

Leaders  
Teachers  
Parents

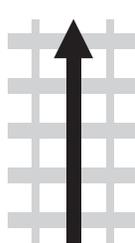
# Maintain Your Mission

## INTEGRATE WORLD MISSIONS INTO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

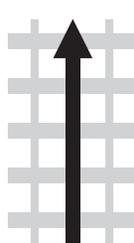
*For the Church to effectively utilize its resources and to fulfill its mandate to reach all nations, missions education must be integrated into the core of Christian education.*

### Subtle Separation

The Church has a monumental task and a glorious mandate—the evangelization of every people group on the face of the earth. To fulfill this commission, God has given Christians vast and sufficient resources. But today's Church separates missions education from "general" Christian education. Denominations have distinct departments dedicated to education and to missions. Local churches establish separate committees and staff for education and missions. Publishers segregate missions content from general Bible training in their curricula. This subtle separation has a profound effect in undermining believers' grasp of God's priority—to reach the world with the Gospel.



**Christian  
Education**



**Missions  
Education**

To become fully equipped disciples, Christians need consistent, clear, and systematic instruction. The Bible presents a unified message that proclaims sound doctrine (the foundation of Christian education) and the call to reach the nations (the foundation of missions education). Neglecting one in favor of the other warps the Church's vision. Uniting the two invigorates God's people with God's heart for the world—empowering believers to embrace their mandate.

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### Curriculum Culture

Each week, millions attend Sunday school and other ministries that promote their growth as Christians. This "curriculum culture" is a great asset to the Church. It is the primary venue to prepare believers to serve God.

Most churches rely on prepared curricula to educate children, teens, and adults. However, even with so many Christians meeting weekly, little of that time is utilized to accomplish the Church's task of world evangelization. Many publishers minimize or completely omit missions education from their curriculum content. These leaders in the curriculum culture are missing a critical opportunity to contribute to the Church's mandate to reach every people group for Christ.

Children's workers have only 1-3 hours a week to influence young hearts and minds for God's glory. Unless churches proactively insert missions education, children miss this essential component. Educators who place missions into a training program often do so by incorporating supplemental materials, usually for a very limited amount of time.



DiscipleLand  
Children's Ministry  
Tools

by Mark Steiner,  
Th. M.,  
DiscipleLand  
Founder/President

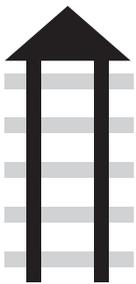
## Christ's Priority

*Is world missions really that important? Does missions merit such emphasis in Christian education?* "Yes!" Missions is the worldwide proclamation of the Gospel. Missions is the means by which people escape God's wrath and embrace His mercy through the death of Christ. Jesus, Himself, embarked on the first mission when He left the glory of heaven to save sinners. And He will continue to send the Church into the world until the job is accomplished.

Christ instructs His followers to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness. He promises that everything else will fall into place. Missions is not a "supplemental topic" in Scripture. It is an integral theme from Genesis through Revelation. Just before His miraculous ascension, Jesus underscored this priority by charging His disciples to fulfill the Great Commission. The Church must be vigilant to keep its Biblical mandate front and center—faithfully pursuing the Lord's final command.

## Need to Integrate

Separating missions education from Christian education has clearly led to the neglect of missions training. This sends the message that world evangelization is peripheral rather than central, optional rather than imperative. The trend must be reversed in several spheres.



**Christian Education**   **Missions Education**

First, missions education and Christian education must be integrated at the denominational level. Educators who implemented this strategy would regularly interact with missions leaders. Missions content would be woven into the overall education plan of denominations, their churches, and cooperating agencies. They would educate believers concerning the Biblical

basis of missions, mobilizing them to embrace God's plan to bring the nations to Himself.

Second, missions must be integrated at the church level. Educators would fulfill their role as leaders in missions education, taking the initiative to include missions content in their overall plan. All leaders would articulate missions priorities. Every member would welcome, embrace, and be enfolded into the strategy. Churches would coordinate their efforts with a single heartbeat toward fulfilling God's mandate.

Finally, missions must be integrated at the curriculum level. The missions and education communities would encourage and expect more from the publishing community. Evangelical publishers would include missions content appropriate to the Church's educational objectives. Curriculum would reflect Christ's highest priority.

If churches aren't asking for missions content, publishers are unlikely to provide it. This calls for new leadership on the part of curriculum providers. Those who choose the content often set the educational agenda for the Church. Herein lies a great responsibility carried by publishers.

Ideally, churches, mission agencies, and publishers will learn to work together to advance Christ's mandate. Curriculum development teams can merge missions content into their overall educational scope-and-sequence. This is much more effective than scattered or piecemeal missions programs developed by local churches. Missions must be systematically integrated as the core of Christian education rather than be left as a supplemental, optional topic of study.

## Impact of Integration

Missions education can no longer remain vulnerable to the pressures of limited time, tight budgets, and competing topics. With proper balance, missions content can be enfolded into every church's curriculum plan for children, teens, and adults. When missions education is effectively integrated, the Church can use the established curriculum culture to train and mobilize Christians for global evangelization. The force of millions of trained believers could fulfill the Church's central mandate to reach people in every nation.

Imagine Churches producing believers who:

- **Understand and embrace** the Biblical basis for missions.
- **Have a heart for the people** of the world who wait for the life-giving Gospel message.
- **Are ready to follow Christ** wherever He leads.

