

Using Technology to Personalize Missions for Children

Just thought I'd let you know about a fun thing we did with the Nampa College Church kids yesterday for our monthly missions Sunday.

For our monthly missions Sundays, we're using the Children's Mission Education curriculum on the Eurasia Region. Some Nazarene tentmakers from College Church are serving in one of the world areas featured in the curriculum.

We arranged to Skype* the tentmakers and two of their children. While it was noon our time, it was late at night where they live.

We set up a laptop that had a webcam and hooked it up through our media system to show the family on the big screen. We had the kids from our church gather in close (on the floor), so the webcam could pick them up all up (see photo on this page).

We gave a brief lesson on the world area where the tentmakers serve before we Skyped the family. Then we asked them (parents and children) to tell us about the area and their ministry in their own words. One of the things they talked about were the religions in that country.

Later we provided an opportunity for our church kids to ask questions. They asked things like: What do you eat there? Do you have McDonalds? What animals do you see? Do you have pets? What is your favorite thing about the country where you live? Do you miss Nampa? What do you study in school?

The kids had a blast! It was neat to have their kids teach our kids about where they live. Children's Pastor John Miller is getting **scores** of comments from the parents about how their kids won't stop talking about it. The children were **amazed** that they could talk to people so far away. They couldn't believe that there isn't a McDonald's, and they were shocked to hear that the nearest place to get pizza is eight hours away!

This kind of activity really keeps our kids on fire for missions. We work hard to keep it that way. They actually beg for more missions Sundays.

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Children's Pastor John Miller joins the children of Nampa College Church of the Nazarene on the floor for a Skype session. The group sat close together so the webcam could video them.

*Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to both traditional landline telephones and mobile phones can be made for a fee using a debit-based user account system.