

# Kingdom Builders

"Partnering to provide tools to further the faith of our children for Christ's Kingdom"

## Make serving others a habit in '09

Jan./Feb. 2009

By Greg & Lara Alexander

Welcome to the New Year!

For many, this is the time to get back on track—setting goals and making promises to ourselves.

But, let's ask ourselves, "What does *God* want our resolution to be, as parents, in 2009?"

When we read the Bible, we see that God loves people—and He commands us to do the same.

In Matthew 22:35-40, an expert in the law tested Jesus, asking: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 repeats how we are to love God, and adds, "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

So, how do we model loving God and others to our children?

First, loving God should be a topic of daily conversation in our homes.

Second, because of God's overwhelming love for us, we can't help but express it to others through acts of service.

Parents have the opportunity to model this to their children by

daily praying, "Lord, thank you for the abundance of love I have received from you. God, help me to practically love those you bring into my life today."

### PEOPLE + GIVING = SERVICE

God loves people. Because of His love for us, we want to give to others. Therefore, service should be our focus in 2009.

Our goal personally is to be shaped by God to look like His Son, Jesus. My heart is to be like Jesus' heart.

Parents, your children are watching you. (Humbling isn't it!) Sometimes, they're watching more than they're listening!

Francis of Assisi used to tell his followers, "Go and preach the gospel. If necessary, use words."

Assisi's emphasis on witnessing for Jesus through deeds more than words can be our example.

God tells us repeatedly that He desires "mercy, not sacrifice." (Mat. 9:10)

According to Holman's dictionary, the definition of mercy is "a personal characteristic of care for the needs of others. The biblical concept of mercy always involves help to those who are in need or distress."

So, make service to others a habit, just like brushing your teeth.

In Ezekiel 16:49, Sodom is condemned for being *arrogant*, *overfed*, and *unconcerned*, and for not helping the poor and needy. Doesn't that sound like America today?

(Continued on back page.)

## Mark these dates ...

**1/26 Mon.** Parent Education  
7-8:15 p.m. @ church  
"Cyber-bullying and Internet Safety"

**2/1 Sun.** Child dedications  
both services

**2/11 Wed.** Kidz Club @ church  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**2/13 Fri.** Father-Daughter  
Valentine's Event  
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**2/23 Mon.** Parent Education  
7-8:15 p.m. @ church

## Parent Challenge !

- ◆ Pray, send cards, make meals for those listed on bulletin prayer page as a family
- ◆ Give a sandwich to a homeless person asking for money
- ◆ Invite guests over for lunch OR make dinner for a single mom and deliver it to her home
- ◆ Take family on a tour of the Boise Rescue Mission or City Light OR sort food at Idaho Foodbank

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. . . . I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

*Phil. 1: 3-6*

Listed below are some of the staff members who serve faithfully in our Sunday School program. Names are rotated each issue. Please pray for them. You could clip the list to use as a bookmark and reminder.

#### First service

##### **Nursery—Infants**

- Katie Black
- Brooke Knight
- Steve Somers
- Connie Tewart

##### **5 year olds**

- Clarissa Alexander
- Cassidy Baumgartner
- Ben & Rachel Cuilla
- Marshall Major
- Kevin & Judy Matteson

##### **3rd grade**

- Amy Bedsole
- Angel Lee
- Rachel Saleen
- Cindy Taylor
- Nanette Wendell

#### Second Service

##### **Nursery—Toddlers**

- Jana Danielson
- Jonna Praegitzer
- Sara Richards
- Lea Stone
- Tamara Tingler
- Veronica Wilson

##### **4th & 5th grades**

- Bill & Michelle Baumgartner
- Henry Charlier
- Ron Hilbrands
- Joel Robinson
- Shirley Moon

## Joy to the World!



Children dressed up as shepherds, wise men, Mary, and Joseph joined with the preschoolers and other elementary-aged children in our Sunday School program to sing about the joy of the birth of Jesus.

*(Continued from front page.)*

As believers we are to be a stark contrast, offering love, healing, compassion, and gentleness. While on Earth, Jesus modeled intentional, one-on-one, touchable, willing-to-get-dirty, willing-to-listen mercy.

All our lives it's a struggle to keep our eyes fixed on God and not on ourselves. Service to others is a valuable tool to model to our children—even very young ones. After all, we are training our future church leaders.

Many believe that by helping others, children can learn responsibility, build character and citizenship, and discover the special joys of giving.

Teens who reach out to others or get involved in service projects often feel a tremendous sense of fulfillment. And in the process of serving others, they begin to focus less on themselves and build more confidence.

To get your family thinking about serving others, listen to the Christian songs, "If We Are The

Body," by Casting Crowns and "Give Me Your Eyes," by Brandon Heath. Talk about the lyrics together with your children.

To put service into practice, you could take the family shopping for items for the church food cupboard. Give each child the same amount of money and see who is able to buy the most items.

Model service to your children by simply holding doors for others, stopping to help a person beside the road with car trouble, shoveling a neighbor's snowy sidewalk or taking a walk and picking up trash.

You also could encourage your teenagers to volunteer as helpers in Sunday School; or offer to help set up before or clean up after the next church potluck.

We are Jesus' hands and feet to the people in our daily contact. Show that YOU care and let your children see you volunteer your time to help those in need. Bring them along as extra hands and let them see the smiles on the faces of people you're helping.