

"FEED MY LAMBS"...

A MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH



Ray Miller

A timely message to the Churches

Clear, direct, Spiritual

Have the Churches largely devoted time, talents, money and energies in avenues which offer less return, when a neglected Mission-field exists right under our noses, on our very doorsteps, all around us, and yet we are unmindful of its very existence ... ?

Searching questions and topics.

This booklet will stir, focus and challenge you.
especially chapter 10 - **fishing or feeding**

Acknowledgements

Jan Miller - faithful Bible-in-Schools Convenor
who first made evident to me 'the Mission-field' around us.

Stu Duval - multi-talented Kids Ministry Seminar-ist
who fanned and fed the 'Spark' that touched so many

Shirley Duval - talented teacher mother of the 'Spark'

Sean Pawson - 'Catcher of the Kids'
whose article still stirs and inspires.

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foreword

Travelling with Stu Duval and the SPARKS SEMINARS around the North Island of New Zealand, I have seen the tremendous response from the Teachers of kids to getting their weary hands onto the Creative Teaching Aids - Art & Drama.

Slowly it has become evident to me ...

The underlying battle Kids Ministry Teachers are having is primarily with the attitudes of their local Church and society in general.

All so often ... under-trained ... under-funded ... barely recognised and acknowledged, operating frequently in basements, with spartan out-fitting, minimally heated, - their faces and voices have conveyed this real battle-ground of attitudes !

Then an article fell across my path -

Catching The Kids by Sean Pawson, and as I read it I was stirred, as I have been each time I have re-read it !

And, as I read the Old Book - the Bible

Various passages 'opened up', and got right inside of me, and I began to catch a scrap of God's heart for Kids.

These stirrings, insights, and thoughts I have tried to convey at the Seminars, but the great enemy - time - is always the robber, and only fragments came forth.

So this booklet was brought to birth

Just to record and communicate something of what I believe is God's great heart for our greatest heritage

kids / children

A collection of gleanings, perceptions, insights ...

dedicated to all those who heed the call of Jesus to

feed my lambs

the neglected

mission-field

1

Would all those who were once a kid, please put your hand up !

Anyone not with their hand up ?

Just a few who must have come direct from Mars !

But, the problem is, that we so easily forget what it was like to be young, and the older we get, the less patience we seem to have for the young !

We learn to tolerate them, so long as they are quiet, and do what they are told, when they are told !

And then comes along the Grand-children, whom we can enjoy for a while, then **GIVE THEM BACK** to their parents ... marvelous !

I can remember clearly thinking in my early teens - making a vow to myself, that when I'm 'grown-up', I'm never going to say that to **MY** kids.

But now, for the life of me, I simply can't remember what it was, though I've tried hard !

OK, what's with these ramblings about Kids ?

And what's all this then about a Mission-field?

Start talking about a Mission-field, and immediately there springs to the mind of most of us, a pith-helmeted white man in the midst of grass-skirted natives, in some far off jungle, deep in the heart of Africa or South America - Doctor Livingston and all that stuff.

Sure some Mission fields are just that - and for those called to them - great, and may God bless them richly - they are special types of heroes.

But, I have slowly come to realise that there is an equally challenging Mission-field right under our noses, on our very doorsteps, all around us, and so often, we are not even aware of its existence ...

Where, do I hear you ask??

KIDS ... our Children ... our Public Schools ...

which we probably pass every day, with hardly a thought.

But we are aghast when four teenagers, enter a corner Dairy in Auckland, and bash the shopkeeper over the head with baseball bats, sufficient to kill him, in the presence of his son, and all for a few hundred pitiful dollars.

And the other stories in our papers - the bashings, the young teenage gangs, the street-kids, the glue-sniffers, the truants from school, the teenage suicides ... young people reacting to the pressures of society, uncaring parents, child abuse.

Parents who are busy with 'things' and their 'toys', careers, sports, T.V., their mates, the pub, the list goes on.

So we are horrified, shocked, when the fruit of child neglect appears, in any of its many forms, and we seek for remedies, and try to treat the symptoms.

When the seeds were sown from infancy ...

Its been so often said that our children are our greatest Heritage.
And our most neglected ... spiritually.

But their entertainment is well catered for

they are experts at the species, conveniently provided outside dairies, the video parlours cater for their copious spare time, the fun parks, the T.V. is so often used as their baby-sitter,

they know everything about their current T.V. idols - just ask them anything about Michael Jackson, Madonna, who have made their millions from the adoration of their young fans,

and just ask them about Dinosaurs, Ninja turtles, Aussie League, NBA Basketball ...

and their very latest hair-styles, foot-wear, head-gear, T-shirts

watch them hang-out at the local multiplex movie cinema in their hundreds

and feed at the take-aways, with their ghetto-blasters and their walk-mans firmly to the ear-hole.

and now their mobile-phones, and their agile fingers texting.

Watch them, and realise that many of them haven't got a chance of building a successful marriage, or forming good relationships, or putting it all together .

A MISSION-FIELD indeed

Under our noses, on our very doorsteps
As close as next door, or just over the fence

We don't have to learn another language, or get a visa, or another passport,
or spend years in training,
All we need is a willing heart and eyes that see needs.
And ears that can hear the silent cries.
And being prepared to rearrange a few priorities !

50 percent of the world's population is under 15 years of age

John Wesley said that "I learned more about Christianity from my mother
than from all the Theologians of England."

James Dobson has stated:
90 percent of a person's attitudes are formed by age seven !

Ignatius (Jesuit) - a much quoted saying :
'Give me a child till they are 5 and they are mine for evermore '

The quotes about the importance of early child training go on and on,
It has been claimed that a child learns 50 percent of their knowledge
before the age of 3, and three-quarters before the age of 7

But still they are neglected spiritually, and society reaps the harvest
eventually, with full prisons, training programmes, 'benefits' so-called, and
the Social Welfare pocket that was hitherto thought to be bottomless!
Prevention is better than cure, though both are necessary.

It is better to build a child than to repair an adult.

Good foundations mean less future complications - (ask any builder or
Architect !)

A river is more easily diverted close to its source, when it is a stream, not a
mighty torrent of rushing water.
Clay is more malleable when it is soft.

