



IDEAS IN

ChildhoodMinistry

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The Big Idea

Using your elementary children and if needed children from another church in your association, throw a carnival for a mission church in your area. Your children will discover that manning the booths, giving away prizes and helping others is much more fun than playing the games themselves. We have done this twice once in Shawnee and once in Tahlequah. In Tahlequah, NSU BCM served the food and East Central Baptist Association paid for the inflatable's rental.



Things to Gather

The left over name tags, trinkets, prizes, that you have from VBS, Awanas, and other carnivals. You will need to purchase candy, refreshments and bags to hold the treasures. The games and equipment that you use with your fall festivals, or pumpkin parties that can be adapted for a spring theme.



Put it Together

Ask your Director of Missions or your pastor if there is a church or mission in your area that might be interested in a neighborhood outreach event. Contact the location to see if they would benefit from an indoor or outdoor carnival as a way of generating prospects for their ministry. Explain that your children and adult volunteers will

1. Pass out invitations in their area for "Faith Mission's Spring Carnival". (Get as clever as you want with the title, but be sure you explain what it is. People will not come if they do not know what is happening.)
2. You will provide the games, the prizes, the labor force, and the refreshments for the event. They will provide members from their mission to cover registering the people. The goal is to free the pastor and as many people from the mission to be able to interact with parents as you keep the children busy.

Next you must pick a date and time when you can get the best attendance. Decide on refreshments, will this include an Easter Egg Hunt, will you stop if it rains, does the pastor want to stop in the middle for prayer, and a gospel presentation, does the mission have a sound system that will work for the gospel presentation. Ask the mission to provide flyers in the appropriate language that gives service times and information about the mission that can be distributed to each guest.

The only difference now between the Spring Carnival and your normal Fall Festival is that you have to carry all your stuff to a different location. Let the children pair up and choose their game. Give the younger children more supervision and games for the preschoolers. An adult or a teen may supervise about 3-4 games at a time depending on the crowd. Remember to teach the children that the job is not done until everything is cleaned up and put away. Relax and smile at everyone. This is organized chaos, this is flexibility, and this is another way to say Jesus loves you and we love you too.

