

Reflections for Children

Text: Luke 19:1-10

If Jesus paid attention to popular people only or to those who quickly agreed to his leadership and lordship, the Kingdom of God would comprise a small community. We must share the message of Jesus with as many children as possible, as we never know who among them will hear and respond.



In summer 2008, the Weirton (W.Va.) Christian Center sent to church camp 62 children—many of whom are from families with neither the transportation nor the ability to send them. With donated vans and fuel, the center was able to provide transportation.

“As a result, 14 of our children made the decision to give their lives to the Lord,” says Kim Weaver, who has been executive director of Weirton Christian Center since 2006. “Many of them had life-changing experiences, and the seeds of faith were planted.”

Tim is an emotional and sensitive fifth grader who lives in a rough neighborhood. He needed constant reinforcement. After arriving at the center, his behavior and grades improved. He learned much about God. One day at camp, Tim was uncooperative. After being told he was required to participate in a team-building activity, he admitted that the activity was fun and he apologized for having been difficult. The next day when an invitation to Christ was extended, Tim came forward.

“On the day he was baptized, Tim asked to stay behind at the river and pray,” says Weaver. “When he finally returned to the group, he told Tina [the program director] that he felt his ears had been plugged up, but now he felt he could hear God. Tim has been asking tough questions regarding Jesus, right and wrong, the end of the world, and various aspects of the Bible. He is a different boy. Although he has behavior issues at times, his heart is for the Lord, and his compassionate spirit continues to grow.”

For their financial support of Weirton, Weaver thanks the Christian Fellowship Foundation, Dunbar First Baptist Church, Follansbee Church of Christ, West Virginia American Baptist Women, American Baptist Men, Northwood Health System, National Ministries, and numerous anonymous donors. “When it comes to children,” she says, “I feel they are our most important assets.”

Prayer: We make judgments about children based on their family, where they reside, and how they behave. Help us to overcome negative perceptions we may carry. Help us to believe the best about our children so they may grow from our encouragement. Inspire us to believe the power of the Gospel is at work in and among our children and us. In the name of Jesus Christ, the one who changes us from the inside out. Amen.

Visit www.nationalministries.org/caring_ministries/nap to learn more about the ministry of Weirton and other American Baptist Christian centers.