

DIRECTIONS

SPRING 1993

National Department of Christian Education
and Foursquare Publications

Volume 18

Bearing God's Good News

The plight of today's child must passionately move us (Christ's followers) into action. This present age is "bearing" down upon the lives of millions of children. In 1989 the American Medical Association reported that only one out of 10 children in America gets off to a good beginning in life. It also mentions that 35% of childhood sickness and disease is stress related. It is more than an issue of "Johnny can't read," it is a warfare for "Johnny's heart, soul and mind."

Our children have become victims of a society that has little regard for their welfare. As you listen to children, you hear, see, and feel their realization of fear and a loss of hope that grips their very being. "The Suicidal Child" by Cynthia Pfefer '1986 shares the anxiety and life threatening behavior that cripples and kills our children: Inner-city children sleeping on floors rather than their beds to avoid stray bullets coming through their windows; The hurried child that has to grow up too fast by being responsible for themselves as well as younger siblings.

God's plan for children is "Good News." You cannot read the Holy Scripture without seeing the good news of promise and hope made to His people and especially HIS kids. We learn they are a heritage of the Lord. Each young life has great eternal value! They may be a mistake from the parents' viewpoint, but NO MISTAKE by God!

CHILDREN HUNGER FOR A REAL EXPERIENCE WITH GOD! They want to know what He is like, first hand. To taste and see that He, is good. Fresh homemade ice cream is better to taste than to hear about. Children want to learn about God with every part of their being. In fact, studies reveal that between the ages of 5 and 12, a person experiences their greatest awareness of God.

This is why Jesus warned the High Priests and Scribes in Matthew 21:16 not to criticize children and their praise

of Him. He spoke that they not only had a right but they are "TELLERS" of truth who understood the priority and practice of worship to the Lord.

When kids talk, they tell! They tell what life is all about through their own eyes and ears of imagination mixed with the experience of truth. I remember my mother sharing a story about Jeff, a young neighbor my parents used to take to Sunday school with them. One Sunday before Christmas, my mom asked him about their plans for the holidays. He quickly announced with a shout, "We aren't going to have a Christmas this year, my daddy got drunk and shot Santa Claus!"

As a church, we must minister to the needs of "God's heritage." We are being pressed to pray, evaluate, and execute our care for God's kids. This is why we extend an invitation to you and your church family to participate in a children's outreach "BEARING GOD'S LOVE."

There are four basic truths that need to be communicated to this and future generations:

Jesus always loves you!

Jesus loves all people, equally.

Jesus wants you to "TELL" others about Him.

Jesus has given you abilities and resources to practically care for those who don't know Him.

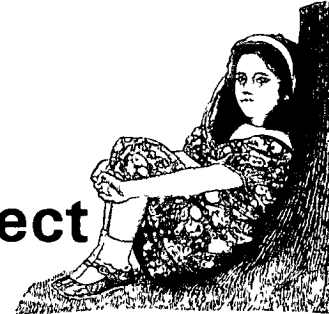
"Bearing God's Love" will help children understand the action of God's love. *"Our love should not be just words and talk, it must be true love which shows itself in action."* I John 3:18 (NAS)

Rick

Rick Wulfestieg,
Foursquare National Christian Education Department



BEARING GOD'S LOVE - 1993 Children's Missions Project



The 1993 children's mission emphasis is how *bearing God's love brings HIS BEST out through us. THIS MISSIONS OUTREACH IS AVAILABLE TO ALL FOURSQUARE CHURCHES - WHETHER YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB OR NOT.*

Described in the following pages are ideas for teaching children about missions. There are several opportunities suggested: a missionary family, community outreach projects, pioneer churches or a specific family in need. Children can become involved by praying, working and raising money for the project you choose.

We have also included a special missions lessons and a list of resources that will be helpful in teaching the purpose of missionaries and missions giving. A "finale" service is also described to help involve the whole church in your project.

IDEAS FOR CHILDREN'S MISSIONS PROJECTS

Doing a missions project during your Good News Bears/children's meetings is an excellent way to communicate what it means to share Christ with others. As your "bears" learn about God's love for them, they have an opportunity to share that love with the world around them.

Your missions project should *TEACH* the children about missions, then *INVOLVE* them in missions. Choose any of the following ideas that suits your situation.

Project Possibilities:

1. Sponsor a specific Foursquare missionary family.
2. Sponsor a community outreach program.
3. Sponsor a Foursquare pioneer pastor's family or a pioneer church.

