

## **A Local Mission Project for Remembrance Day**

A good friend who teaches Sunday School has come up with this project for her older elementary children. She has spent time talking with the class about Remembrance Day, being very conscious that very few of today's children even have a grandparent who served in the forces, so that the meaning of this day is becoming more and more remote. She has been careful to talk about the freedoms we have today, especially the freedom to worship as we wish, which have been won by the sacrifices of the veterans. She has also invited a veteran to visit the class to talk about his experiences. On the Sunday before Remembrance Day, she has asked each class member to bring in a small quantity of fruit which will be used to make a fruit basket for local veterans.

## **An Advent Angels' Breakfast for Preschool/Kindergarten Children**

This age group rarely have more than group parts in Christmas productions, such as being a chorus of angels or lambs, for example, so it might be much appreciated if a special pre-Christmas event was held especially for them and their parents.

- ★ Start to plan now but hold your event early in December at around 8:30 in the morning. Most parents with young children have already been up for an hour or two by then!
- ★ You will need a team of helpers, such as cooks, craft assistants, greeter/hostesses, and 'angels' who may well be the men of the congregation, including the teenagers. These might wear simple costumes such as white surplices.
- ★ Make decorations ahead of time, and make sure you have enough bright Christmassy tablecloths and napkins to lend a festive air. You might consider adding small favours to each place setting. This might be a scroll made of coloured paper tied with Christmas ribbon containing the words for a short family prayer time to be used during the Advent season.
- ★ Ask the cooks to plan simple child-friendly food such as juice, milk, fresh fruits, rice-crispy squares, mini-muffins, and maybe quiche and/or bagels for the adults.
- ★ Have the crafts people plan what is to be made and assemble the necessary supplies. These should be kept simple, well within the abilities of this age group. E.g. a Christmas tree cut out for each child to be decorated with coloured sticky dots and

silver and gold stars. A simple manger made of crossed popsicle sticks stuck together and with the sides made of pre-cut construction paper, to be filled with straw and maybe a clothes pin 'baby' with a simple marker-drawn face. A paper chain with the same number of links as there are days until Christmas (at home children will remove one link each day until Christmas)

- ★ Send invitations to each church family with children in the agreed upon age group. Invite each child to bring a gift for the food bank and one adult with them, and to reserve ahead.

## **The Event**

- ◆ Children sign in and give their food gift to an 'angel' to put in a decorated box. They receive a Christmassy name tag.
- ◆ They go to the craft area and receive a bag to keep the day's treasures in. The craft helpers and parents help the children with several of the simple crafts, which are placed in the bag to take home.
- ◆ Breakfast time!
- ◆ When most children have finished eating, the lights are dimmed and the Christmas story read. The 'angel' chorus comes in and sings several well known carols. The 'angels' then greet each child individually and give them a small gift to hang on their Christmas tree at home.
- ◆ The children and parents gather in another area and are led in singing one or two carols themselves. They may watch a short Christmas video.
- ◆ After a short prayer, everyone leaves.

This and many other seasonal programs will be discussed at the workshop to be held in Saint John on November 2. Call Joanne Fitzpatrick at 657 7808 for details or to register, or see the Oct NB Anglican or Sept CE Newsletter.

## **Loaves and fishes relay to use up surplus energy.**

Have teams of seven (or arrange for one or two children to go twice) Give each team a bowl containing 2 fish shaped crackers and 5 small square ones, and a spoon. Each team also has a basket on the other side of the room. Each member of each team has to race across the room in turn, with one cracker on the spoon to put in the basket. Then they return the spoon to the next person.