

DIRECTIONS

SPRING 2005

Foursquare Christian Education



FROM TEEN TO TWEEN

GREGG JOHNSON
info@j12.com
Founder, J12 Encounters



When new words become part of our vocabulary, a “culture shift” is taking place. Just 5 years ago if you were to mention the word “tween” to your average children’s worker you might be met with a quizzical stare. Today, pastors of children and youth, almost without exception, know exactly “what” and “who” you are talking about. But you may be asking, “What is a tween?” It’s the new, hipper version of the old compound word “pre-teen”, referring to those 8-12 years of age. Marketers relish the need to give this demographic its own “culturally cool” label because of the sheer spending power tweens represent; over 200 billion dollars annually. Teen-ager (another relatively new compound word made popular by the birth of youth *culture* after WWII) is almost passé. “Tweeners” is all the rage. Now I’m sounding (or writing) more like a Madison Avenue trend-scent watchdog than a minister. My motive – to wake us up to the reality, that as Henry Trevor, a middle school director has said, “There is no such thing as a pre-adolescent anymore. Kid’s are teenagers at ten.”

As we travel the nation ministering to tweens and their parents, through our J12 Encounters, we’ve noticed a new emphasis of ministry toward *the too old for this, too*

young for that crowd in local churches. One of the shifts that has been taking place is the inclusion of 6th graders into the “youth ministry”. Another development has been the creation of specialized ministries, like “Club 56”, for 5th and 6th graders. How can we effectively *reach* this “betwixt and between” generation so that we won’t have to *rescue* them in their teenage and young adult years?

While the question could be answered in many ways from a spiritual perspective, I believe the answer is found in the testimony of the most famous 12 year old who ever lived, (and still does); His name is Jesus! It has always intrigued me that we have no record of Jesus during the supposed “turbulent teen” years. As a matter of fact, there are no stories about Jesus from shortly after His birth until His baptism at the age of 30 – except for one. Luke chapter 2 shares the story of His trip to Jerusalem with his parents during the feast of the Passover. In Hebrew culture, boys become official members of the community of faith at the ripe age of 12. Jesus was no doubt there for this occasion. During Passover week, things seemed to go smoothly until something went horribly wrong. Mary and Joseph literally lost Jesus. Without realizing it, they had left their tween Son somewhere behind in

Jerusalem. After three days of search and rescue, they finally found Him . . . guess where? Right smack-dab in the temple. He was sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. When Mary asked her son why He had done this to them, He responded with 17 words; the first recorded words of Jesus in the Bible: “WHY DO YOU SEEK ME? DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER’S BUSINESS?”

Jesus’ response to Mary indicates He expected her to expect Him to be “where” He was, “doing” what He was doing. For teachers of tweens the implications are nothing short of revolutionary. Could it be that we have underestimated the spiritual capacity and desire of the tween generation? Have we “fun-sized” our programs to accommodate the notion that 21 might be the age of spiritual receptivity, instead of 12? Let’s not be a decade late. God the Father captivated God the Son in His own House at the age of 12! **IT’S TWEENTIME!**

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J12 Encounters Reaching Tweeners

Gregg Johnson served as the National Youth Director of the International Church Of The Foursquare Gospel from 1986 to 1995. More recently, Gregg has focused on ministry to tweens and their parents through J12 Encounters. For more information on this ministry, visit www.J12.com.



Baseline:

Foursquare Doctrine For Tweeners

Now Free On-Line
<http://ce.foursquare.org>



Over 100 interactive lessons of what it means to serve Jesus as a tweener in the Foursquare church can be found in this exciting resource. Developed by Foursquare leaders and field-tested in Foursquare churches, you’ll find great doctrine content that will fit with any tweener ministry format! And, best of all, it’s all FREE and on-line for immediate download.

All New Tweener Resource From Gospel Light

<http://www.gospellight.com>

The Edge is an all-new youth oriented program for pre-teens.

Free samples can be viewed and printed from this site. Click on the bright yellow box on Gospel Light’s home page for all the details.





