

LOGOS USER GUIDE

Doing Intergenerational Mission

January 1, 2015



Version 1

Copyright ©2015 GenOn Ministries. All rights reserved.

GenOn Ministries
Post Office Box 4
Springdale, PA 15144
877.937.2572

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
GENON MINISTRIES: WHO WE ARE	3
OUR CORE VALUES	3
THE BEGINNING	4
WHAT WE BELIEVE	6
DOING INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION	7
THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION	7
What is Mission?	7
Kingdom Living	7
INCLUDING MISSION IN LOGOS	9
How Can You Fit Mission into LOGOS?	9
Ideas for Mission Projects	9
Planning an Intergenerational Ministry Mission Trip	10
Using Children's Storybooks	11
GUIDELINES FOR DOING EFFECTIVE MISSION	12

INTRODUCTION

GENON MINISTRIES: WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

Mission Statement: GenOn Ministries equips faith communities and families to develop Christian disciples of all ages through intergenerational ministry.

Our Vision

Vision Statement: Children, youth, adults and families are nurtured toward lifelong faith and Christian discipleship, and communities of faith are energized and strengthened for renewed growth.

OUR CORE VALUES

AFFIRMING We affirm that an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life.

LIVING We seek to live with God as the center and focus of everything we do, following the Bible as our guide and standard.

NURTURING We develop and deepen Christian relationships which nurture people into lifelong faith and discipleship.

PARTNERING We recognize that partnering with the Body of Christ, the church, is essential for excellence in Christian nurture, and that God has called the church of Jesus Christ into being as the primary means of ministry in the world - including ministry with youth and children.

PRACTICING Through our ministry and training, we advocate the study and practice of four vital elements of ministry which originate from Acts 2:42 – teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and worship, and that this model of ministry, LOGOS, is of God, called in a significant way to reach out and minister to young people in and through churches of many denominations.

SERVING We strive to be accountable as stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us: time, talent, and treasure, including gifts for ministry given by God to individuals and congregations, and that dollars given to GenOn Ministries will go further, over a longer period of time, make more difference in the lives of more young people, and generate more lifelong commitments to Jesus Christ, his church and its mission.

EQUIPPING We equip adults to do ministry by providing training, resource materials and on-going relational support because it is responsible stewardship to equip thousands of churches, with their tens of thousands of members and leaders, to nurture youth and children into faithful relationship with Jesus Christ by utilizing personnel and materials already in place within congregations.

THE BEGINNING

GenOn Ministries was originally known as the Youth Club Program and was initiated in 1957. Dr. Dale K. Milligan convened and challenged a group of clergy who were conducting their own weekday Youth Club Programs to pool their efforts and help one another provide Bible Study materials designed especially for their Programs.

This group of clergy, augmented by the inclusion of Lamar Otis, a devoted Christian businessman and member of the Beulah Presbyterian Church as financial advisor and treasurer, became the charter members of what is now GenOn Ministries. They were: the Rev. Frank Bates, Dr. G. Mason Cochran, the Rev. Lloyd Dalbey, the Rev. Harry Orr Leitman, the Rev. Bruce Milligan, the Rev. Dr. Dale K. Milligan, Mr. Lamar J. Otis and the Rev. Aaron Powers.

Like pebbles dropped in a pool of water, each Youth Club Program sent out ripples of influence reaching out to more and more clergy and churches. These programs in the churches served by these leaders became so successful that increasing numbers of other clergy and congregations asked for help to start similar programs. Training seminars were begun at the Beulah Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, and were subsequently replicated around the country under the leadership of Dr. Milligan, assisted by members of the Beulah Presbyterian Church, and Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA.

In 1963, Youth Club Program incorporated in Pittsburgh, PA. In the mid-80's, the name "LOGOS" was chosen to reflect the biblical basis and focus of the System and Program and the name was changed to LOGOS System Associates. In 2005, LOGOS System Associates changed its name to The LOGOS Ministry, reflecting the church wide system of ministry that transforms individual lives and entire congregations.

