

(I received this encouraging note from one of our beloved older saints at The Worship Center. It reminds me of why Children's Ministry is so important. Gratefully, Pastor O)

December 12, 2005

Dear Pastor O,

It has been a long time since I was a child in church. I was required to sit quietly beside my mother as the service proceeded. Being in a denominational church, and a very stiff and dry one at that, I did not see the kind of worship we see today. I learned to be respectful in the sanctuary and I perceived church as a very serious event. After I was born again at age 27 and began to attend a charismatic church, I was like a child- a happy one. Church was actually fun. With joyful music, various musical instruments, clapping and singable songs, I felt like a bird let out of a cage. What freedom!

Depending on what kind of church you are attending, your child may or may not experience freedom in worship. I am excited to think about our children taking part in leading worship in their own service. I am excited that they have an opportunity to learn to be led by the Holy Spirit and manifest the Gifts of the Spirit in their own service. With occasional opportunities to come worship with the adults, I'm sure they will be very comfortable and we will see them enter in.

I do not remember learning anything from the sermons I was exposed to as a child in church, but what I see and hear them learning in kids' church is so wonderful. All of this is dependent upon the adult leadership of the kids' department and we are blessed with a called, anointed, trained and dedicated leader. You are doing a great job. The kids love church and they are learning to hear the voice of God and love Jesus. What more could you ask? (Maybe teach them not to run in the sanctuary).

Love,
(name withheld)