

PEACE-MAKER

Glow Jr. Devotionals: July 29-August 4

THEME VERSE: Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."

CHARACTER FOCUS: Integrity through being a Peace-Maker

MONTHLY GOAL: To give the children practical ways to develop their integrity and therefore have a name that honors their Savior



Let's Get Glowing

Name Game:

Equipment: One beach ball

Instructions: The leader begins by telling the students his or her name. The leader will throw the ball to a student. He or she needs to repeat the leader's name, and then tell the class his or her name. That person will throw the ball back to the leader. The leader continues to throw the ball to other students, one at a time. Each student will name the student who just had the ball, and then tell his or her own name and throw the ball back to the leader.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Peace Like A River*

Sing *Sermon In Shoes*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Everything's All Right*

Torch Bearer's Tales

SEGMENT FIVE – VENDA MEETS THE GOD WHO HAS ANSWERS

"Wake up, Vince, the phone is ringing," urged

Bethany.

"But it's 2:00 in the morning," Vince responded, still in a state of semi-consciousness. After stumbling across the dark room, Vince lifted the receiver. "Hello, this is missionary Vince. Who? When? Are you sure it's Phumlane? What are his chances? Yes, I understand. I'll be right there." Vince slammed down the receiver.

"Honey, what is it?" Bethany asked in an alarmed tone of voice.

"It's Phumlane. He's been stabbed and may not live through the night. I must rush to the hospital. They won't treat him until I pay some money. They said it doesn't look good. Phone everyone in the church immediately and ask them to intercede before the throne of God."

Vince stepped over a pool of blood as he rushed across the waiting room to the hospital receptionist. He couldn't help noticing an oddly still person sitting in one of the chairs. Just then a doctor entered the room and exclaimed, "What is this dead person doing in the waiting room. Remove him immediately." Vince was so relieved to learn that the dead man was not Phumlane.

"Are you missionary Vince?" asked the doctor. Vince hardly got the word yes out of his mouth before the doctor started rushing him into the treatment room. "Wait," protested the receptionist. "He must pay money first."

"He will take care of that later," the doctor

*(a missionary fiction loosely based on the life of pastor Godfrey Ngomane)
by Kevin L. Brosnan
(serving in southern Africa under Baptist World Mission since 1992)
The purpose of this last segment is to demonstrate the full cycle of missions and to glorify God for doing what no man could ever have anticipated or manufactured. It is worth being a missionary.*

replied as they passed through the doorway to the treatment room. "I am doctor Thabo (Tah-bo) and I am Christian. I am from Venda and Tsonga is my native language. An American missionary won me to Christ many years ago before the tsongoma drove him away from our village. Phumlane is the first Tsonga-speaking Christian I have met. He arrived in a delirious state. He just kept repeating in Tsonga, 'I must preach Christ. I must preach Christ.' I decided to treat him even if I had to pay for it myself. We found your name and number in his pocket, but I knew he would die before you could arrive." "Dr. Thabo, you are the answer to our prayers," Vince replied.

Phumlane recovered quickly and soon graduated from the Bible institute. The church in Johannesburg ordained him and commissioned him to return to his homeland as a missionary. The work was slow and discouraging at first. According to African culture, he had not yet earned the respect and ear of his people. But, Phumlane plodded on year by year. The early converts grew spiritually and became pillars in his first church.

A breakthrough came when Phumlane invited Vince to preach. Folks came from many villages to hear the white man's message. Some walked many miles. Vince presented the customary gift, a live chicken in this case, to the headman for officially sanctioning his visit. Hundreds listened as the missionary preached about a God Who proved His love, about a God Who has the answers. Phumlane found that many villagers had harbored the same unanswered questions in their own hearts as he did for so many years. Many responded to the gospel and were gloriously saved.

Following the missionary's visit, the people started opening their hearts more to Phumlane's preaching. "Teach us what the white man taught you," the villagers often asked. The sincerity of his message, the purity of his life, and the tenacity of his ministry won the respect of the Venda people, who now viewed him as an elder and began including him in many village proceedings.

