

PUPPETS 4 Him

Puppet Ministry ... What is it?

“On the positive side, it’s all about performing, ministering, entertaining, and traveling. It’s about fellowship, fun, and friendships. It’s about puppet songs, puppet skits, Bible stories, scripture verses, and spiritual truths. It’s about audiences, enjoyment, and laughter. It’s about children, teens, adults and families. It’s about children’s church, nursing homes, seasonal parties, church functions, and outreach performances.

On the negative side, it’s about chaotic rehearsals, helpers who quit, vans that won’t run, and puppeteers that skip rehearsal. It’s about lack of respect, lack of finances, and sore knees. It’s about flipping your lid, biting your words, sinking in quicksand and manhole exits. It’s about cranky parents, unsupportive pastors, stages that fall down, and tired arms.”

– Dale Von Seggen, President, One Way Street Inc.

Ah, yes ... Puppet Ministry! It’s all that, and more! Along with accepting a puppet ministry leadership position comes setting aside some aspects of life to give proper attention to our responsibility. Simple pleasures such as golfing, watching TV, shopping, even a social life is set aside. Puppet ministry is a big investment of time and energy! We sure are looking forward to a summer break! But before we do, here’s the low down on the past ten months ...



Puppets 4 Him

Puppets 4 Him has just completed it’s fifth year. We were so encouraged to have five puppeteers return and we welcomed two newcomers, Miriam and Kelsey.

Melissa was our team secretary again this year and also came early on performance days to entertain a very busy toddler while we set up. It was great to have Christopher help lug all the boxes and bags up three flights of stairs on the days he came early too! (Yeah, great for us, not so great for him!!)

After a brief hiatus, audiences saw the return of Tyler and his antics at Christmas. Last year our Christmas theme focused on the shepherds, this year we presented *“Christmas Fit for A King”*, focusing on the wise men, complete with camels and blacklight stars! Once again, it was our pleasure to participate in the Community Outreach dinners where we presented the musical portions of our show. (Daniel really enjoys this annual event, this year especially ... two sittings, four meals, you do the math!) It was neat to learn that four of the families in attendance returned to see the complete performance in the gym the following Sunday for the presentation to the Sunday School Departments.

In the new year, we took a previous theme, added a new script, and voila – *“The Bible – A Story-Telling Book”*. We were pleased to accept invitations to present this production to The Living Bible Explorers and Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in addition to our regular Calvary Temple departments.



Shalom!

Perhaps some of our most unique opportunities this year were to provide the entertainment for some children’s birthday parties - primarily for Jewish families! On request, we developed a new “younger” show geared for 3 & 4 year olds, and as in the past, it snowballed from there! One party had us crammed into a house basement (which was quite hilarious if you know the size of our stage!) and another in a synagogue! We view these shows as fund-raisers for future team trips, although we never completely write them off as “non-ministry” because we’re guaranteed to have people ask us questions about our team. This gives us an opportunity to explain who we are and what we do.

We also took the opportunity and performed our birthday show for family and friends for Cassidy’s 1st Birthday. It was a good excuse to get together and par-tay!!

After viewing our Christmas performance at the Community Outreach dinner, Pastor Morton told us he was excited about the audience's response to our puppets. So much so, that he was "inspired" to produce an entire puppet musical outreach event. This later evolved into "The Selfish Giant" musical production which included the participation of four of our puppeteers and five of our puppets. This was an unexpected opportunity that, due to the timing, required us to suspend and juggle our regular schedules and unfortunately set back our final planned production. Thanks to the team pulling together and attending additional Thursday rehearsals, we ended our year presenting "The Puppet Grammy's"! Complete with the red carpet and all! There were musical appearances by "Share", "The Backseat Boys", even "Ricki Martian"! This production was two years in the making and incorporated ideas from the entire team, so we really pushed to complete it. Laura and Melissa did a fabulous job doing speaking parts out front with a puppet.



"Share D. Gospel"



"Ricki Martian" and friends



"The Backseat Boys"

By the time the end of June rolled around, we had presented a total of 14 performances, just as many (if not more) slurpee runs, and too many renditions of "Proud to be an American" blurted out in the parking lot after practices!! Seriously, it was another fun year working with a super bunch of teenagers. We appreciate their commitment to the puppet ministry and to each other. We also owe a big thanks to their parents who were very supportive and encouraging to us in many ways throughout the year. We enjoyed the chats with them in the church parking lot after practice while the rest ran off for another slurpee!



Other Events

We kicked off our season with a fall weenie roast at Assiniboine Park. It turned out to be a cool day, but most came out and braved the elements. (The puppets sat this one out!)



Marlowe and I hired the crew to do some spring yard work, much to the envy of our neighbors!



Thank You

... to Dean, Bob and Derek who have all contributed to videotaping for us. Even Kelsey's dad willingly volunteered this year too!

... to Marion for sewing the wonderful King's robes for the Christmas production.

... to Grandma and Grandpa Barker for reserving Thursday evenings as a "standing" babysitting night!

... Dennis and Becky, in conjunction with Tim Hortons, who supplied us with donuts on many performance days!

... to the caretakers who assisted us and all our gear numerous times this year when we were "homeless" on practice nights. (We especially appreciate Dave coming to our rescue in June with fans for the gym before we melted!!)

We delighted in giving the boys on the team a rough time this year! Our Christmas preparations & shows were especially memorable for me.

Being a presenter for the Puppet Grammy's was one of this year's highlights for me. The guys were good sports putting up with our "girly" ways!

As always, our thanks to everyone who remembers this ministry in prayer!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Marlowe and Carol

This was Lisa's second year on the team.



Laura is a third year veteran!