



Leadership Vignette

A pastor discovered a distinctive gift her congregation had to offer children.

I have found an important starting point for ministry is to figure out what your church has to offer for kids, and then play that up. My current church had no children's Sunday School when I came as pastor.

I have discovered that it is like pulling teeth to get volunteers. It is hard. The truth is, if I were not the pastor, I would not choose this church for my kids to go to Sunday School. I would probably be down the street at the church with the huge program.

But, I realized that we do have something special to offer--our kids are multicultural. Of our regular child attendees, two are from the Philippines, one is from Africa, one is African American, four are Anglo, and one is biracial.. Recently I've had a couple of families visit because friends told them that their multiethnic children would fit in well at our church! So suddenly our tiny little class is not so small. It is actually the cool multicultural place to be! This has certainly been one of the facets of our congregation that I have emphasized as a great blessing.

I now realize that every place has something special to offer. We might not be able to "compete" with larger churches, but we should be able to thrive on our own terms, using the distinctive gifts and opportunities God has given us.