All New Camp-In-A-Box Theme Kit

Ready Now for Summer



Foursquare Christian Education is pleased to announce the release of the third Children's Camp Theme Kit available immediately. Visit <http://ce.foursquare.org>, and click on the children's ministry button to find this and other information about children's camp ministries.

Spy Kids and Champions for Christ Children's Camp Theme Kits are also available.

Call 888.635.4234, extension 4270, to learn how you can order any of these distinctive Foursquare camp resources for children.

REDEEMING THE WEB: EXCITING SUMMER MINISTRY RESOURCES AT THE CLICK OF A MOUSE!

Use the Internet to find helpful suppliers, materials, and discussions about the summer ministry that perfectly fits your church and community. Visit these sites for more information:

<http://www.christianarea.org/>

A great web site for decorations, theme related supplies, games, books, and gadgets to help support your VBS or summer camp theme.

<http://www.childrensministry.net/>

Excellent site for reviews on current VBS programs from a variety of publishers, plus many other features.

<http://www.vbsstuff.com/>

Combination information and interaction site providing bulletin board discussions and links on VBS and more children's ministry topics.

THIS SUMMER REACH AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CROWD

These kids aren't really different, yet we don't often reach out to them. They are the kids with disabilities, and according to most research, they are excluded from most areas of life, especially the church! We want to see this change and encourage all of our church leaders to consider how you might reach out to these children.

Children's Ministry Magazine offers some practical ways to minister to children with disabilities:

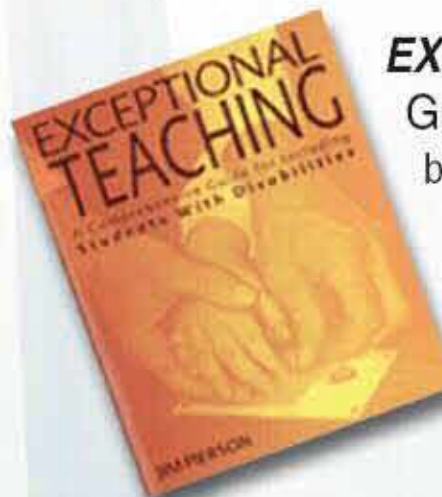
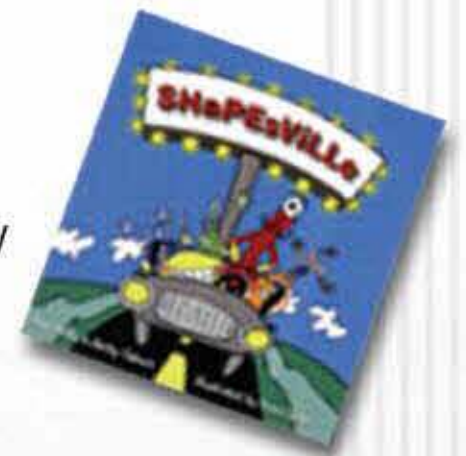
- Expect appropriate behavior as you would with all your children.
- Gently encourage the child to participate in as many activities as possible.
- If you aren't sure what the child has said, repeat it to confirm that it's correct.
- Check seating arrangements so the child can be as much a part of the group as possible.
- Provide a special restroom break with arrangements made ahead of time for assistance.
- Provide ample time for writing and movement from one place to another.
- Familiarize yourself with specialized equipment the child may need.
- Lovingly make the child feel welcome, and encourage the child's parents to continue attending your church.

RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MINISTRY TO DISABLED KIDS

SHAPESVILLE

by Mills and Osborn
<http://www.bulimia.com>

This colorful kids book celebrates positive body image and diversity that helps kids see they are wonderfully made - just as they are.



EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING: A Comprehensive Guide to Including Students With Disabilities

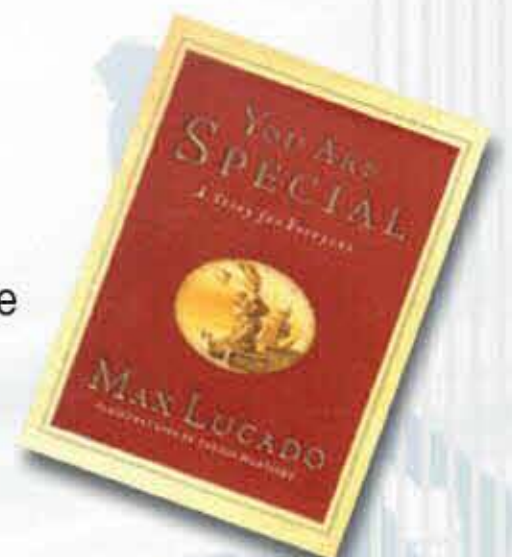
by Jim Pierson
<http://www.gospelpublishing.com>

An overview of students with special needs, including exceptional teaching tips for each type of need.

YOU ARE SPECIAL

by Max Lucado
<http://www.maxlucado.com>

In this book, and many more in the same series, master Christian story-teller, Max Lucado, shares God's message with children that they are special, just because. No qualifications necessary.





▶ PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

LYNN SAWYER
lsawyer@foursquare.org
Children's Training Specialist



The word **team** is a familiar one, but the *concept* of **team** is not always understood. A team is more than a collection of individuals. It is a group of peers who share the same vision and goals, and who embrace the opportunity and responsibility of accomplishing God's direction for ministry. Mike Krzyzewski (Coach K), Duke University Basketball Coach, says in his book, *Leading with the Heart*, "Great teams embrace responsibility...Believe that the loose ball you're chasing has your name on it." In other words, each individual team member assumes the responsibility for success, no matter if it takes extra effort. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10). Such a group of dedicated individuals makes up our National Children's Ministry Team for Leadership Development. They come from different areas of the country, busy children's pastors and district leaders, willing to give even more of their time and expertise than is already required. They are an awesome group!

"... play like the loose ball you're chasing has your name on it."— Coach K, Duke University

In January, our CM Team met in Denver for two intense days and discussed the emerging definition of our team, evaluation (and praise) of our 2004 training events, planning and perspective on 2005 events, and next-step strategies for communication, training, resourcing,

and developing children's ministry leaders and teachers in our districts. (A more detailed report will be sent to our district supervisors soon.) *Our primary goal is to provide a network for each district of leaders who mentor other leaders, especially in the area of Children's Ministry.* In Stanley and Clinton's book, *Connecting*, they underscore an essential mentoring principle (Constellation Model): "A growing leader needs a relational network that embraces mentors, peers, and emerging leaders in order to ensure development and a healthy perspective on his or her life and ministry."

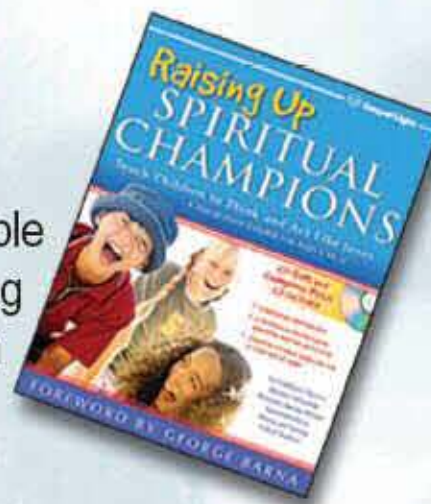
Ministering to children is such a privilege, but the "job" can often be overwhelming. There are many "loose balls" on the field, and we are ready to pick them up and score!

▶ OUR TEAM RECOMMENDS

RAISING UP SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS:

How to Teach Children to Think and Act Like Jesus
By: George Barna, <http://www.gospellight.com>

This new discipleship course, for ages 9-12, becomes available January 2005. It is based on George Barna's book, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. There are eight sessions with discussion questions, fun activities, creative student pages, teaching resources, a CD-ROM, and a reproducible music CD.