In choosing one of these projects, you may want to consider:

- ☐ Your ability to gather information about the project. We will offer many suggestions, however, the more visible you make it to the children and their families the more enthusiasm they will express.
- ☐ Have a time limit. The children get more excited when they realize there will be a finale or grand finish to the project. They don't always understand or stay excited about long-term projects.
- ☐ Keep your goal attainable to the children and families in your church. Consider the economic capabilities of the families in your church and community.
- ☐ Make your goal specific. Raise the money for a specific need in the family or project you are sponsoring (i.e. Bibles, school supplies, school tuition, appliances, bedding, medical supplies, etc.). This will also appeal to the non-church families of the children in your group.
- ☐ The key to developing a **lasting** interest in missions is hands-on involvement. Children will become aware of the needs of missionaries and the people they minister to through your teaching times.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

IDEAS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT MISSIONS

- ▶ Display a colorful poster that your group has helped to make. Place a picture of the missionaries on it. List the current ages and birthdays of the family members. The Foursquare Missions Office will send you a profile about the family. Place a picture of the goal you are trying to meet. Again, the Missions Office will direct you as to what their needs are and they will come up with an idea that appeals to children. You might also want to place on the poster some interesting facts about that country, as well as specific prayer needs.
- ▶ Have the children unscramble the word "missionary." Have them look up the definition in the dictionary. Give specific scripture passages about missionaries.
- ▶ Have a missionary come and speak to your group. Our Foursquare Missions Office will provide you with information on which missionaries are currently in the states. Please give the missionary some guidelines about speaking to your children, since many missionaries are used to speaking to adults. Some children are really impressed with the fact that missionaries sometimes eat strange foods. Or have them share a time when God protected them. Have them share about the children that grow up in the country.
- ▶ Provide a slide or video presentation on missionaries or the country. Again, our Foursquare Missions office has that information. You might also check with your local library or public school system for resources.
- ▶ Share lessons regarding missionaries with the children. Foursquare Publications offer many resources for teaching. **SEE PAGES 11-13 IN THE CATALOG.**
- ▶ Have the children write letters of encouragement to the missionaries. Let the children know that sometimes it takes several weeks for a letter to get to the missionary.
- ▶ Take pictures of the children in your group and send it the the missionaries.
- ▶ Make a cassette tape or video of a skit or the children singing.

IDEAS FOR A COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

First meet with your pastor or church leadership to see what outreach** they would like to support. The project could be kept public by announcements in the church bulletin or newsletter. This would help include the entire congregation in promoting fundraising events or recruiting help.

Contact the outreach and arrange a visit to talk to the director about what services the outreach provides and what needs they have. Look over the facilities and find out what brochures, information packets or speakers will help inform your church about the outreach.

Make a poster with a picture of the outreach and the goal you have set. Other photos or a letter from the outreach can be placed on the poster. Perhaps letters from people who have been helped by the outreach could be included.

Have a representative from the outreach come and talk to the children. Make sure they understand the ages of the children and their interest levels.

Take the children for a tour of the facilities if possible. Be sensitive to what they may be exposed to. Sometimes seeing people in an unfortunate situation can upset a child. Explain God's care for these people and how He is using the children to help. Pray for the people or take the older children and have them come back and share with the younger ones.

If actual items are needed post a list of those items so that the children can either contribute the money or buy them and bring them to the group meetings. They can help box the items.

Have the children perform a skit or musical for the outreach.

Upon completion of your project. Invite a representative from the outreach for a check (\$) presentation. Also invite your local newspaper to take a picture and have a small article written. Then post it for the children to see.

**Possible suggestions for outreach projects (you need to see what your community has)

Homeless shelters for families
Crisis pregnancy centers that help mothers keep their babies
Disaster relief centers (i.e. Red Cross)
World Vision or other child sponsorship programs

Soup kitchens
Children's home
Toy give-away programs for
underprivileged children

IDEAS FOR SPONSORING A PIONEER CHURCH

The Lompoc, CA Foursquare church sponsored a pioneer church and mentioned it to us so we checked into the possibility of doing that and here are some ideas for getting started.

First, contact your District Office and explain to them that you want to use this as a **Good News Bears** club outreach project. They can give you a list of new churches that have been started and perhaps one close to your area. You may also want to consider helping an established church that doesn't have much money to spend on supplies, equipment or furnishings.

Your regional Foursquare District Office will receive the money you raise and put it in a general fund or put you in contact with a church to find out what their particular needs are.

