

To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.

Autumn Is Here!

by Melodee Simmons - Childcare/Preschool Representative

I love the cool air after a long, hot, summer. The children are enjoying a little extra playtime outside in the fall air.

At our preschool, we look forward to the activities that come with this time of year. We always have a Fall Festival with all the parents invited to join their children. There are games, food, and much laughter. Everyone wears a silly hat. Some parents get involved in making their child's hat. The anticipation is part of the fun.

There are many activities you can do with the children in the fall season. There are so many things to explore in autumn. Take your class outside to collect acorns, pinecones, colored leaves, or whatever you can find that shows Autumn is here. Also, let the parents know that you are collecting signs of fall. They might enjoy taking their child out to collect items for the class. Have magnifying glasses for the children to get a close-up look at each item. Talk about the color, texture, size, and smell. Talk about how they are alike and compare any differences.

Display different sizes of pumpkins for the children to explore. Cut open a pumpkin, and let the children pull out the seeds. This is a great time to talk about how God made everything to reproduce itself.

Another fun idea is to get some of the colorful "Indian Corn" from the store. After the children have examined it, lay it down in a shallow pan. Pour water about half way up the side of the corn, and let the children check it daily. Soon you will see roots sprouting, and the little green shoots growing.

A special event in Autumn is Thanksgiving. Our preschool children provide a Thanksgiving lunch for our parents. The children enjoy making placemats, Pilgrim hats, Indian headdresses, and many things to decorate their room. It is also a time to teach the children to be thankful for all God has given to us.

I am thankful for all of you who give of yourselves every day to help parents care for the best gift God could give them, a child. May God bless each of you.

Colossians 3:15-17, NIV: " Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach. . . . And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

In His Name: A Place for Children with Special Needs



Matthew 18:5, NIRV, states that "anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

These words from Jesus are the inspiration and foundation of the 2015 KRK Mission Offering Project, *In His Name*.

There is a growin need within out churches today to help provide children with special needs a place where they can experience the love of Christ.



When kids give to this project, they help local churches address the special needs of the children in their congregation. Likewise, funds raised through this project will help enhance current ministry centers and possibly lead to the creation and construction of new ministry centers for children with special needs.

If your school would like to adopt *In His Name*, as your missions focus for 2015, visit KRK at www.krknaz.com for more information.



In His Name



What Kind of Gift Do You Bring?

By Becky Ramsey - Christian School Representative



At the beginning of the term, when everything is fresh and new, it is so easy to give your best. There are new spiral notebooks, sharp pencils, and clean erasers. Things are organized well in your desk and file cabinet. Nothing has become stacked on the back shelf. The fresh set of resolutions you had established this summer are clearly implanted in your heart, and you know this year is going to be so different.

But now it is week eight in the semester, and the principal has called an extra faculty meeting. And, it is on a Wednesday night of all nights, when you already had something planned! Plus, you have four students who have just stayed after class, asking for extra help in the ten minutes you have to get your lessons on the board for tomorrow before you have to leave for the faculty meeting. You will cram the essays, the tests, and your lesson plans for tomorrow into your book bag and try to finish up after prayer meeting tonight when you finally get home.

Suddenly, as you are reading through the passage of scripture for tonight's study, Malachi 1:8-14, you begin to recognize yourself. How did the perfect teacher at the beginning of the year get to the place where she is about to begin to offer "blemished sacrifices" to the Lord? If we are satisfied with anything less than our very best, that is the condition where we have arrived. It is like the Israelites who were offering crippled or diseased animals. Malachi proclaimed, "'Try offering them to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?' says the Lord Almighty. "

We cannot bring unworthy sacrifices to the one who has given all for us. God demands and deserves better. Chapter 2 of Malachi lets us know what will happen when we do not bring the proper sacrifices. Malachi 3:2 states: "He (God) will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness."

Now I don't know if you understand how they purify gold and silver, but it is done by putting the substance through the fire to burn off the impurities. If we have blemished or crippled sacrifices in the offerings of our lives, God will have to put us through the fires of testing and troubles. He will use this process so He can bring us out purer and more acceptable in His sight. Now I don't know about you, but I do not enjoy the fires of testing. They are never pleasant--very necessary maybe-- but never, never enjoyable.

God does not want us to do just an OK job as a teacher, not even an acceptable job. God doesn't want a "good enough to get by" job. We must give nothing but our best--a worthy and acceptable sacrifice to a worthy Lord and King. What do you want all to see in your life at that great white throne judgment--vessels unto honor or vessels unto dishonor?

The good news is that God offers more than judgment for our offerings. When we are faithful in bringing the sacrifice of our lives, He promises blessings. For He declares in Malachi 3:10 (NIV), "Test me in this . . . and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." When God called us to teach, He did not ask us to do it alone. Isaiah 30:18 comforts us in saying: "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

When I feel that situations in my classroom or my life are out of control, I probably am not waiting on the Lord to direct me. I need Him to show me which task to attack first or even which one was not meant for me to be doing at all. Many times we allow others to feel tasks are meant for us when God never meant for us to pick them up at all. I am quickly learning to ask Him first before I agree to crowd my schedule. I need to wait for Him to approve, because He truly is a God of justice. He will definitely say to me, "This is the way, walk in it."

When God gives me a job, I will do it with all my might as unto the Lord. For God has called us to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. This gift is what is reasonable. It is not too much to ask because God's only Son gave everything for us.



Mission 2015 Conference - February 9-11, 2015 / Kansas City, MO Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

Nazarene Educator's Worldwide invites you to join them at the M15 Conference in Kansas City next February 9-11. In addition to a number of powerful speakers and times of worship, a number of workshops for training and equipping will be available. NEW will be host a workshop focussing on educational needs of Special Needs children. More information about this and other ministry opportunities at M15 can be found at www.m15conference.org.

