



**THE
OBJECT
& MOTTO**

Why the Boys' Brigade Exists

for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys

For the advancement of
Christ's Kingdom among
Boys and the promotion of
the habits of obedience,
reverence, discipline, self-
respect and all that tends
towards a true Christian
manliness.

This section on the Object of the Boys' Brigade is largely comprised of the thoughts and views of a group of Senior Section Boys from the 14th VIC Werribee company.

INTRODUCTION

The Object originated in 1883, when the Brigade was founded and aside from the addition of 'Obedience' in 1892, it has remained unchanged.

It is important to have an object because it gives us a stable, consistent foundation on which we can build our organisation and gives us structure and goals to follow.

The object is also a common goal, all across the world thousands of Brigade leaders are working together to achieve the Object. It is this unity which has given our organisation the strength to continue our work through many difficult circumstances.

The core values of the Object give us a clear objective of what we are trying to achieve in BB and allow to us assess whether we are being successful. This objective is ultimately what sets us apart from many other youth organisations, we have a distinct goal which

defines what BB is. If we do not follow the object, then we are not running BB.

The Object should deeply impact the way we do BB. The main reason which we should do anything, from calling a drill command to starting a new company, must be for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. The values expressed in the object should be promoted by our programs and reflected in our everyday lives. If we are seeking to disciple Boys into Christian Men by instilling these values, then we must live them ourselves!

So let us stand firm by the Object as we continue to serve the Boys God has placed into our care.

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom is the most important part of the Object, off it hangs everything that is done in Boys' Brigade all over the world.

Here is a quote from Sir William Alexander Smith (founder of the Brigade):

"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom' was the flag we raised at the very beginning. That flag has never been lowered, and today we lift it higher than ever we did before. We believe that the very existence of The Boys' Brigade depends upon the maintenance of the high position that we took up at the start."

Advancing Christ's Kingdom is so important because we are a Christian organisation and Jesus calls us to spread the good news

of the Gospel. This is what gives BB its main purpose because it is work of eternal worth. There are many other benefits that come from being a BB Boy, gaining confidence, learning new skills, developing meaningful friendships, all these things are good and worthwhile, but they can not compare with the surpassing worth of the Gospel and eternal adoption as a son of God.

It is therefore crucial that we give good thought to how BB advances Christ's Kingdom, as if we do not, then we have ultimately failed to fulfill our main purpose. How each company around the world achieves this will look different but God has, for a long time, used BB significantly in giving Boys a strong foundation of faith. This may be through the teaching of Scripture, encouraging Boys to demonstrate the Gospel through community service or having Christian officers as role models for them.

Lord, help us to continue to advance Your Kingdom!

AMONG BOYS

Boys' Brigade was started by William Alexander Smith as a ministry to the male members of his Sunday School class. This was intentional as he saw in church that boyhood was not valued and was seen as a nuisance. Thanks largely to Sir William's work that view is no longer prevalent among Christian circles.

The BB specifically works with Boys as a separate ministry to the Girls' Brigade because we have the unique task of discipling Boys into Christian men, which is different from the equally important task of discipling girls into Christian women. It is a different task because of the inherent, God-given differences between men and women.

There are very few spaces in a Boys' life where he can gather with other young men like himself to be discipled. Therefore, it is vital that the BB continues to serve Boys and young men by providing a male on discipleship environment.

Here is a quote from a biography of Sir William:

“William Smith held the unorthodox view that it was a good thing for boys to be alive, to be brimming over with high spirits and love of fun ... He said to himself, “If I can help to control these activities and direct them into right channels the boys will enjoy themselves far more than when running wild; and instead of becoming mere hooligans and loafers they will gain manliness; and, more than that, they may be led to the service of their Master.” He saw in boyish high spirits a great asset, that could be turned to good account and be made far more helpful to Sunday School and Church than the prize-rewarded Good Conduct that comes from mere dullness and lack of spirit and initiative. He saw in boyhood a means to advance Christ’s Kingdom”