A church can use the money for teaching materials, hymnals, office supplies, computer equipment, or starting a Good News Bears club. Another idea is to have the children raise money for the pastor's family for Christmas gifts, new school clothes, or a food basket.

If the church is near your area, have the children help clean the facilities. They could clean up outside or pull weeds, older children could mow and water the lawn.

As suggested before, have the class make a poster about the church. Try to get a picture of the pastor and his family. Find out what kind of facilities they are meeting in. Is it a rented building, the pastor's home or a church building? This is a good time to talk to the kids about the fact that the church isn't the building you meet in, it's the people!

FUND RAISING IDEAS

Recycling project. This is used a lot as a fund raiser with children. Have them bring in their liter bottles, soda pop or mineral water bottles and aluminum cans. Newspapers are discouraged because storage space and transporting the papers is a problem and the return from the recycling centers is low.

Bake sales. This takes parental and church participation. For the children of parents that don't attend your church, send home an information sheet explaining how the money will be used. Ask them to make something simple and inexpensive. Make a check list and have people sign up for a particular item. A lot of churches may allow you to have the bake sale on the premises after services. Check with a local shopping center or mini-mall that would let you sell there. Again, let the people who are buying the products know how the money will be used. Have the items wrapped nicely and clearly marked.

Food sale. Coordinate a hotdog meal (hotdog, chips, drink or fruit) with a church or community activity. You are reaching a good number of people this way. Have people donate food. If you do have to buy the food, you can still make the price of the meal minimal and still make money.

Coin donations. Talk with your pastor about having a special offering where people in the congregation give their "small change." Have children (with separate containers) follow the ushers as the main offering is taken. These coin offerings really add up.

"Slave sale." A fun and productive time for the entire congregation as the pastor hosts a "slave sale" of the kids in the church to members who "buy" them for all sorts of chores: washing dishes, windows, cars; cleaning yards, garages, basements; raking, mowing, trimming, weeding, moving, cooking, sweeping - cheerfully *HELPING!* Do make it clear to the person buying the "slave" to make the job reasonable and the donation equitable.

Walk-a-thon. A pleasant and healthy approach to fund-raising as children learn to walk with purpose. Kids obtain signatures from those who will commit themselves to donate whatever amount they desire per mile, half-mile, or quarter-mile walked (depending on the age of the child) on a designated day.

BEARING GOD'S LOVE

Good News Bears Banks

Please use the "Bear Banks" in conjunction with the missions project package.

Complete this order form and return it to Foursquare Publications. If you do not already have an account with us, please contact our office regarding payment. Visa and Mastercard are also accepted.



We would like _____ Bear banks. We will be charged \$.10 per bank plus shipping.

Church/Account Number _____ Date _____ Ship Via _____ (UPS or POSTAL)

Church name _____

Ship to: _____

Shipping Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Signature _____

Your invoice will be attached to the package when your order arrives.

Foursquare Publications
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite #200
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(800) 992-7444

GOOD NEWS BEARS BANKS - BEARING GOD'S LOVE

For Your Missions Project Fund Raising

Introduce the missionary project to the church and the children in the club (this can be accomplished on an individual class basis or a collective group explanation by the children's ministries director). Explain in detail that the funds from this project will be used for the missions project. State the goal you desire to reach and the deadline date.

1. Each child will receive a clear bear bank. (The clear plastic is easier to cut into than the brown ones that were previously used.) Be sure to write their name on their bank by using a piece of masking tape. This will allow the banks to be reused by other children if someone is a regular member. Encourage the children to color the eyes, nose and mouth of the Bear Bank, or to put ribbons around their necks. Since the surface of the bank is plastic, watch for smearing of the ink. Explain that they will be "feeding" money to their bear every time class meets during the project.

2. The bear banks should not be sent home with the children. This emphasizes that this is a *group* project, as well as *individual* giving. We have found that children have a difficult time remembering to return the banks each week.

3. Each teacher is responsible for the care of the bear banks. The teacher's love, enthusiasm and commitment to the project will have a direct impact on the children's commitment to the project.

4. The project should conclude with a "finale service." It is beneficial if the entire church congregation is involved. You can collect the banks and count the money during the service then announce the amount collected at the end of the service. Or, you can collect the money the week before the deadline, then invite someone to collect the funds or check during the finale service.



If you decide to sponsor a Foursquare missionary, send the check to:
Foursquare Missions International
Attn: **BEARING GOD'S LOVE** Missions Project
1910 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90026

(The funds will go into a general missionary support fund unless SPECIFICALLY stated otherwise.)

