

Whirlwind Missions

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www.whirlwindmissions.org

Hello, my friends!

I love working with young people! Last weekend I spoke at a Disciple Now conference in Birmingham, Alabama. What fun! My task was to motivate about 100 kids to get involved with local missions.

“Yeah, kids! Are you guys ready for the Best Day, EVER?!” The crowd cheered in response. “What do people want out of life?” Hands raised and I called on individuals. “Money!” “Success!” “Be famous!” “Nice car!”

“Why do people want that stuff?” I asked.

“To be HAPPY!”

“Exactly! If we want to lead other people to Jesus, WE need to be happy. Why would someone listen to you if you walk around like this all the time?” I slumped over and got a scowl on my face. “Do you know what the real religion in this country is? Materialism. This culture tells us that all we need is more STUFF to be happy. Where I grew up in Kenya the word for ‘to want’ is ‘kutaka’. If I want a cup of coffee I say, ‘Nataka kahawa.’ The word for trash is takataka! That thing we wanted is now in the trash. How many of you had something that you really wanted and now you don’t even know where it is?” Many of the students raised their hands. “Real happiness comes from relationships. First a relationship with God, then a relationship with other people!” The kids nodded in agreement. “Before we can be a witness for Jesus WE need to be happy. Here is one way to help you be happy. Get out your notecard and write five things that you’re thankful for on it.” The kids got out the cards and markers I had handed out and scribbled notes down. “Psychologists have discovered that if you write down the things you’re thankful for and look at them every morning you’ll have a 40% increase in happiness!”

The kids smiled at me as they wrote things down they were happy about. As they finished that exercise, I told them, “Now I want you to join me in the back part of the room.” I led them to where I had a red bucket with two sticks in it. I raised the sticks that had thick strings on them out of the soapy solution, took my little hand held fan and blew a HUGE bubble. The kids screamed with delight and surprise. “You see, each of us is like this bubble. Every bubble is different and very fragile. If you touch it they can pop.” I gave them an example of that and blew another. I held my fan under the bubble and kept it aloft. “I call this ‘bubble juggling!’” The kids cheered as I manipulated this huge soap bubble. “Our words may not be visible, just like you can’t see the air from this fan, but they are still real. We are fragile. It is really easy to get our feelings hurt. Use your words to keep the bubble floating.” I got underneath the bubble and blew gently. “Help me out, kids!” They all started to blow towards the bubble and it lifted towards the ceiling. “Our words are powerful. They can be used to help or to hurt. As you help people feel good about themselves, they want to be your friend. There is something different about you. That difference is JESUS! Be friendly and love people into the Kingdom!! And BE HAPPY!”

Pray for our young people! Love you! Tim & Kathy



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