



Kronicle

spiritual renewal & resources for children's ministers & kid's choir directors - www.kidsworksmusic.com

TIME MARCHES CRUNCHES ON

2 Peter 3:8 says, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

Have you ever had the feeling you were on some goofy Reality TV show... like one of those days when you think things couldn't get any crazier, and there's more to be done than there are hours in the day? I'm sure everyone in children's ministry has had more than one of those days, when you wonder where the hidden camera is, because this just can't all be happening. Our God, though unfettered by the boundaries of time, understands when it's crunch time for us, and often makes us wait until the 11th hour, bringing us to our knees. When it's 11:59 and we think it's hopeless, help arrives in the nick of time. A phone call cancels that one thing we could never have fit in... out of the blue someone takes something off of our heaping plate... a co-worker walks in and asks if we could use a little help. We marvel when this happens!



Real life really can be stranger than fiction at times. Which leads my ever-wandering mind to question - Is that why Reality TV is so popular? I'm not a big Reality TV buff, but you may catch me watching Food Network, taking in an episode of "Cupcake Wars." I mean, really--bakers competing to make thousands of yummy and beautiful little cakes--what's not to love?

I've also become a fan of a cooking show called "Chopped." I'm kinda hooked on watching those four chefs enter the big kitchen, each chef with a basket of secret ingredients. I gape in fascination as they open their baskets and pull out some ridiculous combination of foods like vanilla wafers, liver, collard greens and jelly beans, which they must transform into some fabulous appetizer. To make matters worse, they also have a very tight time line, and the chef whose dish is the worst gets "Chopped." Then they proceed to the next round with the three remaining chefs, with new ingredients for the entree round, another gets "Chopped" then they have a dessert round, etc. They last chef standing wins \$10,000. WooHoo!

The remarkable thing is, these chefs have the talent and expertise to make the most of these odd circumstances and sometimes even come up with a savory yet sweet, creamy yet crunchy, modern yet traditional dish, worthy of a five star restaurant... all within a time frame that could make Julia Child's head spin!

I'm no gourmet chef (as my family will attest to), but I'm familiar with time crunches (shameless pun intended). Especially when we start a new KidsWorks Kamp. People are always amazed at the fact that we can put together a musical in just one week. But if you really think about it, the schedule we set allows for nearly as much rehearsal time as an average kids' choir has in two months. Plus the fact that it's all concentrated into one exciting week, so the kids don't forget what they learned from one rehearsal to the next. This keeps the energy up, which is hard to do when going through a whole season of rehearsals.

As far as "ingredients," we never know what God's going to give us to work with. Some of the kids are a little nutty, most are pretty sweet, but all have their own "flavor" to bring to the table. And no matter how prepared we may think we are, there's always unknowns waiting in the "basket" for us. But we know that God always works things out if we let Him lead.

Thankfully, I think the comparison ends there. In our Kamps, no one gets "judged" and no one gets "Chopped!" We have a gracious God who blesses our efforts and loves what we do for Him just as a loving parent always puts their child's drawings on the fridge. And our human audiences are so blessed and amazed at the accomplishment of their youngsters, that any mistakes simply make the experience more memorable and endearing. So with a dash of talent, a healthy helping of experience and a pinch of planning, a feast for the eyes and ears can be completed in short order. Try doing that with taco shells, oysters, dragon fruit and brussels sprouts. (Eeww.)

If you have considered the possibility of hosting a KidsWorks Kamp, but have seemingly impossible obstacles, I encourage you to contact us with your concerns. We are all on the same team, trying to meet the needs of the beloved kids in our churches and communities with creative and fun ways of learning about Jesus. We are trying to make this ministry effective yet playful, fresh yet well-grounded, savory yet sweet... (how long can I keep up this metaphor?) Please let us know how we can best serve alongside you!

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