

Let's Stay At Our Post

*"...People are watching us as we stay at our post, alertly, unswervingly...
in hard times, tough times, bad times..." 2 Corinthians 6:4+ (The Message)*

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this fall does not look much like what we hoped it would. More RTBE programs are not having classes, than are. Schools are doing their best to accommodate Released Time, but many simply feel they can't – not now, not yet.

We know that God's heart is for children to hear about His love for them; that's why we do what we do. We know that God's working in a jillion ways we could never even conceive of. We know that God's word will never return void.

So... how has the Lord inspired our Released Time family to keep reaching out, so far?

- Christian Ed recorded classes daily last spring and posted for their kids on YouTube
- Nehemiah & Morgan County WRE mailed home packets – which students, their siblings and parents read & enjoyed
- Stand for Truth offered online classes
- WyandotCARES posted regular videos from teachers and handed out year-end packets
- Kingdom Harvest Ministries hosted regular online HS classes and posted videos
- Most programs faithfully did some combination of these innovative approaches



Kingdom Harvest Ministries recording RTBE video

So... what can we do now, even if not hosting classes?

Pray. Many RTBE groups are increasing—or making more intentional—their prayer ministry: praying for students & their families, for schools, for RTBE to return, for God's wisdom, direction and protection. We can pray that students who have had Released Time will want to read the Bible, think about God's word, and be inspired to live it out.

Show the love of Christ in a crisis. We've been inspired by articles from Christian Educators Association, Int'l. – which has given deep and fruitful thought to how to show school personnel the love of Christ, such as:

- ⇒ Write notes of appreciation and encouragement to the school staff
- ⇒ Volunteer to meet a specific need like cleaning, mentoring or tutoring
- ⇒ Treat them to a meal or send flowers or another gesture of kindness

We know the Lord is up to something – even if we can't see it. But we can trust in His faithfulness. I thank God for your faithfulness, as well.

Jenni



Executive Director
Jenni Miller

What's new? Check out special COVID-19 related resources on

School Ministries' Members' Zone!

- Helpful Links
- Tips for communicating with parents and schools– special language for this year's parental permission forms, among other updates! [Visit SchoolMinistries.org](http://VisitSchoolMinistries.org)

Are you an Encourager?

In this pandemic time of living when everything is constantly changing—rules, masks and guidelines, it's so easy to feel paralyzed and unable to do ANYthing!

The great thing is, God hasn't changed. He still works through willing people. Though the way Released Time operates may be rolling like the waves on the ocean, we can still do SOMething.

Local program director, Laura Wood, expressed encouragement in responses she's received from local churches "Several churches have asked how they can help. Churches have a unique opportunity to help, not just the students, but the parents and schools as well."

Several key ways are STILL there to make a difference:

1. **OFFER YOUR SERVICE:** Since many volunteers are in the vulnerable group (over 65 and with health concerns), younger volunteers without health concerns are essential.
2. **HELP BEHIND THE SCENES:** If you can't help in person for whatever reason, become a prayer warrior, help with mailings or phone calls.
3. **SHARE YOUR SKILLS:** Many programs are needing those with technical skills who can help them with videos and online platforms. Step up to the plate and help with this need for professionalism and excellence.
4. **CONTINUE TO GIVE:** The financial needs of this ministry continue in spite of the pandemic. Consider joining our team of financial givers who allow us to keep the lights on and serve!

Go to: schoolministriesohio.org/give/ or scan this code using your smart phone camera:



WyandotCARES passing out packets

Crucial Role of Prayer: Testimony and Trying Times



Nehemiah Team Leaders

Seeking God in prayer was the first step in starting Nehemiah RTBE in Ohio. That's where it should all start because it shows a complete reliance on His power. Since 2010, Nehemiah has met each Monday during the school year—to plan, share and commit the week to God as well as pray for the schools and for Released Time.

"Many times, when we are facing difficult things we 'call in the prayer warriors' — look out Satan!" says Benita Miller, teacher for Nehemiah RTBE. "That is priceless for our program to have that powerful resource—and sometimes people really want to be involved but they can't physically be there. They think all they can do is pray - but that is HUGE! If you find yourself spinning your wheels, it's a good reminder that prayer is needed."

In these COVID times, prayer continues to be the stabilizing force for ministry endeavors here at School Ministries Ohio and in all our programs. So, what can YOU do?

- ◆ Pray, of course! We highly value your prayer on behalf of this ministry: for local, state and national.
- ◆ Join our private Facebook group where members can share more details of current needs: **School Ministries Ohio Family Room.**
- ◆ Join our Released Time Prayer Team! We seek to send monthly prayer updates. Email Lydia Miller: info@schoolministriesohio.org to be added to our RTPT.
- ◆ Start or revive your RTBE group's own local RTPT meeting to get ideas and encouragement.
- ◆ Attend our monthly in person RTPT meeting where we pray over needs shared with us (currently at Wildwood



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