



# Whirlwind Missions

## Ashley's Dispatch

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“THANK YOU, JESUS!” All the kids yelled together before tearing into their shoebox presents. It was SO loud I felt like I was at a rock concert. “Wows” and screams of utter delight filled the room as 64 kids pulled out Slinkys, Play Doh, colors and Bibles. We had so many people in the mission that we ran out of chairs and people started sitting on the floor just to be a part of the celebrations.

Just an hour earlier, Doug Allison and his team from Midway Macedonia had come to throw the big Christmas party at Kensington. It was an ordinary Friday for the kids but they were so surprised to find me waiting at the bus stop for them (usually I'm only there Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). And to top it off we were going to have a PARTY! The kids followed us down the walkway into the winter wonderland the church team had created. The tables were covered in bright red and green paper and topped with cookies, icing and hot chocolate. The kids dove in immediately squirting icing onto their sugar cookies and licking their fingers. Next we did a handful of different crafts. My favorite being the Christmas frame each child made including a Polaroid picture of themselves.

“Oh, look it's Jesus!” One little boy shouted, pointing at Mr. Doug who'd dressed up like a shepherd to tell the Christmas Story. “Ok,” Mr. Doug yelled over the crowd, “I want to tell you a story but you'll have to be quite for 5 minutes.” Yeah, right! I thought. “Lord, please allow the kids to stay silent so they can absorb the message and realize the true meaning of Christmas.” I prayed silently to myself. The kids didn't utter a word. They listened intently the whole time. Amen to that! After the story, the kids colored their own wrapping paper and wrapped their boxes. Then the big count down before opening them, “3, 2, 1...”

After the festivities one of the sterner mothers came up to me and said, “Ashley, these people from your church?”

“Yes.” I replied not knowing what was coming next.

Her face softened, “Y'all have hearts of gold, girl! Thank you so much for doing this for us.”

What a great way to end the year. I'm so excited to be a part of what's happening at Kensington and I can't wait to be at it again in 2010!

Check out our website:

[www.whirlwindmissions.org](http://www.whirlwindmissions.org)!

