

Forward

The Mt. Vernon General Baptist Church has engaged in creative, extensive Children's Ministries for some years now. Curt Mort, one of the first participants in the weekday children's programs of the church, now serves as Children's Pastor. In 2008, building on the work of his predecessors Pastors Jeff Roth and James Pomeroy, Pastor Curt expanded the annual children's egg hunt into a primary entry event with 10,000+ eggs and a Saturday attendance that rivaled the church's Easter Worship attendance.

The pages that follow contain the working plans and promotional materials used to carry out this "Big Day" Project.

To the best of our knowledge all the materials have been drawn from the public domain or developed for use by the church. By a special arrangement with Pastor Curt these materials are now being made available for wider use by our General Baptist churches.

I have kept much of the original formatting of the materials used by Pastor Curt. Many of the worksheets can be used as templates for any local church and can be easily adapted and updated.

If you have questions about our "Big Day" downloads please contact us at congregational@generalbaptist.com. You may reach Pastor Curt by email at curt@mvgb.org

In the following pages you will find:

1. A Time Line for Planning
2. Volunteer Sign Up Sheet
3. Post Card Sample
4. Promotional Flyer, Registration Card, Follow up Card (see separate files)
5. Flow of the Day—general copy
6. Flow of the Day—pastor's copy
7. Job Descriptions
8. Sermon Notes: Easter in an Egg Shell (powerpoint in separate file)

Eggstravaganza 08'

Before you begin to invest time and resources into any happening of ministry it is important to begin by asking the question, "What purpose does this serve?" Egg-hunt, an inflatables party, VBS, children's church...whatever it is you should always plan with the broad vision of your ministry in mind. If it doesn't fit, don't do it.

The purpose of this event is first and foremost to communicate the message of Easter to your community. Second, it is to build relationships with families that already attend your church and the families that haven't yet joined our church family. It's pure evangelism and constituency building. An Egg-Hunt works well to serve these purposes in the rural county seat town of Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

I decided in my annual planning for 08' (October 07') to hold our Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter (March 22nd). It was here that I made sure my date was in sync with all the other pastor's calendars and the church calendar. I used this opportunity to gain the support of my Senior Pastor. My thought process was that we could gain more of a crowd on a Saturday and I could mold it specifically for the purpose of evangelism without having to coordinate usage of the grounds with normal Sunday traffic.

Week 12-Prayer and talk with your Senior Pastor

I began the real work about 12 weeks out. I sat down at my desk and prayed. I prayed for the people that would be touched by this event and that the seeds to be planted would fall on fertile soil. I prayed for openness as to how I could best accomplish my purpose through an Egg-Hunt in the city of Mt. Vernon, IN. I prayed for the Lord of the harvest to provide volunteers. Lastly, I prayed for energy and focus because I knew I was going to need both. I also decided on a timeline and set deadlines for myself to stay on track.

Week 11-Sky's the Limit

I began to brain storm and write it all down. I answered questions like, "Where will I hold it?" "How many eggs?" "What kind of prizes?" "Will it just be an egg-hunt or will I have other kinds of games and activities?" "How will I follow up with all the people?" "How will I promote this?" "What are indoor alternatives in case it rains?" This was my "Sky's the Limit" week. I didn't force reality on it yet. Be as creative as possible and write everything down. Don't kill any idea.

Week 10-Brain Storm with Others

I got a few key leaders involved (Amanda Cook, Leona Cole, and Renee Lambright). I told them the purpose of the event as it pertains to the ministry vision and the date of the hunt and turned them loose to generate more ideas. Remember you are the one that ultimately has to make decisions so choose your key leaders wisely.

Week 9- Reality Check

I decided on a budget cap (\$600) and then I met with the key leaders. We went through all the ideas on the table and then made decisions. We decided where it would be (we're blessed with a big front lawn) and what time. We weeded through all the ideas and decided what would best serve the purpose we were

aiming for. This meeting was crucial because we gained a direction and went with it. Not that I wasn't flexible after this, but we knew our general direction. We wanted to go with more eggs than ever before (5000), decided how we were going to make use of our facilities (FLC as a gathering point, front and side lawn as the hunting territory), decided how to promote (flyers around town, 2 mailers, and sign in front of church), time (10 am not too early and not late enough it interferes with lunch), how long it would last (an hour max), and we decided on a flow (attachment 1).

Week 8-7 Prepare to Communicate

Because it will take a little bit of preparation time to recruit donations and launch an advertising campaign the 8-7 week window is best used to work on getting ready to communicate.

