

Hurricane Ida was devastating for many communities and churches in Southern Louisiana. In an effort to help the body of Christ in that area, the IMA has established a relief fund. We have already raised more than \$13,000 and distributed the funds through three churches that are ministering to their communities and working to rebuild in the face of continued outages and hardships too numerous to count. If you would like to contribute and bless these churches that are serving as the hands and feet of Jesus, you can do so by going to the Hurricane Ida Disaster Relief page on the IMA website (ima.info.org).

**(Article Continued from Pg. 1; "The Value of Kids' Ministry")**

**2. JESUS SAW FAITH OF CHILDREN.** "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 18:1-5).

I would encourage fellow ministers to teach kids the FULL GOSPEL. Children are like sponges. They can grasp Biblical doctrine and memorize Scripture easier than most adults. Take the time to teach kids one verse each week while they are in your ministry. We do them a disservice by watering down the gospel. We see Jesus share the innocence of a child to be able to understand the principles of the kingdom of God. One way to build faith in young people is through activating kids in ministry and training them to use their gifts. We have seen faith of kids shine recently as we take prayer requests and have students lay hands on one another.

**3. JESUS CALLS US TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN.** "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6 NIV).

Churches today often have some type of check-in system for kids ministries. We at Shell Lake have

grown from using a paper sign-in to using a church name tag check-in adding safety measures. This has brought stability and less chaos to ministries. We as leaders set the example by being doers of the Word; not hearers only (James 1:22). Therefore we should implore our ministry teams to abstain from giving into the flesh and yield to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9).

**4. JESUS VALUES THE LIFE OF CHILDREN.** "When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region" (Matthew 9:22–26 NIV). Children are precious in the eyes of the Lord. Taking time to pray with families, down to the youngest church attender, makes an eternal difference. We can see the heart of God the Father in the compassion Jesus had on healing people; even the children.

In conclusion, I will quote Roger Fields, who captures the heart of children's ministry: "My calling is to reach boys and girls for God. It is too serious to be taken lightly, too urgent to be postponed, too vital to be ignored, too relevant to be overlooked, too significant to be trivialized, too eternal to be fleeting and too passionate to be quenched... I am a minister. I minister to children. This is what I do."

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# PROCLAIM

OCTOBER 2021

## The Value of Kids' Ministry

By Children's Pastor Katie Schrankel



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Most of our IMA family has known me since childhood or perhaps we have overlapped in ministry training at IBC. My name is Katie Schrankel. I grew up a PK, daughter of Rev. Timothy and Sandra Warner. I have always had a love for the house of God. I was taught the value of Christian education, Sunday School and the importance of training up children in the Word at a young age. My parents raised us to love serving at church. They taught us daily memory verses, had family devotions often, and modeled integrity both at home and church.

I am currently the Children's Pastor at Shell Lake Full Gospel Church. Children's Ministry is a crucial part of the integrity and life of the church. Together, with my husband and six beautiful children, we have committed our lives to the work of the Lord. Whether in business, church or home, we see the value in REDEEMING THE TIME (Eph. 5:16) and making each day count.

We have wonderful church leaders who are committed to obeying the Word of God. I am so thankful for our Lead Pastor Reg Myers and his wife Dawn who walk in faith and encourage us to stir up the gifts of God. Our church values families, youth and children's ministries.

In John 21, Jesus asks Simon Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replies. "Then feed my lambs," Jesus said.



Jesus then asked Peter the same question a second time; Jesus answered, "Then take care of my sheep." Jesus asked Peter a third time and Peter answered, "Lord you know everything about me, you know I love you." "Then feed my sheep."

There's an interesting study by the Barna Group that stated nearly half of Americans that are saved, accepted Christ as Savior before age thirteen. The words of our Savior to Peter clearly show the value of feeding His lambs. This refers to spiritually filling young people with God's Word.

The more we grow in our faith, the more we strive to be like Jesus. The book of Matthew lays out four examples of Jesus valuing His lambs. They are clearly displayed through the life of Christ and show His care for children.

**1. JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN** and we should too! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

There is value in including children in our church services and having a place for them. Whether it be engaging in worship together, praying with families, or having God-centered kids' classes. Welcoming children into the church gives them a sense of belonging. If we view our youth as Christ sees them, we will instill sound teaching of salvation. Bible-based activities, sermons and worship will strengthen children to relate to Christ. **(Article Continued on Pg. 4)**



# Lemons into Lemonade

By Associate Pastor Matt Chambers

We get take the sour and make it sweet! "Oh taste, and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). We are His ambassadors, so we need to engage with an attitude that looks for opportunities among the lemon orchard. It takes work, but with a little creativity, many of those days can become sweet opportunities for the Kingdom.

At Ray of Hope Church, while the world celebrates Halloween, we rename it "Hallelujah Night." The unsaved use it as an extra stop on the road to more goodies and fun for their little ones. The saved use it as an alternative to Trick-or-Treat. We set up games, such as mini golf, ring toss, and bowling. We even have an old-fashioned cake walk. Our goal is to create a fun-filled night for all children who attend. All of those who attend win prizes and candy, and we get to share the love of Christ with them. We turn lemons into lemonade!

