

CHRISTIAN TALL SHIP

MINISTRIES

Proposal and Development Plan

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INTRODUCTION

"Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ."

Acts 28:31 NIV

Youth ministry is one of the most important aspects of any church program and has become a focus of many para-church organizations. This is my proposal for an innovative and unique ministry. It is an audacious and challenging design combining an outreach based, entry level youth ministry and a tall ship, together focusing on young male students faced with the struggles of finding an identity that will allow them to grow into men. In the next few pages I will lay out a plan, based on my own experiences, observations, and opinions, to develop, implement, and maintain the first of many opportunities through Christian Tall Ship Ministries (CTSM).

MISSION

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

The purpose, or mission, of this envisioned organization is:

To provide an opportunity for young men to experience the unconditional love and guidance of Jesus Christ through discipleship, devotion, study, worship, prayer, and encounters on the open sea in hopes of inspiring in these young men a greater sense of self-respect, self-worth, and accomplishment, thus equipping them to excel in their personal walk with our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ.

TARGET

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14 NIV

The target group for this ministry is junior high and senior high students, youth on the edge of dropping out of the educational system, and youth submersed in, or on the verge of, crises; all males ranging from 12 to 18 years of age.

The reason for working with this age is my sincere desire to begin to bring some basic fundamentals back into the lives of our youth. Such things as trust, respect, love, honor, courage, humility, authenticity, and truth have slowly slipped from reach for so many young men in our nation. Today, it is extremely uncommon for a boy to be given any defining moment that he is expected to begin his life as a man. Because of the increasing rate of broken homes in the last 2 decades, a father has become less prevalent in his son's life.

When I was just coming into my teens, there were boys that would go camping with their fathers at a prescribed age, usually about 12, and were to track and kill game. When they had done that they were to drain the blood, skin and clean it themselves, without any help. Then, in some cases, they were given a cup of their prey's blood and told to drink it. By taking in the life of this animal, it would propel them into manhood, thus removing a great deal of doubt in themselves and bringing to life an entirely new range of duties and responsibilities. Although this may seem a bit outlandish, it was tradition, thus extremely important to those that participated. So many of the males in today's American culture wonder, day-to-day, just what it is to be a man. There is no "Right of Passage" for young boys today.

LEADERSHIP

"But select capable men from all the people-men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain-and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens." Exodus18:21 NIV

After deciding on the purpose and target participants of this ministry, it is essential to describe, in detail the leadership of CTSM. These individuals will be broken in to two distinct parts of the future organization; referred to as crew and shore side support. All members of CTSM will be required to sign a statement of faith, insuring a consistent spiritual nature for our program and its participants, and will be required to have current certification in CPR, BLS, and First-Aid.

All employees and volunteers of CTSM will undergo an interview process, examination of spiritual gifts, sign a contract of employment, and be given initial training in doctrines, spiritual foundations, ministry views, and current youth culture. Subsequent training will be required as opportunity and need arise. The crew of the vessel, comprised entirely of males, will be a well-defined mix of professional crew and volunteer crew. The youth entering the program will become the trainees. With the perceived style of tall ship to be used (that of a 130 foot Brigantine) it will be ideal to maintain a total crew and trainee size of about 24 people for any voyages lasting longer than 8 hours to stay within regulations set forth by the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

CREW

The crew will be 12 strong and broken down like this:

- 6 professional crew members- Sailors hired with tall ship, or relative, experience allowing them to hold all necessary USCG and American Red Cross licenses and certifications for their chosen department.
 - 1- Master
 - Overall command, final authority, and ultimate responsibility.
 - 1- 1st Mate
 - Second in command and in charge of all crew and trainees.
 - 1- Bosun
 - Third in command. Responsible for vessel structure and rigging.
 - 1- Engineer
 - Responsible for all plumbing, mechanical, and electrical operations.
 - 1- Cook
 - Responsible for the physical health and nourishment of all aboard.
Ultimate authority in regards to food preparation and eating areas.
 - 1- Spiritual Coordinator
 - Responsible for all educational activities and coordination of actual biblical ministry operations. (Relevant Bachelor's Degree Required)

- 6 volunteer crew members- Reserved for previous trainees interested in an advanced version of the main program allowing them to continue growing in their faith while being a presence to those just starting out. Will be required to participate in mandatory training, as well as, all subsequent training sessions that may apply.
 - 1- Bosun's Mate
 - Assist the Bosun in all projects, lead work teams, and handle all department business in the Bosun's absence.
 - 1- Engineer's Mate
 - Assist the Engineer in all projects, lead work teams, and handle all department business in the Engineer's absence.
 - 1- Assistant Cook
 - Share duties with Cook, assist with food preparation, provisions, and menu planning. Handle all meals in Cook's absence and lead work teams.
 - 3- Watch Leaders
 - Lead a team of trainees during an assigned watch rotation. Acting Senior Deck Officer during watch. Responsible for all shipboard operations and occurrences until relieved by a fellow Watch Leader or another Senior Officer.
- 12 Trainees – “The Dirty Dozen” Students entering program for the first time will be assigned to a particular department and expected to function as a team in that department, and as a crew. They will all be trained in all shipboard operations.

