

Monday, March 22, 2010

An "Excellent Way" (Part 2): The Big & the Small of It

*...What shall we say the kingdom of God is like...? It is like a mustard seed, which is the **smallest** seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the **largest** of all garden plants, with such **big** branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.*

Mark 4:30-32

CPH is having a contest this year to win a free VBS for 150 children. Trinity's entry is printed below, in answer to: "Submit a story about how God has worked during VBS through His word to impact your church's community."

"At the start of a new decade, the theme for VBS 2010, "Planet Zoom - Where **Little is Big**," has me thinking back on the big and little things that have happened at Trinity's VBS over the past decade. In just the last 10 years of using CPH's annual VBS kits, we've had plenty of big things happen: Over 1200 kids have come through the door to hear the Good News; and we've raised over \$10,000 for VBS mission projects. That's definitely big, and there are many big stories that go with those numbers.

But, one of the littlest things stands out to me as the most important. At one of the daily openings of "Friendship Trek," a child in the 2nd/3rd grade class had just finished watching the teens present the morning skit. She leaned over to her teacher and asked the question that melts the heart of every harried VBS worker: "Who is this Jesus everyone keeps talking about?" That's THE question we all wait for and pray about. It's a little thing -- but it's the biggest of all. The teacher went on to share her faith with the child and planted a little mustard seed in her heart, ripe for the Holy Spirit to nourish and grow into a big faith. We'll probably never learn the end of the story, but God knows, and He's already providing dedicated volunteers to run VBS 2010 and wait for that little/BIG question."

In this year focusing on loving service, we should all remember that little can be very big. A small act of showing Christ's love as we walk along the "most excellent way" can turn into something big, if even for just a single person. Do we sometimes feel small to the task before us? Yes, but look back at what the Lord has done in VBS during the last decade, and that is just one of the many ministries we do at Trinity. Little is big. Whether it's filling a bag with small grains of rice for Feed My Starving Children or planting mustard seeds of faith in the smallest ones of Ithaca, God's unbounded love through Christ is in control of the end result. Will it be big? Will it be small? Will one "small" become one "big"? Let us all continue to "walk in love" and see what God has planned.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to walk in love and see what big and little things You have planned. In Your Name I pray, Amen.

--Lisa Thompson