☛ **THE GOOD NEWS BEARS BANKS ORDER FORM IS ENCLOSED IN THIS DIRECTIONS.**

Teaching Resource list:

Children of the World flannelgraph. Large, colorful flannelgraphs depicting children from various cultures. A little verse describing each country is provided. **CL2600** **\$11.95**

Ethel Barrett Missionary Adventure Stories. There are nine separate cassettes in the series. The two we recommend are: The Adventures of Luju (tape #1) which involves missionary teachers, doctors, nurses and translators; and The Man Who Believed God (tape #1) is the story of Hudson Taylor, who prepared from boyhood to serve God in China; also, The Mysterious White Envelope (tape #2) shares what happens when children pray and give to an African missionary.

GIVING AND PRAYER FOR MISSIONS Tape #1	523	\$7.95
WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS Tape #2	538	\$7.95

Around the World with Jesus. Kids turn into world travelers who sample international games, stories, crafts, and snacks. A different country each lesson. **73551** **\$39.95**

World Missions Map. A colorful, large world map which includes information and statistics on many countries in regard to languages spoken, religions, population and the Christian influence that has impacted that country. 40" x 80". **V9303** **\$7.99**

52 Ways To Teach Missions. Creative ideas to educate children about missions and how they can be involved. **361690** **\$8.95**

FOUR SQUARE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL provides b/w photographs and profiles of the missionary families. They have produced a map showing Foursquare missionaries and the countries they serve. They can also provide some slide presentations or videos for church use. They also suggest possible missionary speakers for your church. Almost everything is free of charge as these things are supported by your missions giving. ☛ **(213) 484-2400**

WE HELP MISSIONARIES

TITLE: LOVING FRIENDS (Grades K - 3)

AIM: To show how children can be of help to Foursquare missionaries around the world.

MEMORY VERSE: "We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

PREPARATION: Gather the following materials to be used for this lesson:

- picture of a Foursquare missionary (cut out of Advance magazine)
- copies of the Foursquare Advance magazine
- picture of plaque showing praying hands
- addressed envelope to a (pretend) missionary
- provide several types of snacks representing several countries (i.e. a Chinese cookie, Mexican chips, etc.)
- play money
- a tract
- construction paper, one sheet per child
- fine-tipped felt pen
- toy car, Bible, airplane, etc. to show how our \$ helps missionaries

STORY: Little Ching-Lee wrote a letter to a small boy in the United States. (Use a pretend letter as you read the following.)

"Dear Billy: We want to thank you very much for sending our wonderful missionaries to us. They have helped us in our village and our school. We love them because they told us about Jesus and His care for us - that Jesus loves us and can make our sick bodies well.

Now we have Bibles, too! Wherever I go, boys and girls gather around and listen to me read. China is filled with many children.

Thank you again for sending us the good news about Jesus. We are glad you helped to send these missionaries to us here in China."

Signed: Little Ching-Lee

Our Foursquare missionaries [show pictures] leave their homes and relatives to go to people in far-away countries to tell many boys and girls, moms and dads about Jesus. They need our help. Without our help they would not be able to go. We can help our missionaries...[show praying hands]. We can pray for our missionaries...[show play money]. We can give our money.

How does our money help missionaries? [Allow time for participation.] Our money will buy: [show items] plane tickets to get them to where they are going; cars for them to travel from village to village; Bibles and tracts to give to people...[other items may be used as well].

There is a house called the Alabaster House that has many things our missionaries can use: clothes, school supplies, toys, dishes, linens, etc. These things are given by Foursquare churches. Our own Foursquare church helps to put things on the shelves. The missionaries can go to the Alabaster House and take the things that they need.

We also have a group called Foursquare Missions Press that prints stories about Jesus. [Show tract.] These stories are given to many, many people around the world. This is something the missionary needs to give to people who want to know about Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Draw pictures and/or write letters to send to missionary families. You can get information from your church or Foursquare Missions International. Consider postal costs when doing this project.

SNACK: **RICE CAKES WITH PEANUT BUTTER** - provide one rice cake (available in food stores) or several crackers for each child. Child spreads peanut butter or cream cheese on snack. Provide juice for drink.

WE HELP MISSIONARIES

TITLE: LOVING FRIENDS (Grades 4 - 6)

AIM: To show how children can be of help to Foursquare missionaries around the world.