Want to be a Missionary ?
In your own back yard ?

Then you better GET MOVING Yes YOU !

my story

2

About 20 years ago now, the Convenor of the Bible in Schools programme at a local school visited our church to seek more people to assist them. Her appeal for help was well heard, but I was surprised at the low response from only a few women already busy and burdened.

Where are all the men ? I pondered are they all too busy, can't they make the effort to get an hour off work ? don't they see the need, or are they just content to leave this activity to the women also ?

"We could place an extra 500 volunteer teachers in Auckland tomorrow"

I heard her say.

And many children come from solo Mum homes, go to a school where often there is not even one male teacher, a few attend Sunday School where there are mostly women teachers, thus more and more children are growing up without any male contact or male role models.

This is a poor state of affairs I thought, surely we must do something !

But what can I do ?

I've got more than enough on my plate,

I'm running my own busy professional office, very involved in our local church, never taught a Sunday School class or children before, public speaking isn't particularly my thing, I've a teenage family plus extra people at home ... I've got heap of reasons to avoid this one.

But again, where are all the men ?

why haven't others responded ?

they're surely not all as busy as I am !

O.K. O.K.

So everyone else thinks the, are all too busy, eh.

O.K. O.K.

So I'll see if I can fit it in,

It's only about an hour off work a week,

and these classes need more men at the front of them.

I'll give it a go for a while and see what happens.

And that's how I got involved

Not very motivated,
Just responding to an urgent need as best I could.

But it was a significant turning point in my life.

Sure sometimes discipline isn't that easy to maintain, and the preparation doesn't just happen, but the 'rewards' are mighty, there's 30 kids each week who are pleased to see me - usually ! we've got to know each other quite well and it's choice ...

I reckon I learn as much from them as they from me
they are neat kids, open, frank, honest, responsive and real little sponges.
Just for them to see a man in the flesh declaring that he believes in God, that Christianity is for real.

Just to be there in front of them is a statement in itself.

For some of them I will be the only Christian that they may ever meet !

And the heart-warming stories I could tell of over the years, the questions I've had to answer, the chats we've had, the little experiences with them - real neat, and such a blessing to me and them.

At the end of one class soon after I began, I asked for questions one tiny little miss put her hand up, and straight-out asked . .. "Who Is God" ?

Now, how do you answer THAT question, simply, in 1 minute, to a 10 year old?

Well, I guess, I've been trying to answer her and her classmates ever since.

It's like being a Missionary in your own backyard.

For I have put you among the children

Jeremiah 3 : 19

where have all the fathers gone ? 3

How would you expect God to end His last recorded words before the advent of the Saviour of the World ?

How would you expect Him to wrap up and close the Old Testament Scripture ?

With a summary of the 10 Commandments ?

With a great blast of the moral Trumpet ? NO NO

Then how ?

Listen to this

The last words of the Old Testament ...

Elijah ... SHALL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN and the hearts of the children to the Fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:6

Wow,

His last words before His Son Jesus came to visit.

But please notice - Not the other way round

not the children reaching out to the Dads, learning to be respectful and so on.

But **the Fathers** to start the action of bridging the generation gap and then, and then only the children responding.

What a difference it meant to my attitude to Kids when the full impact of these words penetrated.

SO ... where have all the Fathers gone ?

As mentioned earlier, a Bible-In-Schools Convenor came to our local Church, and appealed for Help and Volunteers for this essential programme.

Hardly a person responded, just a few already over-burdened women. Not one man !

Where were all the men ? I wondered

Why didn't any of them respond ?

Were they all too busy ? Like me ?

Why W H Y ?

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FATHERS GONE ?

Why have we Fathers, we men, by and large ... abdicated our chief responsibility ... to pass our faith on to both our children, and the children of this generation ?

W H Y ?

YOU SHALL TEACH THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN

speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you go for a walk, when you lie down, and when you rise up, ...

that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children

Deuteronomy 11 : 19 - 21

Pretty plain, pretty simple and clear, and with a promise at that ... our mortal life would be extended, and your families besides !

But what has happened to our Fathers, our men ?

Why has teaching the kids become 'women's work' ?

Has the Media Macho-Image sucked us in ? ...

our Work, our Business's, our Sport, our house and section, our mates, our T.V. Programmes, have they all become more important than our greatest responsibility ... to pass it on, to train up, our kids in the right ways, in God's ways ?

We all know from the Media, that solo family proportions are rising in society and schools, there are so many solo mums battling it out.

Children from solo homes go to school, where there are predominantly women teachers ... the Primary School where my kids went, had just one male teacher in 15 - and that was the Head-Master.

And if they go to church - then the Sunday School Teachers are also predominantly women !

And Bible-In-School Teachers, ... you guessed it, are also mainly women, (at our local school, when I began B-I-S there, I was the only man in 18 teachers) and the Convener who visited our Church was a woman.

Therefore, some children get through their entire education system, with hardly any, or very few, male teachers.

Their male role models are mostly 'External' - Sports heroes, T.V. figures, Hollywood Super-Stars, etc.

And how we thank God for the few Christian Sports Heroes
Michael Jones, Inga 'the Winga' Tuigamala, Soccer Star Wynton Rufer, and
the others, we need them and many, many more to be role models for our
kids, for them to look up to, to imitate.

So, what are your Priorities ... ?

Where does the future of your Kids rate with you ... ?

Think again !

And pick up that phone to your Bible-In-Schools Convenor (bet she's a
Woman !)

Get along to speak to your Sunday School Leader (want another bet .. !)

Pardon the repetition, but ...

At 45 years old, with a teenage family, plus an extended family, with my
own busy demanding professional office, besides local church involvement,
counselling, home groups, having never taught kids before, little public
speaking experience.

I had all the excuses NOT to get involved !

Where Oh Where could I find the time ?

But ... I DID,

And it has brought a colossal blessing to me, all for the rearrangement of a
few priorities !

You see ... Spiritual Values are CAUGHT ... Rather than TAUGHT !

Just to be there, to stand in front of a class of Kids with a Bible in your
hand, just for them to see a down-to-earth MAN, saying that he believes in
God, that God's ways are best.

Just the example leaves an impression !

