



Being Contemporary in a Traditional Ministry

THE BOYS' BRIGADE OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

Boys' Brigade Officers often hear it said that BB is not contemporary, is not relevant to today's children's and youth ministry scene. Does Tradition equate to not being Contemporary? A traditional ministry, such as BB or GB, was certainly contemporary (by anybody's definition) when it was founded. This is true of OAM, CEF, Christian Endeavour, Youth for Christ, Youth with a Mission. Or, how about the 250-year old Sunday School concept, 200-year old Bible Society, or 150-year old Scripture Union? Are they contemporary? Of course they are! Nobody would suggest otherwise.

Let's break down some of the fine attributes of BB ministry and see how we 'stack-up' in today's society.

- Uniform – Most people in our society wear a uniform. A uniform shows you belong to a school, business, or organization. A uniform also identifies your rank or position.
- Costs - The subs or membership fees that Companies levy usually works out at less than \$4 or \$5 a night – less than a burger, coffee, packet of biscuits. Churches usually provide in their annual budget costs to cover general expenses of their ministries. BB has camps that come at a cost as do Scripture Union camps, youth groups, and even schools! Most BB companies yearly and term fees are well under other group fees for a similar extra curriculum activity (eg Scouts, Sports).
- Awards – Our society recognises people and their achievements from business, schools, clubs, local, state and national governments. Our award system shows purpose by encouraging boys to learn and develop skills, knowledge, and compassion. The pinnacle for the BB Boy is to stand before the Governor in a grand setting to be presented a badge named for our earthly monarch. Whether at 16 or at 18, this marks the final stage of 'rite of passage' from boyhood to manhood, i.e., the manhood desired by our heavenly Monarch.
- Service – from the youngest Anchor to the eldest BB Officer, service is an essential part of BB. Service to Boys, to their parents and siblings, to the church, and to the community. We are the church in the community.

Interesting Facts

Worldwide, there are over 750,000 boys and leaders in BB. In Qld, we have the largest numbers of boys and leaders in Australia, with over 700 across 28 Companies.

The Boys' Brigade is the longest running uniformed youth organisation, founded in 1883 by Sir William Alexander Smith, in Glasgow, Scotland.

Scouts was initially part of the BB program until the early 1900's, when it became its own organisation

Every 3 years, BB boys and leaders from around Australia, join together in a 10 day camp.

The Queen's Badge is the highest award a boy can achieve. It is presented by the Governor of Qld at a ceremony at Government House.

Developing a Boys' Brigade that
Partners with Churches, Supports Leaders, Engages Boys



Information Sheet

The Boys' Brigade Qld

#theboysbrigadeqld

- Leadership – or, as the Bible calls it, discipleship – is in-built to the BB method, from Anchors to Seniors, to NCOs, to leaders. Every sector in society is promoting leadership development because leadership (or discipleship) is essential to our society, to our churches, to our families. The BB Leadership Development Course is accredited by the Education Department and a participant gains point towards their Queensland Certificate of Education.
- Outdoor emphasis –People are wanting their children to get outdoors. Government departments are establishing incentives such as FairPlay vouchers to encourage participation in activities. Many BB Companies are registered to accept the FairPlay vouchers. Games, Drill, Competitions, Camping and Hiking form a major part of most BB Company activities.
- Balanced, marked, and progressive programs – no other church-based ministry and not too many non-church organisations provides a complete program for ages 5-18 such as we do. It is a privilege to have a positive influence on the life of a boy all the way through his formative years.
- Christian-church based –Because BB is church-based and not defined by any one 'brand' of Christians, we are not only truly multi-cultural, but BB is also ecumenical. Brigade is about Christ's Kingdom and Christian Manliness. It is the local church who approve commencing Brigade ministry. And it is the local church who provide leaders, prayer support, eldership oversight, venue, underwrite finances, etc. Boys' Brigade IS a ministry of the church, not a club that meets and uses the church facilities.
- Single gender – One of the first arguments used against Brigade (Boys' and/or Girls') ministry is that it is gender specific rather than co-ed. The assumption is that co-ed is the only correct option for conducting ministry. Many churches already have effective gender specific ministries called men's group or ladies fellowship. Being gender specific creates a culture, a positive male culture, for boys to learn true Christian manliness, being mentored by Christian men. Regardless of the downward direction our society seems determined to follow, transforming boys into Christian men ought to be the goal of every ministry.

We must keep in the forefront of our minds that BB ministry is not about our program, regardless of how great it is. Nor is BB about uniform or awards or service or leadership, per se; it is about relationships. As leaders, we are in BB to build relationships with tomorrow's men, promote relationships between the Boys, improve relationships between the Boys and their parents and siblings, guide the Boy's relationships with their peers and those in their community and, most of all, to introduce them to the master relationship-builder, the Divine Captain, our Lord Jesus.

All, or most, BB Companies do their drill similarly, camp similarly, play similar games, read from similar Bibles etc, but the dynamics and focus of the group is influenced by the leaders and church who run the group.

BB is about relationships and they change between different people, causing our Companies to be unique and contemporary, yet solid with traditional roots.

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