

June 2024

Encountering Christ at VBS



Every morning, Monday to Friday, June 3-7, they came, to
**sing, praise, worship, learn, create,
dedicate, play, give, rejoice.**

(continued)

A note from Sierra Smith, VBS Director:

I often get asked, Why do you love VBS so much? My why, is this:

I was a child who did not grow up in church. I had a few brief moments and experiences throughout my life of church. When I was a child we went for about a year at a Methodist church and my other experiences were going to churches with friends here and there. With those few experiences, seeds were planted. They didn't grow until I was an adult, but they were planted as a child.

I NEVER got to experience VBS until I was an adult and I took my own children here at FBC. It was beyond anything I have ever seen. Thus, my passion began.

Over the years I have served from decorating (my favorite part, it's the one time a year that we turn the church into a place that is 100% for the children!) to helping teach a class, to assisting in How Great Thou ART with Kristina Seal.

My drive in VBS: When I look at those children, I think so many can be like I was. This might be their few experiences to hear about Jesus and I pray those seeds are not only just planted, but that they take root, they grow and they flourish. I may never see it, they may be an adult like I was. But, I pray that when they are able... they seek and find Jesus!

That makes the planning, the scheduling, and all of the chaos worth every single minute. It is a blessing beyond measure. VBS is our biggest outreach of the year. We have families who come during VBS who do not attend church anywhere, except they attend our VBS!

Our missions offering exceeded our goal! It is amazing to see how God works and how he provides. I prayed for us to reach our goal of 20 water filtration systems AND to cover our church members' remaining trip balances for Honduras. We reached our goal, and went beyond.

We covered the lacking balance needed for the entire trip, and we are taking not just 20, but 60 water filter systems to Honduras in JULY! That will mean more than 50 families will have clean drinking water for the next 10 years. It fills my heart with joy that children are able to make such a huge impact and difference right here from Franklinton, LA!

In addition, our VBS group provided over 900 food items to our Washington Parish Food Bank, that feeds families here in our community. That is HUGE!

And that means we are planting mission seeds as well. You never know who God will call in missions! God provides and he blesses and I love to see him at work.

