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Week of Prayer Yields 72 Baptism Requests

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WHEN EARL BALDWIN WAS INVITED TO SPEAK FOR RUTH MURDOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S WEEK OF PRAYER, HE FACED A SCHEDULING CONFLICT. HE EVENTUALLY CLEARED HIS CALENDAR TO PRESENT ON OCT. 17-21, 2022, FOR THE BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, SCHOOL'S BI-ANNUAL WEEK OF SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS.

In keeping with the theme ‘Walking with God’— taken from Micah 6:8—Baldwin, youth director for Lake Region Conference, decided to teach the students what he calls “The 5 L’s.” Monday, he instructed the students to “Look for God.” Tuesday, they learned how to “Listen for God.” Wednesday’s presentation focused on how students can “Learn from God.” On Thursday, Baldwin wanted students to “Let go and let God.” Lastly, on Friday, he urged students to “Live for God.”

Along with his messages, Baldwin encouraged the students to give 21 minutes to God every day. “I challenged them to have seven minutes of prayer, seven minutes to study the Bible and seven minutes of quiet time for listening and reflecting on what God has to say,” he said.

By the end of the week, 72 students decided to give their lives to Christ.

Second grader Ezra Jean-Baptiste was one of the students in attendance. “I loved it! Every day I wanted to go, and I didn’t want to miss a second!”

► *Lake Region Conference Youth Director Earl Baldwin speaks to Ruth Murdoch Elementary students during their bi-annual week of prayer.*

‘READY TO RECEIVE JESUS’

Principal Evelyn Savory said, “The kids were at a place where they were really ready to receive Jesus, so it was a wonderful experience to just see them engaging in the singing, the music and the actions, and finding the scriptures in the Bible was just electric. It was just so beautiful to watch, and by God’s grace we hope to keep them all closer to Him.”

When Baldwin received the news of the large number of baptismal requests, he was shocked. “I was like ‘Whaaaaat!’ I couldn’t believe how many responded. Anytime to be used by God in that way is always humbling. In ministry, it is easy to question, ‘Am I doing the right thing?’ In the meantime, God shows up.

“We all go through difficult patches, and I just came through a difficult patch. I believe God did this to affirm that He has His hands over my life, and I can be used by Him if I simply leave myself in His hands.” ■

Nicholas Gunn is a freshman at Andrews University.

