

Have Balloons, Will Travel



Gospel and biblically-based balloon routines for
church and mission trip use.

by

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aka

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aka

"GG"

(God's Gardener)

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About Me

Several years ago, I went to an all-day children's worker conference. Because I was teaching full time, I didn't get to attend most of the conference but did drop in for lunch. The speaker was a balloon artist. After lunch he passed out balloons and hand pumps and taught everyone in the room to make a dog and a sword. I was hooked, and came home with 288 balloons, a hand pump and three Ralph Dewey books.

After much trial and error, I could make everything in Ralph's books and branched out buying a Marvin Hardy Book and eventually one of Geri Geovanti's (Captain Visual) books. I loved playing with latex and kept balloons and pump handy just in case anyone wanted a balloon.

A booking agent and friend asked if I would do a restaurant gig for her. After much protesting, I packed up balloons and went. Two hours later with over a hundred dollars in tips, my business was born.

The next winter I saw an ad for "T-Jam 2," a balloon jam in Austin, Texas, and decided we needed to attend. At the time, the requirement to attend was the ability to make a dog and teddy bear. My husband, Dal, spent the entire trip working on these two items. We meet wonderful people and spent time with my idol, Ralph Dewey.

As I continued doing balloons I began to see possibilities for using this in ministry. Bizeleth's Flower was developed as a simple message for my then 3-year-old granddaughter. This has become one of my signature pieces.

I was driving back from training some young Christian clowns in Michigan when Hurricane Katrina hit. In the weeks that followed, both my heart and my church saw the need and the mission part of my life began. I drove to Monroe, LA where the last shelter was operating. By God's grace and intervention I spent two days in the shelter. Mostly I brought smiles to very tired Red Cross workers, many which had dealt with both Rita and Katrina and many would move on to Florida where yet another storm had hit.

Two years later my missionary work took on new dimensions. Instead of just ballooning for entertainment, I was being asked to perform, often in

church services for both children and adults. The routines that follow are both borrowed and new. If I know the source I will cite it. If I do not know the source but you do, let me know so I can change it and give credit where credit is due.

There are many people to thank: Ralph Dewey, of course, and Ken Stillman who has encouraged me greatly and blesses the use of any of his materials, Dave Bartlett for his basic tank/bulldozer, and Jason Vaughn who has been a good friend. Thanks to my family and friends who support me, but most of all, my husband for sharing the balloon business and supporting the missions. A special thanks to all at Salt Creek Bible Church who faithfully prayed and provided funding for all of my mission trips.

About This Book

This is not an instructional balloon twisting CD. It is intended to suggest ways to use balloon routines in ministry, to help illustrate *Gospel* messages in an entertaining way.

I have tried to steer you to sources for certain figures and creations where that is needed.

For more information, please contact me through my website, www.dgeign.com, or email me at dgeign@sbcglobal.net.



Bizzeleth's Flower



Source

This is one of my own. It was created for a street-type ministry but was a favorite of our Granddaughter Elizabeth when she was 3. She called herself Bizzeleth.

What you will need

One 260 balloon inflated with a 2-3 inch tail.

Set up ahead of time

None

Patter

Ask " *What do you need to do to become a Christian?*"

Accept all answers until someone says something like
"Put Jesus in your heart."

Make a tulip twist

*"Okay, now I have Christ in my heart, how can I **learn more** about Christ and God?"*

(depending on audience, older kids understand Jesus; younger ones may need it to be God.)

Give clues, until you get "Pray" and "Read the Bible."

I will fold my hands and bow my head, or point straight up and use my hands to mime a book or hold up a Bible or whatever to get the right response.

When you get each of these answers **make a fold twist petal**. You now have a flower with two petals.

Ask if anyone knows what Jesus said was the most important commandment.

Some may know the passage below. If no one responds very quickly, I will either read it or ask someone else to read it. As I read "Love the Lord with all your heart..." **I add another petal**, and "Love your neighbor..." **I add another.**

And now you have a Christian in full bloom!

Comments

I will often ask a pastor or teacher that the children know to read the scripture.

This works well for groups of all ages.

I once had a fellow pastor mention that I could get the salvation message across faster than anyone he knew. He joked that you can do it in 60 seconds what takes me 30 minutes.

When I started this ministry I needed to sneak in my gospel message. This was my first routine.

Biblical reference

Matt 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



GG's Garden



Source

This is my own creation. It is the basis for "GG" (God's Gardener) and the ministry.

What you will need

- 3 green 260 balloons
- 1 heart balloon
- 1 printed Stars Around balloon
- 1 happy face, smiley balloon
- 6 helpers

Set up ahead of time

No set up is needed

Routine

I start by asking for "helpers." I pick 6 children. I pick 3 younger children to hold my "seeds" and older children for the green stems. (You can pick whatever works for you.)

I give the younger children each one of the balloon seeds (un-inflated heart, happy face and stars around balloons.)

I ask them to hold the seed tight in their hand while I continue

I give the each of the other children one of the green 260s.

I explain that I, GG, am happy to be there with them but I will only be there a day or week or whatever.

That God has called me to plant his seeds.

I make sure at this point that I point out any the adult workers and tell the children that these people can assist them when I am gone and if they want more information about Jesus or salvation they can talk to any of these people.

At this time I am blowing up the green 260s and make various stems

While I am doing this, I ask the younger children to peek and see if there seeds are growing yet.

When the time comes I start with the happy face and explain that one of the seeds I am planting is God's Joy. I take the Smiley balloon and add it to a stem.

Then the heart balloon is added to a stem and speak of God's Love.

Lastly, the stars around balloon and explain that God's greatest gift is that of eternal life.

As I finish each flower I hand it back to the children asking the older ones to hold the balloon together with the younger ones. (This always ends in major photo ops. If it is okay with the local church it is okay with me.)

Comments

This is my signature piece. This and Bizzelth's flower are the two things I always do.

I always ask permission to take pictures. I check with the both the church or sponsoring group as well as each child.