

THE H PPENING

An Annual Easter Publication - "The Village Years"
By Todd Osterei, E.B.



Hello Kessie's!

It's been a great year here in the village. Liam's son arrived last fall and he is the spitting image of what I remember Liam to be. He spent several weeks looking at pictures and awards that were achieved by his family. The photo he liked the most was of his dad and Uncle Titus, after Liam dove into the chocolate vat. We all remember the day well, Liam was covered from head to toe, but the radius around his lips was licked clean. If not for his legendary abs and his brother standing by his side, he would be hard to identify. Later that afternoon I caught him carving his initials into the tabletop at the career workshop. Right next to JBK and LBK you now see GBK - along with several others of course. Some things never change! Hard to believe the first set was placed there over 50 years ago. I'll start stocking up on M&M's right away.

I still work the field logging in over 784,000,000 sq. meters of not just hopping, but organizing the drops ahead of schedule, writing letters, eating at least 1/2 a carrot at each home & tickling the baby's faces with my cottontail before leaving each bedroom. It's exhausting but very rewarding for me. If we didn't have so much time invested in all these children, it wouldn't mean so much. Each time, before I leave their room, I whisper in their ear what I know they were designed by God to be. Remember, there is a lot of training going on in The Village; we don't just baby-sit for 20 years. We place them in families we believe can nurture that quality and gently remind them each time a tooth comes out, a stocking gets stuffed or Sedrick drops by, who they are in Christ.

After a 24-hour nap, a full body massage and a dip in the whirlpool, I will sit down and begin watching the videos. I leave a remote camera in the houses, which vanishes after 15 hours. Harriett Horncastle invented this little device and it uploads to each route manager. Some kids can't find their baskets if we hide them at the foot of their beds, while others find them if hidden in the crawl space. It's adorable and we compile the best and watch them through the year.

Speaking of videos, one night a month we draw a few names and watch a video of the first time their parents met. I remember it was about 15 years ago, because Hugo was premiering his new candy wolf whistle scheduled for a launch in October. He had passed out a handful right before the lights dimmed. When the video got to where Liam's Aunt Chelsea met her future husband, Gilbert O'Leary blew his whistle. He was just testing to see if the whistle worked, but was shocked to see a dozen or so Kessie cousins stand up and walk over to him. Nobody got hurt, but they did remove his whistle, Titus stuck a twizzler in his mouth, and Gilbert never said a word. Hugo sacked his idea and the candy never came to market.

I love you all, and if we remember all gifts we give, are given in love, then we can all understand more fully the meaning of Easter.

Todd~

The Village