

"Les chevaliers en pyjama"

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We belong to a group called the knights in pyjamas. It started as a family initiative. We decided to call the friends from the streets of our old neighbourhood, like Jasmin here, as well as others we met here and there. We met another person in the park playing soccer. Afterwards, he came with us and then he started coming every time. There is also a friend that we met at Dylan's school. After we talked to him, he started coming. We met several people and now our group is fairly large.

We carry out service activities. Recently we decided to visit senior homes. We plan to play games, give out Christmas cards, shovel driveways and all kinds of things.

For example we organized a car wash for UNICEF. We made about \$300. It's bearing fruit. We have a few service activities like that. We are also doing a play, music and improvisation, and we have discussions.

The study book we are using is called *Walking the Straight Path* and its goal is to teach us some values like sharing, and others like that, and it does it through stories like Lafontaine's Fables or others. It is very interesting. Later we will have discussions, we will answer questions on history and at the end we'll have a discussion. We also have to do some memorization about history and morality.

This is important, we want to help people around us. It's all well and good to have small group gatherings, to have discussions, to learn about peace and the wars going on in the world, but it would be somewhat pointless if all we did was sit on the couch and nothing else. We try to do more. We try to help people around us, even just a little.

There is also the fact that when we try to be of service, we learn not to expect anything in return. All we do, we do for free.

But in reality we clearly do get something in return. It is not a gift or anything, but, at the same time, it is more. It is the joy of the person we help. How he or she thanks us for having helped. We receive the joy of having served, the joy of having helped somebody.

In the study book we are using, called *Walking the Straight Path*, there are quotes from the Writings we have to learn by heart. Here are three examples:

So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.

Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity.

The way I explain this is by using a play on words. In this sentence, it says that we have to understand that we are not alone in the world. There are lots of people around us and we can't think only of ourselves. There are others involved in what we do and we have to think of them as well, not just think of ourselves.

The quote talked about the fact that if something good happens, we should not rejoice and neither should we get discouraged if something sad or bad happens, because both will pass away and disappear. I found this very interesting because I came to understand suddenly that my moments of happiness as well as my moments of sadness will end. For example, my father died

in 2005. This is what I was thinking about when I read this. I thought this sadness will pass, one day. This is what I found interesting.

Song: The knights in pyjamas duda, duda, the knights in pyjamas, dudadudaday...