This is just one example of the many ways we take advantage of the opportunities we are given. Others include Easter, Mother's Day, Graduation, Father's Day, and Christmas to name a few. Our goal is to help families create memories at our church. As they create

sweet memories, they are drawn to come back to create more. In turn, we get to share the love of Christ and walk alongside them as they grow in their relationship with Him.



This is also what we strive for in Groundlevel Youth Ministry. Our goal is to stir the youth to a greater life in Christ. Many students have a sour taste of life, family, and even the church. We attend school lunches each week during the school year, which allows us to connect with our students in their environment. In addition to school lunches, we are present at as many school events as possible. We are not able to talk about Jesus in some settings, but we get to show youth that we care about them by spending time with them. When they attend church, we share the love of God with them. We turn lemons into lemonade!

On Wednesday nights, we run vans throughout the town to pick up youth. When they arrive at church, we feed them and play games. We installed a "Newbie Reception" for newcomers, and it has been very fruitful. We ask the youth who bring a friend to escort them to the

reception prior to the first worship song. During this time, we welcome them with a coke, a snack, and a small gift. We also play a short, funny video of rules and let them know that they are important and we are glad they are at Groundlevel Youth. Following the service, all new students get a letter of greeting and a text or phone call. Our goal is that each new student who enters our doors feels welcome, loved, and included, so they will connect in worship, connect to the message, and connect to Christ. We turn lemons into lemonade!



At Ray of Hope Church, we want to take the sourness of bad days, bad experiences, and bad relationships and turn those into sweet opportunities of hope. The last part of Psalm 34:8 says, "Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." This encourages me every time I read it. We have the privilege of being involved in seeing people transformed from encountering the goodness of God to hiding their lives in Him. Let's make some lemonade!

# DNA of IMA

## Part 9: Youth Ministry

By Dr. Timothy L. Warner; IMA National Chairman



Over the past several articles, we have considered various aspects of IMA's DNA. We have consulted original and historical documents to ascertain DNA (carrier of genetic information) that make us the ministerium we are historically to the present.

Today we shall consider the special emphasis IMA has for youth (children through young adult) ministry. We shall quote from earlier articles, reports, practices and actual evidence of how IMA is touching lives of the younger church of today. This will also help us to provide ministerial leaders for tomorrow. We will look at supporting youth ministry, empowering youth ministers and welcoming younger potential leaders into our Association.

### Supporting Youth Ministries:

From the early days of our existence, IMA has manifested a heart for reaching coming generations. The term "Youth Arm of the IMA" is a term coined and sometimes recorded as "Youth Department" as seen in the December 1957 edition of our monthly newsletter. Here are a few excerpts about IMA youth:

- ☐ We are happy to introduce to you... news, activities, deeds and plans of [IMA] young people...
- ☐ Young people of Hope Tabernacle in Denver... are very talented in singing and playing musical instruments [in] regular church services... and visiting other churches and people who are sick and afflicted.
- ☐ Young people... in Dallas, Texas [visit] shut-ins and others... bringing words of inspiration, music, and song to patients... rendering service to God.



IMA continues to include outreach and encouragement to those who are called to youth ministry. Youth are in IMA's DNA and we have quite a number of great youth ministries in our churches and missions.

### Empowering Youth Ministers:

Time and experience clearly shows IMA reaching out to younger ministers. The "Exhorter's License" is provided for IMA credentialing and is a clear avenue to get younger, called-of-God ministers into the greater Body of IMA. Most Senior Pastors assist Youth Ministers by exposing them to other IMA ministers and gatherings.

National Conferences (have and) continue to grant opportunities for younger ministers to express their gifts. For many years IMA National Conferences had a "Youth Day" when younger ministers and youth from churches would serve, attend and minister to one another. It was not uncommon for young people to attend conventions nationwide. Talented young people are often featured as the "dew of God's youth" (Psalm 110) amongst our gatherings.

### Welcoming Younger Ministers:

IMA has open arms toward those called to youth ministry and younger ministers. National and District Board members keep a keen eye open to God's call upon young Timothy's among us.



Scripture says, Timothy (young minister) was faithful. He was "well reported of by the brethren" and had a good reputation amongst churches in his local area (Acts 16). Paul recognized Timothy's call and brought him with him to learn ministry, much like Elijah did Eli-sha.

IMA recognizes the Timothy principle. Ministry begins when younger, faithful men and women of God are reported as such to the network of relationships in IMA. This principle is practiced in local churches and IMA youth events. District and National Conferences welcome younger ministry as well.

We are proud of our younger ministers and upcoming youth pastors and leaders. More doors are opening to younger ministers who are "well reported of" to assist, associate and even be successors to retiring pastors and ministers. Those serving in the IMA include pastors, missionaries, youth pastors, school administrators, church executives, musicians and worship leaders, church planters and more. New doors are opening for young IMA ministers!

### Quotable Quotes

<p><b>"Paul told Timothy to commit those truths to faithful men in the same way that they were committed to him, that the truth might be preserved in the church, and holy men [may be] appointed successively to preach it."</b> ~ Adam Clarke</p>	<p><b>"Keep bringing your babies to church. They are not a distraction. A church without children is a church that will die out before long."</b> ~ Taken</p>	<p><b>Christ inculcated into young life, we are simply rearing pagans."</b> ~ Peter Marshall</p> <p><b>"Mentoring entails more than merely passing on knowledge about God. It involves showing people how to love and serve God."</b> ~ Prison Fellowship</p>
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