

The Sword of the Lord Club

A Ministry of Old Path Mission

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BRIEF HISTORY, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND CURRENT SCOPE OF THE SWORD OF THE LORD CLUB MINISTRY

In 2003, the local ministry of Old Path Mission was faced with the problem of having a large number of children and teens and a small number of willing and qualified adult teachers. Our ministry has always been directed toward seriously disadvantaged children and teens, and working with this group requires more diligence, effort and patience than most adults are willing to put forth.

My wife, Carolyn has developed the ability to memorize large passages of Scripture. For one example, she can quote the entire book of James from beginning to end. She does not have a photographic memory or any such unusual ability. She has simply developed an easily transferable method of analysis and association along with an understanding of the Holy Spirit's ministry of the Word of God in the lives of believers. Together, we developed a Scripture memorization and application curriculum and put it into the form of a club for children ages six through eighteen. Thus was born The Sword of The Lord Club.

The results were immediate. One or two adult instructors could work successfully with twenty to thirty children. As the children progressed in memorizing and applying the Scriptures presented in the curriculum, their lives began to transform. Depressed, angry children became happy and cooperative. Children with very poor grades in school became honor students. Children who lived in fear because of their circumstances at home, became settled and peacefully able to live in the same environment but without the fear. Sickly and withdrawn children became healthy and assertive.

There are several unique aspects of The Sword of The Lord Club that make it the most useful and effective ministry of its kind in the world for reaching, winning and raising up children and teens for the Lord. The club concept gives the children the strength of belonging to something that is especially for them and that is global in scope. The simple association method which Carolyn developed to memorize Scripture is incorporated into the curriculum and is applied to each verse each week, thus enabling the children to develop excellent Scripture memorization skills that will also carry over into their school work and beyond. Another key aspect of the Sword of The Lord Club ministry is that it is just as

useable and effective where there is no electricity, no running water and where the income level of the people involved would disqualify them from using the other programs that are available. Audio-visual equipment is not required. Computers are not required, and the printed materials and training are offered free of charge by the ministry. All that is required of the Club leaders is a heart for Jesus and the children.

In 2004, I interviewed Carolyn about The Sword of The Lord Club ministry and placed the audio interview on the internet. A man from Nairobi, Pastor Moses Muguro, came across the interview as he was searching for ways to reach and minister to children. He decided that The Sword of The Lord Club would work in Kenya. We communicated by email for almost two years. During that time, we printed and mailed over two-hundred curriculums to him and thousands of the Club logo iron-ons that we provided for the Club members to put on their clothing to wear for meetings.

In March of 2006, Carolyn and I went to Kenya to see what was happening and we found thousands of children and teens in churches, homes and even public schools meeting weekly and memorizing and proclaiming the Scripture verses with incredible enthusiasm. We heard them sing the memory verses to tunes they had written. We saw them perform skits based on the memory verses. We heard testimony after testimony of how many had received Jesus Christ and how the Lord had truly changed their lives through the ministry.

The lady principal at a middle school in Nairobi with over a thousand students, testified that her overcrowded school had been one of the worst in the city for discipline problems. But, after a few weeks of the Sword of The Lord Club, meeting out in the courtyard area with almost the entire student body and only two instructors, there were no more discipline problems. Eighteen months later, that same principal sent us the testimony that there were no longer any seizures in the student body of her school. That was very noteworthy since epileptic seizures are a daily occurrence in most schools in Africa.

Today, we have more than (100,000) children and teens involved each week in Sword of The Lord Clubs in (63) countries. We have permanent bases of operation in **Africa, Central America, Nepal, India and the Philippines.**

The curriculums have been printed now in twelve languages: English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam (three languages in India), Kiswahili (for East Africa), African French (for West Africa and Haiti), Central American Spanish, Vietnamese, Bengali, Nepalese, Urdu and Punjabi. Other translations are being developed as the need arises.

We use a Google ad-words campaign targeting every country in the world reached by Google and its affiliates and in every language they offer. If

anyone keys in the search words: “evangelism,” “child evangelism,” “youth evangelism” or “discipleship,” our Sword of The Lord Club advertisement will appear on the first page of their search. That ad will take them directly to our website where they can watch our videos, view the printed information in many languages and download the Sword of The Lord Club teacher’s guide in any available translation free of charge.

The Sword of The Lord Club is a simple, sustainable program which enables on-going ministries to better train their own people and reach young people in neighborhoods and rural areas where there is no Christian ministry. We provide all of the teacher’s guides, training, organization and support for the Clubs world-wide at no cost to the Clubs or their leaders.

When Jesus Christ enters a life and His word begins to do its work, hope arises. When hope arises in the hearts of desperate people, and, when the promises of God become theirs to claim, their lives are forever changed.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to view our website at www.oldpathmission.org / [sword of the lord club](http://www.oldpathmission.org/sword-of-the-lord-club) and to contact us if you have questions or would like to become involved in The Sword of The Lord Club ministry around the world.

Sincerely,

Jim Rich