



Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

The congregation of Christ Our Savior in Norwalk partnered with the Sudanese Ministry in Des Moines to provide a joint VBS program for our children. This was an especially important effort in that without joining with a sister congregation, the Sudanese would not have had the resources or the manpower to present a VBS for their young people. This was also helpful for our congregation as we are very small and it made for a more enjoyable VBS experience to have more participate.

2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?

Our goals were to provide a VBS that would help our children see how sister congregations can work together to present a program that glorifies our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and gives them tools they can use to help tell others about what Jesus has done for them. It also exposed the children to different cultures and as they interacted they made new friends and built teamwork skills. It was also an opportunity to reach each of our communities with an program that would invite others who are not members to visit our church and see what Christ Our Savior was all about.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

We did achieve some of our goals. We had 44 children participate which was a great size group to work with. We did have 5 children who are not members of either congregation participate which was awesome. Everyone pitched in together to present a very effective VBS.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

I would like to have reached more in the community and so for next year we will be working to increase awareness of our VBS with more personal interaction within the community and see if we can have a greater opportunity to impact those around us with the message of Jesus Christ and what He has done for each and every one of us.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

It helped our congregation in Norwalk to see that we could pull together and present an enjoyable and educational VBS event. It also exposed them to the situation that the Sudanese congregation faces and increased the awareness of their needs. It also was a great opportunity to work together as sister congregations to accomplish what might not have happened separately. We look forward to doing it again and having a chance to reach even more children/families in our communities.

6. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

Especially for smaller congregations, it is great to join together and have a larger group participate in the various activities and see the children enjoy the events without feeling like they are such a small group that they have to do it all. It is so much more enjoyable when there is a loud, happy, response to the activities at the beginning and end of each day and it encourages the children to invite their friends when they have more fun. It is very encouraging to the adult volunteers to see larger groups of children also and hopefully excites and motivates them to promote and help the program to grow in the coming years.

7. Contact person

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Congregation: Christ Our Savior – Norwalk, Iowa