

# Children's Missions Celebration Sunday

November 6, 2011

## Getting the Want-To

**Scripture Focus:** "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).



**Overview:** Children's Missions Celebration Sunday is an opportunity to recognize the value of children being involved in learning about missions and practical application of that knowledge. Churches benefit from having missions education, and this is a time to show the church body some of those benefits.

The children will learn through the mission and service projects and the missionary story that when God asks us to do something for Him, He will give us the "want-to" we need to accomplish it. He gives it to us as we grow closer to Him through obedience and learning all about Him by looking to Jesus who is the full embodiment of God Himself.

Children's Missions Celebration Sunday is comprised of three components. We suggest you do them in the following order:

- The evangelistic mission project
- The missionary story/object lesson
- The service project

The following paragraphs give a brief overview of each component. Detailed instructions are on the attached pages.

## Evangelistic Mission Project

### Treat Trek

We suggest that this evangelistic mission project be done before November 6, which is the suggested date for Children's Missions Celebration Sunday. You might want to include it as part of your church's Fall Festival type activities. Read the project outline to help you decide and discuss with church staff and other children's leaders when planning.

This project reverses traditional Trick-or-Treat activities. Instead of going door-to-door to *receive* treats, the children will go door-to-door to *give* treats. They will give bags containing candy, Scripture passages or tracts, and church information to the people who answer the doors. You can do this in safe neighborhoods, apartment complexes, malls, businesses, or at Trunk-or-Treat events.

To involve the church body, invite them to bring treats and/or "sponsor" a treat bag by providing funds for the purchase of items to fill the bags.

The children will learn from doing this project that one of the things God wants us to do for Him is to tell people about Him. They will also learn that there are many ways to do this and that the more they do it, the less scary it will be. God will give them the "want-to" as they follow Him in obedience.

## **Missionary Story/Object Lesson**

### **Getting the Want-To**

Our missionary story features an International Mission Board missionary who serves in Southeast Asia. To keep his identity safe, we call him Edward Janklow\*.

Edward was a Royal Ambassador (RA) when he was a boy. He accepted Christ when he was eight years old. While at RA camp, he felt that God wanted him to preach. He was very upset about this because he didn't want to preach. His mother wisely told him that if God wanted him to preach, He would give him the "want-to."

He now eagerly serves God, telling everyone all about Jesus. He uses comic books to engage the people where he lives and to tell them about Jesus. God was faithful and gave him the "want-to."

You will be using a comic book (graphic novel) as a visual aid for this object lesson. Christian comics can be purchased from [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com). Search "comic books."

*\*Name has been changed.*

## **Service Project**

### **Lunch and a Smile**

The purpose of this project is to let the children experience serving people as a means of participating in hands-on missions. Practice makes perfect. Soon serving will come naturally.

Top off Children's Missions Celebration Sunday by serving a simple luncheon to church members after your church service. Menu items should be those that children can safely dish up and serve. Set up display(s) showing how your church participates in ongoing missions education through programs such as Royal Ambassadors (RAs) or Girls in Action (GA).

Consider asking for donations for the meal and giving the money to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® or other missions cause.

If this particular project is not practical for you, think of other ways your children can serve on this day. Perhaps they could take up the church offering or hand out bulletins.

*If you have questions about these activities or other missions education resources, send an e-mail message to [missionsedu@namb.net](mailto:missionsedu@namb.net) or call 1 800 634-2462.*



# Evangelistic Mission Project: Treat Trek

**Purpose:** The children will learn from doing this project that one of the things God wants us to do for Him is to tell people about Him. They will also learn that there are many ways to do this and that the more they do it, the less scary it will be. God will give them the “want-to” as they follow Him in obedience.

The ultimate goal is for the children to be naturally on mission at all times. They can learn by being involved in hands-on missions. They learn that God will give them the “want-to.”

**Overview:** This project reverses traditional Trick-or-Treat activities. Instead of going door-to-door to *receive* treats, the children will go on a “treat trek”—going door-to-door to *give* treats. They will give bags containing candy, Scripture passages or tracts, and church information to the people who answer the doors. You can do this in safe neighborhoods, apartment complexes, malls, businesses, or Trunk-or-Treat events.

If canvassing a neighborhood, consider taking the children around hayride style.

When finished, return to the church for treats and a debriefing.

*\*Note: This project should happen sometime before Children’s Missions Celebration Sunday so the children can present a report of the event to the church.*

## **Prepare:**

1. Choose a venue.
2. Choose a date.
3. Prayerwalk the venue.
4. Recruit plenty of adult helpers. Adults should be prepared to share the gospel and hopefully lead someone to Christ.
5. Have permission slips for the children signed by parents or guardians.

6. Decide how many treat bags to assemble and what will be in them.
7. Gather those things. We suggest candy, a church bulletin, information about your church, and gospel tracts. Tracts can be ordered from the North American Mission Board at [namb.net/witnessing-booklets](http://namb.net/witnessing-booklets).
8. Prepare treats for the group to have upon their return to the church.

