

August 6, 2014

Indiana JBQ Family,

The new JBQ year is upon us and we are so looking forward to the 2014-15 season. I know God has good things planned for us as we move into this new season and some new things.

The last few years we have seen a decline in the number of teams and churches in Indiana, and after praying and thinking and hearing, this is not just our state, I feel we need to change a few things. Oh, we are not changing the idea that we need kids to study the word of God, nor are we changing the fact that competition can help drive people to do better. What we want to change is to add more FUN. What IS a true statement is that if a child is not having FUN they will not learn very well. What we need to do is to show kids that it is FUN to study and learn the Word of God.

At our quiz meets for the experienced Quizzers, our format is FUN. For a new child, or a new team, it is overwhelming. If you place yourself in an 8 - 10 year old boy's shoes, it can be a long boring day sitting in quiz room after quiz room, never getting to answer a question and getting beat 300 to 10. Then, being asked to be quiet in the hallways in between and at the end while the winning teams get ribbons, and you go home with nothing. That is NOT a FUN day, and then it is hard to motivate them to study to get better.

When looking at this we want to make some changes to the first 2 meets that will help add the FUN to the meets and build the child's confidence. Teams and kids will have a chance to show they can answer questions and be a part of the quizzing day. Then, as we have hooked them into feeling that quizzing is FUN and they can do it, we will be at our January meet back to the normal quizzing day and with teams more excited about learning and quizzing.

If we are seeing a trend of decline and then doing nothing to change but just hoping it gets better, that is the meaning of insanity. After praying and thinking about this, we think these changes will make JBQ in Indiana stronger and better. It will help our district climb back up in numbers and competitiveness.

Yes, the first 2 meets will be different, but teaching the kids the material and that they need to study is the same. Don't dwell on the changes to the meets, dwell on inspiring your families to study the questions and then pump them up about the FUN they will have as they come to the quiz meets. Come to these quiz meets with kids that have studied and are ready to have FUN! Then join in the day with a GREAT attitude that IS FUN!

Thank you for helping us make this 2014-15 season THE BEST EVER!

Winning Kids,

Pastor Barry
Indiana JBQ Coordinator