout the school year, teens in each district gather for weekend competitions. The quizzers sit on pressure-sensitive jump seats with the first one off the bench given the opportunity to answer a question. Different styles of questions are asked stemming from the chapters that have been memorized.

The drama and excitement found at athletic events are easily met and even surpassed at these meets. Red neon light score boards and officials hunched over rule books and Scripture portions add to the thrill of the weekend. Here, a young person's needs for recognition, acceptance and achievement are met through intense and exciting competition.

Within the last decade, the Canadian Midwest District (CMD) has witnessed an overwhelming increase in numbers. Between 400 and 500 quizzing participants consistently attend meets. The weekend retreats include social activities as well as praise music and speakers to address the four areas of growth in a young person's life. Our role model is Jesus (Luke 2:52) who as a 12-year-old boy sought an environment that would build him in knowledge and stature, with his peers and with God.

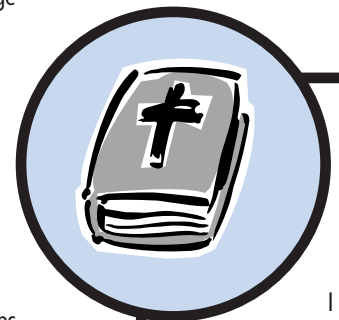
Many young people of CMD have made significant life-decisions while participating in Bible Quizzing. Of course, equipping their minds with the Word is key, but the appropriation of that Word to their hearts is the goal of the Bible Quizzing program. What a joy it has been to witness the transformation of many a young teen into a missionary-minded senior high graduate seeking further training in Bible college. With the encouragement of their home churches, quizzers have looked to serve through missions programs, summer camps and their local schools. Several have welcomed the opportunity to travel and share their testimonies in other languages. Each year, a ministry team travels to a Caribbean island to encourage and support the ongoing quizzing program across that island.

Every September, scores of 12-year-olds are introduced to quizzing bringing with them similar needs. Times change, but the need to know God passionately through His Word doesn't. As quizzers meet to study and memorize a new chapter each week, there is a constant feeding of their spirits which allows the Holy Spirit to counteract the subtle as well as the blatant worldly pressures of their academic and social lives. We know from Joshua 1:8 and Matthew 4, that individuals who have success and victory over the enemy are the ones who have God's Word with them at all times.

The CMD leadership is encouraged by the good choices so many of our young people are making, their attitude of praise and worship, their habits of prayer and their passion for lost friends to be won to Christ. Quizzers from small towns in west-central Saskatchewan are building their youth groups with non-churched kids they have introduced to Jesus. Quiz teams of 25 to 35 young people from the larger city churches tell us that these kids are desiring the real thing – solid spiritual food – for their lives. The essence of God is revealed in His Word. Let's be reminded that boys and girls who have taken the first step of knowing Jesus will need the proper feeding through that Word to avoid growing by the world's schedule. "For then they shall make their way prosperous and have good success."

You are what you eat! It appropriately applies to the spiritual condition of young people in our churches today. What are you feeding your youth?

*"What are you feeding your youth?"*



I came from a program. This Scripture verses. The didn't take long for me this program were inter

Now that I serve as a C children who come to d Bible, to be committed

I would not be the pers in their work with kids.

# [ Building Grades 5-6'ers ]

A few years ago at Southview Alliance Church, we realized that our Grades 5 - 6 students were caught in the middle. They were feeling too old for Kingdom Builders (Grades 1 - 4) and yet, not old enough for our Youth Program. Available curriculums were very limited and not appropriate for where they were at in their lives. So, our Children's Pastor and I sat down and listed out our dreams for these students and Club 56 was born. The question we asked was, "What did we want these students to understand and know as they left Treasure Seekers (Children's Ministries) and moved on to Youth?" We wanted our Grades 5 - 6'ers to grow deeper in their understanding of God and their walk with Christ. A 2 year synopsis developed covering Bible Truths, Bible Characters, Bible Doctrine and Christian Growth which would be covered with unit themes like The Life of Jesus, Pentecost, Old Testament Characters, Kings, Prophets and Prophecies and Groups of the New Testament. The vision began.

