

# Not Just an Option

Teaching missions to children is not just a creative option added to basic curricula. It could well be the principal means God will use to raise up a powerful, godly generation of adults.

Around the world today's ten-year-olds are being influenced for good and for evil. Millions in Africa are AIDS orphans, and thousands in Muslim nations are being indoctrinated to commit acts of terror. Girls are trapped in the sex industry of Asia, while boys are trained to be Buddhist monks or boy soldiers. By contrast, we have the immense privilege and obligation to disciple our children to be Biblically literate, experienced in powerful intercession and wholly committed to God's great global kingdom. No other "cause" is as worthy. Significant victories may be won in 20 years by the adults who learned to attempt great things for God and expect great things from God as children – today!

The following "Bill of Rights for Kingdom Kids" can help guide us as we seek to follow God's leading in ministry to children.

We hold the following as inalienable rights for Christian children today:

1. The right to develop a Biblical world view, learning to put God at the center of their personal universe.
2. The right to know their rich Christian heritage, especially about people who have kept alive God's thread of promise, from the apostle Paul's day to the present.
3. The right to age-appropriate and exciting presentations that vividly portray how missionaries live and serve God.
4. The right to enter into some missionaries' lives, discovering how to encourage and love them, and how to pray for them specifically, regularly, and fervently.
5. The right to an ever-maturing awareness of local and worldwide needs and how God may want them to meet these challenges starting now.
6. The right to learn to appreciate different cultures and realize that God loves all peoples of the world.
7. The right to thoroughly understand major world religious systems in order to pray more intelligently and witness more effectively to children from these religions whom they may well meet every day.
8. The right to understand God's mission strategy of "making disciples" and all this implies for planting reproducing churches among unreached peoples, based on the conviction that the only way to a right relationship with God is through Jesus Christ alone.
9. The right to participate in meaningful, regular prayer for those peoples without a church and/or those living where the church is small, struggling, and often under persecution.
10. The right to move with growing maturity into an "obedience of faith" (Romans 1: 5) and respond to the truth that missions is not, first of all, about people (whether givers or receivers) but missions is about God, who deserves the praise of all peoples as so beautifully depicted in Revelation 7:9-10.

**by Nancy Tichy**

*Nancy Tichy and her husband Frank serve as Inland Empire (California) regional representatives of the U.S. Center for World Mission. They can be contacted at Ftichy@aol.com*

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