

Issue 14

October 2008

Welcome to E-Link, your bi-monthly online news about Youth and Family Ministry from the Association of Unity Churches International. Each issue provides bits of current information and connects all of us who serve Youth and Family Ministry throughout Unity churches.

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More New Uniteen Lessons

6846 Make a Difference \$14.95



Yes, you *can* make a difference! These seven interactive lessons allow your Uniteens to explore the importance of each individual in impacting social action. Discussions include the meaning of diversity, creating peace vs. conflict, and making a difference in their environment and in their church. The lessons culminate with a church service project.

Shop online at www.unity.org or call 816.524.7414, ask for the order department. Price does not include shipping and handling.

Workshop Participants Needed for 1-Room Multi-age Program

We are looking for up to six experienced youth education directors and teachers who work in a 1-room multi-age (ages 5-13) classroom to participate in a workshop January 11-15, 2009, at Unity Village. Our goal: to design a how-to manual of best practices to assist churches who have this setup, and to design creative, inspiring, interactive lessons that fit within this context.

We prefer participants who have recent classroom experience dealing with groups sized 5 to 25, an understanding of Unity's teachings, experience with Living Curriculum philosophy, and some lesson creation experience. Please contact Bernadette Swanson,

Education Editor, Bernadette@unity.org, by October 20, 2008, for an application. We need your full name, position at church, email address, and phone number.

Excellent Websites

For parents and children: Unity has developed a partnership with the magazine North Star Family Matters and is now live at www.UnityFamilyMatters.org. The site includes Wee Wisdom Village with animal characters and bedtime stories for youngsters, parenting advice columns, blogs, and forums. You can find a great article on special children called "The Loss of a Child." Check under the Family Solutions section, then under Conscious Parenting & Empowered Kids.

For teens: A great website, written with and for teens, is about how they are making a difference, www.dosomething.org. Here you can find abundant ideas for a wide range of teen projects in the community, success stories, YouTube videos, and grant information. Check it out!

Share your Youth Ministry successes!

In *Contact*: Do you have any success stories about projects, events, or activities that you have done in youth and family ministry that you would like to share? The February/March *Contact* magazine is focused on Youth and Family Ministry. We are looking for short articles (200 words) and photos that explain and convey the excitement and spiritual deepening of your experience. For more information or submission, email kid@unity.org.

On our website: Another place to share your good ideas and innovative lessons is at Info XChange on our website. Look at www.unity.org/infoxchange. It will give you the parameters of what will be listed. Submit your entries to webmaster@unity.org or send them to Kathy at kid@unity.org. Then keep checking back to the webpage for great ideas from others. The Youth Ministry section is fairly empty now, so contributions from all of you would make a big difference!

Education Links Copies

Are you wanting multiple copies of *Education Links* for each of your teachers? The Association sends four copies to each church; one each for the minister, youth education director, Uniteen leader, and YOU sponsor. More copies can easily be obtained by downloading them from our website. Go to www.unity.org and click on Youth Ministry Resources and Ideas or go to www.unity.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Education_Link&category=Publications.

IYOU Outcomes

From July 13 through 18, 2008, there were 125 stakeholders of the International Youth of Unity (IYOU) gathered at Unity Village, MO, for an Appreciative Inquiry Summit. Many thanks to all who participated! To see the vision and mission that were created from that event, as well as to view the new IYOU structure, visit www.unity.org/iyou.

Book Review

Though conservative Christian in nature, **Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation** (Broadman & Homan Publishers, Nashville, TN, 2006) is a great book for those interested in the four basic views/models of children's ministry and how each model is fashioned by a particular theology of how children's spiritual lives are formed. The four models covered are:

- *Contemplative-Reflective* which seeks to cultivate a quiet, worshipful spirit;
- *Instructional-Analytic* involving Bible memorization and child evangelism;
- *Pragmatic-Participatory* focusing on high-energy activities; and
- *Media-Driven Active-Engagement* which uses video-based curriculum with limited teacher training.

Each view is explained, the value or rationale and history are given, and that is followed by responses or rebuttals, if you will, from others who question that view. The Unity reader will need to translate ideas into our own language but the book is rich in giving us a greater, more informed view as to how we create our children's ministries in Unity.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who participated in our curriculum survey. Your comments and insights are helping to shape the direction of our next educational products, particularly the multi-age program described above.

A SERVICE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL

Feel free to forward this email to a friend!

Susan, I'll let your template take over from here. B