



A service of the  
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# Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth  
leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

June 2007 - Volume 8, Issue 6

- Get On Board!
- Kaleidoscope!

"Take Jesus  
with you!"

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## Get On Board!

Oh, no! The time was 7:40! The bus rounded the corner as I drained the milk from the cereal bowl. Brushing was not an option and sprinting would be required. Wanda drove that yellow chariot with great skill, but history proved that she didn't wait for dawdlers. The horseless carriage would roll on by if I wasn't by the road at the appointed time. Dad threw open the screen door while Mom held out the brown-bag-lunch for me to grab with my free hand. I didn't pause for a good-by kiss from either of them; I just ran out with a perfunctory 'bye.' Dodging water puddles on the driveway, I thought I had escaped my mother's parting words. Then, just as I darted across the street, came the echo: "Take Jesus with you!"

Breathlessly plopping into the seat on the bus, I was annoyed! Mom was totally impervious! She couldn't accept that her 'baby' was mature and didn't need to hear childish reminders on a daily basis! As an old fogy, with only a high school education, she didn't get it! Couldn't she think of anything else to say? Did she have to bring God into everything?

Four decades have lapsed. Guess what? Today..., I finally 'get it!' The words that once merely echoed in my ears now resonate in my heart. My mother was offering a form of blessing! She was reminding me of my Christian identity, reinforcing the Heavenly Father's love, and imploring God's presence! Her regularity and constancy in saying 'take Jesus with you' created a tradition and a means to pass on her faith to the next generation.

I can't recall when mom first offered those bidding words, but the act of blessing others is steeped in Biblical history. Old Testament fathers regularly pronounced blessings on their children. (Genesis 27:26-29 provides an example.) God instructed Moses that Aaron should bless the Israelites. (Numbers 6:22-26) Today, for us as New Testament believers and priests of God (1 Peter 2:9), one of our privileges is

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Take Jesus with you!

K-Scope on Hood Canal!

to commend others to God's care just as people did centuries ago. When prayers for children, family members, or friends are spoken aloud, amazing things happen. Think of the powerful message conveyed by simply saying to someone: "May God bless you and protect you. May God deal kindly and graciously with you. May God show you favor and grant you peace."

I didn't miss the bus that day, but I did miss the boat! I missed the opportunity to create a ritual of blessing my son whenever he left the house. However, today would be a good time to begin as I strive to model and mentor this custom for others.

Oh! By the way - take Jesus with you!

For more information about sharing blessings, consider the following book which can be purchased through Youth and Family Institute. ([www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org](http://www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org)) Also of interest through the same web site would be materials on Milestone Ministry.

**For Everything a Season: 75 Blessings for Daily Life**

*By the Nilsen Family, Kristin Ylvisaker, Illustrator*

This resource shares 75 blessings that connect God with the milestones of daily life and transform ordinary days into sacred time. The blessings are divided into season of the day, year, our lives, and relationships.

– Phyllis Bockelmann, Minister of Education, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School, Portland, OR. <[phyllis@princeofpeacelc.org](mailto:phyllis@princeofpeacelc.org)>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

[http://www.nowlms.org/educational\\_services//YouthSupports.aspx](http://www.nowlms.org/educational_services//YouthSupports.aspx)

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"Kaleidoscope," one of the premier youth ministry programs of the Northwest District, is set for July 8-13, 2007. Arranged by the the Youth Ministry Task Force of the district, this creative and dynamic experience of the Christ community will be held at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center near Belfair, Washington. The registration fee is \$150. Congregations are encouraged to offer scholarship assistance for their high school youth. Because of the nature of the program, only 35 participants will be included — and no more than four from one congregation. Youth currently in high school are encouraged to apply by June 11 (postmark). After this date registrations will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. Jeff Kranich, DCE at Hope/Seattle, will serve as the dean. Pastor John Schmidt (Prince of Peace/Tacoma) serves as the K-Scope Coordinator and will be the "pastor-in-residence." Registration opens March 1. Contact Pastor John Schmidt for more information at 253-584-2565 or [KscopeNOW@cs.com](mailto:KscopeNOW@cs.com)

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