MY VOLCANO ADVENTURE: Discovering the Bible's Power

By: DiscipleLand and Wycliffe Bible Translators,
<http://www.discipleland.com>

This new discipleship course, for ages 6-12, is a unique study of the Bible's authority, its message, the importance of its translation, and its purpose. A great curriculum resource including a CD compiled by Wycliff, video clips, audio files, reproducible activities, art, and more!



▶ OUR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Feel free to contact anyone on our leadership development team to help answer questions or network with other Children's Ministry leaders.

Rev. Jeannie Barr, jeannie@faithcenter.net
Children's Pastor, Eugene Faith Center, Eugene, OR.

Rev. Cynthia Brandt, cynthiab@softhome.net
Children's Pastor, Hope Centre, Greeley, CO; and CM Rep for the Rocky Mountain District

Rev. Elizabeth Ewens, eevens@tcotw.org
Christian Education Director, Children's Pastor, The Church on the Way, Van Nuys, CA; and instructor at The King's Seminary

Rev. Lesli Klingemeier,
lklingemeier@familyfellowship.net
Children's Pastor, The Family Fellowship, Amherst, OH; and CM Rep for the Ohio District

Rev. Marsha Krieger, teamkids@newhopehilo.org
Children's Pastor, New Hope Christian Fellowship, Hilo, HI; and CM Rep for the Pacific Rim District

Rev. Kim Lawless, kimlawless4444@cs.com
Children's Pastor, Cottage Grove Faith Center, Cottage Grove, OR; and CM Rep for the Willamette District

Rev. Barb Martin, barb@sunnysidefoursquare.org
Children's Pastor, Sunnyside Foursquare, Clackamas, OR

Rev. Ric Martin, ric@sunnysidefoursquare.org
Associate Pastor, Sunnyside Foursquare, Clackamas, OR

Rev. Joe Patterson, joe@livingwater.com
Christian Education Director, Children's Pastor, Church of Living Water, Olympia, WA; and CM Rep for the Evergreen District

Dr. Richard Penson, penfam@beld.net
Children's Pastor, Weymouth Foursquare Church, Weymouth, MA; CM Rep for the Southern New England District; and Clinical Director of GYN Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital

Rev. Sue Penson, penfam@beld.net
Children's Pastor, Weymouth Foursquare Church, Weymouth, MA; and CM Rep for the Southern New England District

Rev. Lynn Sawyer, lsawyer@foursquare.org
National CM Training Specialist; and CM Rep for the Mile High District, Westminster, CO