Before I could even begin to write a curriculum on any of these units, I needed to come up with some goals that would achieve our objective. They are as follows:

- Relevant to where the children are today
- Doctrinally/theologically correct
- Each lesson making one point
- Easy to use
- Fun

On top of these goals, I needed to make sure that each lesson had:

- More ideas than can possibly be used during the service time
- Opportunities to provide movement or activity
- Time for the students to discuss the lesson point
- A connection between the Old and New Testaments
- A life application

Each lesson begins with the Large Group story that introduces the main point so that all students are on the same page when they separate into small groups. Small groups cover:

- **Bible Memory Verses** - relevant to the lesson point and with a fun game.
- **Lesson Objective** - what do we want the student to learn from this lesson (main lesson point).
- **Attention Grabber** - a fun and interactive activity that gains the attention of the students and ties into the main lesson point.
- **Character or Lesson Point** - a time to read directly from their Bibles and discuss the main lesson point as a group.
- **Life Focus** - activity sheets/games/skits that are done to apply the main lesson point to the students' everyday lives.
- **Prayer** - a time to have group prayer or prayer requests.

We are also incorporating within the unit, time for each teacher and student to get to know one another by having special days for 'Building Community.'

## A God Factor Story

Being intentional as a children's ministry leader is key to developing disciplined children. There are many programs and activities that we can plan, but when we forget the 'God Factor,' we become no different from any other activity these children participate in throughout the week.

From a non-churched home and my first exposure to church was at a Wednesday night club. It was the first time in my life where I learned about the Bible and was challenged to memorize. The club leaders were genuine about their faith and showed how God could affect my everyday life. It was a relief to see how the memory verses helped when I was scared or rejected at school. The leaders at the club were intentional about making their club program focused on God.

As a Children's Pastor, I am continually challenged to be intentional about the 'God Factor.' I want the children at our church to have fun, but more importantly, I want them to have a solid understanding of the Bible, to Scripture memorization and to understand that God wants to be a part of their everyday lives.

So, I am today if those club leaders had not been intentional and committed to the 'God Factor' Let's build on their example!

*Tina Kish, Rosewood Park Alliance Church, Regina, SK*

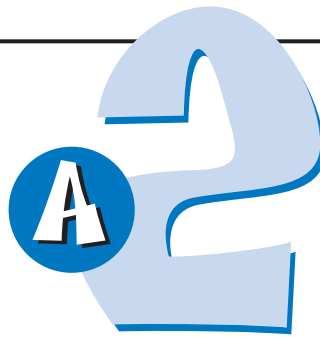
Yes, we've run into some glitches and are always looking to improve our lessons, but we believe we're on the right track! Our students are leaving children's ministry built up with the knowledge that the Bible is God's absolute truth, they know Bible characters, understand Bible doctrine, apply the essentials for Christian growth and have learned to defend their faith and spread His good news!

*Michele Black,  
Southview Alliance Church, Calgary, AB*



Vicki Bowker

Peace Portal Alliance Church  
Surrey, BC



# TRACK INVESTMENT

**B**uilding character, skills and knowledge into children is a daunting responsibility for parents, educators and pastors. We need to be continually asking, "How can we make this a solid investment?" I believe the dynamic of building into children's spiritual lives involves two distinct, yet parallel tracks.

The first track is that of building their Bible knowledge into a strong foundation of spiritual truth. Everything in us should be stretching for the best methods, the most creative ideas, the right changes, the most inviting environment that we can offer to make the children want to come to church. Then, we do everything we can to engage them in interaction, understanding and application.

The second track happens when we build into their lives through relationship. When teaching moves closer to mentoring, spiritual foundations are stronger and more resilient to stresses and temptations.

At Peace Portal Alliance, we accomplish this through bi-weekly small groups for our elementary-aged children. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening, 60 children in grades 1 - 4 and 25 grades 5 - 6'ers come for 90 minutes of fun, friendship-building and teaching. To provide a deep sense of 'belonging,' each child receives a Kids Shine Small Groups t-shirt, colour coded to their grade. Relationship-building begins from the moment the children enter, through large group games and activities, and then gains momentum when they break into their small groups for more intimate time. We have intentionally divided the younger children by grade and gender to further provide a consistent place of security and comfort. Our preteen boys and girls have their own special room and leaders. All of this sets the stage for the relationships between children and leaders to build.

During the Small Groups study time, amazing things are happening as this is where the greatest mentoring takes place. Children are opening up to their leaders (always 2 leaders per group), they are praying together for each other, asking questions, engaging in the Bible study and learning how to take God's truth into their young worlds.

Bible knowledge and Christian mentoring relationships are the sturdiest building materials we can give children – our prayer is that God will use this foundation to keep their adult lives on track.

