

# Children's Sermons

**Season of Prayer 2008  
For State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering  
For State Missions, Missions Education, and Empowering Kingdom Growth  
September 14-21, 2008**

## *infusion*

**"Everything I do, I do to get the Good News to men. I want to have a part in this work." I Corinthians 9:23  
(New Life Version)**

**Sue Harmon, Associate Director, Childhood Ministry Group, South Carolina Baptist Convention, Writer**

**Sunday, September 14, 2008**

**Items Needed:** Bible, 2008 State Missions Offering envelope for each child, a numbered jersey to represent a "team" (could be any sport).

**Procedures:**

- Greet the children as they arrive for the children's sermon. Have them sit so they are facing you.
- Hold up the jersey and ask, "Who might wear this kind of shirt?" Children may give various answers such as football player, soccer player, and so on. Affirm them and point out that someone who plays on a team would wear this.

Say: "When you're on a team, there are things you do to be a good team member and to do your best. You go to practice, you wear the right gear or uniform, and you listen to the coach. Sometimes the coach might tell you to eat certain kinds of foods and get enough sleep so that you can play your best for the team. You might do exercises at home on days you don't have practice. There are lots of different things you do, and they all help you to be a good team member."

- Open the Bible to I Corinthians 9:23 and say: "The apostle Paul did a lot of different things to lead and help his team in their work. Paul's team was not a soccer team or a cheerleading team. He was on a missionary team. His team started churches and told people the Good News that Jesus is the Savior. Paul wrote, "Everything I do, I do to get the Good News to men. I want to have a part in this work."

Say: "Paul's missionary team had people who helped by praying for them and by sending money so they could do their work. We can do just like those people did, by praying for missionaries and giving money to help them." Show the offering envelope and explain, "The special offering our church is collecting, the Janie Chapman Offering, is for missions work all over South Carolina. When we pray and give, we have a part in missions work, so that more people will know Christ. Let's pray right now."

- Pray, asking God to help our state missionaries in their work and to use the offering we give so people will hear the Good News of Jesus.
- Give each child a 2008 State Missions Offering envelope as they leave.

## Sunday, September 21, 2008

**Items Needed:** Bible, several items to represent the fair (such as a picture of a roller coaster or ferris wheel, candied apple, bag of cotton candy, stuffed animal or other game prizes, ride tickets, etc.)

### Procedures:

- Greet the children as they arrive for the children's sermon. Have them sit so they are facing you.
- Talk briefly about how fun it is to go to the fair, showing the items you collected. Then ask, "Have you ever thought about the people who work at the fair? Visiting the fair is a fun and exciting time for us, but for the people who work there, it's a hard life. They have to travel with the fair from town to town. They set up the rides and games, run them, and then take them down and move again. They live in small trailers and don't make much money. Many of them are addicted to drugs or alcohol, and have little hope of having a better life."

Say, "Here in South Carolina there is a missionary who is leading the churches in his area to help the fair workers when they come to town. Missionary Jim Evatt and lots of volunteers from churches try to meet the needs of the fair workers, showing God's love to them and telling them the Good News about Jesus. Here are some of the things they do:

- Serve lunches to the fair workers during the days they are setting up the rides.
  - Give them health kits and blankets.
  - Provide a music show that includes sharing the Gospel.
  - Spend time with workers who need someone to listen and love them.
  - Provide clothing and shoes. Once on a cold day, a barefoot fair worker with blisters on her feet came for help. While she was talking with the missionary about her problems, other helpers got some shoes for her. They also gave her a Bible."
- Open the Bible to I Corinthians 9:23 and say, "Remember this verse from last week? *'Everything I do, I do to get the Good News to men. I want to have a part in this work.'* When we give to the Janie Chapman offering, we have a part in missions work in South Carolina, including the fair ministry with missionary Jim Evatt. We also can pray for our missionaries. Let's bow and pray."
  - Lead in prayer for the fair ministry to meet the needs of the workers and lead them to know Christ. Pray also for the children to have a part in missions work as they pray, give, learn and grow.

(For additional information, please refer to the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions *Leaders Guide*.)