

CHILDREN MINISTRY/CHURCH SCHOOL PARENT HAND BOOK



GREATER ST. MARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Pastor/Teacher

PASTOR'S OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS

Whether you are the parent or teacher, the children remain the same. How do we guide our children into a strong and lasting relationship with God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

As we embark on this new Discipleship curriculum “*Breakout*” and “*Kids Quest*” we want to empower our children with the knowledge of how to know Christ; how to grow in Christ; how to serve Christ; how to share Christ; and how to apply scripture to their lives. We are on an exciting journey and invite you to partner with us as we enter into the following covenant:

As teachers: we will 1) touch lives as we dispense information 2) uncover the path to eternal life 3) use learning channels by which learners receive information, use the Prayer Channel to receive power, strength, and guidance from God 4) plan and implement lesson plans 5) be a friend 6) translator and 7) continue to be a learner.

As parents: we will 1) get our children to the ministry on time and on a regular basis 2) provide a quiet place for study at home 3) confer with teachers regularly re: children's progress in their spiritual growth and behavior during ministry activities 4) attend quarterly fellowship meetings and 5) visit class rooms to observe children as they participate in activities of Evangelism Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship and Service (Ministry) 6) reinforce Bible lessons, 7) help with scriptures and 8) be responsible for my child(s) book.

As Pastor: my mission is embodied in the acrostic **T.E.A.C.H.:**

Train Leaders

Equip Parents

Assess and evaluate existing ministries

Challenge excellence

Holistically meet needs

As parents you are the primary teachers of your children. The church responsibility is to teach you to model Christ, so that our children may grow spiritually, educationally, socially and professionally.

I hope you find the information in this handbook useful to your partnership. Our goal is to provide you with tools that will equip and encourage you and your children for the ministry journey.

Serving with you,

Pastor Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.

GREATER SAINT MARY (GSM) PURPOSE DRIVEN CHILDREN MINISTRY

“WELCOME”

Our Ministry is built on God’s word and our foundation reflects the five purposes of the church given to us by Jesus Christ in: **The Great Commandment.** (*Matthew 22:36-40*)

Master, which command in the law is most important? Jesus answered “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind” This is the first and most important command and the second is like the first “*Love your neighbor as you love yourself.*” All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.

The Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19-20*) “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” “Teaching them to obey all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world A-men.”

The Five Purposes of the Church

Worship -----	Love the Lord your God
Ministry (service)-----	Love your neighbor
Evangelism-----	Go and make followers
Fellowship-----	Baptizing them
Discipleship-----	Teach them to obey

The Children Ministry at Greater Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church (GSM) is called **GSM Saint.**

GSM Saint Vision Statement

“To invite children to show up and show out for Christ”

Children Ministry/Church School Mission Statement

*GSM Children’s Ministry/Church School exist to **TARGET** the children of our Community as we teach them to draw **NEAR** to God by studying His word. **INVITE** them to serve others as the **ADVANCE**, share their gifts in service and **SHOUT** Jesus is Lord.*

S -hout-	Worship
A -dvance-	Ministry
I -nvite-	Fellowship
N -ear-	Discipleship
T -arget-	Evangelism

“The Saints that Rock the House by Living Out the Five Purposes of the Church.”

GSM'S PURPOSE DRIVEN MISSION STATEMENT

“CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT”

To bring *people* to *Jesus* and *membership* in *His* family, to *develop* them to *Christ like maturity*, to *equip* them for their *ministry* in the *Church* and *life mission* in the *world*, in order to *magnify God's* name!

KID FRIENDLY TERMS

Shout- to God in Worship

Psalm 34:11; Psalm 8:2; John 7:31

Magnification

Advance- in sharing of gifts

Psalm 22:30

Ministry

Invite- in spiritual growth/character!

Ephesians 2:19

Membership

Near- the studying of His word toward spiritual growth

Proverbs 22:6

Maturity

Target- share the good news of Jesus Christ

Matthew 18:14

Mission

Our Value is P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E.

A guidepost and reminder's that keeps our team focused on our Mission:

Protecting children with an uncompromising safety process.