KEEP THE LIGHT ON

PAUL DURIS
pduris@foursquare.org
Children's Evangelism Specialist

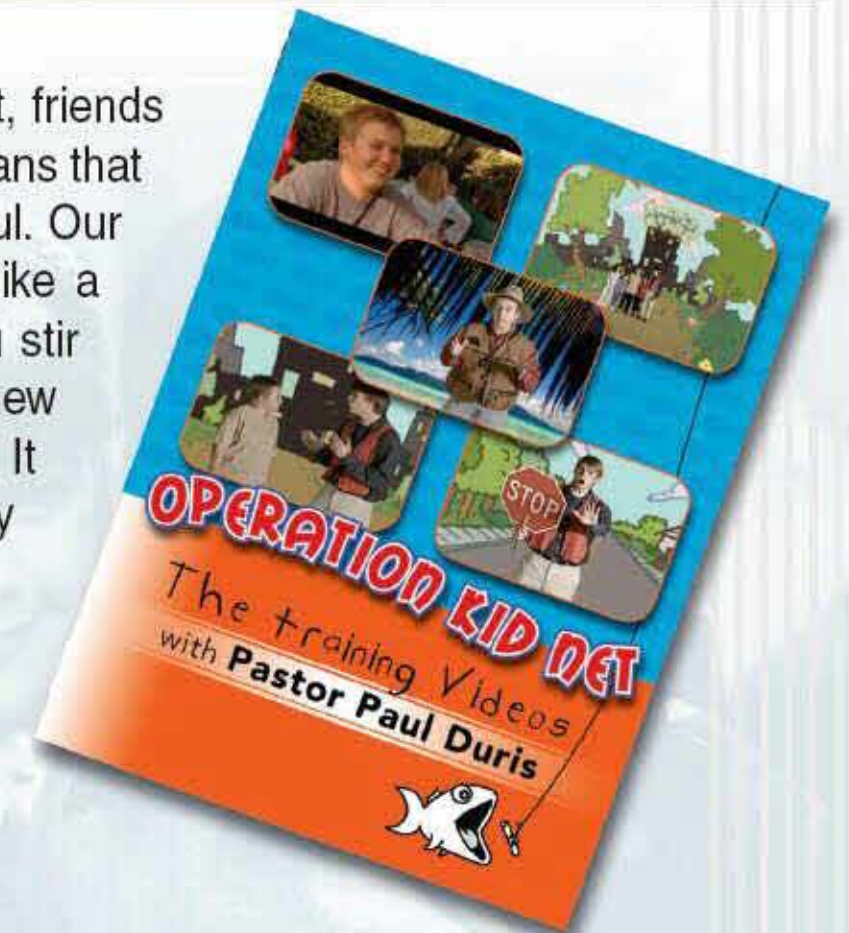


The other day I found myself standing in the dark. After flipping the light switch about 40 times, it finally dawned on me that maybe the bulb was burned out. Fortunately I had a stash of light bulbs in the cupboard. In just minutes the problem was solved.

That happens to me a lot more than I care to admit when it comes to being a light in this world for Jesus. I find myself flippin' switches and wondering, "What's going on? What happened to that fire for God? Why is it so dark? Where did my passion for reaching the lost go?"

Paul told Timothy that he needed to "fan the flame". Don't panic...just keep praying. Keep preaching. Keep reaching. Keep being faithful. Keep caring and sharing with others who may never know unless you go. Keep up the good work, Timothy. I think Paul was Timothy's biggest fan.

Words of encouragement, friends and new ideas are all great fans that rekindle the flame in my soul. Our Operation Kid Net DVD is like a fan that I think can help you stir up the flame and bring a new passion in kids for others. It can strengthen your ministry team as well. Make sure you get your free copy while supplies last. Just check out operationkidnet.net on the web, and complete the order form.



"We have discovered that peer evangelism...is one of the most prolific and effective means of evangelism in the nation."

-- George Barna

EVANGELISM RESOURCES FOR KIDS

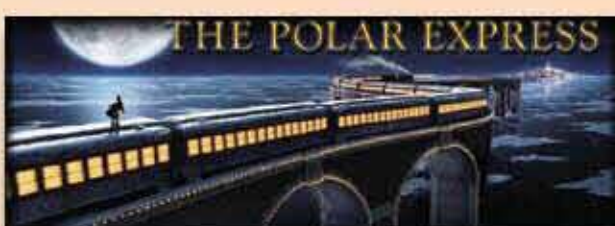


THE "FETCH SERIES"
KIDMO with Johnny Rogers

This five-week series called "Fetch" will capture your kids. Johnny Rogers is crazy, creative and has captured kids all across the nation for Jesus. Kidmo is an interactive multimedia curriculum for grades 1-6. This first series is presented on 5 DVDs with printable materials on a separate CD-ROM. FETCH presents five ways kids can fetch people for God:

1. God has given each of us friends who don't know Him yet.
2. God wants us to be an example to others.
3. God wants us to be trustworthy with others.
4. God wants people to see how well you can care for others.
5. God wants us to scatter seeds so others will know Him.

Call 1-877-610-2935 or check out web site www.kidmo.com. Kidmo will send you a free DVD to check it out for yourself. When it arrives, watch it with some kids and ask what they think. The five-week Fetch Series will cost anywhere from \$30 to \$50 per session depending on the size package you choose. It is money well spent and kids will love seeing the series more than once!



