

Saturday, February 20, 2010

The Main Thing

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

God gave that Son on Christmas. We celebrate with the children's pageant. I love the Christmas pageant --the costumes, Christine's pic
the props, the scenes, researching what things were like then. Although I never saw myself as an organizer, a director, when Pastor asked me, I said yes with fear and trembling. My loving service would be to direct the pageant. As I got the script and read the theme for the program this year, I started getting ideas. I would do a lot of things. I found a recipe for ornaments that were made from bread and glue. "Perfect," I thought. Jesus is the bread of life and the glue that holds us together. I would make each child a manger as a remembrance to hang on the tree each year. I made one and brought it to a meeting, quite proud of what I had done.

During the discussion, Pastor helped me realize that it wouldn't mean anything unless the children did it themselves. It took a while and some prayer-filled nights until God showed me that it wasn't my Christmas program. The goal was not for me to make it a good program. I was serving by helping others to serve. I took the time to go to Sunday school and the after-school program and work with them to make their own ornament and one for someone else. They saw the bread and glue mixed together. We talked about who Jesus was, and how and why He came. The goal was for the children to learn of the great miracle that was Jesus' birth. It was for them to tell the story of the humble beginning in a feeding trough. They learned about life in Jesus' time. They shared that story.

When the practice started to get unruly, I asked them, "Why are we were doing this?" Their reply was, "For Jesus," and their attitude changed.

As for me, I truly loved the whole process. It didn't matter if there were missed cues, or wiggly children. The main thing was the practice and preparation. I enjoyed my time with the children and the others who worked so hard to make it a good program. I could not have done it without any of them.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to know when loving service is action or encouragement. In Your Name, Amen.

--Karen Grover