"But whose shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6)

Risking failure through innovation and reinvention of programs.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thy goest." (Joshua 1:9)

Affirming, honoring and valuing others through authentic leadership.

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (I Thessalonians 5:11)

Creating an exciting, fun learning environment with excellence.

"And no man puteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled; and the bottles will be marred; but new wine must be put into new bottles." (Mark 2:22)

Trusting God for the impossible, the unknown and the unseen (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do and He will give you success" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NCV)

Investing in others through open and honest relationships.

"Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:4 NCV)

Coaching leaders to realize and fulfill their shape and potential

"Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24 NCV)

Empowering leaders and children through active ministry opportunities.

"And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastor and teachers."

"For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Our 2005-06 Goals

(Defining what we will do (Long Range)

1. To participate in Outreach activities, quarterly, i.e., nursing home, Abraham's Tent, and Friendships Mission
2. Increase Ministry workers from 10 to 15 by December 2005 and 50% increase each following year.
3. Increase parent involvement through the establishment of a Parent Committee.
4. Provide opportunities for 50% of the ministry to participate in small group activities.
5. Convene a Parent/Teacher fellowship twice a year.
6. Develop and implement a process for Teacher/Student evaluation.
7. Provide on-going training for teachers.

Our Curriculum

We have selected Kid's Quest for children in pre-kindergarten through grade two it is a small group discipleship program which takes them on a quest to ***Discover God's Word, Discover God's Plan, Discover God's Son and Discover God's Will.***

The children will use Bible Stories, listen, learn, look and live with safari animals as they complete weekly lessons at home and participate in games, crafts and stories during their small group time at church. This curriculum not only teaches Bible stories, but also helps them to apply scripture to their lives and prepares children to take the next step into our next level curriculum "Break Out".

Children in grades third through sixth will participate in a small group program where they go from ***Knowing Christ*** to ***Growing in Christ*** to ***Serving Christ*** and finally ***Sharing Christ***. This curriculum models the content of adult 101 through 401 at GSM. It teaches children to study God's word and apply scriptural values to their life, by first completing topical lessons at home. Next they discuss what they've learned, recite memory verses, sign a value with Breakout Bob and share prayer request in a small group at church:

NOTE! Parents must check out student books from classroom teachers.

Our Curriculum Structure

August 2005-July 2006

Break In
"How to Know Christ"

August 2006-July 2007

Break Though
"How to Grow in Christ"

August 2007-July 2008

Break Away
"How to Serve Christ"

August 2008 –July 2009

Break Out
"How to Share Christ"

Our Target (Audience)

Circle of Commitment

The Community-

Evangelism opportunities

Children who are committed to being un-committed.

They attend occasionally, two or three times a year.

The Crowd-

Worship Services

Children who are committed to week-end attendance

They enjoy church and want to come

The Congregation-

Fellowship Group

Children who are committed to a small group

They are in fellowship with one another

The Committed-

Discipleship Steps

Children who are committed to spiritual growth

They are G.R.O.W.I.N.G.

The Core-

Service Minded

Children who are committed to service and evangelism

They are serving and sharing

The Importance of a Logo

- ❖ The Our House logo is our brand symbol
- ❖ The Our House logo proclaims our purpose
- ❖ The Our House logo shows our process



Children Ministry Activity Schedule

Sunday's 10:30 – 11:30 am

10:30 -----Greeting/Praise & Worship Devotion

10:40-----Bible Teaching/Instruction

11:15-----Closing/Bathroom Break

11:30-----Dismiss/Return to Sanctuary

1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday-----Classroom Instruction

3rd Sunday-----Worship

5th Sunday-----Fellowship

Church School Activity Schedule

Wednesday Evening 6:45 pm - 8:25 pm

6:45 pm	General Opening	Appointee Class In Charge
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Song
Scripture
Scripture Elaboration
Congregational Prayer
GSM Mission Statement
Teachers Roll Call

6:55 pm	Classes Begins
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7:50 pm	Reassemble
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7:55pm	Prayer Meeting Begins	Appointee Class In Charge
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8:25 pm	Invitation, Offering & Benediction
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CHILDREN MINISTRY/CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

