Programs of Religious Activities with Youth

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

PRAY
MISSION STATEMENT

To foster the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth serving agencies.

VISION STATEMENT

Young people are brought closer to Christ through dynamic programs that enable adults in their ministry with youth. Our programs and resources are offered through churches and youth agencies for them to work together for the benefit of youth.

“Grandma and me played. Grandma and me prayed.”

Andrew H.
God and Me / Boy Scouts of America
Spirit Church
Bartlesville, OK

“I liked making a delicious pizza even though it was not real. All my family was baked in it! Jesus was underneath everything!!!!” 😃

Nathan B.
God and Family / Boy Scouts of America
South Hill Bible Church
Spokane, WA

“I like how engaging it is. My favorite and most moving part was the Bible reading challenge.”

Keir A.
God and Church / Boy Scouts of America
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Cameron, MO

“I learned a lot of new Bible stories and read parts of the Bible I hadn’t read much before. I thought Acts was a fun read. I worked on every part with family and loved all of it.”

Abigail B.
God and Life / American Heritage Girls
Non-denominational
Boise, ID

“I enjoyed Service Project #2 - thanking people who have helped me. I enjoyed visiting with my pastor for the final review.”

Grace S.
Four Star Award/ Girl Scouts of the USA
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Wisner, NE
From the P.R.A.Y. President and CEO

Dear Friends of P.R.A.Y.,

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

This verse reinforces that the P.R.A.Y. Annual Report is more than just a report on our work from last year. We believe that it is an account of the many ministries and faithful acts of service being done by church and scouting partners. YOU are the faithful stewards using your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to bring children, youth, and families to Christ.

Looking back to the 2018-2019 year, we would like to highlight some important accomplishments and ways that you, as faithful stewards, have impacted the P.R.A.Y. ministry.

- 391 girls and boys were participants in the inaugural Jesus and Me program.
- Workbook and Manual purchases were up significantly from the previous year. While these numbers appear in the bottom line, it is exciting that there are more books and likewise more instruction across the country in faith-based emblems for youth agencies.
- Often overlooked for their work in the religious emblem process, nominated awards for adult service were recognized in greater numbers.
- New initiatives for direct, cooperative communication between Scouting denominational associations and troop leadership were rolled out, and the views and response have been tremendous.

In December of 2019, Programs of Religious Activities with Youth will celebrate its 40 years of ministry to young people. Over that time there have been countless clergy and adults who have counseled hundreds of thousands, “Building Faith in Youth.”

40 is the ruby anniversary and it is only fitting that as P.R.A.Y. continues its strategic approach to curriculum as we announce that work is beginning on a review of God and Me, represented by red in the program series. Our experience from Jesus and Me through volunteer writers and reviewers gives us confidence that potential revisions that will make its presentation and curriculum contemporary and refreshed for today’s youth. Our work is detailed inside this report.

Mostly, we are grateful for you who directly impact young people in their faith and scouting experiences. Thank you for partnering with us in our shared ministry to children, youth, and families. We are pleased to present to you, our shareholders in Christian development, P.R.A.Y.’s 2018-2019 Annual Report.

Roni Luckenbill
P.R.A.Y. Board President

Jason Noland
P.R.A.Y. C.E.O.
NEW FROM P.R.A.Y.

P.R.A.Y. Announces Revision Schedule
*God and Me* to Be Revised

After the successful launch of the new *Jesus and Me* curriculum for K-1 last fall, P.R.A.Y. is announcing a revision schedule for its core programs. Starting with *God and Me* for grades 1-3, P.R.A.Y. will evaluate and revise one program a year. The cooperative writing process utilized in *Jesus and Me* was so successful that P.R.A.Y. will again engage a volunteer team.

*God and Me* was first launched in 1983. The GAMEBox was added in 2002. It is time to take a close look at the curriculum, implement changes, and improve the experience not only for the children but also for the counselors and volunteers who are offering the program. All three booklets will be revised, i.e. Student Workbook, Counselor Manual, and Adult Mentor Workbook. The revision team will be charged with ensuring that the selection of Bible stories are relevant and appropriate for this grade level, that the activities are interactive and utilize multiple strategies including music, art, movement (not just paper and pencil exercises), that the Counselor Manual provides comprehensive lesson plans along with corresponding handouts, as well as adding value to the Adult Mentor component as a key resource for strengthening the parent-child relationship. The revision team will model a denominational cooperative venture.