Years later they may have forgotten most of what you said, but they will
still remember ... YOU !

As a Father, as a Man ...

Take upon you the very Spirit of Elijah, and ...

TURN YOUR HEART TOWARDS THE CHILDREN ...

lest I come and smite the earth with a curse

for that is how God ends His Old Testament.

investments

4

Psssst - want to make a really good investment ?

Everybody, but everybody is on the look out for a good investment, a really, really good investment, aren't they ?

Now, what/where's the best place to put your precious savings into ?

Which bank, stock, bond, financial institution offers the best percentage returns, combined with security, accessibility, and all those other factors that go into your selection ?

The main two factors to be considered seem to be Returns / Profit and Security.

Ask any Accountant, Banker, or Financial whiz.

So what has this got to do with Kids Ministry ?

EVERYTHING, Just about ... Everything.

If somebody offered you 90 percent return on your investment - what would you say ?

Probably something like ... What's the catch ?

No-one, but no one offers that sort of return, and stays in business for long !

So, what's the angle ?

Well, there is one investment that does !

Want to get into it ?

It happens to be Kids Ministry ...

Offering the highest rate of return, with the greatest security on your investment, that's what !

Researchers have followed the responses of the great crusades of Billy Graham, and his life, to find out the percentage of conversions from the various age groups, which are :

Adults	0.1 percent
Teenagers	26 percent
Children	90 percent

Yes ... yes, you heard right

Adults	0.1 percent
Children	90 percent

And other quotations and surveys, down through the ages, suggest that 80 percent of all Christians accept Christ before the age of 20 !

In other words, if a person hasn't become a Christian before reaching their 20' s, their chances of doing so drop to 20 percent.

The longer a person leaves it, the less their odds of doing it.

Ever tried bending an old tree ?

To quote Dr. James Dobson:

"90 percent of a person's attitude is formed by age 7 !"

And Ignatius (Jesuit) oft quoted saying :

"Give me a child till they are 5, and they are mine forever more."

And another fact that pops out ...

Most adult conversions are really child re-conversions !

That is, they are a repeat or re-affirmation of a childhood experience.

You see, children don't have to wade through the clutter of cares and prejudices that adults have picked up and have been influenced by.

God seems to be remarkably able to speak directly to a child.

And likewise they are remarkably soft and quick to hear his inner voice, and prompting.

But where does 97 percent of the funds of the average typical church go ?

You guessed it - to the adults and their programmes, and their needs, either factual, or fancied.

Research has shown that only 3 percent of the funds of the average typical church goes to the youth programme !

And so kids stagger along with hand-me-down furniture, often in the basement, with under-trained teachers, etc. etc.

If you were a businessman, and someone came to you with a choice of investment packages - to select :

Either ... one showing 10 percent return

Or ... another showing 90 percent return

Which one would you choose?

No-one in their right mind would choose the 10 percent option - and pass up the 90 percent alternative.

And yet, that is what happens throughout Christendom perpetually!

WHY ? ... W H Y ?

Basically I believe it happens for two simple reasons :

1. Ignorance: Never really giving it much thought
2. The SHEEP bleat much louder than the LAMBS !

The sheer volume of their voices, and with their fingers on the wallet, THEY decide if the church pews for the adults need re-covering.

Or if the Sunday School really does need some new chairs to replace the usual cast-off, handed down, rickety variety, or at the very best ... a repaint for the walls !

And so the often neglected Sunday School / Youth programme staggers along, in usually cold and bare and barren surroundings.

And we wonder why Kids decide to give church a miss when freedom eventually comes to them.

All those years of being second-class, looked down on, and treated as if they were just being 'put up with'.

But back to the basic commercial choice.
10 percent return . . . Or 90 percent profit
WHICH ? ... WHICH ? ...

Is the choice really that difficult.

And now ... the next question

Are you prepared to change your PRIORITIES ?

Think about it ... or at least ... treat it like a business deal,
and **Ask your financial adviser !**

children in the Bible 5

It's quite awesome to find within the Bible pages the influence of Children and their often far-reaching impact on the affairs and events of their families, their entire generation, and even world history!

and a little child shall lead them

Isaiah 11 ; 6

First there's the story of **SAMUEL**

1 Samuel 3

Now the child Samuel lived with Eli an old and experienced Prophet.

Who do you think that God would have chosen to speak to ?

Which would He choose?

The experienced and mature Man of God, whose career was the express role of relaying to people God's words to them ?

OR

The inexperienced child, but with a Godly mother, who had dedicated him to God at the earliest possible age - before he was even conceived !

But who had a heart, and an ear, for God himself.

And when God did speak to Samuel, the boy didn't even realise that it was God. It was Eli who recognised who it was that was calling to the boy.

But God passed the old Prophet by, and even rebuked Eli through the youngster.

And then there's the well known story about **DAVID** *1 Samuel 17*

The youth who fought one of the most well-known battles in the Bible.

He was only a ruddy faced teenager when he took on the giant Goliath.

Yet he caused a mighty victory over Israel's enemies, because of his simple faith.

He had tested God, and had been trained on conquering wild animals.

He knew that he shouldn't rely on natural weapons and armour, but instead to only trust what he had already proved, his simple but powerful sling-shot.

Even as a teenager, he was one after God's own heart.

Another account is about **JOSIAH**

2 Kings 22 : 1

A child who became the King at only 8 years old !

Yet what spiritual reforms he instituted, and brought revival to Judah.

Of course our supreme example **J E S U S**

But we only get the one glimpse of his childhood

In the temple at the age of 12 ...

Luke 2 : 46

with the lawyers and doctors, hearing and asking them Questions ...

QUESTIONS ... QUESTIONS

All kids everywhere, learn by this simple method ... QUESTIONS

Why ? What ? Where ? Who ?

And Jesus astonished them with his understanding and answers.

And so you and I will often be astonished by the perception of some children, and the directness and focus of their questions. They don't want long rambling answers, just straight simple facts, in words of their range.

And how our lives can be changed by the directness of their un-cluttered questions - God seems to prompt them, and like an arrow their questions can hit the mark, and do His work. To that I can readily testify - the focus of my recent years, its emphasis, even this booklet, can be traced to the question of one 10 year old little girl !

