

# For Years to Come...

In 1947, Pastor Robert Wieduwilt of the Venango Congregational Church organized Know Your Bible (KYB), an after school program for local youth in grades 3-6. Seventy years later, much has changed. We meet in a new building under a new name, and our church partners with Village Missions. The local school closed its doors. But every Wednesday at 4:00 PM, about a dozen kindergarten through sixth graders tumble off the school bus and into Venango Community Church for KYB.

KYB has an amazing legacy of serving God and the children of our community. Families have been a part of KYB for three generations, and some volunteers were part of KYB when they were younger.

Today our group is made up of kids from all sorts of backgrounds. A few are from church families but most are not. Some are from broken homes. Some have been adopted out of abusive situations.

Without the church background, we find that today's kids don't



They don't know the Christmas story or the death & resurrection of Jesus.

know the basic Bible stories—the ones that most of us assume everyone knows. Over the years we've introduced these young people to the stories of David and Goliath;

## Village Missions

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Noah and the Ark; and Jonah and the Whale. They don't know the Christmas story or the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each week we introduce them to a new Bible story and send them home with a short review of the story and a Bible verse to memorize.

God is doing an amazing work among these kids. They are excited to know God and to learn what the Bible teaches. Many of them come back with their story sheet filled out and the Bible verse memorized.

One week we talked about Hannah, her desire to have a son, how God gave Hannah her wish. We asked, "If you could have a wish granted, what would you wish for?" One young lady wished for a book with all the Bible stories in it. So we sent her home with a Bible—and everyone else got to take one too.

We received this report from one grandma: *"Been helping [granddaughter] and reading and discussing the book and work sheets. I'm impressed how much you guys have taught her. I know there are days we wonder if it sinks in. I have found out that she prays when she is sad and alone..."*

Just this week one of these young people expressed a desire to become a pastor someday.

KYB is leaving great legacy, touching the hearts of children and bringing them to Christ for years. As God continues to work we expect that legacy to continue for years to come.

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Chris & Tina Costrini have been married for 18 years. They and their children, Caleb and Annie, have served Venango Community Church in southwest Nebraska and worked with KYB for eight years. They have served with Village Missions for 15 years.



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