**RP3 Patch Series Goes “ON THE ROAD”**

The newest patch in the Bible Basics RP3 Series is “On the Road.” Launched in March 2019, this patch is about mission work and taking the Gospel “on the road.” It is both written and sponsored by Mark and Debra Hazlewood in honor of Deb’s parents, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas A. Steenberg, who served as missionaries to Japan for 35 years. It is their prayer that this patch might be used to preach the name of Jesus to children, youth, and families. Besides adding new patches to the lineup, the RP3 Series also seeks to grow in one key area: finding volunteers. P.R.A.Y. is looking forward to announcing volunteer writers and sponsors for future patches. For more details on how to get involved, visit [www.praypub.org/rp3](http://www.praypub.org/rp3).
# 2018 PRAY Program Usage

The P.R.A.Y. Program is used by the denominations as a religious growth series and discipleship program for children, youth and families, and also as an outreach tool to the Scouting families in their communities. Part of P.R.A.Y.’s mission is encouraging churches to partner with national youth agencies. Not only do children and youth benefit from these partnerships, the congregation itself can become stronger. Here are the P.R.A.Y. usage figures broken out by denomination and also youth agency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DENOMINATION</th>
<th>YOUTH</th>
<th>ADULT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Methodist Episcopal</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Methodist Episcopal Zion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglican Church in North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Methodist Episcopal</td>
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<td>Church of God</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland Presbyterian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</td>
<td>287</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Lutheran Church Missouri Synod</td>
<td>333</td>
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<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</td>
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<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>817</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mennonite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of the Nazarene</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>Pentecostal</td>
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<td>741</td>
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<td>2602</td>
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<td>Reformed</td>
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<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>Seventh Day Adventist</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>290</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Methodist</td>
<td>3916</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesleyan</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>13536</td>
<td>354</td>
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**American Heritage Girls**  
1,074 Recipients

**Boy Scouts of America**  
11,084 Recipients

**Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.**  
822 Recipients

**Sunday School**  
(or other youth agency)  
554 Recipients
Friends of P.R.A.Y.

We are grateful for the many "Friends of P.R.A.Y." who have given financial gifts in order to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. We thank you for your support! Gifts received during fiscal year July 2018 - June 2019 of $25 or more are acknowledged below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert B. Boykin</td>
<td>William Gattle</td>
<td>Chris Lucander</td>
<td>Jonathan S. Shouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Carpenter*</td>
<td>Star Geisz</td>
<td>Roni Luckenbill</td>
<td>David T. Spooner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Chaffin</td>
<td>Christopher Gumper</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Ken Lyons</td>
<td>Mrs. Thomas A. Steenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.T. and Ginger Dabbs*</td>
<td>Mark and Debra Hazlewood</td>
<td>Charles Mallett</td>
<td>Brian L. Steger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Dare</td>
<td>Rick and Terry Hazlewood</td>
<td>Llewellyn Mallette</td>
<td>Wayne Stuckey</td>
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<td>Buddy and Eileen Davis</td>
<td>James B. Henshaw</td>
<td>William McClung</td>
<td>Pam Thompson</td>
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<td>Robert W. Elliott, Jr.</td>
<td>Gerald Hodgson</td>
<td>David A. Moskal</td>
<td>Robert J. Thornton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orville and Barb Ellis</td>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. James Hoke</td>
<td>Bradford M. Nesheim</td>
<td>Linda Van Til</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Ewing</td>
<td>Steve and Susan Iverson</td>
<td>Jason Noland*</td>
<td>David Willis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward A. Folts</td>
<td>Tim and Margie Kohl</td>
<td>Scott D. Pickering*</td>
<td>Mike Zaske</td>
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<tr>
<td>T.J. Furlong</td>
<td>Ryan Larson*</td>
<td>Rita Rundquist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes Monthly Donors

Cumulative Giving

In addition to the many "Friends of P.R.A.Y." who made contributions during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we want to acknowledge those donors whose cumulative giving has exceeded $500. We thank you for your continued support!

