

Kids 4 Christ Update

January & February 2005  www.k4c.info

Count Your Blessings, Name Them One By One...

Recapping one incredible year and looking forward to the next

2004 was a roller coaster ride in the truest sense for the volunteers and supporters of Kids 4 Christ. The year brought accidents and illnesses to several supporters' families, vandalism, financial troubles for the ministry, controversy inside some local churches, and an eviction that should have been the end of Kids 4 Christ. But through all those troubles, God continued to pour out His blessings.

People who should have died lived, money came pouring in, a new and better building was found, the doubters were proven wrong, and attendance grew consistently all year long. Kids 4 Christ grew stronger and more independent while its faithful supporters were blessed and spiritually strengthened.

But 2004 is just the beginning. God has already begun to open new doors of opportunity for 2005 - new ministries, new growth, new people, and new ideas that will further His work among LaFayette's most disadvantaged children and their families.

Unlike a traditional church, K4C is not based on membership - any Christian in the community is welcome to serve at Kids 4 Christ regardless of their background, race, or church home.

Don't let your family miss out on God's blessings for the upcoming 12 months. There are plenty of opportunities for men, women, young, and old to serve the Lord through K4C - all it takes is the faith to follow His calling to get involved.

November & December Happenings

Giving & Receiving

A group of children who might otherwise have received little to nothing last month had a happier Christmas because of Kids 4 Christ. Each of the 102 children who attended "Jesus' Birthday Party" at K4C on December 16th got a gift worth about \$10-\$12, plus a warm hat and mittens / gloves, and a chance to learn what the Christmas season is really all about.

About a dozen parents also attended the Birthday Party, each getting a chance to see the love K4C volunteers have for their children and hear the true Christmas Story. Any response from parents is worth the cost of the gifts, beyond any joy they gave the children.

12 more families going through hard times were provided with Christmas dinners and gifts for their children. During December K4C also helped two families out with bills, keeping lights on at one home and preventing another family from being evicted.

Impacting parents and children, individual families, one at a time - thanks to the generous support of Christians from all over NW Georgia (and a few from around the country). If you've given time, money, materials, or just said a prayer for the Kids 4 Christ ministry during 2005 you have played a part in the great work God is doing in LaFayette.

Christmas Parade

Friday December 3rd children with best attendance during 2004 (through November) were invited to ride on the K4C float in the city's annual Christmas Parade. The 23 children who participated had a wonderful time singing as the Rudolph-themed float toured downtown LaFayette. The float had a dual purpose; not only did it reward children with best attendance, it also increased community awareness about K4C. Increased awareness leads to new volunteers and more community support.

Gaddis Joins K4C Board

First Baptist LaFayette minister Dr. Todd Gaddis has been nominated for a position on the K4C Ministries board of directors. If approved by the board, Dr. Gaddis will be replacing Rev. Jim Powell of Center Grove Baptist. Powell stepped down in December due to time restraints.

Dr. Gaddis was nominated to serve on the board because of his interest in K4C, his years of experience on the mission field, and his outstanding reputation in the community. He has been lead pastor of First Baptist LaFayette since 1999 and is an acclaimed author.

The other four Board members are Gail Marks (board chair and director), Mike Wade, Karen Oakes (secretary), and Terry Smith. Board meeting minutes are available for public inspection by mailing K4C a written request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Toys for Tots

Six local discount stores gave K4C items left in its Toys for Tots collection box. According to one store manager, the national charity received more than it needed for the 2004 Holiday season and stopped picking up donations in mid-December. Instead of letting those gifts go to waste, the stores opted to contribute them to K4C. Those items will be used as prizes during 2005 and will help fill out the toys already available for next Christmas.

Attendance Rewards

The good attendance reward outing, a hayride at Camp New Dawn, was finally held on November 13th after being rain delayed for over a month. The 16 children who attended (out of 22 who earned the trip) all had a wonderful time on the hayride, playing at the camp, and roasting marshmallows on a campfire.

Each good attendance outing encourages children to be more faithful to class, and shows them that hard work can pay off. Since the first outing was held last January, the percentage of attending children who attend faithfully has risen each month.

