



What is BGMC?

by Mary Boyd

National Assistant BGMC Coordinator/Children's Ministries Agency.

Why should we have BGMC in our church?

Because BGMC is the missions education program for children in the Assemblies of God, it provides resources to help you teach the children about missions. Missions education will create a heart of compassion for the lost in the hearts of the children you teach.

As you expose children to the Great Commission, they'll see the need to reach out to those around them and to the world with the Gospel.

As you expose children to the needs of the world, you create a heart of compassion that wants to reach out and help those who are less fortunate.

As you expose children to missionaries, they'll learn about the call of God and about the miracles that are taking place all over the world. A survey was done among our missionaries and 85% of them were called to be missionaries while they were children between the ages of 9-13. If we don't expose the children to missions, then how can God call them?

Why should offerings be given through BGMC?

The Missionaries need BGMC: BGMC is the program that allows our missionaries to get the supplies that they need to spread the gospel and reach the world.

BGMC is the only program that gives our missionaries the freedom to buy such things as puppets, clown outfits, costume animals, Bibles, tracts, Sunday school literature, computers, video tapes, CD's, training manuals, and lots more.



BGMC provides more than supplies:

BGMC is also used to feed the hungry, provide clothes, create TV and radio programs, support schools, conduct training seminars, produce videos, and even send kids to camp where they can learn about Jesus.

Kids need BGMC:

As kids learn about the needs around the world, they will want to respond. Jesus commanded us to reach out to those less fortunate. Regular, systematic giving to missions creates a giving heart and spirit in children. It helps kids to not be so "me-centered". Kids learn to help others through the blessings God has given them.

Kids who learn to give to missions grow into adults who give to missions.

Should adult offerings be included in your BGMC offerings?

Yes! Even though BGMC is the "children's" mission program, adults can and should be involved. Remember that the purpose of BGMC is to provide supplies for our missionaries. Adults can also be involved in that. It doesn't just have to be "money from kids". We'd encourage you to take up adult offerings, adult pledges, involve them in your fund raising, or challenge your adults to match what the kids raise. Raising money for BGMC becomes a

great "family" project that the whole family can do together. The more funds that come in will provide our missionaries with more supplies to reach more souls. That's what this is all about!

How often should BGMC offerings be taken?

We suggest that you choose one Sunday or one Wednesday every month to be "missions" day. If you can, have the entire classtime or children's service centered around missions. The kids can then turn in their offerings that they have been collecting all month on this day. You will

also want to have special fund raisers throughout the year, especially during missions conventions. We also strongly suggest that you send your offerings monthly to headquarters. BGMC funds are distributed to the mission fields monthly based on what came in that month. As mis-

sionaries need supplies, they make requests for funds. If the funds are there, they can get their supplies. If not, they can't. Saving your offering until the end of the year can sometimes be a hardship for our missionaries.

In closing, we like to say thank you for investing in missions and

investing in the children that you minister to. Please contact us if you would like more information on starting BGMC in your church or if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas.

(Mary Boyd can be reached at meboyd@ag.org.)

Questions For Further Study—

1. Why is it important that children learn about missions?
2. Why is it important that children participate in missions?
3. Name some ways you can incorporate BGMC in your children's ministry program. If your church already participates in BGMC, name some ways that you can improve the program.