

Emra Expression



Easter Out Reach

I love the weeks before Easter. We help churches in the inner city area of Dallas reach out to the unchurched children of their neighborhoods with an event using Easter Bags. The goal is to reach children and families for Jesus.

We do a time of training to give churches concrete tools for evangelism. These include; games, stories and activities that introduce children to Jesus and give them an opportunity to accept Him into their heart.

Then after the training we all work together to fill a lunch size bag with candy, toys, snacks, crayons, and coloring pages that tell the story of Jesus death and resurrection. This is a fun and useful tool that gives the children something to take home and share with their family.

One of the things I love about this time of working together with different churches is that I got to hear their excitement about reaching families for Jesus.

One evangelism tool we taught was called the "flipper flapper". It is a square piece of paper that has doors that you open as you talk with children of any age. It is so cute. Every time you open a door it changes the picture that the children see; a black heart, a cross, the sun and green grass. It keeps the attention of the children as you share the gospel story.

Every one of the groups practiced holding the "flipper flapper" and telling the gospel story. It was easy and fun. They encouraged each other and became excited to have a new tool to use as they reach out to children.

John and I delight in helping others to reach out to un-churched children. It is what gets us up every day and is the so-called, "sweet spot" of our heart.

Thank you for helping us bring the good news of the gospel to children in the inner city of Dallas and beyond!

We pray that the Lord will bless you and keep you in His love and care.

In His Name,

Sheryl

for John and Sheryl Emra
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Answered Prayer

Praise God for the many Churches who used the Easter Bags to reach children for Christ in their neighborhoods

Prayer Requests

Continue to pray for the children who were given the choice to accept Jesus this past weekend.

We hope to hear from the Churches this month with stories about the children who are living a new life in Christ.

We are scheduled to leave Dallas April 25th for our six months of traveling through the northern states.

Pray for our safety as we travel.

Pray that the truck and 5th wheel will hold together and we will be accident free.

Pray for the people we will see and Churches where we will speak. That God will be glorified!

The Rest of the Story

This prayer request went out in e-mail format after our last Prayer Letter. We don't do this often but this is a special case where the futures lives of these children are involved. This is an update, but we thought it would be good to send out the basic information to everyone and include some updated information.

Emergency Prayer Request

Last month we heard from a long time friend and supporter who asked us to urgently pray for her daughter.

She has recently married a man with two children (8 & 10) who are mandated by the court to spend every weekend with their mother.

It has recently come to light that being with their mother is putting those children in danger. She is shipping them off to various neighbor's apartments so she can party, and when there is no where else to send the girls, she and her friends drink and smoke her "funny medicine" in the apartment with the kids there.

The newly married couple have been told that they could be held liable by allowing the girls to visit their mom since they would knowingly be putting them in harms way. The mom is threatening them with violating the parenting agreement if they don't allow the children to spend the weekends with her.

The daughter and son-in-law are going to court today to apply for an emergency ruling to change the parenting agreement and not allow the children to return to their mom's until their safety is assured.

Now for the update

In spite of going to court twice neither judge was willing to take any action to protect the children.

Children Services case workers were in shock that the judges would not act.

The mom and dad finally have met with a mediator and have a new parenting agreement that stipulates no smoking or drinking while the children are present. That is good, but the ex-husband and both children don't think she will abide by the agreement.

I have received permission to send this prayer request out to you but you will notice that I have not used any names or locations and you can be sure I have hidden the proper identities so this is totally anonymous.

Please pray

- Continue to pray that God would be glorified in the lives of the children.
- Continue to pray that this situation (as it unfolds) would bring the mother to a place where she would accept Jesus as her Savior.
- Pray that God would provide His wisdom to all people involved (parents, grandparents, in-laws, lawyers, counselors and judge).