

Kids 4 Christ Update

September & October 2004

www.k4c.info

A Time of Transition

Loss of Building Means New Opportunities for Kids 4 Christ

For 26 months, from June 2002 until August of this year, Kids 4 Christ held class every Wednesday night in a building owned by the Northwest Georgia Baptist Association. But on August 22nd group leaders were told that the kids ministry would no longer be allowed to meet in that building and had two weeks to get all of its assets moved out.

The eviction caught the board off-guard since leaders of the Baptist Association had said K4C would "never be asked to leave" the building. Unfortunately, that promise was not in writing so there was really nothing that could be done without association leaders changing their minds.

With only 3 days to prepare, class on August 25th had to be held outdoors in Municipal Park. After that, the city of LaFayette agreed to let K4C meet inside Lowell Green rec. center for the entire month of September. That building is better than meeting outside, but it's not an ideal situation and only temporary.

Most of the material that belongs to Kids 4 Christ was moved out of the old building into a storage trailer, safely packed away until a new building can be found. The only K4C assets kept by the Association are some chairs, a heater, and everything in the clothing ministry. (The clothes program is closed until further notice.)

Being evicted is a setback for Kids 4 Christ, but strife may turn into new opportunities for the group. God will provide for future needs, even those that men cannot see. Finding a new permanent meeting place may well lead to growth and success beyond what could have ever been accomplished in the old West LaFayette Elementary school.

The leadership of Kids 4 Christ place their ministry in the Lord's hands and know that He will provide it with a new home soon. Please remember this situation in your prayers and ask that God's Will be done.

July & August Happenings

Back 2 School Blast 2004

Kids 4 Christ's second-annual Back 2 School Blast was a huge success, topping last year's attendance and providing K4C with a chance to reach more children.

This year's cookout was attended by 245 people, mostly unchurched children and adults from disadvantaged communities. Everyone who came enjoyed free hotdogs and live entertainment from a variety of singers. The 148 school-age children in attendance were given free clothing and backpacks filled with supplies to help them during the new school year.

Several of the children who came to the Blast have since started attending Bible class on Wednesday nights. Every community event hosted by K4C leads to a stronger Wednesday night program.

Newspaper Clarification

The article about Kids 4 Christ that ran on page A3 of the Sept. 1st *Walker County Messenger* implied that K4C only wants volunteer workers from Baptist Churches. This is not entirely true. As was explained to the *Messenger* reporter, volunteers from any protestant Christian church are welcome to help, and only lead teacher positions were restricted to Baptists because K4C had been using a Baptist-owned building. Since K4C is no longer in that building the restriction has been lifted and any interested Christian is eligible for a teaching position pending their approval by the advisory board.

Special Outings

During August we had two special outings for children attending Wednesday night classes. The first was on August 8th, a bowling outing to reward the 21 kids who had good attendance during March, April, and May. Then on August 28th K4C took 17 children from the three youngest classes to see a secular clown performance at Lifegate Church. The kids who came enjoyed both trips. More outings are planned in September, including a youth rally at Lifegate on the 10th and a class trip to the Rock City Maize Maze on September 18th.

Older Group Sent to Camp

Out of the four who qualified, only one middle-schooler decided to accept her free week at Bible camp in July. The one who did go to Camp New Dawn on July 11 said that she enjoyed the week and wants to go back again next year. The kids will begin competing for camp trips earlier next year to allow them more time to qualify.

Family Newsletter Launched

In July Kids 4 Christ started a second mailer, *What's Happening at Kids 4 Christ*, for families of the children who regularly attend class. The new newsletter will be published every-other month, alternating with this newsletter for volunteers and contributors. Both mailers are now being archived on our Web site in PDF format at www.k4c.info/updates/.

Monthly Milestones

Average Wednesday night attendance in July and August: **64**
Highest Kids 4 Christ attendance on a Wednesday in July and August: **73**
Number of K4C children who have accepted Christ since January: **8**
Number of families helped through clothes ministry since January 2003: **520+**

Noteworthy Needs

Building Needs

The most urgent need right now, by far, is a new permanent place to meet on Wednesdays. While there are a lot of empty buildings in LaFayette, only a few of them meet the unique needs of Kids 4 Christ. And of the ones that do meet those needs, none are easily affordable for a group running solely from community donations.

To simply meet current needs, Kids 4 Christ requires a building with at least 3,000 SQFT inside - enough space for five classes, a kitchen/eating area, and an office. But that doesn't provide any room for growth, and two of the five classes are already getting too big and will need to split soon. That also doesn't provide any space for an indoor play area or rooms to set up the clothing ministry.