I must be about My father's business ...

Luke 2 : 49

What is our busy-ness about ?

Our Father's ... or our own ?

TIMOTHY *who learned scripture from a child* *2 Timothy 3:15*

Timothy had both a Godly mother and a grand-mother.

He had the benefit of not just 1 but 2 generations to teach him, and answer his questions and that from childhood.

Grand-Parents please take note of your immense influence.

(Tim probably had a solo mother ! - because no mention of his father, and he was often called Paul's spiritual son)

Paul was obviously very much a Father figure to him.

the Bible about children

6

As they walked along, following Jesus, the disciples had been disputing amongst themselves as to who was the greatest. Perhaps just like some Christian artists and those in the limelight today - but Jesus, as always, read their hearts and put it into perspective!

And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them
Matthew 18 : 2

Here was the illustration and the answer for all time !

Who-so-ever receives one such little child in My name, receives Me, and who-so-ever receives me, receives not Me, but Him that sent Me ... (God)
Mark 9 : 37

Jesus identifies Himself, and His Father, with Children, to a whole new and remarkable degree :

Anyone who shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea .
Matthew 18 : 6

Now, that could be quite injurious to one's health !

I mean, ... to be taken out to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and invited to swim home with a concrete slab for a life-jacket !

The coast would look a long way off !

And then He went on and on about having various body parts cut off.

Then He finishes this little chat with yet another bit of advice :

"Take heed, that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say to you, in Heaven their angels are always looking on God's face"

Matthew 18 : 10

So, there really are Guardian Angels for children, according to Jesus, and He should know !

But, the message loud and clear is,

Touch a little child and you touch Jesus, and God Himself !

In some parts of the world children are hunted like vermin, or animals - used for target practice.

In Brazil, recent reports say that at least four street children are killed every day.

Despising or offending Children is a serious matter to Jesus and to GOD.

Could despising include ignoring ?

Could offending include causing to stumble ?

And just how many children have been turned off Christianity, by otherwise well-meaning Adults who have belittled them, disregarded them, overlooked them, ignored them, scorned them, etc. etc.
probably without them even realising they were doing it.

The soft impressionable clay of a child's heart is so early bruised and affected

Just ask any experienced prison worker - most offenders are still working out the frustrations, rejections, put-downs, etc, etc, of their early formative years,
but by adult age, the clay has set and hardened.

An Ambulance at the bottom of the Cliff ...

OR ...

A Fence at the top WHICH is preferable ?

Come on - be Truthful !

attitudes

7

Just how important are our attitudes ?

Absolutely VITAL ... I would venture to suggest.

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life

Proverbs 4 : 23

The thoughts of what the Bible refers to so often to as our 'Heart', is not that 'pump' that propels the blood around our mortal body, but our central 'being', where our attitudes are stored, and from which our reflexes and reactions flash.

As a man thinks in his heart, so he is ... *Proverbs 23 : 7*

We are simply the sum total of all our thoughts, and, it must be said, of our attitudes.

our ATTITUDES,

which govern just EVERYTHING that we DO OR SAY ...

ATTITUDES like this:

"Well, If you can't do anything else in the Church, and you want to help, then I suppose that you could always teach the KIDS."

Great, just Great,

Raw, yet available,

Untrained, yet so very willing,

Bless you, those unheralded and un-recognised toilers,

whose only attribute may be a Heart for God, and His Kids !

But the underlying Attitude that is revealed is ...

Kids don't matter so much ...

Why don't you spend your time with them, practise and learn on them, and then you can move on up ... and teach older people

Your mistakes won't really matter with Kids, because they won't know the difference, and so what if they do !

Great place to start 'Your Ministry',

where else but at the very bottom, then we'll see what else you can do, etc, etc.

Sound familiar ?

Or other words and thoughts very much like them ?

Kids ministry a training ground ?

or even worse a dumping ground !

There is only the one glimpse of Jesus' childhood ...

At age twelve ...

Luke 2 : 48

His parents had taken him up to Jerusalem with them, and somehow he had got 'lost' ... or rather, they didn't know where he was, so they searched everywhere finally, there he was, in the Temple.

With the lawyers and the doctors ... the theological 'top dogs' of their day, hearing and asking QUESTIONS.

Now, Joseph and Mary would have been good and probably even the best possible parents, after all, they had been handpicked by God himself for the job !

They would have taught him, and educated him to their maximum, and adequately answered his questions.

But still he had sought out the professional theologians for more answers. He went to the very best tutors and teachers of his day !

No un-trained, raw, volunteer, learning, mistake prone, experimenting, cadets for the Son of Man !

He knew who, what and where to go for his answers !
To the very best.

And why should not our children have the same ..

Why should not our children follow the Master's example and have the very best Tutors available?

Why should our children endure, put up with, and even be put off by, in some cases, well meaning but under-trained trainee teachers.

Not that its their fault ...

The fault generally lies with the Attitude that prevails towards Kids ministry in general ... it's good enough for the Kids !

And when the kids get to the age when they aren't compelled to attend ... whoosh, they're OFF ...

often never to return .

often never to forget .

put off by the Churches attitude to them at childhood.

Matthew 18:10 take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones

Are we in actual fact, by our attitudes, *despising ... these little ones*, that seek to believe in Him, and in their heart of hearts desire to be about their fathers business also.

Dear Lord, Forgive us !

Remember that at this very moment, their angels are beholding God, and ... might I suggest observing our treatment of them, also !

We are clearly and explicitly warned to
DESPISE NOT ... Kids, and Ministry to them.

Now ...

How does Your Attitude stack up ? towards Kids ?

And towards their teachers ?

And towards Kids Ministry ?

Be Honest

a simple switch ! 8

"But our Church isn't like that ...

Our Church doesn't look down on the Kids, and Kids Ministry
Our Church doesn't neglect the Kids, why ... " I hear you say or think.

Is that so ?

Well, lets try a simple test of just how much Kids Ministry and the Children means to your Church, shall we ?

Let's try a simple switch !

R e a d y ...

All you have to do ... is

Next Sunday ...

Get along to Church real, real Early,

Take a screw-driver ...

