

Leaders
Teachers
Parents

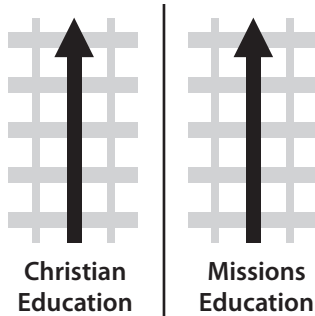
Maintain Your Mission

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.



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,
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Founder/President

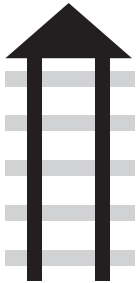
Christ's Priority

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	Motilon (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)

DiscipleLand™

DiscipleLand.com
800.284.0158

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

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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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