CHILDREN MINISTRY/CHURCH SCHOOL

LEADERSHIP TEAM ROLES

I. Team Leader _____

- A. Responsible for facilitating the ministry being built around the five purposes of the church.
- B. Ensure that all activities reflect service through membership, mission, maturity, ministry and magnification (magnify).
- C. Work and plan with leadership team.
- D. Schedule meeting with leadership team.
- E. Tither
- F. Attend Purpose Team Leader's Meetings (Staff Development).
- G. Attend Discipleship Curriculum Sessions with Team and scheduled trainings
- H. Attend Church School/Prayer Meeting

II. Evangelism Leader _____

- A. Responsible for facilitating the importance of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.
- B. Develops a process for exhibiting Evangelism to the community (Children who may not attend church).

Example:

- 1. Have children invite neighbors, school friends, etc. to the ministry on Sundays.
- 2. Assist them in writing or coloring "Thank you notes" (After their visit).
- 3. Teach words that demonstrate Evangelism.

Example:

Angel (bringing the good news) Reach, Share, and Spread.

- 4. Building Evangelistic Behavior.
 - a. How do I conduct myself when I invite outsiders?
 - b. What do I share with them? *Matt. 9:12-13*
 - c. Attend Church School/Prayer Meeting
 - d. Tither
 - e. Attend Ministry Directors Team Meeting
 - f. Attend Staff Trainings

***Responsible to train someone to lead the ministry through Evangelism**

III. Worship Leader _____

- A. Responsible for leading the ministry in different ways to express worship.
 - 1. Praying Psalms 95:6
 - 2. Hearing the Word John 17:17
 - 3. Giving I Corinthians 16:1-2
 - 4. Baptism Romans 6:3-4
 - 5. The Lord's Supper
- B. Attend Church School/Prayer meeting

- C. Attend Ministry Directors Team Meeting
- D. Tither
- E. Attend Staff Training

***Responsible to train someone to lead the ministry through Worship.**

IV. Fellowship Leader _____

- A. Develop activities that teach children to care for their Church Family
- B. Nurturing children-by helping them grow in their relationship with God
- C. Relational (sense of belonging)
- D. Develop activities that teach children to work with each other (small group process)
- E. Attend Church School/Prayer Meeting
- F. Tither
- G. Attend Ministry Directors Team Meeting
- H. Attend Staff Trainings

***Responsible to train someone to lead the ministry through Fellowship.**

V. Discipleship Leader _____

- A. Responsible for developing activities that help children become more like Christ
- B. Teachings on “Christian Faith”
- C. Design activities that develop habits or behaviors necessary to grow (Spiritual Habits)

Example:

Hang time with God (Quiet Time)

Accountability (How I act with other children in the Ministry)

Bible (can memorize Bible Verses)

Invovement (Am I connecting with other ministries)

Tithing (giving-commitment)

Study (Bible Stories)

- D. Attend Church School/Prayer Meeting
- E. Attend Ministry Directors Team Meeting
- F. Tither
- G. Attend Staff Training

***Responsible to train someone to lead the ministry through Discipleship.**

VI. Ministry Leader _____

- A. Responsible for leading the ministry in Love (neighbor) and Service.
 1. What is service?
 2. How can children demonstrate service?
 3. Teach children the importance of participating verses observation.

NOTE! We were born to participate.

- B. Help Children discover their shape.

Spiritual Gifts: How has God gifted you?

Heart: What do you love to do?

Abilities: Natural talents (what talents were you born with?)

Personality: What are my personal attractiveness?

- Do I work well with a group or alone
- Am I a thinker?
- Am I a feeler?

Experience: Preparing to serve.

C. Attend Church School/Prayer Meeting

D. Attend Ministry Directors Team Meeting

E. Tither

F. Attend Staff Training

How to use their **S.H.A.P.E.** to serve God.

***Responsible to train someone to lead the ministry through Ministry.**

Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church

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Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Pastor/Teacher

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY/CHURCH SCHOOL ROUND UP

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Welcome to Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church Children's Ministry/Church School. We are rounding up children 3 to 12 years of age to join us for a great time learning about God. We look forward to working with you and your child/children.

