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Media Contact: Stephanie Duffey
Office: 252-539-3039
sduffey@roanokeelectric.com

**CISNE AND ST. PETER'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST TEAM UP FOR SUMMER
READING ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Program sparks reading challenge and yields opportunity for creative collaboration

WELDON, N.C – Their mission was simple: Get kids involved in reading and build positive character. The outcome was better than they expected; a host of young people challenging themselves and others to read 2,000 books before the end of the summer.

Leaders from St. Peters Missionary Baptist Church set up the Summer Enrichment Reading Program to encourage and promote literacy development in students entering first through sixth

grades in the 2007-2008 school year. Lead instructors; Ms. Takima Brickell, Mr. Selwynn Thomas, and Mr. Earlie Brooks, along with volunteers; Mr. Tevin Shearin, Ms. Annie Williams, Mrs. Mary Mitchum, and Ms. Glenda Harrison, and Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE) Program Coordinator, Rosetta Smith used a variety of print rich and hands on activities to engage students in active reading.

Over a four week period, fifteen children joined St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church's Summer Reading Enrichment Program and read 1,474 books. Daily lessons began with a Bible study, story or video for the group as a whole and then students were separated based on grade level for reading enrichment activities which called for small group work and independent silent reading.

"The kids really enjoyed this," said CISNE Program Coordinator Rosetta Smith, whose voice inflections captivated the young audience when they listened to her read from the book she helped them create, "A Historic Moment In the Town of Weldon." The program allowed students an opportunity to engage in role playing, skits, physical fitness activities and character education as well. Though all the children excelled in the program, one child's efforts in particular were extremely remarkable. Caleb Taylor, who will enter kindergarten this school year, read approximately 400 books on his own.



This photo taken following an awards ceremony at a Ryan's in Roanoke Rapids begs the phrase, "Here's lookin' at you kid," as smiles adorn the faces of youth who participated in the Summer Reading Enrichment Program at St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church in Weldon. The youth were challenged to read 2,000 books over the summer.

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church believes in continuing the traditional and significant role it has played in social concerns over the years and believes student achievement can be enhanced by family and community support. It also values exposing school-aged kids to reading materials not generally used in public schools.

"I believe this program has been highly successful," said Reverend Willie Greene, Pastor of St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church. Rosetta Smith surmises that CISNE is quickly becoming a leading nonprofit service provider in our area. CISNE is located in The Roanoke Center, 409 N. Main Street, Rich Square, NC.

About Communities In Schools of the Northeast

Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE), housed in The Roanoke Center, is a state-sponsored organization that connects community resources with local schools to help young people learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. CISNE is a division of Communities In Schools, the nation's largest stay-in school network, serving just over one million youth in 154 communities across the United States.