

CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

# REACHING KIDS IN A GODLESS CULTURE

Venture Clubs aim to establish young people in the faith

BY JIM DAILEY

**A**FTER NEARLY FIVE decades of evangelizing and discipling millions of children in more than 100 countries, the Mailbox Club, based in Valdosta, Ga., has launched an innovative outreach to young people in America with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Already stretching into scores of churches, with a goal of reaching more than 400, the outreach, known as Venture Clubs, is equipping the

Body of Christ with Bible-saturated lessons geared to ground youth on the unchanging truth of Scripture.

“The sad truth is that studies show that nearly 60 percent of young people who grow up in churches abandon their faith or quit attending the institutional church during their first decades of adult life,” said John Mark Eager, president of the Mailbox Club. “We want to do all we can to prepare a young person to stay strong in their

faith for the rest of their lives.”

Venture Clubs materials are primarily aimed at children younger than 12 but are available for age groups all the way through high school. The lessons are steeped in biblical principles, Scripture memorization and practical application.

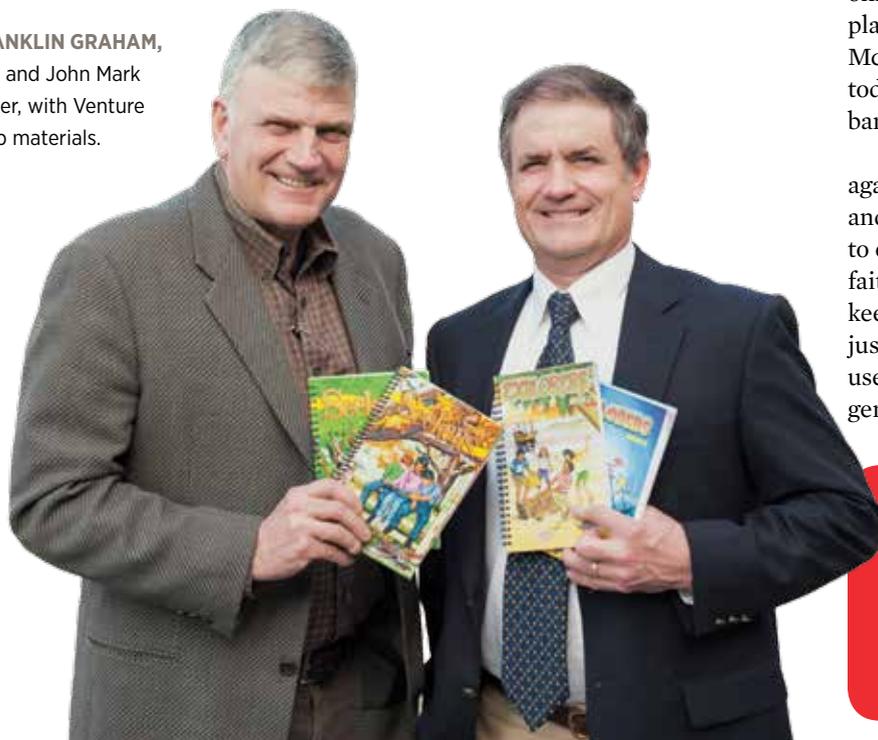
“Our program is Christ-centered, true to the Word, and it’s local-church oriented,” Eager said. “The intent is to raise up a new generation of kids who know what they believe and why they believe it, and who are able to defend their faith when challenged later in life.

“I have five children—the oldest just turned 17—and it just blows my mind to see the kind of materials they are exposed to in school. I want children to realize that right now they can learn how to live for Christ and how to share their faith with their friends.”

At a recent Mailbox Club event, Christian apologist Josh McDowell said that because of the rapid rise of evil in our nation, the window of opportunity to reach young people for Christ has dramatically narrowed. Historically, McDowell said, many studies have shown that if you don’t reach a young person by age 18, there is only a 4 percent chance they will ever place their trust in Christ. However, McDowell said, he now believes that in today’s promiscuous culture, that age barrier could be as low as 12 years old.

“There is no doubt we are in a war against Christianity in our country, and we have to do everything we can to establish young people in their faith,” Eager said. “We’re going to keep fighting in Jesus’ name to do just that, and we’re trusting God to use Venture Clubs as His tool for this generation”  ©2014 BGEA

FRANKLIN GRAHAM, left, and John Mark Eager, with Venture Club materials.



If you or your church would like to know more about Venture Clubs, you can go to [ventureclubs.org](http://ventureclubs.org) or call 1-800-488-5226.