THE POLAR EXPRESS
Teaching Resources
By Max Lucado

This delightful, imaginative film is destined to become a Christmas classic. It's creative, inventive, astonishing to watch, and most importantly,

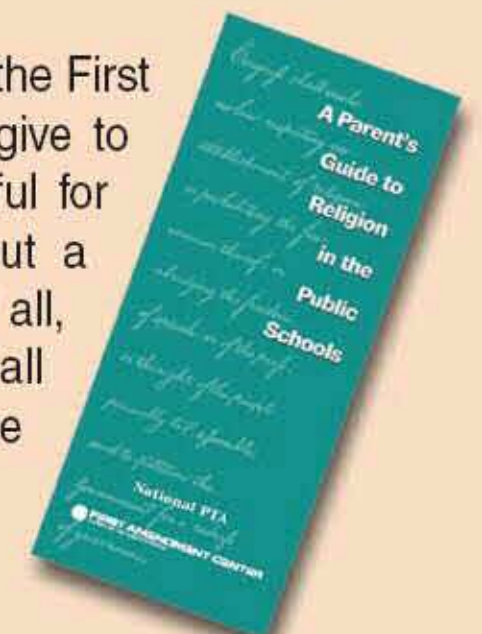
it carries a powerful message about faith, telling the truth, and helping others. *The Polar Express* is a modern-day parable for kids from which you can hang timeless truths and make the message memorable.

The first line from the movie trailer describes the entire theme of the movie: "What if there was a place beyond your imagination, and to get there all you have to do is believe?" Recently, Paul Duris repeated those words and asked the kids at his church, "Is there really a place like that? Is there a place beyond your imagination? A place you can only get to if you believe?" In every service little hands went up with the same answer...heaven!

Order "The Polar Express-DVD" preaching and teaching resources from polarexpressdownloads.com that features 5 short clips from the movie, teaching segments from Max Lucado, the movie trailer and more. Pay only shipping and handling.

FREE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

This high quality 12-page guide published by the First Amendment Center is a great pamphlet to give to every family in your church. These are useful for educating teachers and administrators about a student's first amendment rights, and best of all, the pamphlets and shipping are free! Call 800.830.3733 or see these and other free resources on their web site at www.firstamendmentcenter.org.



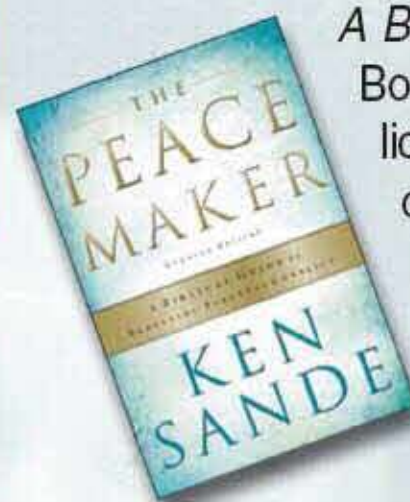


Curious about how a Christian school fits with the ministry of a Foursquare church? Take a look at <http://ce.foursquare.org> and click on the Christian schools button for detailed information.

➤ **SCHOOLS:
POTENTIAL VENUES OF CONFLICT**

According to Peacemaker Ministries, about 4.5 million students attend the 21,000 elementary and secondary private religious schools in the United States, representing approximately eleven percent of our nation's children. Despite the Bible-centered foundation laid in Christian schools, conflicts still occur. The board members, administrators, teachers, parents, and students too easily find themselves in heated, destructive conflict.

In the spirit of maintaining a healthy Christian school environment, we recommend that every administrator and church leader read the book, *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, by Ken Sande (Baker Books, Updated ed. 2003). In his book, Sande describes powerful biblical principles you can use to resolve everything from simple personal offenses to business and employment disputes, and complicated lawsuits. Includes practical illustrations and detailed application questions. For information on what's new in this edition, visit <http://www.hispeace.org>.



➤ **5 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

1 Truth

Scripture is the revealed Word of God and is taught as truth, which is then integrated into the learning experience.

Students are taught that:

- All truth is God's truth
- They are created in the image of God
- They must confront the issue of sin and redemption
- They can know God as revealed in Christ and made present through the Holy Spirit

2 Intellectual Development

The Christian mind should be the best mind, enlightened by the mind of Christ and one that integrates God's principles with academic pursuits.