Vince had many opportunities to visit the vil-

. While the story line is fiction, most of the events are rooted in true to life experiences during my years in Africa. These include:

1. the burning of the witch's hut by the tsongoma (witch-doctor)
2. attack of the rock python
3. Godfrey's Bible reading in the Muslim shop
4. providential meeting of the missionary and Godfrey Ngomane in the Muslim shop
5. Godfrey's training in the Bible institute
6. stabbing of a Bible institute student
7. blood and corpse in the hospital waiting room
8. ordination, commissioning, and sending by the Calvary Baptist Church of Johannesburg
9. Godfrey's ministry in the homeland of Venda
10. my presentation of a live chicken to the head man
11. the headman's open invitation to myself
12. my children playing soccer in the village
13. the headman's testimony
14. Godfrey's convert studying at the same Bible institute in Johannesburg
15. the names of places (although not the actual places) and cultural practices

lages over the years and see the fruit of Phumlane's ministry. The headman extended an open invitation to Vince and the villagers accepted him and his family as one of themselves. It was not uncommon to see the missionary's children's white heads bobbing up and down amidst a mass of blackness on the soccer field.

The headman also accepted Christ and paid tribute to Phumlane at one of his open air meetings. Vince was so glad he happened to be present on this occasion. The aged headman walked to the front, motioned for silence, and began to speak. "I will admit that I did not respect Phumlane when he returned here with the gospel. 'Who does he think he is?,' I thought. 'Why does he pretend to teach his elders? He is no one special. Nothing will come of him and his message. Who are his parents? He was like all the other children. Who is he to start a church? Who will listen to him?' But I have watched Phumlane over the years. He has been faithful to His God and God has blessed his ministry among us. He has taught me the truth and I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Many others have turned to his God. And, it is good. The Christian men don't beat their wives or break our laws. Our village is safer and happier because of Phumlane and his God. Our people no longer live in fear because they have found peace with the one, true God. Phumlane is the prophet of Venda. Our ancestors asked many wise questions, but they and the tsongomas didn't have the answers. Phumlane's Book answers all our questions. Phumlane has done more for Wayeni and Venda than all of them! Phumlane is the prophet of Venda!"

During the years that followed Phumlane and his converts established many churches in the villages of Venda. Some of his converts even studied at the same Bible institute in Johannesburg. Many thousands of precious souls broke the chains of fear through faith in Jesus Christ.

Verse for the Month

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."



Light My Path

Write the memory verse on a dry erase board or overhead projector. Read the verse two or three times with the students. Begin erasing or covering words or parts

of words. Continue reciting the whole verse until all of the words are no longer visible.

Spark Their Interest

Leader: Boys and girls, I hope that you are trying to live a life of integrity. I hope you are building a good name. One part of having integrity is being a peace-maker.

Guest: (enters carrying a piece of paper and scissors) Teacher, teacher! I'm ready. I heard that today's lesson was about being a piece maker, so I brought my stuff. I'm ready.

Leader: I'm glad to hear that. But I'm a little confused. How will paper and scissors help you be a peace-maker?

Guest: I'll show you. (He uses the scissors to cut a piece off the corner of his paper).

Leader: Oh, I see. I think you are the one who is confused. The 'pieces' are homonyms.

Guest: M & Ms? I didn't know the Bible talked about pieces of candy.

Leader: No, not a piece of candy. The Bible says we should be peace-makers.

Guest: I know. That's what I was trying to do in the first place. (He cuts another piece off of his paper).

Leader: You are not a peace-maker. You are a trouble-maker. We'd better listen to the Bible story to see if we can fix your thinking.

Build the Fire

I know a person who is a dress-maker. Guess what she makes? Dresses, of course. What does a tent-maker make? Tents! What does a shoe-maker make? Shoes! The Bible says we should be peace-makers. So what does God want us to make? Peace! How exactly do you make peace? You cannot do it with a needle and thread, or hammer and nails. Let me tell you some of the tools you need to make peace in your home, your church or anywhere.

1. **Praise.** Use your words to praise the work that others do. Words are so important to being a peace-

maker! Look for good things in people. Do not focus on the bad. Praise brings peace. Don't you find it hard to argue and be mad at someone who is praising you? Remember the rules for Christian speech: don't say it unless it is true, necessary, and kind. Something might be true about someone, but not necessary to be said. Maybe you will have to say something that is necessary, but if you say it in an unkind way, you are not being a peace-maker.

2. **Forgiveness.** When someone does something bad to you, forgive them. Jesus forgives us. There's a great way to not be angry at those who mistreat us – pray for them! It's very hard to be mad at someone that you are praying for. Maybe there's a bully in your school that makes fun of you. Put that person on the top of your prayer list and ask God to change them and bless them. Ask God to give you the opportunity to share the love of Christ with them! Look for ways to show them kindness. You might be thinking, "I'm not going to be nice to them! Look what they did to me!" Yes, and look what you did to Jesus, but God forgave you! We need to forgive others.

