

Dear parents and friends of middle schoolers,

January 12, 2008

The new year begins, and school is back in full swing. I sincerely hope the miracle of Christmas continues to fill you with joy and hope and peace.

The Golden Age of Piracy came to an end with the new year. We forged some terrific swords, discovered ways to see through darkness, learned about things that don't spoil, sought great treasure, wove three stranded cords, and discovered that lots (dice) were sometimes used to find out what direction God wants us to go.



The pirate cruise overnight was survived by all aboard, though some walked the plank! We conscripted a couple wandering sailors, enjoyed the amazing culinary talents of various members of the crew, solved some murders in the dark, and watched Captain Jack Sparrow as he reaped the rewards of his sins, received grace, and struggled with his conscience. The pirate galley was ship shape and bright as a new penny before the crew disembarked.

Huzzah! The middle schoolers are headed for new adventures, or perhaps I should say past adventures. Last Sunday students selected a medieval theme for our next series of activities. I'll be adapting some activities from *"Days of Knights and Damsels"* by Laurie Carlson, a resource I've plucked plums from previously. Some years ago I lead a Christ-centered medieval themed after-school program for fifth and sixth graders. The Middle Ages was an interesting time. Religion played a prominent role in people's lives. People felt that honor, courtesy, and courage were important, and they respected heroes and heroines who tried to live up to those ideals. These things have value today, as well.

Middle Schoolers also decided to organize and host another fundraiser for Heidi (our Guatemalan friend sponsored through Compassion International) a "Heidi Chocolate Carnival." Their preferred date was Feb 10, which seems to be open on the church calendar. Some volunteered to check with their families about specific areas of responsibility. These included:

Mariah - chocolate cookies; Eva - chocolate truffles

Sami - fudge;

Nicole - Guatemalan display/sale items

They have a lot of other great ideas for activities, and it occurred to me that this would fit in well with our medieval theme.

Citizens of the Kingdom:



Middle schoolers will soon begin a quest into **The Mysteries of the Middle Ages**, riding into adventures in Bible and life learning as squires of the Kingdom. Crafts, team building games, and treats are some of **The Mysteries of the Middle Ages** activities that will help catapult kids into a greater understanding of the Kingdom of God. Sunday mornings squires may explore crafts, cooking, and strategy games like chess and checkers. Kids may participate in special events like a Great Fair to benefit Heidi, our Guatemalan friend sponsored through Compassion International, and a special quest later in the semester.

I expect **Mysteries of the Middle Ages** to be a great adventure, and great fun. Please provide or update contact information by filling out a registration form available under the **Mysteries of the Middle Ages** poster in the Narthex, and drop it off in the grail to register your middle schooler for Bible learning adventures they'll never forget.

Sincerely,

-=Bonnie

Squire trainer for the Kingdom of God
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Come one, come all
to the Great Fair!
Experience the wonders
of the exotic delicacy,
chocolate!

Discover fantastic Mayan treasures!

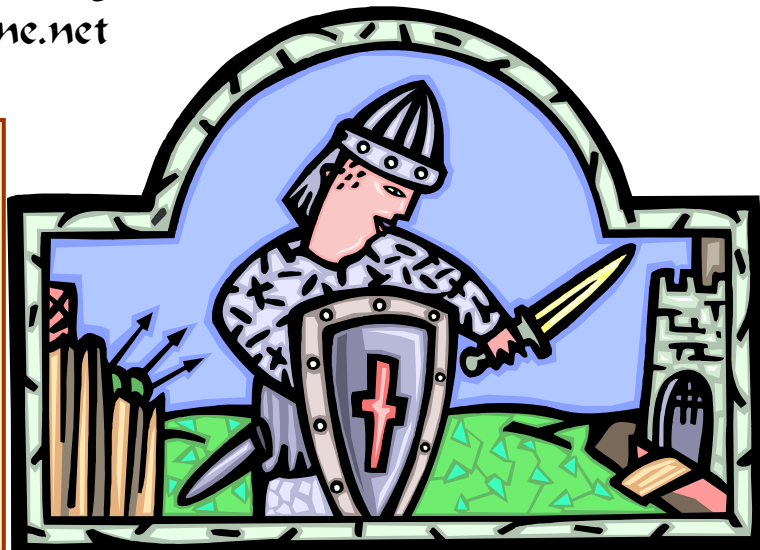
View amazing artifacts
from far off Guatemala!

Sunday, February 10, 2008

All proceeds support Heidi
through Compassion
International.



Eph. 6:10 – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.



Hear ye! Hear ye!
Citizens of the Kingdom:
Middle schoolers are hereby invited
to join other squires in a quest into
The Mysteries of the Middle Ages!

Come Sunday mornings at 9:30 to
the church

Please provide or update information
by filling out a registration form and
dropping it off in the grail.

Questions?

See Bonnie Allen

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