

# **Whirlwind Missions**

## Outreach Update

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Hello, my friends!



“It’s surprisingly cool in the shade!” That became my catch phrase for this summer. With temperatures near 100 degrees and the humidity boosting that even higher, it’s easy to get overwhelmed!

During my briefing with the teams I focus on attitude a lot. “You might not even feel all that hot, but if one of you starts going on and on like, ‘WOW it sure is HOT out here,’ everyone starts to feel it. Don’t do the devil’s work for him. If you start feeling hot, just tell your neighbor, “It’s surprisingly cool in the shade.” The kids laugh a lot at that one. The funniest thing is that it really works!

Another thing I tell the kids is that “Numbers don’t equal success.” A lot of teams judge the value of what they do by how many people show up. Then I give them this to think about, “Suppose you’re at church and you have five completely unchurched kids from the neighborhood show up at your Sunday School class. Are you going to say, “I can’t believe we only had FIVE non-Christians come to church today?” I let them draw their own conclusions.

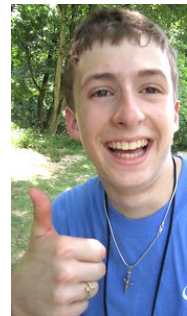
Then I mention, “When you have smaller numbers of kids, they’re all really listening and you have the chance to really build relationships. The next day, kid #12 shows up and starts whacking the little girls in the head and generally making the whole group miserable. Remember that every kid is a divine appointment for you. Don’t get caught up in the numbers.” It’s all about perspective and attitude.

Then I mention to them, “It might rain this week. Now let me ask you, if it starts sprinkling and you go ‘AAAAAAAHHHH!!!” (at this point I run around the room like crazy), what do you think the kids are going to do?” The group all assumes the kids will copy their behavior. “That’s right, so just stay calm, hang out by the building for a few minutes and then go back to it. Now if it’s lighting and blowing up trees all around you, head for cover! I don’t want you to say, ‘Well Tim said I should be out here no matter what. I reckon I’ll get blown up for Jesus!”

Then I tell them, “Last year I was doing an outreach event at a complex in Sandy Springs. It started raining. I don’t mean sprinkling, I mean a hurricane like downpour! Buckets of rain! I was standing next to an apartment kind of griping about the weather. Suddenly, I saw four of the girls run around in the rain, scooping up big cups of rain water and dumping them on each other’s heads. The kids thought it was more fun than 6 Flags! I learned something that day about attitude. Those young girls had definitely gone into Lemonade Mode!”

There have been some hard times at the missions this summer. It’s hot out there but with the right attitude, Jesus wins! And frankly, “It’s surprisingly cool in the shade!”

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