

connect the dots

with Students

Missions education and involvement for students is a wonderful way to help teenagers learn more of what it means to love the world as God loves the world, as well as how they can join God in His work in the world. By learning the importance of praying for missions, giving to missions, learning about the work of missionaries, and being involved in hands-on missions experiences; teenagers are able to discern the importance of being the hands and feet of Christ to the world. They also gain a greater understanding of the biblical mandate of missions and loving the world as Christ loves the world.

Connect the Dots

- Discover new members
- Organize groups
- Teach churches
- Spotlight entry points

In an effort to help expand the reach of WMU[®] missions organizations, we will be focusing on a growth plan called Connect the Dots. The overall emphasis will be to help churches realize that a church actively involved in missions is a church that focuses on laying a missions foundation for preschoolers, children, teenagers, and adults. Missions education is an essential aspect of the overall faith development of every individual.

Below are several ways you can help grow student missions organizations within your church, your community, and your association.

Discover New Members

Help churches discover new members to add to their existing organizations. Suggest ideas for enlisting students who are not currently attending. For instance, are there students attending Wednesday Bible study or participating in summer camp who are not currently involved in Acteens[®], Challengers[®], or Youth on MissionSM? If so, make a special effort to invite those students to become involved.

Organize Groups

Work with churches to examine the needs within their congregations. If one coed organization isn't meeting the need, consider beginning two gender-specific organizations. Because many churches are small with few student leaders, they choose to use the Youth on Mission curriculum. However, as the group grows it is often a good idea to switch to Acteens and Challengers. Help churches think through what is best for their setting and what will best meet their needs. In addition, help churches plan for the future by making sure there is an Acteens group ready to go when girls finish Girls in Action[®] and a Challengers[®] group for boys who finish Royal Ambassadors[®] in the sixth grade. Likewise, make sure there is a Youth on Mission group ready to go when children finish Children in ActionSM.

Teach Churches

It's likely there are churches in your community or in your association who do not have ongoing missions education for their students. These students are participating in Bible study, worship, and fellowship, but the missions component is lacking. Make a point to contact these churches by phone or consider visiting with the pastor or student leader. Brainstorm ways you can help them begin Acteens, Challengers, or Youth on Mission. Teach the churches more about the value and importance of ongoing missions education for students and help them make a concerted effort to get started. Churches can download Get Started information at wmu.com/getstarted. Take time to mentor new leaders and guide them as they begin leading a new student missions organization.

Spotlight Entry Points

Entering into the world of missions can be done by walking through many types of doors or entry points. Students will be interested in all kinds of missions opportunities and endeavors. Share with churches in your community and association all the ways WMU can help connect individuals and groups to missions. Be sure to highlight WorldCraftsSM as a way to impact the world positively through buying power. You will also want to promote missions trip opportunities like FamilyfestSM—WMU's prepackaged missions experience for families and students. Many churches will want to be involved in small group Bible studies or topical studies. New Hope[®] Publishers has countless possibilities for adults and students to dig deeper into their faith. For more information about these opportunities, visit WorldCrafts.org, wmu.com/trips, and NewHopeDigital.com.

Growing student missions organizations in your community can be very exciting as churches see the value of raising up the next generation of missional disciples. Look around and help churches get students involved in missions.