

Children's Message  
10.12.08

Guess what? I have big news for you! The Children's Education Board has a gift for you today. We have all been pretty excited about- getting it ready for you, making it perfect.

Here it is! I know- you love it. It fits you perfectly, the color is just right, you'll use it everyday, you've never had anything like it, and you'll treasure it forever, won't you?

What's wrong? Don't you know what it is? They're your own offering envelopes. Here's how they work- there's 52 of them, one for each week of the year, and during the week you put the money you would like to give back to God in there. On Sundays, you bring your envelope back and put it in the offering basket in the Sunday school classrooms. Simple.

But do you know *why* we do that? Give money back to God? Well, that's pretty simple too. God gives us so many wonderful things, everyday, and by giving money back, we thank God for those wonderful things. There's even a spot on your envelope to write about the blessings God has brought into your life that week. God knows that it takes money to make all of the things happen here on Earth and God knows that the church makes really good decisions on what to do with that money.

Did you know that 100% (that means ALL) of the money that you bring into Sunday School goes directly to our Sunday School mission projects? Every cent, every week. And we are starting a new mission project today. One of our church members, Kathy Yeakley is heading to a small village, named, Marasa in Kenya, Africa. She is going there as a nurse missionary- bringing medical care to this little village. The only time that these people see a doctor is when this group of medical personnel come in 3 times a year. The money that we are collecting in our new envelopes is going to pay for the education of one student in that village for one year. Mrs. Yeakley is even going to bring back a picture of the child that we will be helping!

Good nutrition is a big problem for the people of Marasa, and the water they have to drink isn't always good, so in addition we are collecting chewable vitamins to help them grow strong and choosing chewables, so they don't have to drink the water to swallow them.

So, after Sunday School, come up to fellowship hall to my table and I will give you your box of envelopes for this year (we even have boxes for your little brothers and sisters, so bring them to the table, too.) Once you have them, you will have 52 chances to write down the blessings God has brought into your life and 52 times to help out other people who need our help, just like Jesus told us to.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?