



a mission field at my front door

by Verda Rubottom

When I asked God for help, He showed me a wonderful way to reach the children in my own neighborhood with the Gospel.

When we moved into our first house many years ago, we asked the Lord to bless our home and use it for His glory. It wasn't long before I noticed that every day about 3 p.m. a school bus stopped at our house and children would pile out of the bus onto our front yard.

As I watched them play, I wondered if they went to church anywhere. God began to tug at my heart, and I felt compelled to pray for them. It seemed like God had placed a mission field at my front door. I wanted to reach these children with the Gospel, but I didn't know where to start.

One day I prayed earnestly that God would show me what to do. "Lord," I said, "I want to teach these children, but how?"

God Has a Plan

During this time, I met another young mother who told me about an organization that offered training for people interested in starting a neighborhood Bible club for children.

I was delighted to learn there was such an organization, and I began attending classes each week. There I learned creative ways to teach the Bible at a child's level. A former teacher offered to do the music, make prizes and snacks,

and recruit youth workers from her church to help me. God provided every need.

Step Out in Faith

Probably the most difficult part for me was going door-to-door to get permission from the parents for their children to attend Bible club. But to my surprise, most of my neighbors were happy about this convenient way for their children to get some "good moral training" and welcomed the idea. Only one person slammed a door in my face.

Ask God To Use You

The first day of club we moved our furniture to make room for the children and put a sign in the front yard to remind them to come. The same children I had prayed for a few months earlier would soon be here. I was amazed at how God had answered my prayer!

We waited with anticipation for the children to arrive, and we were not disappointed. Some of them came early, asking, "Is it time yet?" Soon our living room was filled with excited, energetic children.

They loved the songs, Bible stories, and games. Our attendance grew to about 30 to 50 children each week, and many accepted Christ into their lives.

God showed me that year that He *wanted* to work through me, and He *could* when I asked for His help. He provided for every need.

Just ask God **what you can do—right where you are.**

God may want you to do hospital visitation, conduct a Bible study, distribute food to shut-ins, tutor a student, coach a ball team, or have a prayer ministry. Whatever it is, God wants to touch the people in your world. Just ask God what you can do—right where you are. He wants to work through you. Remember, *He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it* (1 Thessalonians 5:24). ✪

Today Verda Rubottom teaches early childhood development in the School of Education at Oral Roberts University. She is an ORU alumna and has four grown children—all of whom have attended ORU.



Verda (at far left) with the children in her neighborhood Bible club.