## PLAN TO PROTECT

We've begun the process of working the plan! A Plan to Protect Task Force has been set and research is underway. We have been asking for your input and are hearing from many of you who have completed our on-line survey regarding Plan to Protect. If you would like to participate, simply title your email "On-Line Survey" and we will forward it to you. Also, if you've come across other resources, books or articles dealing with the issue of protection and abuse prevention that have been helpful to you, please contact us at [cmachildren@hotmail.com](mailto:cmachildren@hotmail.com).

## Little Kids Shine

*Farrah Gregory, Peace Portal Alliance Church, Surrey, BC*

**T**he names alone make little faces shine! Loving Lucy, Joyful Joyce, Peaceful Pete, Kind Kelly, Goody Woody, Gentle George, Faithful Fred and Self-control Sam are a visual name game we use to teach preschoolers about the Fruits of the Spirit. At Peace Portal Alliance, 'Little Kids Shine' are on a 10 week learning track that will help them understand what Jesus meant when He told us that we need to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control growing inside us, just like fruit grows on a tree.

When the apple Loving Lucy teaches preschoolers about the love God has for them and how that love can help them show love to others, a new excitement grows. Each week, we add a new fruit cut-out to the 'Fruits of the Spirit' classroom tree. Peach Peaceful Pete was another favourite as the children heard the exciting story of Jesus calming the storm and had fun acting out the story using a large blue tarp and box boats. Familiar stories come alive with Kind Kelly and the band-aid man as they tell the story of the Good Samaritan and Gentle George reminds our kids of the still, small voice that called Samuel in the night. We need to reach our little ones on their level and let 'Little Kids Shine.'

## ◆ **This Little Light of Mine 25 Years and Still Shining!**

Wednesday, July 5 at 12 noon

The National Children's Networking Team invites you to join us in Edmonton! God's light shines in children's ministry! We'll be mini-networking on music, curriculum, teaching resources, technology, outreach, missions and Plan to Protect. And then, you'll get a meal on top of all that! Ticket price for this event is included in the registration fee for Assembly delegates. Delegates attending the event must register on the Fees and Tickets order form. People from Edmonton area churches may purchase their \$10 ticket from their local Ticket Coordinator.

## ◆ **If You Build It, They Will Come**

Karen Dillaman Children's  
Ministry Seminar,  
Thursday, July 6 at 3:45 p.m.

What comes first?

The chicken or the egg? Many churches say they don't have a children's ministry

because they don't have any children. Karen believes that if you build the children's ministry in your church, they will come. What a blessing a vibrant children's ministry can be to your church and your community! This seminar will give you practical tips and tools that you can put to work in your church as easy as 1-2-3! Seminars are included in the registration fee for Assembly delegates. People from Edmonton area churches may purchase their \$10 ticket from their local Ticket Coordinator.

After teaching in public and Christian schools, Karen Dillaman joined the staff at Alleghany Center Alliance Church in Pittsburg as Pastor of Children's Ministries where her husband, Rock, is the Senior Pastor. Karen oversees weekly ministries to over 1,000 children, including an after-school program.

## Building on a Foundation of Faith



One Sunday morning, I polled our Grades 2 - 6 kids, to see if they thought it is easier to begin to follow Jesus as a child or as an adult. No-one voted for the adults. Their reasons – kids haven't learned as much about sin and all the wrong things a person can do, and kids learn more easily, so they can more easily follow Jesus' ways. Out of the mouths of babes!

Building our kids in their faith is a very high priority in our Kid Junction ministry. We have chosen to teach the Bible from the perspective of God's Big Story in the order it happened – how the story in the Bible all fits together to prove to us, through its truth and through history (His Story), that Jesus is our Deliverer from sin and our Forever Friend. The kids learn that God is the main character in this story – He worked in the lives of David, Daniel, and Peter and so He can work in their lives too. It has been inspiring to see all of us, children's staff included, grow in our understanding of God's Word.

We break the story down into yearly units and every week, the kids are assigned some SuperKids 'homework.' A contest rewards their efforts and encourages them to develop godly habits. They re-read the Scripture and learn the verse for the lesson they have studied. They work on memorizing the Books of the Bible, so they can actually find a

passage when they need to, and spend some time talking to God about the application of the lesson. They also are encouraged to pray for a friend who doesn't yet know Jesus. Every few weeks, we have a Bible Quizzing morning based on what has been studied. Videos and read-aloud stories are used periodically to supplement the theme. Our preteens, who also meet mid-week, have a memorization program where they learn key verses and passages and receive 'knights' to take home which remind them to keep on fighting the good fight of faith.

