



Be **Awesome**
in August.

VOLUNTEER.

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MILK & HONEY



What Was Waiting

When people from Sandy Springs Christian Church arrived at the Craddock Center to host a week of day camp, we were blown away by the resources available — books, puppets, craft materials, markers, hula hoops, instruments, portable tables, a water cooler, and a building offering space, hot water, showers, and real beds.

Much of this was provided by generous gifts from those reading this article, but even more important than these material things were the wonderfully warm welcomes and deep insights shared by Julie and Valerie.

What We Provided

Each day we shared books, music, story-related crafts, games, and water with Mulberry's Guatemalan community of children, tweens, and teens. At the end of the day, we distributed books. When



Sylvester and the Magic Pebble



Who is in your congregation? *Interactive Styles and How to Preach to Them*

Jerry Hershyps performed stand-up comedy for 26 years all over the United States and Canada before being called to preach over a decade ago. He received the coveted Ronald E. Sleeth Preaching Award while at Iliff School of Theology.

Rev. Hershyps has been a guest preacher, taught presentation skills to top executives for nearly 10 years for Fortune 200 companies and has spoken in front of over a million people throughout the country using comedy to enrich his message. He is currently the Chief Love Monger and Lead Spiritual Entrepreneur at AfterHours Denver, located in the downtown metro area, focusing on the poor and “spiritually independent.”

AfterHours Denver hands out food, water and communion to 700+ people a week in Civic Center Park.

The workshop will answer the question *Who is your congregation?* as Rev. Hershyps acknowledges different interactive styles and learners and the preaching methods he recommends to engage them all. He will speak about congregational participation and when and why it matters most; the dos and don'ts of humor in preaching; and painting a story with words. Ever had a sermon going south? Rev. Hershyps will help you save it!

Breakfast and lunch will be served and seating is limited. Online registration is required and open now! Please visit craddockcenter.eventbrite.com. Questions? Contact us at 706-632-1772 or valerie-craddock@tds.net. —VP

One of the funniest things—well, it was kind of sad in a way; I tried not to laugh—happened over in Roane County in east Tennessee. It was during Sunday School time. They had a one-room building, but there was wire strung down the middle this way; and wire strung across. Pull the curtains down this way, and it divided the room in half. Pull the curtains this way, and you had four Sunday School rooms. You talk about educational building: there you are.

I was in one corner of this teaching a bible class to a small group of adults, and a man came in none of us had seen before. The class had started, so we didn't stop for introductions. We just nodded a welcome to him. He was all dressed up. He had on a dark suit, including a vest. It was summer. It was hot. He was already sweating. He had a huge bible—43, 44 pound bible. We could tell that he was really into it because he opened that and would read to us and correct us on certain things from passages of scripture. When it over, we introduced ourselves. They pushed back the curtains and it was a sanctuary again.

I went on up on the pulpit and the pianist got over to the piano and we started worship. Well, this man got fidgety. And finally he came up on the platform where I was. I thought he wanted to know where the restroom was, of which there was none. He said, "Do I sit up here with you, or do I sit on the front row?"

I said, "What are you talking about?"

He said, "I'm to give a trial sermon."

And I said, "*Here?*" (I mean, that's some way to get fired, isn't it?) "You're to give one here?"

He said, "Is this Whites Creek Baptist Church?"

I said, "No, no, no, this is Glen Alice Christian Church." Whssht! He was gone. I saw one of the members of Whites Creek that afternoon and I said, "Did that candidate for your church preach?"

He said, "We didn't let him preach."

I said, "You didn't even hear him?"

"No, he was late, and he told us why he was late. And we decided that if he didn't know a Baptist from a Christian, he didn't deserve to preach!"
—FBC (as told at *Winged for the Heart*, 2003)



Pet rock craft project

there were more people than books, we gave one book per family. With between 40 and 50 kids flying around, figuring out who belonged to whom and how to get just one book per family was a challenge. As it turned out, there was a solution: children were scrupulous about not taking more than one book per

family. Being sure that **every family** had a book was more important to them than having their own book.

What I Received

By noon Wednesday, Mulberry Street was a furnace. The temperature and the humidity were in a sadistic competition to see which one could reach 100 first. We pressed on. Designers used markers to decorate shirts and capes, bracelet makers strung beads, and crafters slathered peanut butter onto improvised bird feeders. I—having fewer skills than most—manned the cooler. Kids, taking a break from their creations, stood sweltering in line waiting for ice water. Giving out the drinks wasn't as easy as you might think. Even though sitting down, I was frying in the sun, sweating like a pig, and giving out water without drinking any.

After a long wait, Carmelina — probably a seven-year old girl in a worn, striped shirt and too big shorts who might have been all of 40 pounds — reached me and the spigot. Flashing wide dark eyes and a bright smile, her peanut-butter encrusted hands and marker-decorated face gladly took the cup.

Then, she looked at me, looked at her cup, lifted her hands, and, without a word, gave me her water, and returned to the end of the line.

What Remains

As the week went on, we watched children mystified by Playdough because they had never enjoyed it. We saw kids take home the ice we dumped from the coolers because they didn't have any.

We were privileged to visit a community where people truly cared for each other and enriched the lives of strangers.

It was quite a week. Sandy Springs Christian Church wants to thank all of you for putting faith to work and demonstrating with your generosity how to be in mission even when you aren't on the trip.—Rev. Art Edwards



Re-read after the read aloud...

Cradock Kids Christmas Cards Coming Soon!



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