3. **Unselfishness.** Be willing to let others have their way. Do not be selfish. We all have inside of us a desire to get our own way. Peace-makers are not people who are always looking to get their own way. Peace-makers look for ways to get along with others and make others feel special. You will find in many situations, that if you will be unselfish, people will be unselfish back to you. Did you know that that is why there's fights among brothers and sisters and friends? One or more people are being selfish and only thinking about getting their own way. You don't find two unselfish people fighting very much!

In order to be a peace-maker, you have to have peace! Do you have true peace? If you are saved, then you do. The Bible says that the gospel is peace. The gospel is the truth that Jesus came to earth, lived without sin, died on the Cross and rose again. He paid sin's price so that we who are sinners would not have to. When we get saved, we

The article of clothing object lesson could be used here.

have the peace that Jesus has saved us from Hell. We know we will go to Heaven to be with Jesus when we die.

4. Share the Gospel. God wants us to share peace with others. We are told to put on the shoes of the gospel of peace. We are also told to be peace-makers. That means I need to put on my 'gospel shoes' and go tell others about Jesus. When I tell another person about Jesus, and they get saved, then they have the peace of the gospel in their life. I just became a peace-maker.

It takes integrity to be a peace-maker. Remember our definition of integrity? To live according to a moral code. Of course, that moral code is the Word of God. It takes integrity to live according to God's command in Philippians 2:3 to esteem others better than yourself, but it is the true way to happiness. Are you a peace-maker?

Fan the Flames

1. Bring an article of clothing, such as a shirt. Read the part of the tag that says 'made in ____'. Explain that even though we don't often make our own clothes, someone had to make them. Clothing doesn't just appear. There is work involved. Likewise, peace does not just happen. There is work involved. Someone has to create it.

2. Bring a pair of shoes. As a parent, I often say, "Put on your shoes. We are ready to go." Putting on shoes is a sign of preparing to go. Ephesians 6:15 tells us to have our "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." God wants us to go to others and share the gospel. Romans 10:15 says "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace".

Fire Off the Answers

1. What does a peace-maker make? (Peace)
2. To make peace, we should use words of _____. (Praise)

← Use the shoes as an illustration here.

Games are an exciting, active way of reviewing the lesson. Contestants may also be chosen based on behavior. If you use games to reward good behavior, make sure your students know ahead of time. Explain the expectations (Stay in your seat, Listen when the teacher talks, etc.) and let them know that behaving is worth the effort! It helps if you have assistants who can watch for good behavior while you teach.

Write additional review questions here:

3. If someone does something bad to you, a peace-maker will _____. (Forgive)
4. A peace-maker let's others have their way sometimes because peace-makers are not _____. (Selfish)
5. When I am saved, I have the Gospel of Peace. What should I do with it? (Share it with others.)

Candy Toss:

Equipment Needed: A small table or counter, two buckets or baskets, a bag of suckers or candy.
Instructions: This game is for four players at a time, usually two boys and two girls. One person from each team is the Catcher and one person is the Thrower. The Thrower stands at the table where the candy is in a large pile. The Catcher stands behind the Thrower, holding the bucket, and looking at the Thrower's back. When the leader says, "Go!", the Thrower begins tossing candy backward over his or her shoulder. The Catcher moves the bucket to catch as many pieces of candy as he or she can. This continues for 15 seconds. After 15 seconds, the leader says, "Stop!" Count the pieces of candy in each bucket. The team with the most pieces, gets to keep all the candy in the bucket and divide it between them. The other team puts their candy back on the table. All players sit back down and two more teams are chosen to play.

Choosing Teams for Play: The purpose of a review game is to ask questions about the lesson. Answering questions correctly is rewarded with game participation. Review these rules before the game. The leader will ask the question. You may ask the question for the whole group, or ask the girls a question and then the boys the next question. Students will wait for the signal (a bell, whistle, a piano chord or just say, "Go!"). If a student knows the answer, he or she jumps up, but does not yell out the answer. The leader or a helper 'spotter' calls on the student who stood first. If that student answers the question correctly, he or she will choose a partner to come play the game. Ask another question to establish another team for the candy toss. When you have two teams, play another 15 second round of Candy Toss.