

Resource Centre

This is now open for borrowing. Our summer student, Dawn Masson spent 10 weeks computer cataloguing, processing, and doing the many other jobs required for the set up. There are many videos available for children. These include Prayer Bear, VeggieTales, some on Saints, several suitable for Christmas or Easter, the Billy Budd collection of claymation videos, a number of single videos on various subjects and the new BBC production of four of the C.S.Lewis Narnia series, beginning with 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.' Videos may be borrowed for three weeks, or longer by arrangement. Call 693-2295, fax 635-8927 or e-mail angbk@nbnet.nb.ca to speak to Gwen or Cathy about your needs, or to ask for a video to be sent or reserved. The Resource Centre will pay the cost of mailing to you, and you are asked to pay the return postage. If you are in Saint John drop in and see the collection. There is some great stuff! You can also go onto the Resource Centre computer to check out subjects that interest you. The catalogue is not yet available on-line but I hope that this may happen in the future. Please spread the word and tell other leaders of church groups that there are many videos available which would be useful for programmes. If you live near enough, please consider attending the **Resource Centre Opening and Blessing** by Bishop William Hockin at 4 p.m. on October 7. It will be a good opportunity to browse and have refreshments too!

A Magazine for Sunday School Teachers

In searching for materials for our new Resource Centre, I came across "Evangelizing Today's Child." It is published bi-monthly and may be ordered by writing to Evangelizing Today's Child, PO Box 165, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2G9, and enclosing \$ Can 45, or \$83 for 2 years. It is expensive because it is a U.S. publication, but might be worth ordering for a Sunday School. I liked what I saw in the sample copy I was sent for the Resource Centre. There are many reproducible pages including a page to be used to help children focus better on a service and a page of interesting and fun ideas for families to do together. There is a puppet or children's skit, a read-aloud story and a centre-fold of full colour posters which go along with a mission story. The July/August issue I received also had a reproducible Christmas programme - in plenty of time to plan ahead! The publisher is the Child Evangelism

Fellowship, which calls itself a Bible centered, worldwide organization of born-again believers. Even if you do not like the term "born-again" there is much here which would be of use to a Sunday School. If you can get to Anglican House, there is a copy there to view. There is also a copy of **Children's Ministry Magazine**, which I have mentioned before.

Sponge Activities

These are things for children to do during 'waiting' times, e.g. if they arrive earlier than others for Sunday School or if they have finished more quickly than others. Having an activity available for these moments can often prevent disruption.

- ◆ Tape a large sheet of paper on the wall (newsprint or a piece of mural paper will do). Across the top write each child's name. Print a "question of the week" on another paper and stick it beside the large sheet. Children may print or draw their answers underneath their name when they have time to spare. At the beginning of the next week's class go over any answers and read the new 'question of the week.' Sample questions: what is your favourite Bible story? What do you like most about Sunday school? Which season of the church year is your favourite?
- ◆ Provide construction paper and markers or pencil crayons along with a list of three or four members of the congregation who might enjoy receiving a card from a young person e.g. someone with a birthday, a shut-in, someone who is sick, someone with a new baby. Suggest that those with extra time might make one of these people a card. Make sure you deliver or mail them when they are done!
- ◆ For times when the whole class is waiting, be prepared to play a simple game. E.g. Children take turns to name a Bible character or a saint, in alphabetical order. If a name is especially difficult to come up with for a particular letter, you might allow something else that is mentioned in the Bible E.g. Adam, Barabbas, Cain, David, Esau, frankincense, Gideon etc.
- ◆ Go over a Bible verse you would like the children to memorize several times. Then say the first few words. Stop in mid phrase and point to a child to continue the verse. He or she stops after a word or two and points to another child. A child who cannot continue is out until you start a new verse.