Find the sign that points to where the Sunday School rooms are, and the one that points to the main auditorium (if there is one)

Now, Perform .. , THE SWITCH !

Switch the signs, so that the Sunday School sign points towards the Main Auditorium,

and the Main Church sign points towards the Sunday School!

Simple, eh !

Now, hide somewhere handy, and watch the fun ...

The Adults when they trundle in, are directed to the former Sunday School rooms, complete with their old furnishings, minimal heating, and those awful, awful seats - the ones that were no good for anything else - except giving to the Children !

The Children, on the other hand, crawl in, and

Surprise, surprise, S U R P R I S E,

are shown to the main Auditorium,

where the heating has been turned on before the Service,

and the seats have some incredible stuff called upholstery,

and wonders of wonders - there is carpet on the floor !

Now, Listen to the Adults reaction, and the howls !

and the protests :

"Do you expect us to put up with this ? ...
Last time I'm coming here ! ...
When's the preacher going to stop, so I can go home ?
What terrible acoustics !
etc, etc.

And yet the children are supposed to put up with those surroundings week in, week out, plus under-trained, barely recognised, minimally equipped, generally harassed and worn-out teachers, bravely doing their best.

Amazing what a simple switch of venue would reveal about a Church's attitude to Children.

And which attitude is exactly what the Kids pick up,
and carry with them,
probably for the rest of their lives !

the size of a soul

9

Say, what size is your soul ?

How big, or how small for that matter, is a Soul ?

So, what does it matter anyway ?

Is this a question like the old one "How many angels could stand on the head of a pin ?"

What possible difference could it make ?

Well, the answer could change your whole attitude to Kid's Ministry, that's what ... !

It certainly radically changed mine.

So, again, ...

What size is a SOUL ?

We know that God is a Spirit,

John 4 : 24

and a triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit

and we are created in His likeness - Spirit, soul and body

I Thessalonians 5:23

Inside of each of us of course, is that invisible item that the Bible says is eternal, often referred to as our Spirit, or our Soul, (which for the sake of this chapter, I will refer to as our Soul)

Are you with me so far ?

With our natural bodies, our age generally dictates our size, thus human bodies go through a growing process of dimensional change,

Thus, of course, we have:

Babies with small bodies

Children growing, growing, growing

Youths starting to stretch.h.h.h.h

Adults full grown

The Elderly starting to shrink

So, the size of our body is dependent on our age ... right !

And we tend to regard people, relevant to their size.

Fair enough ... most all of us do ?

Well, my premise is quite simple ... that ...

ALL SOULS ARE THE SAME SIZE

God as Spirit, views all of us humans as being of the same size - all with the same size souls.

I cannot for the life of me imagine that souls get bigger and come in different sizes as physical bodies do !
Fair enough, will you accept that ?

So what difference does this concept make ...

WOW, WOW, WHEEEE ...

This means that all souls are the same to God, irrespective of human age.
The soul of a baby, or child, or a youth, or an adult,
are exactly the same size .
and here's the main point .

AND ... OF EXACTLY THE SAME WORTH

Now, where does that place Kids Ministry ...

Right alongside Ministry to Adults, that's where !

Of equal IMPORTANCE, and STATUS, and RANK,
and whatever other measuring scale you can invent !

MINISTRY to KIDS carries at least the same importance to God as that to ADULTS !

THEY ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO GOD !

Now, how does that sit with your attitude to Kids ?
And will you let it review your past notions ?

With this important realisation, I understand better why Jesus took little children on his knee, and blessed them, saying

for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 19 : 14

Kids matter as much to God as Adults,

and the Ministry to them likewise matters as much and their Teachers likewise !

But, we're not finished with this concept yet.

A baby is 'born' according to us humans, when it is 'delivered', when it hits the delivery room table.

But that's only its arrival outside of the Mother's tummy.

When was its 'Soul' given to it ?

When was it 'created' ?

When did it come into being ?

It must have been at conception, because souls are not measurable by human scales or rules !

So, where does that leave Abortion in God's eyes !

If the Soul of an unborn fetus ...

is the same size as a baby,

is the same size as an infant,

is the same size as a child,

is the same size as a youth,

is the same size as an Adult,

How do you think then that God views Abortion ... ?

Surely the same as for any other body size ?

M U R D E R

Nothing less !

St John chapter 21

1 AFTER these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and this is how he showed himself.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas Called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter said unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with you. So they went, and entered into a ship immediately, but that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus said to them, Children, have ye any meat ? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and you shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his fisher's coat (for he was naked.) and jumped into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, Bring the fish which you have caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, one hundred and fifty three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

12 Jesus said to them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples dared ask him, Who are you ? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then came,, and took bread, and gave to them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

*15 So when they had dined, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, doo you love me more than these ? He said unto him, Yes Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, **FEED MY LAMBS.***

*16 He said to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me ? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said unto him, **FEED MY SHEEP.***

*17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me ? Peter was sad because he said unto him the third time, Do you Love me ? And he replied to him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him **FEED MY SHEEP.***

18 Truly truly, I say to you, When you were young, you clothed yourself, and walked where you would, but when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and another shall bind you, and carry you where you would not want to go.

*19 This he said, to signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he said to him, **FOLLOW ME.***

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following; who also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is this he who will betray you ?

21 Peter watching him said to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do ?

22 Jesus said to him, If I desire that he stays alive until I come, what is that to you ? You just keep on following me.

23 Then this saying went abroad among the brethren, that this disciple should not die: yet Jesus did not say to him, He shall not die; but, If I desire that he stays alive until I come, what is that to you ?

24 I am that the disciple which testifies of these things, and wrote these things: and you know that my testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

It was just after a Teaching Seminar and having a brief read of the Bible, that my eyes caught this passage, and 'the lights went on' as the saying goes, and insight came

fishing or feeding 10

They thought He was the Messiah, so they followed Him
He led them and taught them for 3 straight years.
So they had received fantastic on-the-job training.
Then it stopped
His enemies had Him put to death.
But like He had said - it wasn't the End after all.
He was alive again, and had appeared to them in the upper room
He even ate with them ...

But now they were bewildered, alone, frightened, fearful, mixed up, afraid
of the responsibility, it was now over to them to PERFORM !
Or else ...