Please sign your child/children up for Greater St. Mary's Children Ministry/Church School. Even if your child/children is a member and registered already, you must fill out a new registration form to update your child/children's record. Children's Ministry is held every Sunday at 10:30am. Church School is held every Wednesday night at 6:45pm.

We will be contacting you with further information regarding your child/children and these Ministries. Thank you for your support and time. God Bless You.

Sis Natasha Piert, Director (337) 474-0251

Sis Marcia Clark, Assistant Director

Sis Gloria Vital, Church School Director (337) 474-7981

Sis Bessie Toussaint, Superintendent

Child's Name _____ DOB _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Parent's Name (Mother) _____ (Father) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Hobbies and Interest _____

Allergies _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AND YOU'RE NOT AVAILABLE)

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR CHILDREN

I. SEE HOW THEY GROW

A. Developmental Stage

1. Age 2 and 3 (Early Childhood)

a. The “ME” Stage

- Faith in Early Childhood
- Developing Morality
- The Challenge

B. Characteristic

Early Childhood

Autonomy or Shame (Will)

Psalm 143:10

- Fantasy/Imitative
- Impression able trusting
- Childlike logic, literal thinking
- Developing a “sense of other”
- Rewarded or punished?

C. How Am I Packaged?

- Have short attention span and need rotated activities
- Have one track minds but can be distracted
- Are determined and should not be discouraged
- Imitate others, so good examples are important

- Are self-centered
- Can not sit still-need a lot of physical play and space
- Learn by actual experience
- Have unlimited questions, especially “Why”
- Are uninhibited and need protecting
- Play independently, side by side

D. Spiritual Understanding

- God made and cares for the world
- God made and cares for the people
- Jesus is my friend
- Jesus is God’s Son
- Jesus was a baby, a boy and a man
- The Bible is a special book
- The Bible tells about God and Jesus
- The Bible is God’s true Word
- God and Jesus listens to my prayers
- The church is a happy, loving place

II. AGE’S 4 AND 5

A. “The Discovers”

- Faith in the minds of 4 and 5 year olds
- Developing Morality
- The Challenge

B. Characteristic

Four and Five

Initiative or Guilt

(Purpose)

Psalm 138:8

Fantasy/Imitative Stage

- Childhood logic
- Good, Bad, Safe, Dangerous

- Rule Dependent
- Conscience is Developing
- Identifying with values of significant people

C. How Am I Packaged?

- Are eager to learn
- Think can be perceived by the senses as “real”, “actual”, not abstract
- Play act experience
- Are becoming very social and are making friends at church
- Have great imaginations and are creative
- Are wiggly but learning to sit still
- Like to explore and are curious
- Learn by doing
- Related to the world from their experiences
- Love to please, especially adults
- Like big words and their vocabulary is growing fast
- Are physically growing fast
- Are rapidly developing coordination
- Can be boisterous and noisy, but can learn limits
- Love repetition and routine, which give them security

D. **Spiritual Understanding**

- God made the world, He is powerful
- A miracle is something only God can do
- God is good and He loves me
- God can help me be good
- God loves me all the time, no matter what!
- God sent baby Jesus; He grew just like I am growing
- Jesus is God's Son, my friend, and He loves me
- Jesus can do miracles because He is God's Son
- Jesus helps and forgives others
- Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead and lives in heaven
- The Bible is God's true word about God and Jesus
- My Church is a happy place to be
- God wants me to tell others about him

III. **THE SCHOOL YEAR**

A. **"A Bigger World"**

- Faith in the elementary years
- Developing morality
- The Challenge

B. Characteristic

Sixth through Eleven

Elementary

Industry or Inferiority (Competence)

2 Corinthians 3:5

- Story centered faith
- Sensing need
- Literal to symbolic
- Reasoning with concrete experience
- Loves projects
- Rule oriented
- Eye to eye morality

C. Challenge

- What are they into?
- What do they like to do?
- What do they enjoy?
- What music do they like to listen to?
- What games do they play?
- What do they talk about?

The Task

To communicate God and His Word through what the children are “into”, through what they enjoy. How can you make God and His World relevant to their world?