

REAL MEN DO TEACH!



Are you looking for a few good men to volunteer in Children's Ministries? Have you met with difficulty getting them on board? Only a few have the passion to do it.

Historically, Children's Ministries has been predominantly run by women. Many see women as more suitable to work with children as

many of them are mothers and they have more patience with the little ones than the fathers.

But in today's society, we have observed that more and more men are interested in working with children. We need to seize the opportunity to recruit them to teach children's Sabbath School and run children's programs.

Here are 6 key steps to achieve successful results:

1. Help Men View Children's Programs as a Significant Ministry.

Men want to be involved in valuable and important endeavors. Give them a challenge and they will rise to the occasion. Few men are motivated by guilt or constant asking. Instead, they must catch the vision and excitement of working with children.

Before recruiting them, create photos or booth displays for everyone to see the exciting work accomplished in young lives. Showcase the children at worship services, asking them to sing, give testimonies, and display their projects. This can create awareness and excitement.

2. Abandon Stereotypes.

Get rid of stereotypes that children are "women's work." Male teachers can share the vision and joys of working with children with other men. Invite them to the classroom to observe.

3. Show Men Their Unique Role in the Classroom.

Children need to see men in the classroom. Many children today come from single-parent homes where fathers are absent. They have no adult male role model at home, hence, the role of a male teacher or counselor has great impact on them.

Even for children who have both parents, male role models add something special in the classroom. Discipline problems

are reduced when a man is present. A male teacher provides a healthy balance to his nurturing female counterpart when he helps the child explore and take risks.

Unknowingly, Children's Ministries communicate a message that Christianity is women's business. Little boys leave Sabbath School subtly convinced that real men rarely involved in church or religion.

4. Encourage Men and Be Sensitive.

Competent women leaders can frighten off male volunteers. Many men are insecure about working with children, while some are intimidated by naturally nurturing women who work alongside them in the classroom. Men are competitors who would avoid situations where they feel inadequate or inferior. Encourage an atmosphere that is not demeaning. Male volunteers need extra doses of affirmation because they are treading in unknown waters.

5. Provide Men with Strong Leadership.

It's important to have good leaders to attract and keep men in Children's Ministries. If they have to follow a poor leader, they often choose to avoid conflict by leaving the ministry.

6. Give Men Ownership.

Once we get a man involved in ministry, we must keep him involved. For a man to remain, the ministry must become his. Include him in the goal-setting process and ministry evaluation.

Yes, real men do teach! Real men can teach! So start looking out for the opportunity to recruit them on board to see how they can impact the lives of children in their spiritual journey.



KidsNewsZone Vol 3 #2/ 2006

is published quarterly by the General Conference Department of Children's Ministries for the purpose of communicating news and information about Children's Ministries.

General Conference Children's Ministries Department
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
(301) 680-6144 • Fax (301) 680-6155
Kumalael@gc.adventist.org
www.childrensministries.gc.adventist.org

Linda Mei Lin Koh Director
LuWana Kumalae Administrative Assistant
Tanya Holland Art Director