

## THE NEXT LIFESAVERS

Why do we do what we do? What do we see as the goal of our ministry to children? Do we know where we're starting and where we're trying to head or are we simply letting the curriculum companies tell us what our children are going to look like when we graduate them into the youth department? Christ commanded the church to seek and save the lost and then to bring them to maturity in Christ. That process is known as discipleship. "Discipleship" will be the focus of our next issue of Lifesavers. How do you do it with your kids?

Please send your submissions to:  
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(Please send ideas before April 30th so that we can include them in our June 2002 issue of Lifesavers.)

Lifesavers subscriptions are available!  
Contact Canadian Ministries at the National Office  
416-674-7878 ext. 230.

## PRONOUNCEMENTS PASTOR

We all know how critical it is to have the Senior Pastor on board with what is happening in Children's Ministry. Pastor Brian Buhler is that kind of pastor. He believes that children need to understand that they are a part of the big picture.

Pastor Brian was invited to "Come On Down" one Sunday to take on the teaching for "His Kids." We dubbed it "Pastor's Day" and made it a big party. For our activities, we split the kids into two age groupings and played adaptations on basketball, Pastor Brian's favorite sport. For crafts, we painted with water color paints, his favorite hobby. We even ate cheesecake, his favorite snack food. Pastor Brian did our Large Group teaching and shared his testimony which really connected our kids to the leader of our church family.



The day turned out to be a favorite for all. The children loved seeing the Big Pastor and hearing from him. He experienced the challenges of our space and was able to give some neat insights and observations from his time with the kids.

Later that day, one of the boys while talking to his parents about what happened at "His Kids" said, "The man who gives the pronouncements upstairs was there!"

When Pastor Brian returned to his pulpit the next week, he shared of his experience and declared that of the two, preaching to the adults was much easier! Now, that's a pronouncement!

*Shirley Rayburn, North Shore Alliance Church, North Vancouver, B.C.*



## The Word is Out

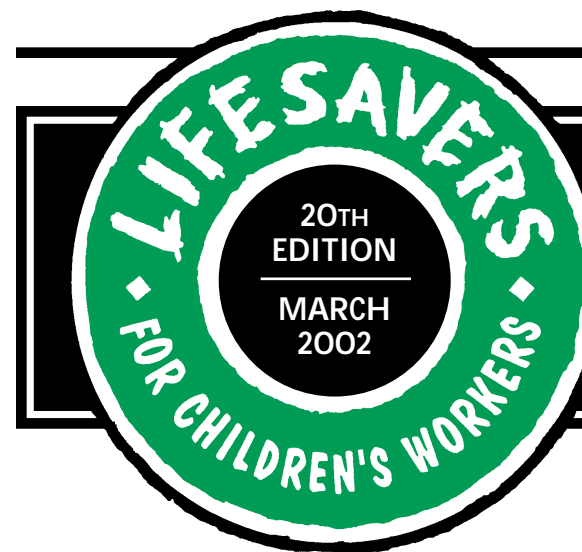
*Laura Hahn, First Alliance Church  
Calgary, AB*

One of our biggest jobs in children's ministries at First Alliance Church is getting the word out. We don't want to be the best kept secret in the church!

"The Pastor's Hot Seat" started as a way for our children to get to know and understand other ministries in our church. We invited pastoral team members to come to our large group worship and teaching time to be interviewed by the children and then to have the children come and lay hands on that pastor to pray for them and for their ministry. Each one of our pastors has joined us and they have become huge fans of our what we do for kids and are talking up our ministry and our needs in their circles of influence.

Our "Open House" was a recruiting tool where thirty potential volunteers were invited to participate in our Sunday morning ministry. Then, during small group time that day, we took them to another room, with food, where our Chairman of the Board talked about how effective the ministry was in the lives of his grandchildren. We signed up integral team players that day.

We never get tired of telling our stories. Those who may not be super involved in our ministry cannot resist encouraging stuff and God-stories in the lives of kids. One person tells another, who tells another, who tells another. The word is out!



# Raising the Profile



PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL CHURCH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - CHILDREN'S DIVISION

## AT YOUR SERVICE

**WE** want to be at your service! If you find you have any questions or concerns about ministering to children, or about the National Church Education Committee - Children's Division, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

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We have a "Kid's Koliseum" where three different groups of children come to worship God on Sunday mornings. Our last group of worshippers is our one to three year olds and this last Sunday, we had a little two year old girl falling asleep while she was standing up! Okay, that is not a picture I'll be using to promote our children's ministry!

*... if a child hasn't been introduced to Jesus Christ by the time he or she is 14, there is only a 4 percent chance that such conversion will happen between ages 14 and 18 and a 6 percent chance that it will occur in the remainder of life.*

This year, someone passed on to me a letter that included statistics which highlight the necessity and the importance of ministry to children. The Barna Research Group released a report on November 15, 1999 which stated that, "... if a child hasn't been introduced to Jesus Christ by the time he or she is 14, there is only a 4 percent chance that such conversion will happen between ages 14 and 18 and a 6 percent chance that it will occur in the remainder of life." Our mission is clear! Let's work together to do all that we can to raise the profile of what God wants to do in our kid's lives!

- Carol Wiebe, Chair

## Let's Do Lunch!

If you're in Hamilton on Friday, July 5th during the Christian and Missionary Alliance 2002 General Assembly - we hope that you can do lunch with us! "Let's Connect" our vision, our passions, our relationships as together we connect kids to God! The cost of the luncheon is \$20.00 and tickets can be purchased through Assembly Packets on the Fees and Ticket Order Form. Non-delegates can receive information in the Assembly Event Brochure.

