



Welcome to Miss Curly's space

Have you ever had God give you a vision and then watched it come to fruition? It is exciting to see this happen! To be able to experience such excitement recently was a mountaintop one.

Donna and Curly Climbing a mountain can be a BIG challenge. Think of climbing Mount Everest and you'll get the picture! Just take one step at a time. Be relentless and put one foot in front of the other! It has been a slow process, but God is doing it! The vision He gave Miss Donna (Bridge), General Manager in 2000 was to go beyond the walls of the church and teach others about being creative and using puppets to deliver a message whether it's religious or educational. During these 17 years, many lessons (failures and successes) have been learned. In July and this past week the momentum came after all the difficult steps had been made. It was amazing!

While at the 2017 IMPACT, 4 young ladies had a desire to be part of what the Kingdom Kidz team was teaching. Actually, they had their creative juices wet in 2016 and were encouraged to become part of the presentations this year. They came excited and were issued official shirts. At each presentation, Miss Lisa (Derr), Team/Program Director, gave them instructions and taught them the puppet basics. They accomplished the Apprentice 1 level of puppetry- doing the basics and persevering through 6 presentations. Not being there myself, the conversations that happened following IMPACT were so positive. One of the apprentices wants to start a puppet team at her school. Kingdom Kidz planted a seed with this young lady- 3 puppets, a script and puppet rack. The smile and hug were worth it all!

In May God laid it on Miss Donna's heart to offer a Puppet Day Camp for 25 children. Whoa! What a challenge! So August 7-9 the Academy of Puppetry began its first instructional classes (Apprentice 1) with a Puppet Day Camp. Each day from 9am-3pm, 8 youth (ages 8-14), learned the basic art of puppetry, learned to work as a team, created their own puppets (3), learned how to present a program and also learned about props. Then on the evening of August 9, their families watched them do a puppet presentation. Well, one might think the camp was a failure because only 8 participated instead of 25. Actually, it was not a failure, but God knew that this would be the right number of participants, especially with all the sewing that was needed.

In 3 days they created a peeper puppet, a sock puppet and then their very own life size puppet. Watching from my stand in the lobby was exciting! Peggy's Palace was literally filled with material, foam, wiggly eyes, yarn, glue guns, thread, needles, and 8 focused youth who spend one-and-a-half days creating their own puppets. Parents could be overheard telling Miss Donna and Miss Lisa that their children wanted to be at the Puppet Home at 8am in the morning. Peggy Evans (the name sake of Peggy's Palace) would have been thrilled to see all of this happening in the room. She wouldn't have minded the mess! This was

the legacy she would want to see fulfilled. As she served so lovingly, so did these children. There was not one grumble or complaint! Peggy would have said, "This is great!" By Wednesday afternoon at 4 pm, Peggy's Palace was spotless. They had put everything away (in its proper place, upstairs and down) and cleaned this room for the program. Every one of them asked if we would have a camp next year and make it a week instead of 3 days! My curls began to bounce! Then Miss Donna announced that there would be 2 camps next year- Apprentice 1 and Apprentice 2. Each camp would be one week long. The excitement and smiles just flowed! If yours truly had legs, they would have been jumping! And many of the new apprentices want to continue developing their skills! So watch for new faces at Kingdom Kidz' presentations! (That another vision coming forth!!!!)

To watch all this take place has been satisfying! When one sees the little puppet given to Miss Donna by Kate Huff in 2000 at St. Andrew's UMC (Milton) and then see what the children have done -only God could have done it! What a climb up the mountain!

But one can't stay on the mountain! So down the mountain we go! The Academy of Puppetry is well on its way to training children and youth to use the creativity God has given to them! Peggy's Palace will continue to be alive with activity!

However, not only puppetry skills will be taught at different levels! Instructions in props, creative dance and audio/video technician skills will be given so that excellent, quality presentations will abound. To watch young people excel and work together as a team are part of the continuing vision! Though retirement has set in, watching all of this happen has been exciting! And you are getting it firsthand!

Stop by the Puppet HOME and see what is happening! God is good! Climbing the mountain has definitely been worth it! Glad I've experienced it firsthand! Stay tuned for more to come!

For information about Kingdom Kidz Inc. and their nonprofit organization, visit www.hiskingdomkidz.org.

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