



The Importance of a Faith Promise

by Marshall Bruner

Jesus wants the whole world to know about Him. So what can the kids in your church do to help spread the gospel? PLENTY!

God needs missionaries. He calls people of all ages to go to other countries to be missionaries. So explain to your kids that though they may go to another nation to serve as a missionary, today they can be used by God to care, to pray, to give, and to reach the lost.

Kids all across America are on a mission—a campaign to help our missionaries. The funds they provided—whether through coins or dollars—added up to over \$5.2 million last year, which helped buy the supplies our home and foreign missionaries need to spread the gospel around the world.

Help the children in your church realize that millions of people worldwide have been saved because kids like yours have given to BGMC. Your church kids can also involve parents, grandparents, family, and friends in helping in this cause. Everyone should give to BGMC

because missionaries everywhere need our help, and there's never enough money to meet the many needs in this big world.

Educating Kids About Faith Promises

Start now by teaching church kids about the



importance of a faith promise pledge. Help them to understand that a faith promise is a goal or a pledge that you and the kids set individually—a pledge made to God. The pledge is to raise and to give a specific amount of money in a given year or timeframe. The goal may seem a bit big for the small chil-

dren, so help them by dividing their pledges into 12 bite-sized amounts of one month each. Then teach each child how he can accomplish his giving goals by demonstrating ways to raise money. The booklet *55 Ways To Earn Money for Missions*, published by BGMC, tells the children how to do just that.

Explain to the children that a good goal for giving is between \$5–\$20 a month. The children can learn that they can do their best to raise that amount of money for God. It has been said that a mission statement should be emphasized every 28 days.

Personalizing Commitments

Encourage your church kids to pray and to ask God what He would want them to do for Him through BGMC. Instruct them to discuss their ambitions and goals with their parents, who can help in this pledge process. Hand to them the BGMC faith promise pledge form they can fill out with their parents. Help the children to understand that what they pledge doesn't need to be the same as their friends and to be encouraged by what God

tells each of them to give. In doing so, as they make their faith pledges, they can feel comfortable knowing God has helped each of them uniquely.

The Faith Promise Process

Once you have taught the children about the meaning of the faith promise, let them take the step of faith. Conduct a special faith promise kids' church service. If possible, invite a missionary to share about his

or her ministry. Another option is to show BGMC videos of how BGMC dollars are reaching around the world.

At the conclusion of the service, invite all the kids to come forward for prayer to make their giving commitment before the Lord. The children can bring their BGMC faith promise pledge forms and leave them on the altar. You may even tally the pledges and announce the total giving, then have the kids join in a praise offering of celebration.

On a following Sunday, arrange to have all the children in the adult service report what the children have pledged. A good round of applause from the adults will further encourage the kids to work hard in reaching their goals in the coming months. Take photos of this and other events leading up to the faith promise pledge and mount them on a wall as a reminder of their faith promises.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What character traits are developed in children who learn to give to the Lord their tithe and offerings for missions?

2. List three new ways you can encourage the kids in your ministry to make faith promises.