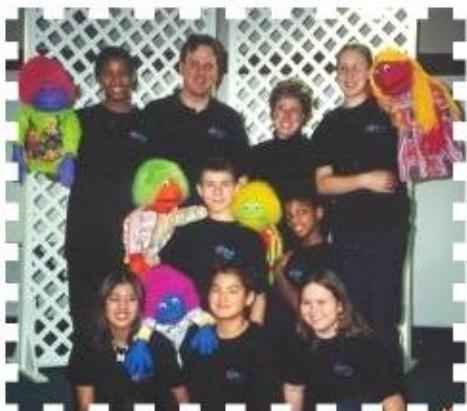


PUPPETS 4 Him

Hooray! Summer at last! And, yes, with it comes the inevitable ... garage sales, mosquitoes and the Puppets 4 Him newsletter! Okay, so maybe we shouldn't bring up the part about the mosquitoes, but we're just itching to tell you all about our puppet year we just wrapped up!



Puppets 4 Him

This year, Puppets 4 Him had something we've never had before boys! After years of being the lone male, Marlowe finally had some company! The team was comprised of mainly brother and sister combos. We had 2 puppeteers return, 5 new members and ourselves. Melissa, a third year veteran, accepted the role of team secretary and took on some extra duties to help us out. We stuck pretty close to home this year, performing 11 times. We had the Open Door Fellowship preview most of our presentations before we went to the different departments.

We began our year where we left off last year and presented a multi-media presentation titled "Many Voices, Wise Choices" for various groups, including a performance for the Sunday evening church service at Calvary Temple. This was a different presentation incorporating a pre-recorded video with a more mature message geared especially for teens. We were even invited to a bridal shower for Sharilyn Dahir last fall! First birthday parties... then family reunions... now bridal showers can be added to the growing list of "special requests"!! During the Christmas season, we made our focus on Christmas as seen through the eyes of the shepherds. At such a busy time of year with concerts and parties, we were encouraged when most Sunday School departments were able to attend. We were pleased to participate once again at both the evening sittings of the Community Christmas Dinners, this year presenting in the main banquet for all the guests. By this time, lugging boxes up and down the stairs was not Carol's idea of a good time, being 8 months pregnant! Anyone who saw the big bulge in the curtain knew what part she was doing! It was either her or Daniel - he was so excited about having the opportunity to eat two turkey dinners that night!!

As expected (no pun intended), our year was interrupted in February with the arrival of our future little puppeteer! Well, we always said, what's one more thing to carry! Needless to say, the challenge of making props and writing scripts, etc. has taken on new heights with adding diapers and bottles into the mix. Maybe we should make the diaper and bottle thing a part of the secretarial job description. Hmmm

Unfortunately, due to the timing of the baby's arrival, we were unable to attend the Minneapolis festival this spring. As it turned out, that weekend the area got hit with a major snow storm so our trip would have been cancelled or we would definitely have been stuck there shoveling ourselves out!



As usual, Tyler got the "shower" thing a little mixed up!



The "Baa Sheep Boys" made an encore presentation at Christmas.

Melissa hosted a shower in Cassidy's honor, which was by all means not a part of the assigned secretarial duties! Puppeteers, past and present, came to welcome her. One piece of advice we received from a former puppeteer who knows us all too well was "Never use the baby as a prop in a puppet show"!!



God's Love is so big, it's "Titanic"!

After a 3-week hiatus (to get a handle on the parenting thing), we resumed practices and finished off our year with a message for young and old alike on the theme of "God's Love". All the Calvary Temple Sunday school departments from pre-school to junior high attended. We have found that performing in the gym can give us the space to accommodate multiple groups and that will allow for everyone to enjoy the shows. We were even able to sneak in a little "puppy show" just for the preschoolers in the midst of winding up our year.



Somewhere under the rainbow!

Probably the highlight of the year was having the privilege to perform at Rainbow Stage in June, thanks to an invitation from the Union Gospel Mission to participate in their city wide picnic and pig roast at Kildonan Park. Even though the weather didn't quite co-operate, the show must go on and that it did! Being under cover, we performed as planned for a good number of people who weren't going to let a few raindrops get in the way of a fun afternoon. Hey, we were even given a dressing room, complete with refreshments and mirrors with lights! How about that! (Just wait until we're big enough to demand only the red M & M's and non-stop Cherry Coke on ice!) We thought it was a great way to end our 4th year!

What a super bunch we had working with us this year, and very, how shall we say, energetic! (Okay, we'll call it "enthusiastic"!!) Seriously, we appreciated each one and the contributions they made. We saw, through their dedication, that each member was on board with a willingness to serve the Lord. We give a big thanks to the parents, who committed along with the puppeteers, for their part in helping to make the year run so smoothly.

Thank You

... to Bob, Dean and Derek for videotaping some of our performances for our "library".

... to Melissa and Christopher's mom who kept bringing treats on special occasions.
(We don't remember when we ate so much cake!)

... to Grandma and Grandpa Barker who take good care of Cassidy on Thursday evenings while we practice.

... to "Auntie Trish" who offered to help us out by baby-sitting during performances at church.

... to all who remember this ministry in prayer.