The aim is to develop students with a biblical worldview, who are well prepared in all academic disciplines, with an emphasis on:

- Accurately interpreting the Word of God
- Mastering communication skills
- Showing proficiency in mathematics and science
- Understanding history and God's role in it
- Appreciating literature and the arts

- Reasoning and thinking critically
- Finding, analyzing, evaluating, and appropriately using information

3 Christian Educators

The Christian school must have a governing body, administration, faculty, and staff who are committed followers of Christ, teaching and leading from a biblically integrated perspective.

Those engaged with the school's governance, leadership, and teaching will:

- Model Christ in their teaching and leading
- Reflect and support the school's mission and core values
- Understand and focus on achieving the school's vision and expected outcomes

4 Potential in Christ

Every learning experience aims to enable students to reach their full potential in Christ.

Teaching will include a focus on:

- Providing programs and services appropriate for the student
- Establishing awareness of the student's relationship and responsibility to society

- Developing students intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically through every curricular and cocurricular activity
- Making disciples
- Preparing for works of service
- Developing an eternal view of life

5 Operational Integrity

The school's day-to-day operational practices are a consistent model of integrity, efficiency, and accountability.

Biblical values are consistently implemented as the school:

- Reflects the high road to policy development and accountability in board governance
- Manages people resources ethically and justly
- Manages and monitors school finances with integrity and disclosure
- Conducts straightforward and Christ-like relations with the government and its agencies
- Creates ethical, clear, and open strategies in development and marketing
- Conducts fair and consistent classroom management
- Reflects honesty, openness, and fairness in parent relations

For more on the ministry of Christian schools, check out these web links: <http://ce.foursquare.org> and <http://acsi.org>



▶ SPIRITUALLY EQUIP CHILDREN BEFORE THEY NEED REPAIR

ROD LIGHT
rlight@foursquare.org
National Minister,
Foursquare Christian Education



Following the tsunami tragedy in southern Asia, I was shocked (as I am sure you were) to discover the concern about child abductions and abuse that became a very real concern in the region. It reminded me of the equally alarming situation brought to our awareness last year by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in which many South Africans who were dying of AIDS were molesting young children in the superstitious hope that sex with a virgin would cure their disease.

As never before, there is a strategic attack on the children of our world to rob them of the hope and calling that exists for them when they get in touch with the God of heaven. Over one-half of the estimated 1.2 million homeless children in the United States are preschoolers. Many of these

young children will never know a safe, hope-filled environment in which to discover God's love and His purpose for their life.

It is no accident that throughout the world, children are among the most spiritually attacked people group. Not only are they the most vulnerable,

they are the most receptive to things of the Kingdom of God. And, who better to reach kids than other kids? As you read this issue of "Directions," consider the many creative ways you and your church might reach out to children.

Follow the anointed advice of Gregg Johnson, and reach kids before they become teenagers. But, go one step further: Train your "tweeners" to reach out to other children. Encourage their participation in outreach events in your community. Model for your kids how to reach those children who are homeless. "Train them to volunteer their time and resources before age 11," says George Gallup, "and they will serve others for the rest of their lives!"

Rescue and equip children before they are in need of repair! Let's protect our children so that God can use a whole life, energized by His Spirit and prepared in His Word, to become everything He intends for them to be!

Pre-Teen Ministry Smart Pages

Gordon and Becki West,
<http://www.gospellight.com>



We all need a resource that will answer questions and help challenge our assumptions about how to do ministry. Experienced and respected children's ministers Gordon and Becki West partner with Gospel Light to bring us a brand new book that will become an encyclopedia of ministry "how-tos" as we focus on our ministry to Tweeners.

Serving The Foursquare Church through support, consultation, networking, and training.

Making Disciples



International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
P.O. Box 26902 • 1910 W. Sunset Blvd. Ste 500
Los Angeles, CA 90026-0179
Foursquare Christian Education • ce.foursquare.org
888.635.ICFG, extension 4270

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