



stepping stones

living hope children's ministry

Summer 2009

For all Children's Ministry info, go to www.livinghopewired.com/children

A Word from Cindy...

At the end of April, I went to The Children Desiring God conference in Minneapolis. It was an incredibly powerful conference focused on The Centrality of God in our lives. One of the main speakers was Paul Tripp and I wanted to share some of his thoughts in hopes that they will encourage you.

Tripp spoke on **His Story or My Story – Who Reigns Supreme in your Heart?** His parallel question was, “Who but a God that is gloriously sovereign and full of grace can transform lives?”. Already I hope you are intrigued.

I know that in each of our lives there are situations or circumstances that we simply cannot make sense of – pain, loss, uncertainty, inequity, etc. And I would also wager that while in the midst of these situations we have asked, “Why me?” and we have come to the sobering conclusion that our lives have not worked according to our plans. It was from this foundational statement that Tripp moved into I Peter 1:3-9 and we looked at

The past – we are forgiven in Christ

The future – we will spend eternity with Christ

The here and now – we get confused in the here and now because in the now are our story wars (remember the title of his talk).

Here are a few of his quotes:

“The Bible is one grand story that unpacks the story of every person; each individual story is imbedded within the larger story of redemption so that each day we must live with a God story mentality.”

“God is not writing the story I want written – that pen will never be mine – because the story I would write would be my downfall. Instead, God will take us where we haven't intended to go in order to produce in us what

we could not produce in ourselves.”

“Righteousness comes at the end of self.”

“God will willingly compromise my temporary comfort to create holiness. This is called uncomfortable grace resulting in refinement.”

Be encouraged as you rest in the mighty hand of our sovereign God. Be strengthened by our hope in Christ alone – that hope that anchors our soul. Be courageous in remembering that this is not our home; that we have a home in glory. Be empowered as you meditate on God's Word and are reminded over and over again of His faithfulness. Be humbled as you pray remembering that He knows your voice; He hears your cries; His Spirit intervenes; His Son intercedes.

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.” Romans 11:36

How Things Work

Do you need me? Yes, we do!

Here are two ways you can help!

• **SUMMER SUB!**

Parents—WE NEED YOU!!! Every summer, lots of volunteers take time off from serving. Just like you they may go on a family vacation or simply need a short break before things pick back up in August. This is where you can help. By signing up to serve one or a few Sundays during the summer, you can help us cover our preschool areas sufficiently every Sunday. Serving as a Summer Sub also gives you the opportunity to say “Thank You” to the volunteers that so lovingly care for and teach your children on a weekly basis.

You can sign up in the preschool wing—signs are posted—or you can call our office TODAY!

• **FALL VOLUNTEER!**

Also, please begin praying now about serving in Children's Ministry this next school year. We will have several vacant spots to fill in order to kickoff our fall year successfully in August.

AREAS TO CONSIDER:

Hope Babies	Hope Too	Hope Kids (3/4's)
Plan B Sub	K-5th grade	Sunday Evening

Note: The Book/Media Suggestion section will return in the August newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Camp Centri-kid—July 13th-17th

Campers will leave Monday morning and return Friday afternoon. Please join us in praying for these kids and chaperones as they experience a wonderful week of Christ-centered camp at Georgetown College.

Prayer Walk Local Schools — Saturday, August 1st

Save this date and watch for more details in late July.

Moving On Up Day—Incoming K's Sunday Morning, August 9th

Moving On Up Day is a pretty big deal. This is the day when our incoming kindergarten students make the transition from the preschool area to the elementary area. Lots of changes take place during this transition time—for children and their parents—and we want to offer our support. We will host an Open House for kindergarten students & their parents during the first 15 minutes of the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday School hours. Parents can come and see the classrooms, meet the shepherds and ask any questions they might have about how things work “upstairs”. Light refreshments will be served.

Promotion Sunday—Birth-5th grades Sunday Morning, August 9th

On Sunday August 9th, Sunday School children will promote into their age-appropriate classrooms. Preschoolers will be assigned to classes based on age as of 10/01/2009. Class assignments letters will be mailed home in late July. Elementary children will simply promote into their current graded class. Letters will NOT be mailed for K-5th graders.