

Vacation Bible School

by MARK FLOYD

It's always easy to tell when summer is here — kids are playing baseball, going to camp and attending vacation Bible school.

While the weather has put a damper on the first two activities, it hasn't hurt the attendance at the Bible school one bit. Two recent one-week sessions at "Promises From God," sponsored by the Sandy Immanuel Lutheran Church, drew more than 100 youngsters.

The school was divided into the two sessions, one for nursery to kindergarten kids; the other for first through sixth graders. Each session was divided into four phases: Song, Projects, Missions and Story.

"The idea of the songs was to learn Christian songs to be used in a program," said Bible school co-director Chris Hewitson. "The kids used rhythm instruments, record players and a lot of body motions."

Some of the projects done by the kids included sending off helium balloons with the name and address of the church and the kid to see how far they will travel. Other projects included making ceramic butterflies, stained glass crosses, bulletin boards and a plaque.

The missions began with an introduction to foreign countries. After that, guest speakers came in with tales of their adventures in foreign countries. The Chandavong family, Laotian refugees, talked of their country; pastor Frank Koepke told of being a missionary in Japan; Judy McCormick related her experiences as a missionary in New Guinea; and there were pictures, slides and carvings from India and Africa.

"The kids tasted food from each country," Hewitson said. "things like dried shrimp, which the kids detested, and seaweed, dried coconut, pineapple and a noodle dish from Laos. The kids liked the seaweed and loved the noodle dish with fish sauce — I didn't have the nerve to try it."

The story phase of the school dealt with the birth of Jesus and continued through his resurrection. The phase ended with his promise to return.

"Our main purpose was to reach out to the community and spread the good news of Jesus to unchurched people, church people and the community in general," Hewitson said.

An open house and an evening program concluded the sessions.



photos by
Mark Floyd

Vacation Bible school kept more than 100 youngsters busy in Sandy the last two weeks. (clockwise from top) Dan Gannon works on a cross during one of the project periods; a mission phase was highlighted by Sarah Montambo wearing a grass skirt from New Guinea; Kim Dasher displays a ceramic butterfly, another of the group's projects; and Anne Marie Amstad leads a group of children in a song.