Gibbon, F. P. *William A. Smith of the Boys' Brigade*. London and Glasgow: Collins', 1934

AND THE PROMOTION OF HABITS OF OBEDIENCE, REVERENCE, DISCIPLINE, SELF-RESPECT

Obedience

Without obedience, chaos reigns. This is true both in wider society and in individual peoples lives. It is important that we value the habit of following orders and instructions from those in authority for 'the powers that be are ordained of God' (Romans 13:1). There is no authority which is not permitted by God and so we are called, as followers of God, to obey the earthly authority He has placed over us.

Obedience also has an important role to play in our faith. If we are to truly follow God, then we must be obedient to the Bible. Consider Abraham, who was obedient to God, even to the point of taking his only son to be sacrificed. Even though this request seemed strange and out of place with God's

promises to Abraham, he decided to obey God's commands and God provided a ram to be sacrificed, sparing Abraham's son. We may not always understand God's commands, but we are still called to be obedient to them so it is important that we instil this habit into the Boys in our program.

We may promote obedience through a number of means such as through drill where a commander instructs Boys or through the Brigade hierarchy which necessitates that people follow instructions from those in authority.

It is also through instilling obedience that we are able to promote responsibility where Boys are able to take instructions and be trusted to complete a task or achieve a goal.

Reverence

Reverence is a deep respect for those in authority, with specific reference to our relationship with God. Our ultimate reverence is for God, as He is our highest authority. Without this deep respect and fear for God we are unable to truly serve Him in advancing Christ's Kingdom as we can not be properly following God ourselves.

The Bible also calls us to respect our elders and those in authority. No good can come from not having respect for these people, and also our contemporaries. Nothing positive will be achieved as no one would listen to each other and we would not be promoting values of true Christian manliness.

Discipline

Discipline is often viewed as simply the process of training people to obey commands, however, it goes much deeper. Boys who are disciplined are much better

equipped to make good choices in life which may be against how they feel or how others want them to act. This is because discipline trains Boys to look past distractions and have the self control to make healthy choices.

Discipline also has an important implication for our faith, even something as simple as daily Bible reading takes great discipline to maintain.

Self-Respect

Self-respect must not be confused with pride. We are not training Boys to be prideful or self focused. Self-respect is about treating yourself as if you are a wonderful creation of God, made in His image and loved by Him, which we all are. This means that we want to look after ourselves physically and also to be a respectable person. We honour our Lord when we wear our uniform properly, act appropriately and care for our physical health.

AND ALL THAT TENDS TOWARDS A TRUE CHRISTIAN MANLINESS

True Christian manliness is something that will look different in specific cultures and contexts. But wherever we are operating, the Brigade is aiming to produce young men who are instilled with the habits of true Christian manliness.

It is helpful that the Object has the clause 'and all that tends' as this enables us to specifically disciple Boys to be Christian men today, in our culture and in our specific context. However, there are some tendencies which are true of all true Christian men:

True Christian men will reflect the gospel through all that they do, following the example of Jesus in every situation. True Christian men will allow Scripture to guide their thoughts and actions. True Christian men will also acknowledge that they can not

do this alone, but must rely on Jesus' forgiveness and help to follow Him.

May God bless us all as we seek to advance Christ's Kingdom, promoting the good habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self respect. And may we glorify Him as we disciple Boys into Christian men.

THE MOTTO

The motto of the Boys' Brigade is 'sure and stedfast' which comes from Hebrews 6:19.

'Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil' (KJV)


In Christ we have a future hope for our souls, eternity in Heaven with God, for we can be forgiven through Christ's death and resurrection. This hope is not an unfounded or wishful thought, rather it is sure and stedfast. We can have confidence in this hope and that should bring us great joy!

It is important to note that our motto is different to most other mottos. Businesses will often have a motto to describe themselves and promote their brand. The BB motto does not describe us, it is not the Briagde which is sure and stedfast, it is not the Boys or

officers who are sure and stedfast, rather it is Christ!