The ideal location would be within the city limits, have enough space outside for parking and a playground, have rooms inside for at least 8 classes plus a play area, office, kitchen/food area, and several large rooms for the clothing ministry.

Buildings like that are available, but the cost of renting or buying one of them is considerably higher than what K4C can currently pay. In order to get the necessary space, support will have to grow to at least \$5,000 per month - about five times the current receipts.

That amount includes renting or buying a building, paying utilities, and insuring the building and three vehicles that were having their insurance costs covered by the NWGA Baptist Association.

God can accomplish anything He desires, and without a doubt Kids 4 Christ is doing His work with these children. The ministry has survived challenges in the past that threatened to destroy it, and it will survive those challenges again in the future. --->

Please be in prayer about the Kids 4 Christ building situation, that God's will would be done in regards to the group and that His work would continue in LaFayette.

If you feel led to contribute to this cause, please do - no matter how much or how little you're able to do. The Lord can do a lot with a little, regardless of whether it's a financial gift or the gift of a building.

Food Preparation

Kids 4 Christ still needs volunteers willing to prepare food for children who attend class each Wednesday. Right now the kids are being given a "sack dinner" - a bag with sandwich, chips, drink, and cookie - because there's nowhere to sit and eat in rec. building where K4C is meeting. Fixing the bags is a little more work than just cooking a pot of chili, so more workers are needed to prepare them. Volunteers can provide food themselves or use some of the food previously donated to K4C.

Kids 4 Christmas Collection

The holiday season is coming, and for most children that means an exciting time of family and gifts. But for some of the kids who participate in Kids 4 Christ, Christmas is a season of disappointment.

Last year Kids 4 Christ was able to give presents to regularly attending children, thanks to generous community donations of wrapped gifts. This year it would be great to do that again, but in order to make all the kids' gifts equal K4C will be collecting money to buy them instead of asking contributors to.

Money for Christmas gifts will be collected from Oct. 1st until Wednesday Nov. 24th. If you would like to contribute to the Christmas collection, please mark checks "Christmas Gifts." You can also donate for this on our Web site using PayPal. Please remember that this should be above and beyond the normal giving since K4C is still dependant on regular donations.

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact us (see info on back page). Please remember all of these needs in your daily prayers.

Schedule of Events

September 10th, 7:00 - The Chosen Generation

Lifegate church presents Karen Wheaton and The Chosen Generation. All Kids 4 Christ middle and high school students are invited to attend this event. The kids will be picked up after 6:00. Chaperones are still needed for this event.

September 18th, 4:00 - Enchanted Maize Maze Outing

Kids 4 Christ 4th and 5th graders (class D) will be taken to the Enchanted Maize Maze below Rock City as a class outing. Pickup will begin around 2:30, with the kids getting home by 8:00 that evening. Dinner will be provided for all kids and adults.

October 1st - Kids 4 Christmas Collection

From October 1st to November 24th K4C will be collecting money to purchase Christmas presents for the children who attend class on Wednesday nights. Gifts were collected in 2002 and 2003, but this year only money will be taken up because it is more fair to the children if they all get the same items. You can contribute to the fund by sending in a check marked "Christmas Presents" or use PayPal from www.k4c.info .

October 9th, 4:00 - Good Attendance Hayride

On Saturday the 9th Kids 4 Christ will take all the children with good attendance in July, August, and September on a hayride at Camp New Dawn. This outing includes dinner, the hayride, and entertainment from the people at Camp New Dawn.

October 16th - Contributor Appreciation Dinner

To show appreciation for all the people who have worked with or supported Kids 4 Christ this year, a get-together is being planned for all volunteers and donors on the 3rd Saturday of October. Location is TBA, depending on whether or not K4C has a new building by then. The date may also be changed, so watch for invitations to this event.

October 30th, 5:00 - Scare on the Square

Every year businesses and churches in LaFayette hold an alternative to Halloween on the town square. Kids 4 Christ plans to join the festivities again and give out candy, tracts, and brochures to all of the children who come out. This is a good opportunity for K4C volunteers to come out and meet some of the kids' families.

November 24th, 5:00 - Christmas Donation Deadline

Donations for "Kids 4 Christmas" are due on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving in order to leave enough time for purchasing the gifts before Christmas.

These scheduled events may be changed or canceled as necessary.

For an up-to-date list, please see the Web schedule at www.k4c.info/schedule/



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