



The 21st Century Church, part 4 of 4—

# Discipleship Goals of the Children's Ministries Agency

by David Boyd, National Coordinator, Children's Ministries Agency / BGMC

**T**he discipleship goals of the Children's Ministries Agency are based upon preparing children for the life they will lead as they grow. Children's ministry today meets the same needs that youth ministry used to. Leith Anderson agrees when he says: "Today's children's programs are starting to look like yesterday's youth programs." Today, grade-school age children are facing issues like smoking, drinking, drugs, sexual issues, persecution, as well as facing the possibilities of violence at school. Our children need to be radically sold out in their relationship with Jesus.

Our goals from the National Children's Ministries Agency is that every child will be so solidly grounded in God by the time that they enter the youth group they will never turn their back on Christ and will become the core with which youth pastors can impact the campuses of our nation.

The goal of the Children's Ministries Agency is to: "**Reach the Children...until He comes.**" Here are the eight qualities of spiritual character that we want every child to develop. We want them to be:

## Powerful in Prayer

We believe every child should be a powerful prayer warrior through regular opportunities of seeing God answer their prayers.

## Baptized in the Holy Spirit

We believe that every child should be endued with power for their Christian walk by being baptized with the Holy Spirit.

## Radical in Worship

We believe every child should intimately worship God through well-chosen, age appropriate songs, lifting their hands and worshipping Him.

## Mobilized in Service

We believe every child should be taught their value of service in God's kingdom through opportunities to exercise their talents and abilities as they minister to others.

## Sacrificial in Giving

We believe that every child should be taught through BGMC to pray for and sacrificially give to help reach the lost people of the world.

## Active in Evangelism

We believe that every child should be willing to be a bold witness for Christ and to allow their life to be used to bring glory to God and salvation to others.

## Knowledgeable in God's Word

We believe every child should be solidly knowledgeable of God's Word through systematic teachings by trained leaders using Pentecostal curriculums and resources.

## Baptized in Water

We believe that every child needs to follow God's command to be baptized in water and to boldly stand up and publicly proclaim their faith in Christ.

## Accomplishing These Goals

How do we accomplish these goals? The Assemblies of God has by far the most well-coordinated array of children's ministry programs of any denomination. In Sunday School, kids are taught every important doctrine of the Bible. It is here where brick upon brick we build the foundation of our children's spiritual faith. Sunday School's success is based upon a small ratio of teachers to students, where each teacher knows the child, and where the children ask question after question as their faith in Christ grows week by week.

Children's Churches have become the proving ground of the faith of our kids. This is where they put into practice the true Pentecostal experience. Children lift their hands in worship, pray for the sick, receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, pray in tongues, respond to biblical preaching, and gather around the altar to seek God. These services are led by children's pastors, lay leaders, and gifted shepherds helping us

reach this next generation for Christ.

Royal Rangers and Missionettes are our arm into the community. Missionettes, with its new revised program, has literally exploded with the ability to disciple young girls into young ladies following the examples of biblical women. Royal Rangers is being revised, but even as it stands it is the strongest “Christian men mentoring boys” program in the world! In today’s society of single families and “fatherless homes,” men investing in boys and being an example to boys is priceless.

Couple these programs with Junior Bible Quiz (JBQ), which sinks God’s Word into the hearts of kids, and Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC),

which teaches kids to care about the world, pray for the world, make faith promises to missions, and seek God’s call for their lives. Together the teachers, pastors, and leaders of our children’s ministry of the Assemblies of God are “Raising up a generation of kids who will live for God forever!”

**P**astor, I implore you to invest in the children of your church. Support the children’s ministries financially. Invest in your leadership by training them. Insure that you have quality materials and equipment. Prepare to make the best impression you can for visiting families. Make sure the children attend Sunday School. Make sure they have their own quality service in kid’s

church. Give them the opportunity to be mentored on Wednesday nights through Royal Rangers and Missionettes. Insist that your church participates in BGMC and teaches your children about missions. Make your church a church where children are welcome, safe, and well cared for. Make your church a church that attracts young families.

When our children have developed the spiritual characteristics that we’ve mentioned, they will stand strong and bold for Jesus. We will be developing the pastors, missionaries, and spiritual leaders of tomorrow. Join with the National Children’s Ministries Agency as we **“Reach Kids...until He comes!”**

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### Questions For Further Study—

1. In what ways are you striving to instill in your children each of the 8 qualities of spiritual character?
2. Which of the 8 qualities do you stress most strongly in your ministry?
3. What steps can you take to place more emphasis on the remaining qualities?