As long as Christians regard missions as "supplemental," the Church will fall short of its responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission. When the education enterprise of the Church embraces God's command to proclaim the Gospel to every creature, believers will discover anew the privilege of their calling and the joy of bringing lost and forgotten people into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

# How Does DiscipleLand Integrate Missions?

To build within kids a heart for the people of the world, DiscipleLand curriculum systematically integrates world missions throughout its scope-and-sequence. During grades 1-6, children are equipped with a Biblical world-view and challenged to make a difference on a global level.

WorldWatch includes three components:

**1) Missions Education**—Kids examine one foundational missions education concept each year. World-missions principles are in-

tegrated into the 24 Core Bible curriculum themes. Children are introduced to one missions truth during every lesson (288 in all).

**2) Missionary Biography**—Students relive an exciting missionary biography (or 12 vignettes) each quarter. Life stories of these missionaries unfold through all twelve lessons.

**3) Hidden People**—Kids explore one unreached people group each week at DiscipleZone.com



## Missions WorldWatch

### Level 1—The Nations *Experience God's passion for the whole world.*

- A:** God's Great Family: People from Every Nation .....William Carey.....Rajput (India)
- B:** God's Great Job: Witnesses to Every Nation .....Gladys Aylward .....Uyghers (China)
- C:** God's Great Worth: Worship of Every Nation.....Nate Saint family .....Waadani (S. America)
- D:** God's Great Passion: Cultures of Every Nation .....David Livingstone.....Wolof (Senegal)

### Level 2—The Message *Explore God's Book that speaks to the whole world.*

- A:** The Universal Message: God Speaks Every Language .....Cameron Townsend .....Kurds (Iraq)
- B:** The "Heart" Message: God's Word Speaks Every Language .....12 missionary vignettes .....Tatar (Russia)
- C:** The O.T. Message: Israel Blesses All People .....Adoniram & Ann Judson.....Karen (Myanmar)
- D:** The N.T. Message: The Church Blesses All People.....Mary Slessor.....Berber (Morocco)

### Level 3—The Mission *Follow God's Son who came to forgive the whole world.*

- A:** One Mandate: Obeying the Great Commission .....Hudson Taylor.....Hui (China)
- B:** Many Messengers: Accepting the Great Privilege.....Jackie Pullinger.....Balinese (Indonesia)
- C:** Many Methods: Sharing the Great News .....John Stewart.....Amdo Tibetans (Tibet)
- D:** Global Mission: Reaping a Great Harvest.....Mark Zook .....Mouk (New Guinea)

### Level 4—The Team *Join God's ambassadors who serve the whole world.*

- A:** The First Team: First Century Revolution ..... Amy Carmichael.....Dalit (India)
- B:** The Dream Team: Twenty-first Century Revival.....12 missionary martyr vignettes.....Persians (Iran)
- C:** The Local Team: Church Missions Ministries .....George Mueller.....Uzbek (Uzbekistan)
- D:** The Global Team: International Missions Ministries .....Loren Cunningham .....Inuit (Canada)

### Level 5—The Plan *Embrace God's strategy to reach the whole world.*

- A:** The Target: Reaching the Unreached .....Don & Carol Richardson.....Sawi (New Guinea)
- B:** The Victory: Celebrating in Heaven.....Rolland & Heidi Baker .....Orphans (Mozambique)
- C:** The Pioneers: Paving the Way.....12 Church history vignettes .....Brao (Cambodia)
- D:** The Visionaries: Taking God Seriously.....Floyd McClung.....Pashtun (Afghanistan)

### Level 6—The Call *Affirm God's invitation to transform the whole world.*

- A:** World-class Challenge: Counting the Cost.....Bruce Olson.....Motilonos (S. America)
- B:** World-class Preparation: Mobilizing for Action.....Jim & Elisabeth Elliot .....Malay (Malaysia)
- C:** World-class Opportunities: Following Jesus Everywhere.....12 contemporary vignettes.....Sudanese Arabs (Sudan)
- D:** World-class Living: Changing My World.....Jonathan Goforth.....Kazakhs (Kazakhstan)

# How Does DiscipleLand Build Disciples?

Here's how DiscipleLand helps *you* equip kids to reach their peak potential as Jesus' disciples. DiscipleLand's family of resources forms a complete Children's Discipleship System™ with five components:



## **DISCIPLELAND PRESCHOOL**

launches children ages 2-5 to begin walking with God.

Preschoolers establish a solid foundation through 200 different Bible stories.



## **DISCIPLELAND KINDERGARTEN**

inspires kids ages 5-6 to follow amazing Bible heroes.

Children grasp God's plan and purpose as they overview the entire Bible.



## **DISCIPLELAND CORE BIBLE**

challenges children in grades 1-6 to become victorious disciples.

Kids are equipped for Christian service through 24 quarters of sequential Bible curriculum.



## **DISCIPLETOWN**

equips kids in grades 1-6 with essential discipleship skills.

Children enjoy group learning in a creative Kids Church format.



## **DISCIPLELAND ADVENTURE**

motivates kids in grades 1-6 to pursue their discipleship journey.

Children travel to exciting locations around the world to experience topical Bible adventures.

**DiscipleLand**  
Disciples for Life™

**DiscipleLand.com**

info@DiscipleLand.com

**DiscipleLand**—Children's ministry curriculum, ideas, and discipleship resources for life.

This free Children's Ministry tool is provided for parents, teachers, and others who want to help make disciples for life!

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