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THE KIDOLOGY REPORT

To Equip and Encourage Those in Children's Ministry

Issue 1 - September 2014

From Karl Bastian

STARTING OVER

For Leaders

SAY "NO" TO STRESS

For Volunteers

CONNECTING WITH KIDS

For Everyone

**THE KIDOLOGY ONE
PAGER**

STARTING OVER!



"Never underestimate the impact you are having on the children you minister to. The 'splashes' you make today will ripple through eternity."

- Karl Bastian

A Fresh Start

One of the best arguments against evolution is that things don't improve over time, they deteriorate. My office and organization is a regular reminder of this frustrating reality. When it's time to start a new year, sometimes it is helpful to begin again with a completely new "creation" day!

Finding order in the midst of chaos can be challenging. So what do I do? I clear my desk, empty my drawers, even my entire office if necessary, and then put back what I need. Left over will be many things that I would have never purged, but now I see they need to go!

The same is true electronically. There

are times when you simply need to empty the inbox by putting every into an Archive folder. You can work through it a little each day, but if something in there is truly important, don't worry - they will e-mail you again. You can do the same with all your countless files. Stick EVERYTHING into an Archive Folder or even an external hard drive, and start fresh. You can also pull things from that archive when you realize you need it, but most of the clutter will be instantly gone.

Choose the Best

Next, it's time to re-organize the ministry. Rewrite your own job description and determine what matters most. Determine what you

have to do and ought to do, and eliminate the rest. Remember Jesus' promise: My Burden is Light. Make a poster of that if you need to. Often, when we are doing too much, we are doing things no one is asking us to do, including God!

Focus on People

Never forget ministry is people, not programs. Set some goals for ways you will touch people's lives. Visits, notes, calls, or simply encouraging e-mails will be remembered longer and be more impactful than the biggest church event. Jesus offered no programs, only time spent with those He was investing in. Take note!

Online: [A Fresh Look at your Ministry](#)

Give It Back to God

"THE MOMENT WE GET STRESSED ABOUT THE MINISTRY IS THE MOMENT WE HAVE TAKEN IT AWAY FROM GOD." - KARL



When you read the words, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light," do you think, "Well, Jesus couldn't have been talking about kids ministry!?"

This may sound harsh, but you've got to hear it, and I say it to myself as much as I say it to you: IT'S NOT YOUR MINISTRY, IT IS GOD'S, AND HE IS QUITE CAPABLE OF RUNNING IT WITHOUT YOU.

Listen to me... verily, verily, I say unto you: When you stress over your ministry you have taken the ministry away from God and have made it your responsibility to solve its problems.

So when a problem, like volunteer openings, remains unsolved you may feel as if you have failed -- or worse, that God has failed you. We need to be reminded that the ministry belongs to God. How you act on and implement this fact can have a profound impact on your ministry!

Hear this please - you are merely the steward of God's ministry. The day you begin to feel under-appreciated, taken for granted, frustrated, or like a failure is the day you cease to allow God to run His children's ministry. If you take the ministry from God, you become a hindrance to what he wants to accomplish.

We often turn ourselves into the "protector" (or even "savior") of programs. If God wants a program to launch or continue, He will provide the leadership and workers. If He doesn't provide, it may be his way of suggesting something to you. The Bible doesn't lay out programs we must have. It just calls us to make disciples and reach the lost. Programs are fine, as long as they are means to an end, never the end in and of themselves.

Where God leads, He provides.

So how can you lead as a steward and not stress over the details? Prayerfully give the ministry back to God and watch what He will do. Keep in mind, God is more interested in growing YOU than your ministry.

Online: [Give It Back to God](#)

CONNECTING WITH KIDS



No child has ever thanked me for that great Vacation Bible School we did three years ago or for the awesome Water War event. Instead, children remember our trips out to eat, the

Be in touch with families so you know when kids are going through tough times. These are the best times to be there for them.

sporting events I showed up at, the birthday parties I attended, or the miniature golf outings we had.

It's the little things that matter to kids.

If we're really going to make a lasting impact on children, we need to do more than just teach them or program for them.

What does it mean to connect with kids? What does that connection look like? What must you do to become a genuine kid connector? Follow these

four steps and you'll be on your way!

1. Develop a Child's Perspective

You must carry with you an invisible pair of "kid glasses" that you can put

on at any time to help you see the world as kids see it.

2. Find Things in Common

If having things in common is how and why you connect with adults, why wouldn't the same be true for connecting with children? Find ways to get on their level by being part of their world.

3. Engage Kids in Their World

Listen to what children talk about. To enter into the conversation and

connect, you need a key - something that proves you belong there.

4. Touch Kids' Lives Outside of Class

Children live in a world where there's always an adult in front guiding their activities. To make real connections with kids, you must impact them outside of church or the classroom.

Be creative! Find out what you can do to surprise and delight your kids with the ways you reach out to them. You'll make connections that'll make your teaching take on new relevance and effectiveness. You'll not only be their teacher, you'll also be their friend.

The Apostle Paul said he became all things to all men so that they might be reached. (I Corinthians 9:21-22)

We can do the same to reach children!

Read full article online:

[Connecting with Kids](#)

- THE KIDOLOGY ONE PAGER -

Facts, Quotes, New Resources, Quick Tips and Ideas, and maybe a laugh!

Think About It...

"There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all." (Peter Drucker)

Etch-A-Sketch Tech Support

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has a distorted display. What should I do?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has these funny little lines all over the screen.

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?

A: Pick it up and shake it. Set it down.

Q: How do I delete a document from my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I keep from losing my Etch-A-Sketch document?

A: Stop shaking it.

More Kids in Single Parent Homes

Single Parent Households are a growing share of all American families. Back in 1960, 92% of all households had two married parents raising children while in 2011 the number was 67%. 40% of all children are born to single moms. That is up

from 1.9 million in 1960 to 8.6 million by 2011. The number of single dads has also grown exponentially. In 1960, there were 300,000 households headed by single dads. By 2011, that had escalated to more than 2.6 million. (Engage Moms 7/24/13)

Let the Children Come!

"Suffer (Let) the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not."

(Matt. 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, and Luke 18:15-17)

These neophyte disciples were not really what we might call "child sensitive" men. This command of Jesus was offered to these task-oriented men who needed this instruction.

If Jesus welcomed children to be in His presence then, how much more would Jesus implore us to bring the children into His presence now? The risen, living Savior still welcomes the little ones to come to Him.

We adults have the power to encourage or to discourage children from being in the presence of Jesus, even today. Let us welcome little children to come into the presence of Jesus! Why not bring them? Jesus still says, "Come here kids, I want to see you!"

- Coach Barney Kinard
Kidology.org/coaching

Your Kid's Life

A typical child in the U.S. spends 2 hours a week in church, 35 in school, 56 sleeping, and 75 at sports, dance, piano, homework, family meals, family devotions, etc.

(Facts & Trends Summer 2013)

First-Time Visitors!

2% of people at church are visitors. The U.S. Congregational Life Survey found 67% of first-time visitors came from another church but 13-15% had never regularly attended anywhere before. (Insights Into Religion 10/3/13)

Kid's Worship

Kidology has released a brand new collection of over 20 of the best kidmin worship songs. Get info at Kidology.org/glow

Did You Know?

Kidology.org has been in existence Equipping and Encouraging children's ministry leaders longer than eBay, PayPal, YouTube and even Google have been around.

Come discover Kidology.org



*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Psalm 19:1



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