The LOGOS Ministry became GenOn Ministries in 2012, continuing a firm belief that an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life, and that nurturing people, especially youth and children, into this relationship of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does. GenOn Ministries' *mission* – and we believe calling as well -- *is to equip faith communities and families to develop lifelong Christian disciples of all ages through intergenerational ministry.*

GenOn Ministries continues to equip churches to build and nurture abundant life-giving relationships of faith with God through the disciplined approach called LOGOS. LOGOS is GenOn's signature offering for a weekly intergenerational experience for children and/or youth that creates an intentional arena where children, youth and adults, together, can learn about, experience and practice the art of Christian relationships. In these cross-generational gatherings, young people and adults eat together, play together, study together, and pray together.

When effectively practiced, our intergenerational ministry has shown to be highly effective in:

- passing on the faith to younger generations,
- in nurturing children and youth on their faith journey, and
- energizing the whole church through the building of relationships

In addition to building relationships in LOGOS, GenOn Ministries continues to design and promote lifelong disciple-building experiences through annual GenOn Youth Summits (youth conferences).

By partnering with more and more churches, GenOn Ministries expects to see children, youth, and adults nurtured toward lifelong Christian faith and discipleship, and communities of faith energized and strengthened for renewed growth.

GenOn Ministries invites faith communities of all sizes to explore how adopting these practices can help them be more effective in fulfilling the mission of the church in their community.

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, GenOn Ministries is incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania as a charitable organization for whom contributions are fully tax deductible.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our keystone ministry, LOGOS, is a 4-part experience with children and youth where everyone participates in Bible study, Recreation, Family Time and Worship Skills. LOGOS is built on three **KEY PRACTICES**:



Theology of Relationships A strong scripturally-based understanding of who God is in our lives, the nature of our personal relationship with God, and the resulting impact on our relationships with others because of God's presence in our lives.



Process of Call A scripturally-directed approach for aligning personal gifts and efforts with the needs of a ministry or mission that results from God's purpose and plan.



Balanced Ministry A requirement that ministry addresses and engages the mind, soul and body in a disciple-making process that teaches and provides an opportunity to practice the faith.

LOGOS creates an arena where people of all ages are transformed, regardless of a church's size, culture, ethnic mix or lack of it, economic context, or demographic definition. Through training, resources and support, LOGOS helps churches strengthen their ministry effectiveness with youth and children and bring young people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

DOING INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION

TO LEARN MORE, find these resources in the GenOn online store:

Quick Reference: Doing Intergenerational Mission

Workshop: Serving From the Heart

Leader Training Module: Doing Mission with Children

Recommended Resources for Mission

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

What is Mission?

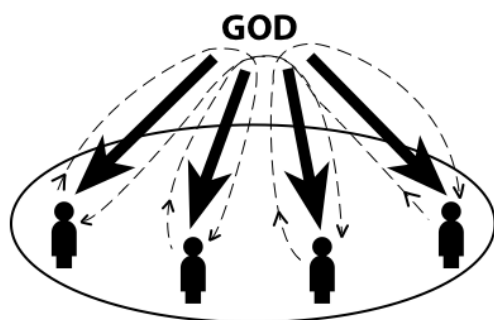
Words can evoke powerful memories. What comes to mind when you hear the word “mission”? You may think of the countless men and women who have traveled to far and distant lands, bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of unbelievers. You may think of urban soup kitchens which feed the hungry, or groups of people donating items to be given to the needy in your community. You may even think of a “mission” statement your congregation has created, which sets out a particular direction the leadership of the congregation envisions for the future of the congregation.

The Christian faith is, at its heart, missionary. One way to define mission is: *sharing the good news of God's love for creation*. Mission is participating in God's involvement in and with the world. Mission is about sharing the good news with those who have not heard it. Mission is about sharing God's love (and thus the good news) with the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the poor, the elderly and the young. In short, mission is sharing good news in *both word and deed* with all people.

Kingdom Living

Delivering the message of God's love is most effectively achieved in person, face-to-face. Christians are assigned this mission when baptized; followers of Christ are to spread the good news as demonstrated by a lifestyle of faithful discipleship and by participating in acts of ministry in the world. Christians of all ages are called to this mission.

