

Let the Children Stay

Missionaries Joel and Pam Tooley recently concluded their amazing journey with the 12:7 Serve team. They wrote the following words that every pastor and NMI president needs to hear:

Before the missionary preached, all of the children were dismissed to attend a special Children's Church. This happens a lot in deputation services. As missionaries, I think we need to help train pastors on this important issue.

I want to encourage you: please ask the pastor to allow the children to stay in the church service. Children need to hear the message of missions. In fact, I'm convinced that one of the best opportunities for people

to receive the call of God on their life is when they are children. Then, let's be sure to share stories of evangelism or stories where God's power was used to transform lives. Always be sensitive to the possibility of giving an opportunity for people to respond to the Holy Spirit.

Our missionaries should pursue opportunities to share their story with children's groups and youth groups. The future of our church is dependent upon young people hearing and receiving the call of God on their lives to serve Him. Missionaries have a powerful, wonderful story to share – and God can use this story to connect with His people.