

# Arizona Reservation Ministries

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Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation



Breastplate of Righteousness



This past quarter has involved some very special events through Arizona Reservation Ministries, focusing on the children and teens of the San Carlos Apache Reservation. God had plans for their parents as well. He was clearly leading us as two Vacation Bible Schools were held at two Apache-led Churches. As the children arrived at the first, one of the ARM team members sat on the sidewalk outside the church with the parents of two boys who had just arrived. When asked how they were, the mom started to cry. They were having difficulties, and God used us to encourage them and pray for them. Because of road construction near the second VBS, parents and other adults were invited to remain as they dropped off their children. Many did, some saying that the songs that were sung so loudly and enthusiastically had drawn them. Both of these Vacation Bible Schools were led by the ARM team. As these were planned, we had hoped visiting Short Term Ministry teams would be on hand to add their ARMs. God's plans were different...and very special! Because we needed extra ARMs, God led us to recruit teens from the ARM family and the HANDS (youth group) ministry. What an amazing time as we watched HIS plans unfold! At the end of the second week, six children had accepted Christ and were requesting Bibles!

The theme for these Vacation Bible School programs was the "Armor of God" found in Ephesians, chapter six. Decorations were created for the home church of one of our team members of all of these pieces of "armor." That lesson of God's provision of protection against the evil one is now on display each week at her church, too.

**The teens had enjoyed their own special event this past quarter!**

Their groups' leaders devised an overnight event with an "Escape Room" theme. By working together, they were able to solve the mysteries that, one-by-one, revealed what they need to escape from (sins and death) and the only One who can provide deliverance. Working so hard on these puzzles; some math-related, some using special tools, like ultra-violet lights, invisible ink, etc. will, Lord willing, continue to remind them of such powerful truths.





On June 8<sup>th</sup>, a group of men from First Christian Church, Yuma, AZ arrived to deliver the wall sections built in their parking lot for our next home. It continues to prompt great praise as we watch, as God calls others to be such critical parts of all that God is doing through Arizona Reservation Ministries! This past quarter, men from Lifepoint Church in San Tan Valley, AZ arrived twice to help us complete our 35<sup>th</sup> home. A group of men arrived from First Christian Church, Yuma, AZ in July to also work on that home, and to help distribute the first portion of backpacks from our Church Bus. We continue to thank God for these workers and all that is accomplished through them! Two of the team from Yuma joined in the skits each afternoon of Backpack Week, sharing the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Visualizing Jesus in the fiery furnace with those three faithful men can be a great encouragement to the students of San Carlos as they have already started another school year...not alone, but with the same One that protected three men so long ago!

As many are aware, the Church Bus hasn't been able to roll on a regular basis for some time. This delay in programming is most certainly in God's hands, as we watch a transition unfolding to include Apache churches in this aspect of ARM's ministries. As the Church Bus did roll Backpack Week, two boys were visiting with an ARM team member as they colored pages. Kevin shared that we need them to join us in praying for God to send a Church Bus Driver (as soon as possible!) These boys stepped away, only to return and confided that that's exactly what they'd just done. ☺ We are confident that God is listening. Another day of Backpack Week, a car arrived as the Bus was heading home. We stopped to distribute yet more backpacks to those within. A little boy jumped out, excitedly remembering us from the VBS he'd attended! A favorite moment for many on the Church Bus that week was the three sisters, dressed identically. Always, at the end of the lessons, the invitation is extended for someone to pray. All three hands shot up. As they were prompted through their prayer, all three loudly and simultaneously proclaimed their prayers. God IS listening. ☺

We're thrilled to share that 1,014 backpacks were distributed this past month through the generosity of so many! In addition, a significant amount of school supplies have gone to the schools as well as many, many polo shirts for their school uniforms! One church provides backpacks embroidered with Joshua 1:9 on the front. As school started, (where violence has escalated in recent years to even the Kindergarten rooms), it was a great encouragement to see students carrying those on their first day of their new adventures!

**'God's ARMs around the Reservation'**



# ARM'S 2019 CHRISTMAS STOCKING WISH LISTS

All items need to fit within a Christmas Stocking. We're VERY grateful for your help as we hope to fill 800 Stockings in 2019! To save postage, consider sending items site-to-store to our Claypool AZ Walmart, or send us Dollar Tree or Walmart Gift Cards so that we can purchase specific requested items.

The Deadline for all donations is November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!



**Each Stocking needs:** individually-wrapped toothbrush, toothpaste, flashlight with batteries, individually-wrapped candies, socks, coloring books & crayons/sketchbook & pencils, card games, Beanie Babies/small stuffed animals, hair brush/comb.



**For the babies & toddlers:** Baby brush/comb, Baby wipes, "sippy" cups, socks, bibs, and Preschool toys: **Please check for choking hazard** blocks, cars, learning toys, rattles, rubber ducks, plush baby dolls, Bible-themed board books.



**Younger Boys: Action Figures:** (Superheroes, wrestlers, Transformers, etc.) **Figurines:** Paw Patrol, Ninja Turtles, animals, dinosaurs, etc. **Sports:** table-top basketball/bowling, Nerf-style footballs, etc. **Vehicles:** Hot Wheels, small trains, planes, etc. **Creative Toys:** Simple Lego kits, tool sets, K'Nex, craft kits, art supplies, etc.



We will also need a hand-tied, 45" x 60" two-ply fleece blanket for each child/teen who receives a stocking. For many of the kids, this will be their favorite gift! No owl prints, please.



**Younger Girls: Figurines:** My Little Ponies, Littlest Pet Shop, Polly Pockets, etc., **Dolls:** Barbie dolls, classic baby dolls, **Hair & Beauty:** barrettes, hair ties, costume jewelry, play make-up, lip gloss, etc., **Creative toys:** simple girl Lego kits, simple craft kits, art supplies **Outdoor toys:** Jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, etc.



**Older boys: Sports: Deflated** basketballs, small hand-held air-pump with needle, baseballs, sturdy hacky sacks, Nerf balls, etc. **Toys:** Advanced Lego kits, K'Nex kits, model car/plane kits, travel (Grab & Go) or mini board games, etc. **Accessories:** Baseball caps-black, white or gray popular sports teams or plain, sunglasses, etc. **Puzzles:** Word puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, Rubik's Cubes, brain teasers, etc. **Media:** Ear buds, pop sockets, Christian Contemporary CDs, Christian DVDs, Bibles, Devotionals, etc.



**Older Girls: Hair & Beauty:** lip gloss, make-up, hair accessories, brand-new pierced earrings, bracelets, necklaces, etc. **Crafts:** detailed coloring books & colored pencils, craft kits, drawing, beading, etc.) **Media:** ear buds, pop sockets, Contemporary Christian CDs, Christian movie DVDs, Bibles, Devotionals, Christian teen fiction **Sports: deflated** basketballs, volleyballs, etc. small ball pump with needle. **Puzzles:** Word puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, Rubik's Cubes, brain teasers, etc.



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