The next attendance outing is a trip back to Chamlee's Roller Rink in Trion on Saturday January 22nd at 11 AM

Ministry Milestones

Average Wednesday night attendance during November & December: **81**

Highest attendance during November & December: **99** (Dec. 15)

Number of children with good attendance during Oct-Nov-Dec 2004: **36**

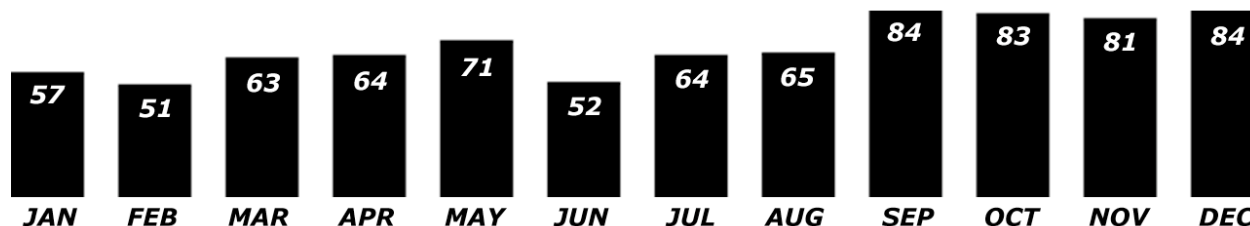
Christmas cards sent in December 2004: **206**

Children given Christmas gifts through K4C in 2004: **102**

Meals served to children during 2004: **3347**

Families assisted with food, utilities, or rent during 2004: **8**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH - 2004:



all attendance numbers are children only and do not count adult volunteers or visiting parents

Contributor FYI

Supporters who gave more than \$50 to Kids 4 Christ during 2004 will be sent an acknowledgment of their giving in the mail by the end of January. To save postage, contributors who gave less than \$50 total will not be sent a statement unless they request one. Some contributors do not have a mailing address on file at Kids 4 Christ, so anyone who gave more than \$50 not receiving a written acknowledgment by Feb. 1st should contact K4C.

K4C Ministries, Inc. (Kids 4 Christ) is now legally incorporated as a nonprofit organization in Georgia, but IRS paperwork to have K4C recognized as a non-profit is not yet finished. So in order to count gifts to K4C as tax deductions during 2004, all contributions have to be credited as gifts to the Northwest Georgia Baptist Association. K4C worked under the Association during most of 2004 and has permission from the Association to account for contributions in that way.

Noteworthy Needs

K4C After School Program

In late January or early February Kids 4 Christ will expand its current offerings and launch an after school program for disadvantaged children. K4C "Cool After School" will provide homework help and personalized tutoring to children who already attend Wednesday Bible classes.

Learning the Word of God and becoming a Christian is the most important thing for any child, but a good education will give these children a better chance to succeed in life, to get away from LaFayette's housing projects and slums, and to have opportunity to tell others about the Truth that changed their own lives.

Cool After School is an opportunity for anyone with a background in education: current or retired teachers, school employees, or even concerned parents and citizens. This may be the volunteer service your life has been preparing you to do.

The after school program is still being planned - no dates, days, times, or specifics have really been decided yet. All those details will be decided in a planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 11 at 6:00. Anyone interested in participating in Cool After School should attend this meeting and help plan the future of LaFayette's children and the Kids 4 Christ ministry.

Monthly Visitation

Each month a small group of volunteers goes out to visit the homes of children who attend class on Wednesday nights. These home visits develop relationships with parents and help volunteers better understand the individual needs and struggles of each child. K4C supporters are welcome (encouraged!) to join a visitation and see the homes and neighborhoods where LaFayette's children live. Seeing can only deepen your desire to get involved and give you a better appreciation for what K4C does.

Open Volunteer Positions

●Vehicle Chaperones

Chaperones ride on a K4C bus or van to help keep the children calm and under control. Chaperones also help drivers handle route checklists. Service is needed on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 and 7:30 to 8:30. Chaperones can choose to do only one of the trips if they want to help but still attend their church.

●Artist/Painter

When the weather warms up in a few months, K4C will need some volunteers who can paint some dreary spaces inside the new building and make them more kid-friendly. Painters with above-average artistic ability are also needed to paint some bright murals in and outside the new facility.

●Landscape

Before the weather warms and plants come back to life, K4C needs someone with a green thumb to volunteer a few hours. The small grass area in front of the new building needs some work done to make the building more presentable, and a small flowerbed in back needs to be planted before weeds take it over.

●Class Assistants

In order to successfully teach, K4C teachers need other Christians to help kids listen and learn in class. Assistants are needed on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:30.

25-Passenger Church Bus

To keep up with attendance growth, K4C needs to find a 25-passenger church bus. A donated or traded vehicle would be ideal, but funds are available to purchase one if the price is reasonable. The vehicle must be 25-pass. because another school bus would be too large for some of the neighborhoods where kids live, and an additional 15-pass. van would require more drivers/chaperones and another monthly insurance payment.

