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what you do  
matters

Thank you for helping  
kids love Jesus!

**Group**

**SAMPLE BOOKLET**

Excerpts from the 64-page gift book



# what you do matters

Thank you for helping kids love Jesus!

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## Credits

*Contributing Authors:* Shelly Atkins, Karl Bastian, Vicki Buchhold, Donald Hinchey, Dale Hudson, Amy Beth Larson, Larry Miller, Robin Nettessheim, Amy Outler, Karol Rarick, Brenda Roth, Jamie Stinson, Mary Jo Stockdale, Ali Thompson, Sue Thompson, Faith Tyson, Elaine Ward, Patrick Whaley, Judy Wortley

*Executive Editor:* Christine Yount Jones

*Editor:* Adam Mackie

*Chief Creative Officer:* Joani Schultz

*Assistant Editor:* Becky Helzer

*Interior Art Director and Designer:* RoseAnne Sather

*Interior Illustration:* Paula Becker

*Cover Art Director and Designer:* Sheila Reinhardt

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- Pebbles in the Pond
- "Growing Down" in Children's Ministry
- This Is the Place Where I Feel Loved
- On the Move
- Where Do You Live?
- Living on Hope's Fringes





# Introduction

What you do matters—it really does.

As you serve in children's ministry and dedicate your life to sharing Jesus' love with little ones, you're like the farmer who sows good seeds in the field (Matthew 13:24-30).

Despite any weeds that may grow around the seeds you sow, your ministry blossoms in the lives of countless children. You plant the seeds that help children love Jesus for a lifetime. That matters!

What you do transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary and dramatically changes children's lives.

Thank you for all God continues to do through you as you serve children.

**what you do  
matters!**



# Making a Difference



Karl Bastian

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”*

Matthew 13:31-32

Years ago, Jerry took an assignment to lead a class with only one little girl in it. Through Jerry, that little girl accepted Christ as her Savior. In the years to come, that little girl grew up and reached countless children as she inspired many others to reach out to children in the same gentle and loving spirit that she did. One of the children she had a huge impact on was me.

Even though she has passed away, her ministry to children continues through my ministry, my sister’s ministry, and the countless others’ ministries that she influenced.

For all you “Jerrys” out there, whose ministries may not seem huge, may not seem far-reaching, or may seem as if they’re hitting up against a brick wall, don’t kid yourself. What you do matters in the world for Jesus!

Please look for that one little girl or boy who, in turn, can matter to others because what *you* do matters.



**God, thank you  
for working in and  
through us to matter  
to children today-  
and always.**

# when desires become REALITY

Amy Outler

I grew up in a pastor's home, so I found myself in church every Sunday and Wednesday for a variety of children's programs (VBS, Sunday school, children's church, and more). I remember one Sunday school teacher in particular from my childhood. Her name was Alice. She was a very sweet lady who loved us and loved Jesus. She never taught the same way twice. If she wasn't bringing a surprise snack in the crockpot, she was bringing in her family bunny to help us learn about Jesus.

While I don't remember much from my elementary years, I remember many moments from her class. When I entered my youth and college days, there was a strong desire in my heart to share Jesus' love. Alice definitely fueled that desire in my heart. Later, a desire became a reality as I served children in my own church.



*"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."*

Psalm 37:4



**"My best memories of Sunday school go back to my confirmation class in the Reformed Episcopal Church. Nina Griffith was my Sunday school teacher. She spoke with such excitement and enthusiasm about God's Word that I became convinced: I *needed* to know the Word like she did!"**

*Joni Eareckson Tada  
Founder of Joni and Friends*

# Sweet Reward

*Mary Jo Stockdale*



To  
granny jo,  
the  
BEST  
teacher.  
Love  
Tommy

When I volunteered for the first- and second-grade Sunday school class, I was warned, "You're going to have Tommy." But right from the start, Tommy and I hit it off. At Easter, he wrote me a note in his first-grade scrawl: "To granny jo, the Best teacher. Love Tommy." Along with the note, he brought a flowering chrysanthemum. I planted it in my garden, and it grew into one of my most prized plants.

The best thing, though, happened later. One Sunday, I handed out paper and markers. Since I was talking about Jesus healing the blind man in John 9, I asked the kids to draw a picture of their eyes and then draw something pretty they'd seen that morning. Tommy immediately said, "I haven't seen anything pretty."

I pointed out the window and said, "Tommy, look at all the beautiful things outside. Surely you can find something pretty to draw."

While the other children drew flowers or grass, Tommy drew with a purpose and shielded his picture from me. When it was time to start our lesson, I could hardly convince him to stop long enough to listen.

Then he showed me his picture. It was me—complete with gray hair, huge eyes, a smile from cheek to cheek, a pink dress and matching necklace, and big feet wearing purple shoes. The resemblance was clear.

Though I wouldn't tell any of the other kids, Tommy's picture was my favorite. I put all the others on the wall. But guess where my portrait is? It's hanging on my refrigerator, along with the first note I ever got from Tommy.

What a sweet reward I received for serving children.



# A Little Love Goes a Long Way

Faith Tyson



Brian got off the bus and kicked the gravel. "I hate it here!" This was Brian's first day of church camp, and he was determined not to like it.

Why would a 10-year-old boy harbor so much hate? His counselor soon found out. Brian had seen his mother pull the trigger of the gun that killed his father. His hate for his mother had grown until it consumed him.

Brian's counselor wanted to win Brian with love. They spent hours together. Then Brian learned that Jesus loves him. For the first time that week, Brian smiled.

A different Brian left camp on Friday. His counselor later received this letter: "I can't stop thanking you over and over for all the tons of help you've given me. I'll always have a large place in my growing heart for you. I love you, and don't forget it. Yours forever, Brian."

What you do matters for kids like Brian!



Thank you for loving us, God, and for keeping a special place in your heart for us as we serve children.



*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



# what you do matters

**Jesus smiles** when he sees your ministry.

You pass on **faith** and **hope** to a future adult.

**You help children** find their **voice**.

**You change the world**—one child at a time.

If the Bible were still being written today, the writers would be writing about **the likes of you**.

As you **encourage** a child's faith...  
you encourage your own faith.

You get to watch children become **friends**  
and **followers of Jesus**.

Jesus is the **author** and **finisher**  
of your faith... and your ministry.

Kids' fingerprints leave a mark on your **heart**.

**Children** are counting on you!





what you do  
matters

Thank you for **ALL**  
you do to introduce  
children to Jesus!

Now, take some time for you. 

Be encouraged...get inspired...feel affirmed...experience  
God's love.

This keepsake book is for you and everyone who works with  
children...you're appreciated! As you journey with children  
to make an eternal difference in their lives, you'll grow closer  
to Jesus also.

Thank you for all you do! In this book, find encouragement,  
Scripture, stories, and more to warm your soul—and help  
keep your fire burning for leading kids to Jesus.

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