



Outreach Update

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Hello, my friends!

New years are for beginning new things! This year we are using a tool developed by the International Mission Board. It is a blanket that has over sixty scenes from the Bible starting with the creation of the world. It's called "Chronological Story Telling." I felt like it was a good idea to share the Bible in a systematic way with my kids.

"Story time! Story time! Everyone come into the main room." We gathered the children together in one large group as we paused our after school program.

"Today we're gonig to start something new." I pointed the the blanket on the wall. "I'm going to tell you stories from the Bible." Immediately there was a reaction from our Muslim kids from Bangladesh.

"I can't stay here for that, Mr. Tim." The kids looked very worried. I pointed midway through the blanket.

"You see this? This is where the Old Testament ends. The Jewish people believe in this part of the Bible. They call it the Jewish Bible. Here's where the New Testament begins. Jewish people call that the Christian Bible. Did you know that Mohammed considered the Bible a holy book?"

The Muslim kids looked shocked. "Did you know that Jesus is in the Koran?" Again they looked surprised. "Your prophet Mohammed called him Isa and said he was a powerful man of God and that you should listen to him. Did you know that?" The Bengali kids shook their heads. "You are not doing anything wrong by listening to these stories if YOUR prophet Mohammed said you should." The kids visibly relaxed.

"Before God created the word there was only God. He made other spirit beings called angels. How many of you believe in angels?" All the kids raised their hands. "These angels are all around us and protect us."

"We have angels here, too. They're not always good!" One of the kids pointed towards Angel, one of the kids at the mission. They all got a big laugh out of that.

"Yes, Angel can be naughty sometimes, but he's not a REAL angel, right?" They all nodded their heads.

"God is spirit. He is everywhere at once. In fact God is right here in this room with us!" That raised some eyebrows in the room. "That is one reason why I want you to know these stories so we can learn more about him. Did you know it's possible to talk with God? We call that prayer. Is there anything we need to pray about?"

One of the kids raised his hand. "My sister is sick. She had to go to the hospital."

"OK, lets pray for little Dulce. God, thank you for taking care of us." I paused as the children repeated what I said. "Thank you for taking care of Dulce. And thank you for loving us.! AMEN!" The kids said amen and smiled. "Ok, let's get back to homework!" PLEASE pray for our outreach with the families at the mission! We can't do it without you!

Pray for our kids! Love you! Tim & Kathy



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