One of the greatest joys for me is when I have a parent who comes back to me to say that they can see their junior high kids reasoning out issues of faith based on what they have learned with us. We consider building the kids in their faith to have two purposes – assisting parents to be God's #1 way for kids to learn to love Jesus, and preparing kids with a firm foundation and strong convictions as they enter their teens. That's a building project worth taking on!

*Colleen Van Nieuwerkerk, Grande Prairie Alliance Church, Grande Prairie, AB*



**Building our kids!**

# Next Level Learning

In your role as leaders in children's ministries, it is important to continue to pursue learning and leadership development. To encourage this, we have decided to include 'Next Level Learning' opportunities for you to consider.

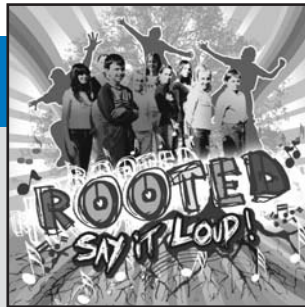
• **Canadian Children's Ministries Institute**

Do you need to train your teachers but don't know where to start? CEF's Canadian Children's Ministries Institute offers a two-week teacher-training module or the entire 12-week Institute for top-notch, practical help.

The Dynamics of Teacher Training module will be held in Winnipeg June 12 - 23 and in Toronto October 23 - November 3. You will gain valuable skills and come home with a package of 26 training sessions designed specifically for children's workers. Call Brenda at (866) 943-2774 or email [cmi@cefcanada.org](mailto:cmi@cefcanada.org) for more information.

• **Children's Spirituality Conference** - EFC Children's Ministry Forum encourages children's ministry leaders to attend this June 4 - 7 conference hosted by Concordia University in Chicago, Illinois. [www.childspirituality.org](http://www.childspirituality.org)

Conference goals are to network Christians who are doing research and writing on children's spiritual development and formation; provide a forum for integration of biblical, theological and social science perspectives on children's spiritual experiences, development and formation; explore innovative approaches in children's ministry and provide encouragement to those in this important area of ministry.



Jane Cushing  
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[jane@wlachurch.org](mailto:jane@wlachurch.org)

## ROOTED

'Rooted,' Say It Loud is a CD produced for kids by kids from our own West London Alliance Church! Ten worship songs will connect your kids with God through music and help them get rooted in their walk with God! Copies only \$10.00! Get the CD now and pick up the actions DVD at Assembly 2006.



## Let's Look Back!

As we look at 'Building' and why the basis of Bible knowledge and application and Bible memory is important, there are back issues of Lifesavers that can provide tools for the laying of that foundation.

[www.cmacan.org](http://www.cmacan.org) - canadian ministries, church education ministries, lifesavers

- ◆ 28th Edition - **Making the Choice - Ministry Models and Curriculum Choices** - December 2004
- ◆ 23rd Edition - **Partnering with Parents** - March 2003
- ◆ 21st Edition - **Discipleship for Kids** - June 2002
- ◆ 18th Edition - **Preschool Possibilities** - May 2001
- ◆ 14th Edition - **The Nurturing Nursery** - February 2000



In making healthy disciples of our children, we need to think about winning the lost, building the believer, equipping the worker, multiplying the leader and sending the called ones. To become familiar with the "Description of a Discipled Child," follow this path: ([www.cmacan.org](http://www.cmacan.org); canadian ministries; church education ministries; a description of a discipled 12 year old).

Our next issue of Lifesavers continues to focus on 'Building.' The description outlines it in this way:

### BUILDING - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

**Personal – one-on-one**

we establish and build one-on-one relationships

- respects and obeys parents, teachers and others
- demonstrates loyalty and love for Christian friends
- demonstrates willingness to forgive

**Corporate – the church**

we participate in the life of the church

- understands the privilege of corporate worship, communion and baptism
- actively participates in local church ministries designed for children

Let's talk together about how to encourage our kids to build healthy relationships that in turn will build into their lives.

## THE NEXT lifesavers

(Please send ideas **before April 15th** so that we can include them in our Spring 2006 issue of Lifesavers.) Lifesavers subscriptions are available! Contact Canadian Ministries at the National Ministry Centre 416-674-7878 (Ext 230)

Please send your submissions to:  
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4898 - 16th Ave., Unionville, ON L3R 0K6  
Phone: 905-477-1104 (Ext. 208)  
Fax: 905-477-5847  
Email: [cmchildren@hotmail.com](mailto:cmchildren@hotmail.com)