

4/2/07

Dear parents and Kreek Kids Team,

Will you please take a few minutes to read the short **Spray On Mud** story I shared at this year's Kreek Kids Spring Training and review **The ONE Thing** we can do better in children's ministry? I have also attached our spring training agenda that includes some upcoming dates, ministry openings, insights and online links that can help improve our children's ministry.



As parents who call AC3 home and Kreek Kids volunteers, I know we take seriously the directive that the Bible gives us to *“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6*. There are several verses throughout the Bible that encourage us to teach, model and to pass on the foundations of our faith to the next generation. Deciding how to pass our faith on and how to make it stick can be a challenge, especially with our busy lifestyles and media-driven culture.

I believe we are at a crossroads in 'how we do' children's ministry at AC3. We'll be deciding shortly how to modify and implement a new children's ministry model that has the potential to energize families and rejuvenate volunteers. You are invited to join us in the planning process on **Wednesday, April 11th @ 6:45 PM**. If you would like to participate in the planning or take a sneak preview of the direction we're heading, just reply to this email and I'll send you a short article and an online link to a ministry model that we have gathered some inspiring ideas from.

I'm glad your family is part of AC3,
Twila

twila.allencreek@verizon.net Office: 360-659-7335 Home: 425-334-8043

Spray On Mud Story – Spring Training 2007

I have been doing children's ministry at AC3 for over six years now and it has always been a challenge to figure out how to maintain a volunteer schedule where individuals are truly happy serving and where they feel they are making a difference in the big picture at AC3. I think it feels like such a big challenge because I truly want to honor who we are as a church and who we are as individuals; how we are wired, what our God-given gifts and talents are and what each one of us is passionate about.

In February, I was reading a devotional about Spray On Mud. Believe it or not, there is such a product! A British company sells spray on mud to city dwellers who want to give their expensive 4X4 vehicles the appearance of having been off-road for the day, out playing in the mud, having fun yet never having to leave the city. The spray on mud is even filtered to remove stones and debris that might scratch the paint so that when it is washed off, the vehicle can maintain the fresh polished city look. According to the company, they are doing well.

(www.sprayonmud.com)

My devotional that day had a profound impact on me as I realized an inner reality; there is something inside me that actually values how we look as a ministry from the outside more than who we are on the inside. I want to put up a fancy ministry façade on the outside so that on lookers will think our ministry is always doing well. The devotional went on to say that Paul warned Timothy about people in the church who have a 'form of godliness but denied it's power...always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.' (Timothy 2 3:5 & 7) It was truly an eye opener for me as I can relate to 'having a form of godliness in ministry...always learning...and not wanting to acknowledge the truth.'

The truth is, it's not about how our ministry looks from the outside that matters, but who we are as a ministry team on the inside. I started to think, what is our inward reality? Why is children's ministry so difficult at AC3? God I asked, "Why is it so hard? I know that people here at AC3 LOVE their families. They are PASSIONATE about them! So what's the deal? Help me understand."

I had a light bulb moment as I realized, that IS the problem! We are a church that is passionate about families, their family and being with them. But we don't necessarily feel the same way about children. From what I have experienced and observed, thriving children's ministries are built and led by leaders and volunteers who are passionate about kids. Volunteers in these ministries are 'energized' by being with kids. If I am completely honest with myself, I can only think of a couple volunteers who may leave their Kreek Kids classroom and say, "That was SOOO much fun, I can't wait to come back next week! That really filled my tank!"

So what are we going to do? We are in the process of rethinking 'how to do' children's ministry at AC3. We need to build a children's ministry model that energizes families and volunteers instead of draining them. With a little prayer, patience and planning, I think it's possible! And what perfect timing, considering we could be in our new building sometime this fall or early next year! If you are passionate about families or want to know how our new ministry model may look, I hope you will join us on 4/11 @ 6:45. 😊

The ONE Thing We CAN Do Better - Spring Training 2007

#1 - Arrive On Time – *Arriving on time means at least 15 minutes before each service begins.* We can do better! We need to be on time and ready to serve weekly. Being late disrupts our Check-In and transition times for attending families, our teaching teams and childcare providers. It doesn't matter how many great exterior changes we make to our ministry if we don't change our internal attitudes and habits when it comes to children's ministry. What YOU do matters!



On Time Arrival Tips

- If you have a tendency to run late, plan on leaving home at least 15 minutes earlier than normal. Use creative tricks to get yourself and your family to church on time.
- If you get sidetracked in the lobby between services, consider leaving the first service a few minutes early or during the closing prayer, grab a cup of coffee and head directly to your department to avoid chatting and other distractions.
- Pretend you are the new bass player in the AC3 band, a guest speaker or the lead actor on stage as you head toward your department. You are so excited that you wouldn't dream of being a minute late as the program is depending on you!