$500 - $999
- Robert B. Boykin*
- Lloyd and Ruthie Brown
- Don Dare*
- T.J. Furlong*
- J. Ford Griggs
- Don Helton
- Dr. and Mrs. James Hoke
- Robert A. Madison
- Mr. and Mrs. Greg Pope
- Larry and Mary Pritchard
- Patrice Rosner
- Bill and Rita Rundquist
- Denise Stewart
- Anonymous
- Christian Ed Dept. AME Church
- Love Fellowship Church
- Girl Scouts NE Kansas and NW Missouri*
- Prayer Fellowship of Christian Scouters

$1,000 - $5,000
- Ronald and Celia Adolph
- Ralph Callier
- J.T. and Ginger Dabbs
- Buddy and Eileen Davis
- John and Stephanie Fenoglio
- John B. Forrest
- William Gattle*
- Kevin Geoghegan
- Angela Hazlewood
- Roni Luckenbill*
- Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Ken Lyons
- Llewellyn Mallette*
- Kendrick JE Miller
- Etta R. Moore
- Ellie Morrison
- Patrick and Cheryl Muckler
- Bradford M. Nesheim
- Max A. Netzeband
- Byron O’Quinn
- Ellyn Schleiffarth and John Bennett

$5000 OR MORE
- Steve and Cindy Taylor
- Dennis Thornton, LAS of Maryland
- Rev. Robert J. Thornton
- Jon P. Wilson
- LAS – Puget Sound Area
- Multi-Family Mission Ministries
- National Association of Conference Presidents
- The Jerry D. and Cheryl L. Sawatzke Routh Family Foundation
- United Methodist Men Foundation

*Denotes New Giving Level
VBS Uses P.R.A.Y. Curricula

Grove Presbyterian Church is located in a very challenging neighborhood. A recognized open drug market is located on the green next to the church, and the area is recognized for high incidence of crime. In recent years the church has used various commercial VBS curriculums and aimed the VBS solely at the neighborhood kids. The result was disappointing both in numbers and engagement by students and their parents. Last year they had 3 students total. This year they decided to use a hybrid of VBS & the P.R.A.Y. Program. Here’s what Becky Fitzgerald had to say about it:

“We upended VBS! We marketed VBS as an opportunity to have VBS, earn a Duty to God badge, and get a jump start on the P.R.A.Y. program. We had 18 children attend every night. Fourteen were Scouts and four were neighborhood kids. VBS was hopping with enthusiasm from both adults and kids! We were thrilled with the outcome and are already planning for next year!

Becky Fitzgerald
Grove Presbyterian Church
Aberdeen, Maryland

Statement of Activities
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

Revenue and public support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program revenue (net sales)</td>
<td>$439,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$14,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations - Restricted</td>
<td>$1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$9,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>$11,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue and public support</td>
<td>$476,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program expenses (cost of goods sold)</td>
<td>$91,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other direct program expenses</td>
<td>$291,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$70,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$4,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$458,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increase in net assets                                | $18,680 |

Net assets beginning of year                          | $685,294|

Net assets end of year                                | $703,974|

Value of Endowment Fund                                | $327,891|
“The first night I sat down with the leader book for God and Me, I was ‘stunned and amazed’ at the content and message that is so articulately presented for the Gospel. It thrilled me!”

**Bryan Barrett (God and Me Counselor)**
First United Methodist Church
Gilbert, AZ

“We will never look at pizza (our favorite family treat) without thinking of God and Jesus. What a special take-away!”

**Carola Smith (parent of God and Family recipient)**
Mariner’s Church South County
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

“My son has become more bold and confident in his faith. His work has inspired the whole family!”

**Mr. Smith (parent of God and Church recipient)**
Christ Fellowship
Johnson City, TN

“It has been great to watch Brandon’s faith and friendship with God grow to this level. God is much more a part of Brandon’s daily life, which in turn also brings God more to the family. I personally think the program is amazing for our youth.”

**Mike Zaske (parent of God and Life Four Star recipient)**
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Margate, FL

“Holy Cross Church, Winter Haven FL and her Boy Scout Troop 515 and Cub Scout Pack 515 have had good results in the P.R.A.Y. Award series program. It brought well over 100 scouts to receive their God and Me, God and Family, God and Church and God and Life Awards. Deacon Betty has done a superb job in teaching the programs. Her efforts brought at least 10 families who had no home church to Holy Cross and a number were baptized and/or confirmed due to her efforts. My God and Country award when I was 14 made a difference in my life. Thank you for the ministry you perform. I am sold.”

**Jeffrey Simpson (P.R.A.Y. Awards Counselor)**
Holy Cross Episcopal Church
Winter Haven, FL