Involving all ages – together – in mission helps the church achieve a more ‘balanced ministry’ in which all people are both recipients of ministry *from* others, and participants in ministry *to* others.



The mission arena is an expanded opportunity to touch others with the love of God through *Kingdom of God* living. It also puts the concept

of “loving your neighbor” into a practical context.

Because GenOn Ministries believes that God calls all disciples of Jesus to serve one another, and that nurturing mission awareness is vitally important for spiritual development, GenOn Ministries seeks to help each church weave mission throughout the four parts of their weekly LOGOS context.

The goal of mission in LOGOS is to nurture young people into discipleship by teaching them about caring for others and providing opportunities for all ages to experience mission work.

Doing mission intergenerationally creates the perfect setting to:

1. Put into practice what God has revealed to be true in Jesus Christ (*Revelation* theogram) by choosing to think, care, choose and decide to live God’s way (*Image of God* theogram)
2. Live in a community of mutual love and support with God at the center (*Kingdom of God* theogram)
3. Encourage the growth of relationships through the cycle of risk, vulnerability, commitment, and trust (*The Process of Relationship* theogram)

As you strive to serve in mission to the children, youth and adult in LOGOS, to the community in which you live, and the world in which God places you, so you learn to practice and model serving from the heart.

INCLUDING MISSION IN LOGOS

How Can You Fit Mission into LOGOS?

Mission projects can take place at certain time of the year and/or throughout the year. To get started, brainstorm mission opportunities in your neighborhood or through your denomination. Ask children, youth and adults to share ideas, and consider organizations supported by your church.

Then, look at the list of ideas generated. Consider is any "part" of LOGOS logically matches a mission idea. A mission idea could match to one, two, three or all four parts. When finished, be sure you identify at least one way each mission idea can be incorporated into at least one part of LOGOS.

To emphasize mission throughout the year, plan carefully, using schedules for all four parts of LOGOS and the church calendar so that projects are coordinated throughout the church.

You may want to begin with *one* project *one* time this year, especially if your congregation has not incorporated mission into LOGOS yet. It is always more energizing to add ideas than it is to cancel them. If you accomplish just one project successfully, it will seed your overall mission agenda and plant compassion and caring into the hearts of the children in your church.

Ideas for Mission Projects

Family Time theme-based mission ideas:

- Collect socks on "Sock Hop Night" and donate them to a local children's home.
- Collect home goods (towels, gift cards, sheets...) for new Habitat for Humanity families on "Construction Night."
- Collect baby supplies on "Baby Face Night" for a local hospital.

Bible study mission ideas:

- Make fleece blankets for "Project Linus" or another appropriate organization.

Recreation ideas:

- Assemble Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

Worship Skills ideas:

- Go caroling during the Christmas season.

Year-round mission ideas:

- January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- February: Race Relations Sunday
- March/April: Holy Week

- May: National Day of Prayer; Christian Family Week; Pentecost
- June: Pentecost
- July-August: Ordinary Time; Caring for God's World
- September: International Peace Day
- October: World Food Day; World Communion Sunday
- November: World Community Day
- December: Advent; Human Rights Day

Planning an Intergenerational Ministry Mission Trip

Once your church has decided to pursue a family mission trip, be sure to allow enough planning and preparation time, usually 3 to 6 months or more depending on the distance you travel and the number in your group. Gather ideas from those interested and begin preparation by praying, learning about the area, the people who you will be serving, and the type of work to be done. Plan Bible study to go with your mission project. Laying the ground work for going on a mission trip can be as important as the actual trip.

There are many resources that have suggested guidelines for planning this type of mission trip and organizations that plan trips for you. Take time to research your options and talk with other churches that have been on trips planned in various ways. Keep everyone involved in this process as much as possible. This involvement will keep their interest high and they will have an investment in the trip before you even leave.

Spring and fall breaks and summer are good times for family mission trips and many organizations offer schedules to accommodate a variety of options. Joining with another church group will help if your church has a small group.