Lord, help us to rely on your sure and stedfast promises to us as we serve in Brigade.

THE FOUR SIDED PROGRAM



A Model of Holistic Discipleship

for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys

INTRODUCTION

The Four Sided Program is the model through which Boys' Brigade seeks to disciple Boys into Christian men. The four sides are derived from Luke 2:52.

Spiritual
Physical
Educational
Social

We believe that it is important to work with Boys through multiple aspects of their development, showing them the gospel through each of them.

That's why, in this document, we have chosen to describe it as a 'holistic model of discipleship'.

It is 'holistic' in the sense that when we disciple Boys into Christian men, we are not

just talking about Spiritual growth or knowledge, but that they learn how their relationship with Jesus impacts every part of their lives and we want them to be followers of Jesus throughout all their lives, not just when they are at church or with other Christians.

And it is a model of 'discipleship' as it is not only the spiritual side which is focused on Christ. Each one of the four parts should be focused on Christ and our Boys development in Him.

We hope that you find this document useful and pray that you may be encouraged to serve in your company, discipling Boys into Christian men.

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BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

The most important part of The Four Sided Program is that it is Biblically based. If it is not anchored in the Word of God, then it is a useless method of discipleship and we should abandon it immediately.

Fortunately, it is Biblically founded. The Four Sided Program is directly derived from Luke 2:52 (KJV).

And Jesus

increased in wisdom

Educational

and stature,

Physical

and in favour with God

Spiritual

and man.

Social

But why is it so important? Without a Biblically based model of discipleship as the foundation for our program we are unable to effectively point to Christ. This may lead to us becoming very 'program focused' rather than Christ focused, rendering us unable to fulfil the Object of the Brigade, The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

Although it is primarily derived from Luke 2:52, there are many other parts of scripture that support this model. Throughout this document we have sought to include references to the Bible which support the model.

Prayer

Almighty God, loving Father, as we plan our programs and activities, may You guide us, bless us and give us wisdom to make them founded on Your Word. May You and the advancement of Your Kingdom be at the centre of everything we do in Brigade.
Amen.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The four-sided program originated in the Life Boys, the junior section of the Boys' Life Brigade which merged with BB in 1926. Here is an excerpt from the BLB Manual:

The Junior Section of the B.L.B. – To meet the needs of boys under Brigade age a Junior Section has been formed under the title of "Lifeboys," Boys of the ages of 8, 9, 10 and 11 are admitted into membership.....

.....Every Team must be connected with a Church, Mission, or other Christian organisation. The aim of the Lifeboy Team is to develop the boy on all sides of his character, to give him a preliminary training for the part he will have to play in social activities, guide him in the care of his body, assist him in the development of his mind, and lead him to the knowledge that these three things can only be satisfactorily used if they are under the control of the higher or spiritual side of his nature.'



SPIRITUAL

The Spiritual aspect of the four sided program refers to the aspects of the BB program which encourage a Boy to develop in both his knowledge and understanding of God and his relationship with God.

All parts of the Boys' Brigade program should have a spiritual focus. Through all our activities, Boys' should see Christ and His love for them. It is vital that Jesus is not restricted just to one part of our program but that His light shines through all aspects of it.

When looking at the spiritual side of the program we want to focus on those activities which explicitly teach Boys about God. This could look like teaching the Boys a Bible story, preaching a sermon, addressing difficult topics of faith and Christian living, or answering their questions about God. It can also include more practical activities with a directly spiritual purpose such as

praise & worship sessions or prayer meetings.

However this may practically look in your program it is vital that through the Brigade, Boys learn the whole truth that God provides for us in Scripture. Important truths about:

- God
- Creation
- Jesus' Birth, Life, Death and resurrection
- Jesus' second coming and judgement
- The Holy Spirit
- The Church
- Communion
- Forgiveness for Sins
- The resurrection & life everlasting

But we must also pursue more than head knowledge. Through our program we must seek for our Boys to be filled with love for Jesus and assist in bringing them into an eternal relationship with Him.

