



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES FOCUSED ON CHILDREN

JULY 2007

The K.I.D. Center

Tel: 423.893.3266

www.KidsInDiscipleship.org

From the Director's Chair

by Don MacLafferty

The Land Down Under

Australia! What a beautiful country! Feeding wild kangaroos, seeing Koala Bears up close, and touring Sydney's famed harbor on the first day acclimated me to this fascinating part of the world. For the next ten days Will James (Senior Pastor of the Paradise Valley Church near San Diego, CA) and I trained coaches, presenters and then 16 leadership teams from across Australia and New Zealand at K.I.D. University.



We joined Julie Weslake, South Pacific Division Children's Ministry Director, her Associate Litiana Qiosese and several of the conference children's ministry directors in many seasons of earnest prayer prior to the training event. We prayed for life-transformation in our own lives as well as the pastors and volunteer leaders who would be trained. God heard our prayers!

On opening night, God set the stage for K.I.D. University through the powerful testimony of a father in Avondale Memorial Church who is presently participating in a *Footprints for Kids* small group with his wife and children. This daddy stood up after modeling what a *Footprints* small group looks like and shared how timely this ministry was for his life.

Recently he had had a horrific auto accident which had really altered his lifestyle. In his pain and frustration he had withdrawn from his wife, his kids, his church family and God. With passion in his voice he shared how other families in the church who had just started Kids In Discipleship had invited him and his family to go on a discipleship journey with Jesus. He had been considering suicide. The invitation was a Divine Appointment.

Sixteen teams from across the South Pacific Division listened intently to this dad's story of pain and life-transformation. You could have heard a pin drop in the room. He said, "God has used K.I.D. to call me back to my wife, my children and to God!"



I saw God use this courageous man's story to open the hearts of these wonderful leaders to the Elijah message of this hour. God is turning the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children back to their fathers!

Litiana Qiosese, Julie Weslake, Don MacLafferty, Will James and Daron Pratt during K.I.D. University in Australia.

Investment in children's lives

Excitement was in the air! We were ready and waiting for our guests to arrive. It was 4 pm. on Thursday July 26, and first the team from Duluth, GA arrived. A short while later, a tired team from Sunnyside, OR walked in. Both these teams were eager to learn as much as possible in order to launch Kids In Discipleship in their own church.



Two teams attended K.I.D. University during July 07 at Collegedale

We shared laughter and tears on our journey together those four days, and upon completing the

training, knew that the investment was worth it. God loves each one of His children, and has a place prepared for them, to live with Him throughout eternity! Pastor Mario Cruz, the senior pastor in the Duluth church, said: "I can't wait to get back to our church and start organizing and planning with leaders in order to get started. Mentoring our children to become disciples for Christ assures the church a presence in the future, and our kids an eternity!"

Sherri Uhrig, Children's Ministries Director in the Oregon Conference, loved the *Footprints for Kids* small groups: "It opened my eyes to see the vision and how far this could go in our Conference." The Oregon Conference is eager to have their own Training Site, and have Kids In Discipleship available to each church in their Conference!

Mentoring Moments

Scripture: Luke 4:14-19

Activity: Let the children in your family make a trumpet out of a rolled up piece of paper, or the inside roll of a paper towel. Let them proclaim this scripture loudly to the rest of your family.

For Discussion: Why do you think Jesus chose the passage He did to read at the synagogue that day?

What message would you choose to share if you were asked to stand in church and choose the Scripture reading? Why?

What do you think God is calling you to do?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to share the ideas He has given you. Ask Him to help you know when and with whom to share.

"Our personal experience with Christ as parents is not beneficial if we leave our children behind."

*Stanley Chikwekwe, Associate Pastor
Duluth Church*

Coming Training Events

K.I.D. University, Collegedale, TN
August 19-22, 2007
September 23-26, 2007