## **Go:**

1. Gather the parents and children to pray for the recipients of the treat bags.
2. If your group is large, divide according to the number of children and adults.
3. Let the groups disperse.
4. As doors open, have the children say, “We’re on a treat trek to share something good!”
5. One child only should give the treat bag. (Unless more are requested.)
6. Allow each child an opportunity to experience being the giver.

**Finish:** Return to the church and assemble for treats and a debriefing. Ask those who are willing to share their feelings about the experience. Were they nervous or scared? Did a specific person want to hear more about Jesus? Would they be willing to do another project like this one? Would they be less scared the next time?

Recruit several children and adults to share during the church service on Children’s Missions Celebration Sunday what they did and what the results were.

Recruit a leader to share about the value of missions education in your church and how it prepares children to be on mission no matter what their age.



# Missionary Story: Getting the Want-To

**Focus:** Sometimes God calls us to do things we don't want to do or don't know how to do, and that might scare us.

**Purpose:** We can trust God to prepare us and give us the "want-to" to accomplish the special job He has for each of us.

**Object:** Comic book (Christian comic books can be purchased at [christianbooks.com](http://christianbooks.com). Search for "comic books.")

**Scripture:** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

**Lesson:** Call the children to the front of the church and seat them. Ask them if there is one thing they might not want to do, even if God told them He wanted them to do it.

Allow a few children to respond. Tell them that you are going to tell them about a missionary who felt the same way. His name is Edward Janklow\*. He and his family serve in Southeast Asia.

Hold up the comic book and ask the kids what it is. Ask them if they think it can be used to tell people about Jesus. Tell them that many people in Southeast Asia love to read comic books. It is easy to use comic books about Jesus and the Bible to help them understand that Jesus is God's Son. They read the stories and see that God loves them very much and wants a relationship with them. Edward loves to tell as many people as he can about Jesus.

But he didn't always feel this way. Listen to this story.

Edward was a Royal Ambassador (RA) when he was a boy. He enjoyed learning about Jesus and missionaries. When he was eight years old, his mom told him how to become a Christian. He prayed to receive Christ as the Lord of His life.

*Quiz the children to make sure they understand that means letting Jesus be in charge of their lives. After he said, "Amen," he knew his life was changed.*

Not long after that, he went to RA camp. While he was there, he felt God calling him to do something for Him. One night his mom found him in his room crying. She asked him what was wrong. Edward told her through his tears that God wanted him to preach, but he didn't want to.

Edward's mom was a very smart lady, though. She hugged him and told him that if God wanted him to preach, He would give him the "want-to."

So Edward continued to learn all he could about God and to live his life according to God's rules. Now the thing he most wants to do is tell people who don't know Jesus all about Him. God gave him the "want-to" and a special way to do it.

Tell the children, "He will do that for you, too. Always remember the words of Jeremiah 29:11. God has a wonderful and special plan for each of you."

Close in prayer for Edward and his family. Pray for their safety as they serve in a part of the world that is sometimes dangerous.

Pray also for the children to live their lives confidently according to God's rules. Pray that He will give them the "want-to" they need to serve Him according to the special plan He has for them.

*\*Name has been changed.*



# Service Project: Lunch and a Smile

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to let the children experience serving people as a means of participating in hands-on missions. Practice makes perfect. Soon serving will come naturally.

**Overview:** Top off Children's Missions Celebration Sunday by serving a simple luncheon to church members after your church service. Menu items should be those that children can safely dish up and serve.

Set up display(s) that show how your church participates in ongoing missions education through programs such as Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in action (GA).

Consider asking for donations for the meal and giving the money to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® or another missions cause.

If this particular project is not practical for you, think of other ways your children can serve on this day. Perhaps they could take up the church offering or hand out bulletins.

## Prepare:

1. Plan a menu of simple foods that are safe for children to serve such as sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza slices, etc. Soups or chili could be included providing older children serve them up. The idea is to avoid spills and burns.
2. Calculate how much food you need according to the size of your congregation. Don't forget drinks, dessert, and paper products.

3. Enlist adults to provide and prepare the food.
4. Set everything up prior to the church service.

## Serve:

1. Assign each child a job according to his or her age and capability. Some could plate food while others serve drinks. Others could collect any donated money, should you choose to collect any.
2. Announce in church what you are doing and invite the congregation to the meal.
3. Make sure the children know they are to behave in a kind, courteous, and Christ-like manner to their guests and fellow servers.
4. Assign cleanup jobs to the children. Make sure they do a good job.

**Finish:** Thank the children for a job well done. Ask them if they are tired. Affirm that serving God can sometimes be hard and tiring work. Let them know that their hard work was pleasing to God and very much appreciated by those they served.

Ask them if they think serving others might be another thing that becomes easier to do the more they do it. Tell them to look for ways they can serve even their family members every day. Soon serving others will be something they naturally do. God will give them the "want-to."