

Remo C. Bertugli Essay

By: Kelcee Headlee – Miss Rain Day 2010

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Every summer, since I was in the sixth grade, I have volunteered my time to help our family's church with Vacation Bible School in the music department. When the doors open to the church, about ninety kids come marching in to jump into the activities. All eyes are watching the volunteers- role models for how the kids should behave this week and even for how they should act as they grow older. About half of the kids who come are from our church. The other half are their friends or kids who heard about the program from flyers. The event goes on for five nights, and each night the children learn a new song.

The music portion of the night is usually led by three or four people, half of whom are from the youth group. I'm usually in charge because my piano teacher, the previous minister of music at our church, taught me how to lead when I was in middle school. The first night, the music is upbeat and jazzy. As the week continues, the songs get slower, connect more to the lessons, and touch everyone's heart. By Friday, the last song is the kids' favorite. The motions are usually jumping on the last day, and the kids have a blast with it!

Night by night, the little ones listen to the lessons and skits, and walk out knowing more about the Bible and God's love. Some are astonished with what they have learned thinking, "That can't be real." But as volunteers, the staff helps prove to the kids that God's love is as great as it is told to be. I know from the previous years that little kids in pre-school have a lot of questions. They continue to ask about God and are eager to learn more. The older ones are harder to convince, so we create games especially for them to convey God's love. Some of them begin to believe after the first few nights of prayer, and others take more time to grasp the concept.

When it is Friday and closing night, we ask every single person if he or she has had fun. Without hesitation, both the volunteers and kids agree it was a blast! But most importantly, we

ask if anyone has something lying on their hearts. So many little hands are raised in the air, and one by one the children walk up to the stage to be prayed for by the volunteers. Whether they are praying for a loved one who is sick or to further accept the Lord into their hearts, they too, become followers of Christ.

Through Vacation Bible School, I am able to awaken a child in a whole new way. I help give children the chance to renew their spirit and get right with God. By opening a little one's eyes, there is a tremendous sense of joy and accomplishment, which Mr. Bertugli must have felt through his many projects throughout his life. As I witness kids connecting with the Lord, it strengthens my faith and sets the fire for Christ ablaze in my heart once again. The flame grows stronger year after year while teaching youngsters about a love so amazing, so true, that can only be provided by God. While teaching, I find a special joy and peace. Music provides a haven for me and offers the chance to impact the lives of kids time and time again.