Recruit Local Business Donations

I personally did not do this at Eggstravaganza 08', but I'm going to next year. The idea is that now that you have a general idea of what kind of supplies you need and how much, you can go around to businesses in your home town asking for donations of candy and other supplies. It is important to me to not turn what is meant to be an evangelistic egg hunt into an advertisement festival, so it's imperative to let businesses know you won't give publicity in exchange for donations.

Prepare to Recruit Congregational Donations

It's proven that it takes people seeing something up to six times before they process it. So now would be the time when you would want to lock down a space in your bulletin and create a request for donations of supplies. There is a lot of power in gaining the support of the church as a whole. Those who cannot help out directly with the egg hunt can feel as if they have contributed by donating supplies (and you don't have to tap into your budget ☺). Congregations require a lot of specific communication and an easy drop-off location. I placed a large cardboard box, decorated with egg wrapping paper and labeled "Egg Donations," in the foyer of our church. The same was done for candy donations. Again, specific communication is the key. That's why it's important to have dotted all your I's and crossed all your T's before you ask people to donate.

Prepare for an Advertising Campaign/Recruit Publicity Volunteers

Keeping with the 6 week communication principle, now would be the time to prepare an advertisement campaign. Whether it's flyers, radio ads, TV ads, billboards, lawn signs, etc, the 8-7 week window would be best used to create advertisements, lock down ad space, order signs, or do anything else that will be critical in getting the word out for the next 6 weeks. This is one area you cannot do too much in. Advertise as much as your budget permits. This will be a big job! You may not be particularly gifted in creating advertisements. Use other people's talents! Make sure you involve your key leaders in this process and recruit others to help do what is needed. For example: I made a game out of hanging flyers with our youth kids. At one of their hangout nights I split them up in teams and challenged them to hang up more flyers around town than the other team (with some rules of course!). It worked great!

Week 6- Start Collecting Donations from Businesses and Your Congregation/Launch an Advertisement Campaign/Recruit Event Volunteers

Start getting the word out!!! Hang those flyers, start that ad, distribute lawn signs to congregants, collect donations!

Recruit Event Volunteers

Before you ask people to help, make sure you know specifically how many people you think you will need and what you are going to have them do. A few suggestions are: set up/clean up crews, musicians or volunteers to lead in worship (if this is part of your event), age group leaders and helpers, volunteers to hide eggs, volunteers to manage other activities, refreshment crew, or greeters. (Job descriptions attached)

As soon as all this is decided set a date for around 3 weeks out to have a meeting where you hand out job descriptions and describe the flow of the hunt to your event volunteers. (EdGe meeting agenda attached)

Now that you are making the world aware of your hunt, start recruiting volunteers by asking them to attend your meeting

Week 5—Continue Collecting Donations, Recruiting Volunteers and Developing Contact list for invitations.

Week 4—Enlist an intercessory prayer group to pray for that the spiritual impact of this entry event will be significant.

Conduct an orientation session for all volunteers with careful attention to the flow of the day and the specific job assignments being given.

Week 3—Complete the address lists for all those being invited and insure that all printed materials are ready or will be ready for distribution.

Week 2—Enlist any needed helpers and briefly connect with team leaders to insure that they are on target for the big day.

Week 1—Mail post cards so that they arrive on Wednesday before the big day on Saturday.

Week 0—Immediately after the event follow-up with phone contact to those families who do not attend the church. Offer thanks for attendance and invite them to Easter Worship.

Final Follow-up—Insure that all participants are included in the church's data base so regular contact can be maintained.

Eggstravaganza Volunteer Sign up Sheet

Registration (Handing out cards and Greeting and 2 kid counters)

_____ (Kid Counter Pre-School)

_____ (Kid Counter Elementary)

Elementary Egg Hunt Helpers (Help hide eggs 7:30am Saturday morning)

Pre-School Egg Hunt Helpers (Help hide eggs 7:30am Saturday morning)

Jelly Bean Guess Counters

Set-up/ Break-down Crew (Help hide eggs 7:30am Saturday morning)

Post Card Sample Sides 1 and 2



Mt. Vernon General Baptist Church
1717 N Main St
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620



EdGe Children's Ministries presents...

**Egg-
Olympics!!**

**AWESOME
EVENT!!**

egg-stravaganza!

Yup! It's back and bigger than ever!!

The Egg-stravaganza starts at 10 am on Saturday, March 22nd at Mt. Vernon General Baptist Church. All kids from age 0 to 5th Grade and their families are invited to come. So bring your baskets (the bigger the better) and hop on

10,000 EGGS!

Egg-stravaganza!