These new team members will split into three watches of four students each, with 1 Watch Leader for each team. Watch duration will be determined by the Captain upon departure.

Shore Side Support

The business administrative and management portion of the organization will be housed in the home office in Bellingham, WA, and will consist of 5 key members.

- 1- Executive Director
 - Acting CEO, Director of Operations, and Board of Director's Chairman. Will handle all public relations, networking, advertisement, and correspondence, while visiting churches, shelters, rehabilitation centers, and other para-church organizations.
- 1- Executive Administrative Assistant
 - Will manage all administrative functions, office personnel, and crew accommodations and staffing.
- 2 – Scheduling Support Staff
 - Will develop, organize, and coordinate all schedules, bookings, and manifests. Also, will be a main point of contact for all family members of crew and trainees; updating information, finding host homes for visiting family, organizing prayer circles for families, and leading all scheduled prayer times.
- 1 – Chief Financial Officer
 - Will manage and organize all financial records, accounts, disbursements, and statements, while acting as legal advisor for entire organization.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

"God's servant must not be argumentative, but a gentle listener and a teacher who keeps cool." 2 Timothy 2:24 NIV

The crew briefing and training portion of the program will consist of three days, placed directly before each trip, and is meant to give the returning students a foundation of current facts and wisdom from the crew's experience. With this information the volunteers will be able to step into a leadership role and be aware of what is expected of them and what they, as leaders, can expect from everyone else.

The training will include the following:

- Spiritual Gift Awareness Survey
- Student Leadership Contract
- Overview of youth ministry
- Current youth culture (cultural diversity)
- Basic seamanship
- Extensive shipboard drills, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- Review of shipboard equipment
- Devotional and Journal (A gift from the crew)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 NIV

The program structure for such a menagerie of people will be challenging, invigorating, and arduous. It is my goal to have a spiritually grounded and discipleship focused inclusive ministry that will inspire and encourage our youth; appealing to the immense desire for adventure that exists in the hearts of all men. As set forth in the next few paragraphs, the Christian Tall Ship Ministries' youth sailing program will have five distinct pieces; each focusing on a different aspect of becoming the men that God wants us to be. It is our prayer and

hope that through fellowship, training, worship, prayer, and lessons, each boy that crosses our decks will leave with a better understanding of what it is like to have a personal relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ.

The general schedule of events for a 3-week voyage will be as follows:

- 3 days at dock upon arrival for learning:
 - Lines and rig
 - Safety drills
 - Equipment aboard
 - Watch standing
 - Team building

- 5 days at sea with:
 - 3 watches, 6 hours each, with all-hands rotation and meals
 - Individual devotion and daily log
 - Constant safety drills at all hours
 - Biblical studies
 - Sail training
 - Mentoring

The “port-o-call” segment of the journey is where a large portion of the flexibility has been placed to allow for growth. During this scheduled 5 days on shore the group could focus on a camping environment, as stated here, or they could advance to a mission focus. This time may be utilized as an opportunity for missions in small towns along the coast or an island nearby.

- 5 days of camping on local island with:
 - Retreat style ministry
 - Survival training
 - Watches in pairs lasting 1 hour each
 - Hiking, swimming, and games
 - Biblical lessons and daily devotionals
 - BBQ on final day
- 5 days at sea to voyage home with:
 - Advanced sail training
 - Biblical studies
 - Mentoring
 - Individual devotion and daily log
 - Original three watch system
 - Continued safety drills
- 3 final days at dock with:
 - Maintenance
 - Debrief
 - Watches secured
 - Watch group functions and team time
 - Family sail and worship service

PROJECTED ANNUAL BUDGET AND RESOURCES

"He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful.

In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows." Isaiah 30:23 NIV

Annual Budget

A projected annual budget of \$77,240 to include, but not limited to, moorage, fuel, food, and insurance, to be acquired through the following:

- Our prayer and faith in God as our provider
- Donations from Private and Corporate origin
- Donations from charters, public sails, and tours
- Multiple Fundraisers and support campaigns

Resources Needed

- Brigantine of approximately 130' sparred length
- 150' dock or slip with power, water, and cable
- Gear, tools, and supplies for vessel
- Blankets, pillows, t-shirts, books, and other educational supplies