If you have not tried a mission trip before, begin with a mission day in your hometown. You can name this trip "Mission (*name of your hometown*)". For a one day trip, contact several agencies or adults in your church and community that you can serve throughout the day. If you want to do a multi-day experience, try serving one agency a day and plan to sleep over at your church. These experiences can build confidence in your planning skills and the confidence of your group and leaders.

Plan to have leaders who love God, love families, and are mission-minded. Be sure to include leaders in all the planning, preparation and group building. Follow all guidelines set up by your church for proper supervision and travel.

Be sure to do a thorough budget plan for your experience. Whether it is close by or farther away you will need to consider expenses for transportation, meals, lodging, supplies, and miscellaneous items. Also consider activities that will build community and a sense of team for everyone. Learning more about each other and how you solve problems and work together will be very helpful in the mission field. Don't

forget to pray together for your trip, each other and those you will be serving. Plan Bible study together as you plan for your trip.

After the trip, debrief the experience in ways that are appropriate for the ages involved. Some debriefing should be done with leaders, while a more broad debriefing can be done with the entire group. Talk about the joys, concerns, frustrations, learning experiences, what might be done differently, and how you might stay in touch with those you served.

Using Children's Storybooks

One way to add a mission element to LOGOS Bible study is to use the rich resource of children's storybooks. These serve as a great resource to help all ages explore examples of compassion and empathy. The list below are recommendations that LOGOS churches have found to be excellent stories to inform and help build a moral sensibility.

Albert, Richard E. Alejandro's Gift
Barbour, Karen. Mr. Bow Tie
Brumbeau, Jeff. The Quiltmaker's Gift
Cohn, Janice. The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate
Coles, Robert. The Story of Ruby Bridges
Demi. The Empty Pot
DiSalvo-Ryan, Dyanne. Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen.
Estes, Eleanor. The Hundred Dresses
Fox, Mem. Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge
Fox, Mem. Whoever You Are
Hamanaka, Sheila. All the Colors of the Earth
Karusa. The Streets are Free
Kissinger, Katie. All the Colors We Are
Ladwig, Tim. The Lord's Prayer
McGovern, Ann. The Lady in the Box
Park, Linda Sue. A Single Shard
Sasso, Sandy. In God's Name
Say, Allen. Emma's Rug
Tan, Amy. The Moon Lady
Wezeman, Phyllis and Colleen Weissner. Benjamin Brody's Backyard Bag.

GUIDELINES FOR DOING EFFECTIVE MISSION

1. Pray for the specific mission project(s), the organization(s) and people being helped, and for understanding of mission.
2. Plan early in the year for mission projects. Line up all tools and resources in advance. Be sure you have an appropriate child/adult ratio to ensure success in every aspect of your mission project, and to be in compliance with your church's discipline/safety policies.
3. Coordinate projects with other LOGOS classes, the LOGOS Leadership Team, and the church mission committee. Be sure to dovetail mission/service projects with the church's overall mission point-of-view and plans.
4. Be mindful of setting reasonable expectations for all parties involved. Make sure the projects are compatible with the ages and talents of those involved. Make projects concrete and do-able (age appropriate).
5. Call leaders for the mission projects who love God, who are called to work with the given ages, and who are mission-minded.
6. Connect mission projects to the LOGOS class (for example, collect food in Family time, write pen pal letters in Bible study)
7. Publicize information in a variety of ways so everyone (children, youth, parents, other adults) is informed of all aspects of the projects.
8. Help the whole church understand the importance of mission in LOGOS using Bible study, small group discussions, and printed and on-line resources.
9. Educate everyone about the organization and people being helped so everyone understands the purpose and needs of the organization. Prepare for every project with a practice of skills and/or study of the community to be served.
10. Follow up after a mission project is complete so everyone knows what happened after the mission project. Post pictures on the church website. Ask participants to write articles for the website and newsletter. Send a note to the organization thanking them for the opportunity to serve.
11. Evaluate the project with the adult leaders. What worked? What would you do differently next time? Use this experience to inform the next mission projects.