MEMORY VERSE: "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matt. 9:37, 38 (NKJ)

PREPARATION: Gather the following materials to be used for this lesson:

- ▶ picture of a Foursquare missionary (cut out of Advance magazine)
- ▶ copies of the Foursquare Advance magazine from people in your church or contact the Advance Office for older issues.
- ▶ addressed envelope to a (pretend) missionary
- ▶ write the verse on the chalkboard or overhead.
- ▶ paper and pen for each person
- ▶ a tract

ACTIVITY: Break up into groups and have the kids write in their own words and discuss what they think the memory verse means.

STORY: Our Foursquare missionaries [show pictures] leave their homes, relatives and friends in the United States to tell people about Jesus in over 60 countries, such as Jamaica, Germany, and Panama, just to name a few.

Read part or all of one of the missionary articles in the Advance magazine. Talk about the needs of the people in that country and how God is using the missionaries to bless them. Then discuss with your class how the missionaries need our help and that two major ways we can help is through *our prayers* and *our giving*.

How should we pray for the missionaries? How does our money help missionaries? [Allow time for participation.] Our money will buy: [show items] plane tickets to get them to where they are going; cars for the missionary to travel from village to village; Bibles and tracts to give to people...[other items may be used as well]. Talk about the Alabaster House located in Norwalk, CA, filled with all kinds of things our missionaries can use: clothes, school supplies, toys, dishes, linens, etc. These things are given by our Foursquare churches. Our church helps to put things on the shelves. The missionaries can go to the Alabaster House and take the things they need before going to the mission field.

Tell them about Foursquare Missions Press, which prints tracts and books in other languages to send to the missionaries, who can then give them to people who want to know about Jesus. (If you can get a copy from your church, show tract.) These stories are given to many, many people around the world.

ACTIVITY: Write letters to send to a missionary family, the one you read about or the family your church is sponsoring.

SNACK: Bring in samples of foods from other countries (Chinese cookie, Mexican chips, etc.). Talk about how the missionaries have to change their eating habits when they go to other countries.

Teaching for Changed Lives

This last August, 14 C.E. workers from the Vinita Foursquare Church in Oklahoma completed and received certification with the "Seven Laws of the Teacher", a video text training course offered by the National Department of Christian Education.

Pastor Bruce Yelverton states, "This course has been a great help to our teachers already. I hope other churches will take the opportunity to invest into their teachers by offering this training."

The rental per video is \$7.00. Text, student, and leader price information is on page 11 of the Foursquare Catalog.

Call today for more information:
(213) 484-0105.



Back row, left to right: Darrel and Alesia Cox, Pat Robinson, Bruce Yelverton. Center row: Diann Giles, Jacob Saenz, Mar Faulconner. Front row: Dora Saenz, George and Melissa Albritton, Mary Ware, Tom Caskey.

Characteristics of Leaders Who Finish Well

(Taken from "The Mentoring Leader" by Russ Davis)

*You don't make it alone as a leader without mentors. Someone in your corner, someone encouraging you, someone to cry with, someone to help you through, are things every leader needs. Stanley & Clinton complete this thought through their research, on *Characteristics of Leaders Who Finish Well*. Pay attention to #5.*

- 1 They had perspective which enabled them to focus.
- 2 They enjoyed intimacy with Christ and experienced repeated times of inner renewal.
- 3 They were disciplined in important areas of life.
- 4 They maintained a positive learning attitude all their lives.
- 5 *They had a network of meaningful relationships and several important mentors during their lifetime.*

Paul was surrounded by mentors. Caleb had a key peer co-mentor in Joshua. Mentors give perspective and effective counsel at crucial moments. Mentors help guide, protect, and navigate through the waters of life. They assist in illuminating principles, clarifying values, and modeling effective patterns for reproduction. Finishing well as a leader includes mentoring relationships.



Don't Miss . . .

FOURSQUARE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PASTOR'S RETREAT

March 16 - 17, 1993

Camp Crestview, Corbett, Oregon

Breathing new life into children's ministry, this retreat is for children's pastors, Christian Education Directors, and Sunday School Superintendents.

The cost is only \$75.00 for 3 days. Meals included. For more information, contact:

Lorie Dickerson
P. O. Box 894
Olympia, Washington
206/754-0833

DIRECTIONS FOR FOURSQUARE CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS is a resource published quarterly by the National Department of Christian Education in Los Angeles, California.

You may receive bundle (5 or more) copies of the newsletter to distribute in your church for a small charge to cover shipping costs.

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter we would appreciate hearing from you.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
1910 West Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
213/484-0105