The enormity of it all got to them ...
I go a FISHING .. says Peter Us too" .. said the others
So, off they trot, back to their old ways ... to what they knew, to what they
had been brought up with.
Where they were 'secure' in the old ways of their upbringing.
They retreated to the familiar,
The familiar was so 'reassuring', and even comforting,
They didn't have to really think, or explore, or make controversial
decisions, the uncertainty was not there,
They had had years of natural training at it, from infancy,

- it was Familiar, and that was comforting in itself,
- it was Secure,
- it was also Predictable,

But ... alas ... so were the results
it was Boring,

- it was Orthodox (another word for 'deadly')
- it was Hum Drum - not exactly attention riveting,
- it was Time filling, (to be truthful)
- it was also jolly hard work (to be honest)

that night, they caught Nothing ... NOT - A - THING

And so it is with us, when we are confronted with new or revolutionary ways (to us) of teaching ...

The temptation always is ... to go 'fishing'

To return to the Familiar, the secure, the old patterns,

Even though they be out-of-date, not relevant to this generation and our life-style and technology.

The new avenues seem to require too much change, too many unfamiliar decisions

too much adaption necessary,

too much exploration and perhaps humbling along the way ...

too much controversy, especially amongst the 'die-hards'

So, why not retreat ... shy away ... just go 'fishing' !

Maybe, leave it for next year, or for someone else ...

Even though the resurrected Jesus has revealed Himself, and His power.

But, one other point ...

Jesus had called Peter and some of his mates A WA Y from fishing, with the plain call ...

Follow ME, and I will make you Fishers of Men ... Matthew 4 : 19

And they had followed Jesus for about 3 years ...

But, now, under discouragement, they returned to exactly what he had called them away from ... fishing for fish.

Instead of fishing for ... men / people

Jesus then asks the embarrassing question ... *did you catch anything ?*

And, we have to answer truthfully ... NOT A THING really !

So he encourages us today ...

cast your net on the other side - the RIGHT side - of the ship, and you shall find

What does he know about fishing ? We had the old ways 'off pat' ?

He doesn't know our predicament ?

Or does He?

OK, Okay, so we'll give His new - right - ways a go

The unfamiliar new ways of Art and Drama

The hitherto unused ways of involving Children in Re-enactments, Role Plays, Mouth-piece Drama, and so on.

And the results are frankly ... AMAZING !

The children respond ...

Well worth all the prayer, and the dependency on Him, and the odd muck-up, and the sometimes humbling mishaps and the occasional time of acute embarrassment !

This chapter of John 21 has so much to learn from ...

Simon Peter had been fishing ... Naked

And so the old familiar ways, eventually leave us feeling just that ...

Naked and exposed for all to see ...

But his love for the Lord, when he recognised that it was Jesus directing him, prompted Peter to ...

CAST himself off the old familiar boat, and jump into the deep unfathomable sea where he couldn't touch the bottom ...

he would trust Him, and ... S W I M in the strange dark waters.

And when they hit land, and added up the haul ...

they were amazed ... 153, Wow, so many ... (who counted them ?)
and the net was not even broken ... odd ...

God's directive, but new ways, really ARE productive, and not 'hard' on the 'nets' at all.

So with Us ... productive, fruitful, and not really so hard on us at all.

Infinitely better than the old familiar but out-dated and unfruitful ways.

Then, did you know that Jesus was into B B Q's ?

He made them a B B Q on the beach,

He had a fire going, with his own fish, and bread all ready for them.

Come and dine ... He calls.

And so it still is today

At a B B Q on the beach of all things !

Feeding with the Master, is the key to it all

- Fellowship
- Communion, dialogue, sharing
Just Enjoying His Presence
- Feasting at His Table, Feeding on His Word

After they had dined, it's Question time ...
But, this time, it is Jesus who is asking the Questions,
Only a few simple Questions
In fact, only the one simple question, repeated 3 times
Does He think we're dumb, or stupid, or hard of hearing, or something ... !
One simple question, 3 times ... !
OR ...
is He simply trying to impart something important ... ?
DO YOU LOVE ME ?
What are you getting at, Lord ?
You know that I love You.

Three simple words, he uttered **FEED MY LAMBS**
Again, he repeats the question ... DO YOU LOVE ME ?
Again, the same Answer . . . You know that I do
But, this time Jesus' reply is modified slightly **FEED MY SHEEP**

SO IT'S ... LAMBS BEFORE SHEEP

LAM B S BEFORE SHE E P

But the Sheep BLEAT the most ...
And the other 'Leader Sheep' listen most of all to the Adult Sheep
Their needs are more apparent and vocalised
And they hold the purse strings.
And ... and ... on it goes ...
There are so many reasons why the Sheep come first in practice

But what about Jesus words, and His priorities ?

L A M B S B E F O R E S H E E P

Could be Revolutionary, and Awesome in its impact

The most dollars

The best Teachers

The best facilities

The most attention, and energies ...

Put towards the Children F I R S T

And, after that, then, the Adults needs, and wants, and demands, met

Could be MOST revolutionary thing to ever happen in an assembly.

Especially if Jesus ratio was used ...

The FIRST THIRD for the LAMBS ,

Then, and only then ...

The remaining Two Thirds for the SHEEP

Imagine that ...

To put the emphasis on the Children, and Ministry to them,
to the tune of the first third of the Budget !

That's right ...

33 percent of the annual Budget WOW !

You can't possibly be serious ! I hear you say,

But read it again, that's what The Master said

The Good Shepherd,

The Door of The Sheepfold,

The Lord of the Harvest

HIS Words,

HIS Priorities,

HIM none less,

W O W ! Indeed.

Could be Awesome, its effect on the next Generation !

Instead of ... expending all that time, effort, and funds

on attracting and meeting the needs of the damaged battered Sheep

Adults,

To work with, and on, ...
the uncluttered and open-minded children around us,
With the best and most dedicated Teachers,
Trained, Funded and Acknowledged,
and with the appropriate methods of Art, Drama, Music, etc
These methods reach the simple, fertile, uncluttered minds of the open-
minded Children around us in their formative years.
Not to wait until the ambulance has to roll to the bottom of the cliff.