Thank you for volunteering your time to help out with the Egg Hunt this year! The purpose of this event is first and foremost to communicate the message of Easter to this community. Second, it is to build relationships with families that already attend our church and ones that haven't yet joined our church family. Lastly, Egg-stravaganza exists to give the kids of Mount Vernon a huge sugar buzz 😊

Let's walk through the Egg Hunt together so we all know what to expect next Saturday...

Flow of Eggstravaganza- March 22nd 2008

9:30-10 Greeting and Registration Cards Handed Out/Jelly Bean Count

10-10:25

- Welcome
- Egg Hunt Rules
- Why do we celebrate Easter?

10:30-11 Egg Hunt, Egg Cracking, and Prize Presentation

- Jelly Bean Count
- Mother Hen and Rockin' Rooster
- Prize Eggs

If you wish to help hide eggs be please arrive 7:30am on Saturday Morning.

All others who are going to help out please be here by 9:15am.

The JH Sunday School class will be providing refreshments.

Easter comes EARLY this year and with Southern Indiana weather who knows what we will get. Pray for nice weather but if it's no good here's plan B:

We will set up tables with chairs so that they can see the stage and follow the same flow but instead of hunting them we will distribute eggs to kids by grade. Prize Eggs, Mother Hen, and Rockin' Rooster will be taped to the bottom of their chairs.

Flow of Easter Egg Hunt- Pastor Curt's Copy

9:30-10:10 Registration

Name Tags for all Workers

Kid Counters need clickers.

As families arrive they are given an info card to fill out and I will ask them to place them in the Easter Baskets on pedestals before they leave.

Kids fill out guess the Jar of jellybeans. To win the Jar and prize.

10:15-10:40

-Welcome

-Refreshments available

-Please place your info cards in the Easter Baskets on the Pedestals

-Egg Hunt Rules

-No Pushing or Shoving

-Respect all grown ups (leaders and parents)

-Boundries (Put up cones, tape all hazards, and Block admin drive)

-Flow of Hunt

-Kids are allowed ____ number of Eggs (Divide number of eggs by number of kids for an equal amount for all)

-Mother Hen and Rockin Rooster Awards (first girl/boy to collect the specified number and report to the group leader)

-Prize Eggs (1 per child)

-When you come back inside please crack your eggs, take out the candy and place the eggs in our containers for use next year.

-Why do we celebrate Easter? Children's Sermon: Easter in an Egg Shell

10:40-?? Egg Hunt and Pass Out Prizes

Have Grocery bags for those without baskets.

Egg Hunt

-Release PreK to go next door to the admin bldg lawn where Miss Pam and Miss Davida are waiting.

-Line up with Mr. Andy and Miss Amanda and follow them. Take them to side drive and I will meet you out there TURN UM LOOSE!

-Come back in side door of FLC

-Separate Candy and Eggs and place Eggs in Egg Boxes

Give out Prizes

-Mother Hen and Rockin Rooster Award

-Jelly Bean Guess

-Prize Eggs

Job Descriptions

Set up/Clean up crews

Meet director the day prior to the event to set up facilities
Hides Eggs the day of the event
Stays after the event to help clean up the facility

Musicians or volunteers to lead in worship (if this is part of your event)

Has a desire to lead families in worship
Understands the directors needs for worship at this event
Rehearses with other leaders at least once before the event

Age group leaders

Will lead an age group to their hunting area
Will explain boundaries to the families in their age group
Will manage a group of age group helpers

Age group helpers

Will look after any children that are without parental supervision
Help the age group leader to prepare the area to be hunted
Will serve as the main egg hiding crew, hiding eggs in their area

Volunteers to manage other activities

These people will look after an assigned activity or game (jelly bean guess, egg toss, etc)

Refreshment crew

This team of people will prepare and serve refreshments at the event.
(I used out our Junior High Sunday School Class and their teacher oversaw the effort)

Greeters and counters

The greeters are the first people at the door to welcome families into your facilities. These people will walk families through the registration process, answering any questions and making any forms readily available as well as pens.

Follow up team

This group of people will receive the registration information from the director and make contact with the attending families via phone, email, or in person.

All

I asked that everyone serve as egg stuffers!

Easter In An Egg Shell: Sermon Notes

(Pic 1)

-About 2000 years ago a man named Jesus came and made claims to be the son of God. He taught about God's will and

(Pic 2)

-He died on a cross.

(Pic 3)

-Just like anyone else his friends and family buried him in a tomb.

(Slide 2)

So what right? Lots of people come and say things and die.

Is this the End?? NO WAY!

(Slide 3)

Jesus Died for our sins and he rose from the dead just as he claimed he would do. He appeared to many people then rose up to heaven!

(Slide 4)

What does this mean?

(Slide 5)