

Feb.



P R O M O I D E A S A L A B A S T E R

A Child Shall Lead Them

Camrin is a 9-year-old from St. Johns Church of the Nazarene in Michigan who took on the challenge to fill an Alabaster box. In September 2004 he brought his Alabaster Offering to church in 10 full boxes!

He had asked family and friends to help participate in his desire to help missionaries around the world. He then gave an Alabaster Box to each person who agreed to help. Camrin later collected the boxes prior to Alabaster Sunday.

February 2005 had the church looking forward to another Alabaster Offering. The local NMI president offered to buy lunch for those counting the offering if anyone brought in more full Alabaster boxes than Camrin. Thirteen boxes would have only tied what Camrin brought in prior to the final day of the offering; however, the counters went hungry as Camrin brought in more boxes—a total of 16 for that offering!

September 2005 was no exception as Camrin brought in 9 boxes. There was a surprise that year. A friend of Camrin's, Parker (a kindergarten student), brought in 29 boxes, using Camrin's method!



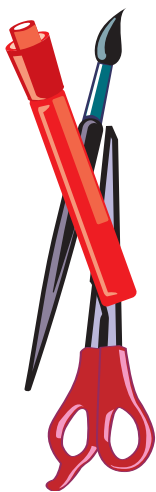
Camrin teaches his method for gathering Alabaster funds for buildings around the world.

Once again, Camrin brought in his Alabaster boxes. In February 2006 he brought 13 more boxes for the offering. This made his total a whopping 48 boxes since the memorable offering in 2004! St Johns Church surpassed the previous year's total Alabaster Offering in the February offering alone!

During a special service for the children, Camrin gave a presentation on his method for raising Alabaster funds to all the other children. He not only brings boxes in, but now teaches how to do it.

Think what we could accomplish if we all had the vision of this young man. The Bible is right when it says, "A child shall lead them."

Carol Baker • Michigan District President



Decorate Your Alabaster Box



We noticed that interest in Alabaster Offering was waning over the years. Fewer boxes were being picked up, fewer boxes were being turned in, and subsequently a lower offering. We wanted to make Alabaster Offering personal. We implemented a "Decorate Your Alabaster Box" Table on Alabaster Sunday. The table is set up on our patio where our fellowship takes place and decorating is encouraged after each of our services.

Here are the details. We fold half the Alabaster boxes the correct way and half the boxes inside out, so the plain white cardboard shows.

We supply markers, stickers, self-sticking jewels and pom-poms for decorations. (We discovered glue, paint, and glitter were too messy.) Everyone is encouraged to decorate his/her own box. This is **not** strictly a children's project. I found that some of the adults have more fun decorating than the kids.

Since we started this Alabaster promotion, participation has increased, and we have a lot of fun around the decorating table.

Marie Perez • Rancho Cucamonga, California