



BELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER



A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

This past month has been one of my favorite ones since we started doing the work that we do a little over 2 years ago. It's been filled with several Christmas initiatives that have been a blessing to kids and families and I want to tell you about a couple of them.

As you probably know, I am part of an organization called the Faith Communities Coalition (FCC) on Foster Care here in Michigan. Back in October, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Wayne County approached us because they had lost some key partners who helped with their annual Christmas party for children in foster care in the county and they needed our help. Hundreds of children attend the party and many elements of it still needed to be planned and paid for, so making it happen in just 2 months would not be a small feat, but we jumped in anyway. Over the next several weeks I worked closely with DHHS to pull together all of the remaining elements of the party and I also requested and received some special funding from Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge (BGMC) to help cover the cost of them.

The party happened earlier this month and it was an overwhelming success! 316 children and their families attended and enjoyed a delicious meal, a build your own ice cream sundae bar, face painting, a photo booth, art and craft projects, a video game station, and much more. Each child also received a gift bag that contained toys, art supplies, blankets, toiletries, and other comfort items. One of my favorite aspects of the party was serving alongside the Chi Alpha students from Wayne State University (several pictured above). I had the opportunity to share with their group about the importance of serving vulnerable kids and families in November and mentioned the party to them while I was there. They immediately offered to volunteer and were an incredible help on the day of the event.

Another Christmas initiative that we had the pleasure of participating in was CarePortal's annual partnership with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree. In case you aren't familiar, Angel Tree helps churches to provide gifts to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Each year the CarePortal network of churches has the opportunity to serve these families and it has become a highlight of my year. This year churches in Macomb County sponsored gifts for 22 children through the partnership. There are always many incredible stories that come from this, but one was especially powerful. Kadosh Ekklesia Church of God in Christ in Warren has been a part of the CarePortal network since before we fully launched in the Detroit area and they have also served families through Angel Tree for many years. This year they sponsored 10 children. Families that participate in the program aren't required to attend a church service, but churches are welcome to invite them and Kadosh Ekklesia always invites the families that they serve. This year a mother and young son took them up on that invitation and attended one of their services leading up to Christmas. The mother and son enjoyed the service and spending time with the members of the congregation, but most importantly, they both decided to make a decision to follow Jesus that day and they plan to continue attending the church. Not only does that family now know the hope that can only be found in Jesus, but they also have a community of incredible people to walk through life with them.

This is why we do what we do and why we believe that the local church is the solution to the child welfare crisis. As soon as I hit send on this newsletter, I'll be disconnecting for a bit to celebrate the holidays and to recharge, but we'll be back to work in January. In case you haven't already seen it, feel free to read our family Christmas letter by clicking on the button below as well. It includes updates on us and the kids as well as some highlights of what we have been able to accomplish in our ministry this year. None of this would be possible without you and we appreciate each and every one of you so very much.

Merry Christmas!

Adam and Cara (and Mitch, Juliana, Avery, and Zeke) Bell

Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

Foster and Adoptive Care Missionary Chaplains

Bell Family Christmas Letter