200

average attendance

64

adult volunteers

40

youth volunteers

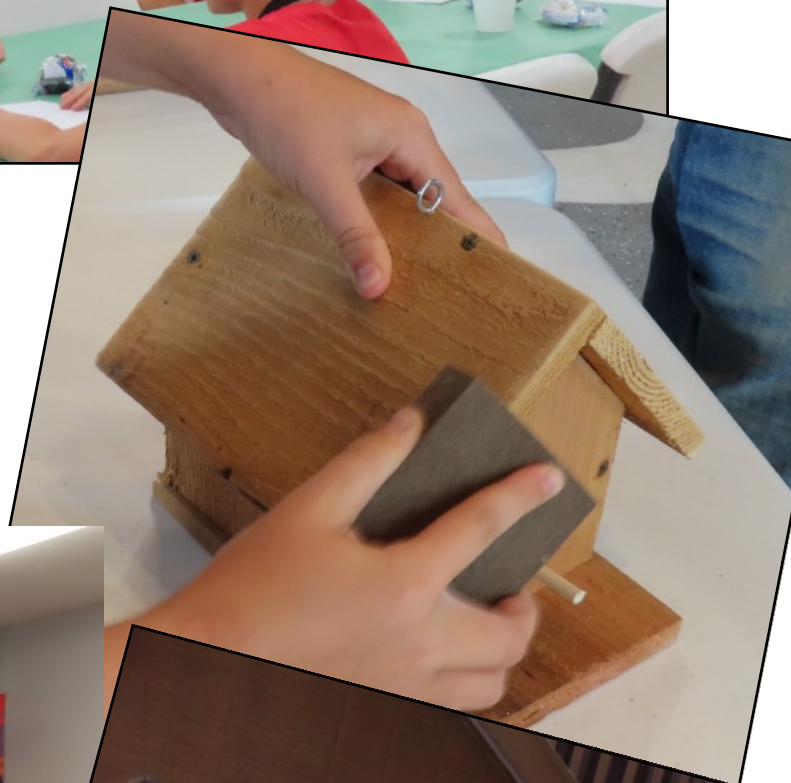
906

items for Food Bank

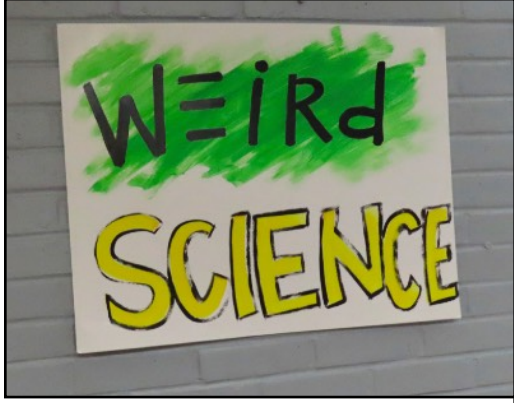
\$2,188

raised for missions

By the end of the week, 26 children had indicated that they were ready or might be ready to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As is FBC's practice, with their parent's consent, those children are being counseled by our Children's Director, Kelly McElveen.



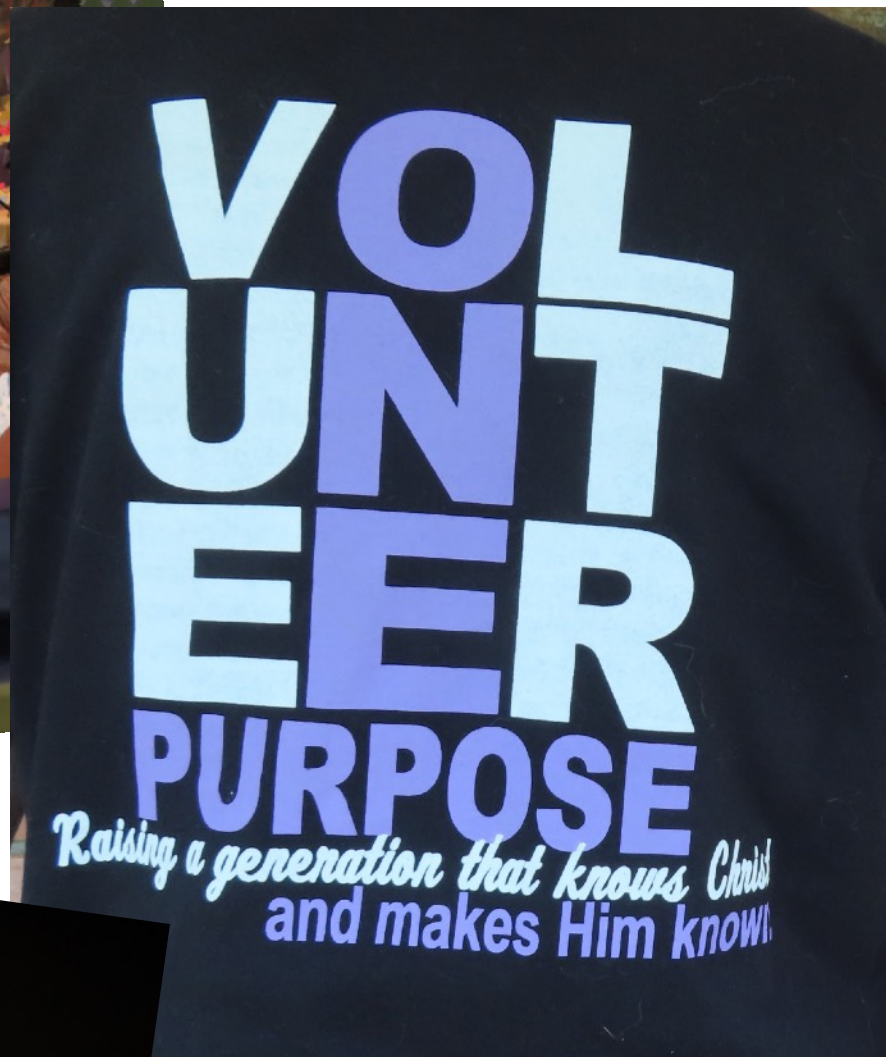
Top: Dr. Jake speaking to older children. Center left, items brought for Washington Parish Food Bank. Center right, birdhouse project for older children. Bottom left, Bible study for older girls with Johnna Creel. Bottom right, kindergartners at play.



Top: Calvin Crowe leading the music. Center, a fun science experiment with dancing corn. Bottom left, putting together a bird-house. Bottom right, Kelly McElveen lost a bet so she's wearing the chicken suit, to the enjoyment of Sierra Smith.



WENDI FORTENBERRY



VBS STAFF:

Director Sierra Smith

Children's Director Kelly

McElveen

VBS Worship Leader Calvin

Crowe

Transitional Pastor Dr. Jake

Roudkovski