

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
OF THE MANDARIN CHURCH OF CHRIST



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



Family Picnic, September 26



Youth Night
October 18



Trunk N' Treat
October 31



Baking Day
November 7

Choir at Taylor Care
November 15



Christmas Program
December 13



Christmas Party
December 16



The **family** was always intended to provide for the godly training of children. Parents are to be their children's first and most important teachers. Scripture makes this very clear. "Regardless of what's happening in the Sunday school youth groups, pulpit and Bible studies of your church, the responsibility for ministry to our kids has never been removed from the parents" (Ham and Beemer. *Already Gone*).

*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;
tie them as symbols on your hands
and bind them on your foreheads.*

*Teach them to your children,
talking about them when you sit at home
and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down and when you get up.
Write them on the doorposts of your houses
and your gates...*

Deuteronomy 11:18-20

"Real" Parenting

According to the research of Ken Ham and Britt Beemer in *Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it* one of the main reasons adolescents begin to retreat from their faith is hypocrisy. Our kids need adults who are real: who say what they mean, mean what they say and live it with a consistent and wholehearted devotion.

Parent "Reality" Checkup:

- Do your children see you pray regularly?
- Do your children see you engaged in regular Bible study?
- Do your children overhear godly conversation (i.e. devoid of gossip or mean spirited judgments)?
- Are disagreements in your home handled in a godly manner?
- Do you regularly check your children's homework planner?
- Do you also review the Bible study sheets sent home from Sunday school?
- What are you more likely to "let go", a team practice or special lesson or Sunday school?

If we *really* believe we serve the Lord God of the universe it should be reflected in the answers above.

More than video games and I-pods and the coolest cell phones--those things we work so hard to give them--our kids want a faith that's genuine. That desire is expressed here by 20 year old Lisa Baker, one of the legions of young people who have left their church. "All I want is reality. Show me God. Tell me what He is really like. Help me to understand why life is the way it is and how I can experience it more fully and with greater joy. I don't want empty promises. I want the real thing. And I'll go wherever I find that truth system" (George Barna. *The Invisible Generation*)

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY wants to help our families in their God given responsibility of educating "our" children. To that end the **education office** has been organized to provide you with resources for home worship and to work on the **Treasure Seekers** badges. Come in, sit down and examine the possibilities (*but please sign out what you borrow and remember to return it when finished*). We also suggest purchasing *The Power of a Praying Parent* by Stormie Omartian along with a parent's prayer journal. Do you want to participate in workshops or Bible studies on godly parenting? What sort of family activities would you like to join in? There is a suggestion box on the desk.