Questions

How does your program tell Boys the truth of the Gospel revealed in Scripture?

Do you encourage Boys to engage with Jesus in your program?

Are they encouraged to be participants in faith, not just recipients of a message?

PHYSICAL

The physical aspect of our program encourages Boys to care for themselves physically. We believe this is important to our Christ-focused program because we should be good stewards of the bodies that God has given us. One way we can do this is to look after our physical health.

Typically in a Boys' Brigade program this may take the form of:

- Playing games
- A sports team (eg soccer)
- Exercise class
- Physical Challenges
- Hiking

Depending on how often your Brigade company meets, for some it is only once a week, you may not be able to provide for your Boys' entire physical development within your program. This is why a good badge system will encourage Boys to participate in activities outside of brigade

which contribute to their physical wellbeing.

Promoting the physical development of the Boys is an important part of our program as it shows that we care about their whole person. We do not exist just to impart theological knowledge, but to develop well rounded individuals whose entire lives are impacted by the Gospel.

Showing the love of Christ through the physical side of the program will often be more practical. Through the way we pursue fairness and inclusion in team sports or encourage Boys in personal pursuits, we can represent Christ well.

Questions

Does your annual program challenge Boys physically?

How do you show the Gospel through the physical aspects of your program?

EDUCATIONAL

The educational aspect of the four sided program refers to activities which seek to educate our Boys, increasing their understanding of certain topics or developing skills. God has given humans the most advanced minds out of all His creation. Thus, His blessings of communication, logic and learning must be utilised in a holistic model of discipleship. We can not ignore the God given gift of learning He has instilled in our Boys.

Exactly what topics or skills you are educating Boys in will depend on your context. It is important that all activities in the educational part of the program are useful and relevant to the lives of the Boys in your company.

As with other parts of the four sided program, it may not be possible to promote the entirety of a Boys educational

development in your BB program (due to time or skill constraints). However through a well rounded badge system we can encourage Boys to continue to develop educationally outside of the BB program.

Caring about our Boys educational needs is an important part of the four sided program because it is an aspect of their lives which is deeply in need of being framed in a Christian way. Our program, through its educational focus shows that we care about our Boys learning and growing in knowledge and shows that knowledge is not the enemy of faith.

Questions

Are the skills your company is teaching useful in life?

How are the skills your company is teaching advancing Christ's Kingdom?

SOCIAL

The social aspect of our program refers to activities which promote the development of interpersonal skills and relationships. Interpersonal skills which can be developed through Brigade will not only make the company function more cohesively but will also be an asset to Boys for the rest of their lives.

Boys and young men often find themselves lacking deep friendships with other men. We should ensure that our program promotes the development of deep Christ focused friendships. This is not as simple as just giving Boys time to talk to and socialise with each other, although that is important. We should also be engaging in specific activities which will promote the formation of these relationships. Often the friendships Boys develop in BB will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

This is so important because the Christian life was not meant to be lived alone. Jesus does not call us to follow Him by ourselves, but as one body of believers so that we may encourage, strengthen and help each other.

Questions

How does your program encourage Boys (of all ages) to form deep friendships with each other?

How does your program focus these relationships on Christ?

BALANCED APPROACH

It is important that the four sided program remain balanced to promote the holistic discipleship of Boys in our company. This is not only in reference to the number of minutes spent on each side (although that is an important consideration), but also to the weight that is placed on each side by the officers. Often we can fall into the trap of thinking that the most important part of each company meeting is the devotion, and everything else is just exciting filling to keep Boys turning up each week.

But this is not true! If we intend to disciple our Boys holistically, then we must take seriously each element of our program and ensure that each side of the program is implemented in a Gospel centred manner.

Questions

On which parts of your planning are the most resources given to?

Which part of your program takes up the most planning time?

What activity takes up the most/least time on a company meeting?