But, at Primary School age,
This is where to put in the prime effort ...
Towards the Children, the Next Generation
Could be AWESOME in its Impact
And SCRIPTURAL
Could even be following the Priorities of Jesus, none less.

And just one other thought ...
Some how I reckon that Peter hadn't been a specialist in Kids Ministry
before this time !
We know that he was married,
and possibly had children of his own,
He was an ex Fisherman, therefore it was quite common for him to be away
from home and his family for long spells of time.
But to be a specialist in Kids Ministry !
Not likely at all

But,
Can you imagine the shift in His priorities after hearing these words from
His beloved Master.

Upsetting, Radical, Transforming,
Peter would never be the same again !
Neither will you be if you let His Words sink in !

But there's still more in this awesome Chapter !
Jesus foretold what would happen to Peter,
just to further 'blow his socks off'

And followed that up with ... only 2 words.
FOLLOW ME

The same 2 words that He had called him with those 3 years ago.
The same words that caused him to leave his fishing boat, his wife and family, and leave all that was familiar, and trust Jesus simply and solely ... alone.

Then Peter looked around ... at John ...
What about this fellow, John ... he thought and said ?
Peter did like most all of us would do ...
He tried to shift the focus on to someone else,
To turn the spotlight somewhere, anywhere, else
To search for an alternative, any alternative, and John was the closest he could see just then.

There's always someone that we can think of, who can do it all better,
with more talents
better equipped,
with more free time,
or this, or that ...
endless reasons for being better than poor little old me.

So Jesus responded to that one too .
What is that to you ... ? He asks You just FOLLOW ME

The same simple 2 words ...
That Jesus spoke to Peter the very First time He ever saw him
And now, the last time that he was to see Him ...

And His call to us as we seek to keep up with, and ahead of, the Children

F O L L O W M E

With all our involvements ...
our prime responsibility is to FOLLOW Jesus first of all,
To have a single eye for His directions and guidance
To bring every thought, every project, (even our pet ones) every method,
(even our old familiar ones)
to a quiet and prayerful scrutiny of whether they are from His promptings
and initiation.

Christ directed service springing from an intimate personal relationship with GOD and Jesus and the personal direction of the Holy Spirit.

To have the living Godhead at work in us, practically and effectively ...
WOW !

To prune off all the dead wood,

To take the pruning knife to the unfruitful old methods and attitudes that have turned the Children off in the past.

Only from this comes any true and lasting effectiveness and fruitfulness in our Ministry to Children ...

as we all seek to follow his plea to ...

F E E D M Y L A M B S

Oh, that we all could heed His Voice in our remaining days.

And see blessings beyond bounds.

Catching the Kids

Extracts from an article by Sean Pawson

Children are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today,
Their hour is now,
Their status in the Kingdom of God is equal to adults,
Their voice is just as important,
Their needs are just as urgent, their contribution is just as vital, their
potential is just as explosive,
50% of the world's population is under fifteen years of age.
It is estimated that 50% of Western Christians make their initial
commitment to Christ before this age.
We don't wait for the children to grow up to discipline them.
If we neglect our children we will destroy our future.
Growing up is too important to be left with the kids.

I am convinced that it is better to build a child than repair an adult.
Prevention is better than cure, even though both are necessary.
Good foundations mean less future complications.
A river is more easily diverted close to its source.
Clay is more malleable when soft.

Children's work

it's not secondary - it's primary
it's not optional - it's essential.
it's not important - it's imperative.

Families are blowing apart and kids are living in the fallout of the
explosions.

Fewer and fewer children are being born into loving, accepting, secure,
disciplined, God-fearing homes.
Their precious lives are being ravaged by the devil, seduced by the world
and deceived by their own hearts.
We are witnessing again the slaughter of the innocents.

God needs people who will hear their cry and run to rescue them.

facing the facts

The church must do more than it is doing now.

Most Sunday schools I have observed are simply holding their own or losing ground.

Very few are effective in reaching children from un-churched homes.

In the majority of instances, they have become almost solely places for furthering the religious education of the children of church parents.

The Sunday school present impact on the pool is negligible.

Why have we lost so much ground ?

Why have we failed to capture the hearts of our nation's children ?

I suggest that there are three reasons.

preoccupation :

We have been preoccupied to a large degree with old methods, old materials, old structures, and old buildings.

We have played safe.

We have lost the spirit of adventure.

We have stayed within the confines of the familiar.

We have been survivalists rather than sacrificialists.

We have lost our creative cutting edge.

We have been thinking conservation when we should have been thinking mission.

We have been buried in our ecclesiastical ghettos oblivious to the plight of thousands of children content to keep the shells turning.

Prejudice, presumption :

Children's ministry has often had an inferior status.

We have taken too much for granted; we have acted presumptuously;

We have presumed that children's workers require little training.

We have presumed that if we just work with the kids, their parents will eventually turn up.

We have presumed that an hour in Sunday school once a week is an adequate spiritual foundation.

We have presumed that Christian education will produce biblical conversions.

We have presumed that our methods are relevant.

We have presumed that if we minister to the children's spiritual needs, God will take care of the rest.

shaping the future

What sort of ministry is needed to reach our youngsters for Christ and establish them as disciples ?

A ministry, I believe, that is characterised by the following :

creativity :

A ministry that is not afraid to experiment with new words, new ideas, new techniques and strategies.

It is prepared to mix the old with the new.

It is prepared to put a bullet into non-effective, non-fruitful activities.

It is anchored in the Rock and geared for the times.

It uses contemporary art, music, drama and teaching aids.

It taps the creative resources of its own people.

It tailor-makes, or adapts, a curriculum to nonnegotiable, biblical principles, but with variable methods.

commitment :

It's a give-it-all-you've-got ministry;

One that takes its task very seriously.

One that insists on training its workers.

One that constantly evaluates its impact.

One that plans carefully and prays fervently.

contextualism :

A ministry that carefully considers the total make-up of children,

One that looks at their physical, mental, social and spiritual needs and moulds its approach to meet them.

One that is shaped to meet the unique needs of a particular group in a particular place.

One that is linked as closely as possible to a local church and integrated into its total ministry.

who will save the children ?

