

# Children

By Pastor Jim Preisig

Even though the disciples sought to shoo the children away, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, for to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven." Then he swept them up in his arms and he blessed them.

It is a blessing to us to know that our Lord had a heart for children. Oft times little children can be a pain, for their parents and for those around them. I distinctly remember the rare dinner out when our children were young. Inevitably, something would happen to trigger tears or peals of laughter, each equally ear shattering. I can still recall the looks that were shot our way from other diners whose serenity was shattered by the sounds of our children. Twelve years later I must remind myself not to be one of those shooting looks at hapless parents trying to enjoy a family dinner with children who act like children.

Perhaps you have visited those churches where children are simply unwelcome. They are cold and sterile places that never resound with echoes of laughter. Those churches are dying, for the church is always just one generation away from extinction.

You can be pleased that this church tries to follow the example of our Master. Look at the wonderful pictures, wonder the halls and listen to the sounds, gaze around worship and see the children! Know that the Children's Day Out Preschool, the Genesis Montessori Preschool, the Olive Tree Day Care program and the RainbowLand Summer Camp all teach the children about the love of God.

It is our sincere prayer that the children entrusted to our loving care will grow up knowing that the church is the place where they are welcome and loved, and that our Lord still says, "Let the little children come to me!" Years from now they may bring their children here.