If you can help with any of these needs, please contact K4C (see info on back page). Please remember all of these needs in your daily prayers.

More Noteworthy Needs

K4C Project Teams

To support the continuing growth of Kids 4 Christ, new volunteers are needed to serve on "Project Teams" - small groups working together to plan activities and events. Team members will be committing to work on their team for a full year, and each team will meet at various times depending on project.

Anyone in the community is invited to serve on a team, so please pray about these opportunities and contact K4C by February 1st if you feel led to any of them.

●Fundraising Project Team

Team will plan and set up at least 3 fundraising events during 2005.

●K4C T-Shirt Project Team

Team will determine sizes and buy needed numbers of t-shirts to have printed with K4C logo. Will give shirts to kids & donors.

●ADVENTURE! Project Team

Team will decide locations / materials and find volunteers for ADVENTURE! clubs.

●Yearbook Project Team

Team to create an annual yearbook of photos and memories to give regularly attending children at the end of the class year in June.

●Back 2 School Project Team

Team will collect school supplies and plan event's food, entertainment, and games.

●Christmas Parade Project Team

Team will plan and build float for the annual Christmas parade.

●Christmas Gift Project Team

Team will plan Christmas activities and purchase or collect gifts for K4C children.

"He told them 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.'" -Luke 10:2-3 (NIV)

Educational Entertainment

During 2005 Kids 4 Christ would like to bring in entertainers who can teach children the Gospel message in unique ways. This is an opportunity for singers or musicians, youth speakers, magicians, puppet teams, clowns, artists, or anyone else with a talent and a calling to spread the Word to children. Presentations can be for all age children (3 to 14) or for a specific age group. If you would like to help with this or know someone who can, please contact K4C as soon as possible so the 2005 calendar can be set into place.

Apple Juice Collection

Since drink mixes and sodas are full of sugar, K4C is trying to primarily serve children apple juice on Wednesday nights. Most of the kids like apple juice, and it is the most healthy thing (besides water) that they can drink. But apple juice tends to be more expensive than juice mixes or sodas, and the kids are drinking at least 14 gallons every week.

To gather up a good supply of apple juice for 2005, K4C needs individuals and churches to collect canned and bottled juice during January and February. Collected items can be dropped off at the K4C building during regular office hours (10-5 Wednesdays) or picked up by appointment.

(The 2005 meal calendar still has lots of open spaces, chances for you, your business, or church to provide an entire meal for the children one Wednesday.)

Bible Camp Sponsorships

Last June K4C sent 16 children to Bible camp for a week. As a result of that trip (and the community sponsors who made it possible) three children accepted Christ. Kids 4 Christ hopes to send at least 20 more children back to Camp New Dawn in summer 2005, so individual sponsors will again be needed to cover camp expenses. Sponsorships are not yet being sought, but please be praying about your ability to sponsor a child later this year.

Schedule of Events

January 11th, 6:00 - After School Program Planning Meeting

Anyone interested in participating in or supporting the upcoming K4C "Cool After School" program should attend the planning meeting on Tuesday January 11th. The meeting will determine days and times when activities will be held, how many children can participate, and other details that need to be worked out before the program can begin.

January 22nd, 11:00 - Good Attendance Skate Party

To reward all the kids who missed one Wednesday or less during October, November, and December, K4C will be taking a trip back to Chamlee's Roller Rink in Trion for a day of fun. Pickup will begin around 9 AM on Saturday the 22nd. Lunch will be provided free for everyone who attends. Adult chaperones are still needed for this event!

January 26th, 6:00 - Younger Kids Dental Presentation

As part of K4C's efforts to improve the physical well-being of LaFayette's children, dental hygienist Faye Wood will come to Kids 4 Christ to speak to the youngest children (ages 3 to 1st grade) about proper dental care. Ms. Wood will show the kids how to brush their teeth and give everyone in attendance a free toothbrush and toothpaste to take home.

January / Early February (TBA) - K4C Cool After School Begins

February / March (TBA) - Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

A pancake breakfast will be held in February or March to raise funds for K4C and give supporters a chance to meet and greet some of the Wednesday volunteers. Exact details of this event will be announced after the Fundraisers Project Team works them out.

April 9th, 1:00 - Kites in the Park Good Attendance Trip

On Saturday April 9th K4C will take the children with good attendance in Jan/Feb/Mar to the Chickamauga Battlefield park to picnic and fly kites.

Mid-April (TBA) - Community Yardsale Fundraiser

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Kids 4 Christ Bible Classes: Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 to 5:00

*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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