12

We count our blessings One by One,
Yet, we have forgotten how to give
It seems that we don't want to save
All the hungry and the homeless, who struggle to live

But, Heaven is watching tonight, tugging at our hearts
We soon would try

But, WE are His Hands
WE are HIS Voice
WE are the ones who must make the choice

And If it isn't NOW, tell me When ?
If it isn't YOU, tell me Who ?

WHO WILL SAVE THE CHILDREN ?

As we observe them through the TV screen
facing them distant and unreal

But they bleed as we bleed
and they feel what we feel

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Now, we decide that nothing can change
And throw up our hands in numb despair
We lose a piece of our Soul

By teaching ourselves just how not to care
But Christ would have gone to the Cross
Just to save One Child from being lost

And WE are His Hands
WE are His Voice
WE are the Ones who must make the Choice

It must be NOW, no time to waste
It must be YOU, no one can take Your Place

Can't you see, that only WE

CAN SAVE THE CHILDREN

SAVE THE CHILDREN

PLEASE SAVE THE CHILDREN

kids ministry 13

benefits & blessings

Like anything else in this life, *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"*
And, by observation, this is seldom more evident than in the field of Kids Ministry.

For those who have had much involvement in this field, who have given of themselves to the children, God seems to have special rewards and benefits aplenty.

Among them, well, just consider these few commonly experienced what might be so-called BENEFITS and Blessings

BEING AROUND KIDS WILL KEEP YOU 'YOUNG'

One of the best antidotes against aging of the mind, senility, brain fogginess, seems to be simply - Ministry to Kids

Being around Kids seems to keep you sharp, alert, and young at heart as associating with few other groups will.

Just look at the Youth Ministers who the kids love, and you'll see these attributes aplenty.

From common observation - The Lord of the Harvest, seems to especially bless His Servants who specialise in Kids work !

It would seem to be one of the best antidotes for premature aging of the spirit, mind and body ever found.

Another benefit observed

IF YOU CAN MINISTER TO KIDS - YOU CAN MINISTER TO ANYONE !

Adults will listen politely - even when you're boring.
But Kids ! - not for a minute

Start to waffle, talk above them, or begin to lose them and they will make it quite apparent, in their own unique ways.

Adults have had heaps of experience as to not embarrass the speaker when he 'loses the plot', begins to drift, uses too big words, meanders of the track, etc, etc

But with Kids - do any or all of these, and the yawns come, or the fidgeting, or the patter of feet as they head for the toilet, or out the door. They will be the most appreciative of audiences - if you're on the ball, but start to lose them, and they will let you know surprisingly quickly.

All in all, they are undoubtedly the best and most direct critics ever found, very purgative if you will learn how to keep their attention.

Anyone wanting to learn public speaking couldn't have a better training ground than the local School classroom !

Want to improve your public speaking techniques ... fast ? Just try it.

You see - they haven't yet learned the tactful way to entertain bores, And really, you can't fool Kids - their perception is remarkable, and sharp. They will sort you out, and tell you very quickly 'what's up' or rather 'what's not up' with your style

But, please, please, don't be off put by their comments.

Instead, listen to them, learn from them, adapt, examine yourself and your techniques, look again at your methods - what's the problem ?

And be tuned, sharpened, made more effective,

Try it, listen to them, they will be surprisingly forgiving,

We don't have to be Billy Graham to get through to them,

Just have a heart for them, with sincerity and concern,

Learn directness, patience, and simplicity of presentation,

And be blessed heaps.

Another observation - ministry to kids invariably reaches adults also as it appeals to 'the 'child' that is in all of us'

On so many occasions I have heard it said after a Church service - "I especially enjoyed the Kids portion of the service"

I wonder - was it because it was 'simpler put' ?

or was it the proof of the maxim 'from the heart reaches the heart' ?

or was it just the other maxim - KISS - Keep It Simple Stupid ?

Any ways, the comment is overheard frequently and demonstrates the power of ministry to kids to also reach and bless adults.

And, speaking of adult listeners - a word of advice from experience - don't let the adults criticise you too much !

Over my years, I have never had a bad word or censure come back from a child, (apart from some delightfully direct responses when I haven't been quite 'on the ball') but some parents, teachers or adults watching have occasionally made comments.

Now some of these adult comments may well be valid, but it is necessary to assess just where the person is 'coming from', and judge it accordingly.

Adults often have so many prejudices and pre-conceptions, habitual niceties, and even religious phobias, that the children haven't picked up yet. Some adults may presume that the children have these same prejudices and pre-conceptions also, but children are simply 'open sponges', unsullied and unsoiled by the clutter that adults are prone to pick up on their journey through life.

Indeed, my observation is that simple **Ministry to Kids**, administered from a good heart, touches the very spirit of the children, who have this intuitive gift of perceptively discerning the spirit of the presenter.

So, my problems have rarely ever been with the children / hearers, but occasionally from the adults / parents / teachers - and especially those who have 'new age' or 'flakey' ideas

Another Benefit observed.....

KIDS MINISTRY WILL PURGE YOUR MOTIVES LIKE NOTHING ELSE will or can !

People can preach from mixed motives.

People may minister for hidden reasons

Ego, Money, Fame, Popularity, Ambition, a Career, all have their followers

But Ministers to Kids

There's precious little of any of the above 'thorns' evident in them

Hardly any folk stick at Ministry to Kids without a pure heart,

Which God seems to see and bless in His own way and time unmistakably

largely	UN-SEEN
usually	UN-HERALDED
generally	UN-REWARDED ,
in the main	UN-NOTICED

Amongst Gods choicest servants are the faithful Ministers to Kids

At the Judgement Day, when the rewards are to be handed out,
there could be surprises aplenty

Jesus words are very clear on what to expect *Matthew 18 : 6 - 10*

And along lives journey, His richest blessings seem to be experienced by
Ministers to Children

Perhaps a new Beatitude to ponder

Blessed are they who Minister to Kids

**For they shall learn the art of directness and simplicity and gain
'eternal' youthfulness and blessing.**

So, keep on hearing His Voice, saying earnestly to each of us

F E E D M Y L A M B S

And in blessing children, may you yourself in turn and in season,
be blessed beyond measure. *Luke 6 : 67*