

BIBLICAL CHAMPIONS HISTORY

(Name change in 2020 due to trademark of word Olympics)

Website: biblicalchampions.com

Purpose: Praise God By Studying His Word

Founder: Carolyn E. Murdock

ESTABLISHMENT: The idea was conceived in the late 1990's by Carolyn Murdock after her son, Shaun participated in the Academic Olympics at Elk Grove Unified School District. The World-Wide Sports Olympics and the Special Olympics further inspired Carolyn. *Her goal is to make the Biblical Champions a World Wide event.* The concept of establishing an event modeled after the Sports Olympics to praise God by studying His Word was approved by Founder of the Genesis Church, Pastor Dr. Robert Porter. In approximately 1998, the Biblical Champions was held in front of the church. Beverly Johnson hosted a talent show, which was necessary for the program to flow while scores were tallied for the awards ceremony. That enabled the vision of the Biblical Champions to be presented to the entire church. (Carolyn emphasized Dr. Robert Porter's motto "bring two" during her speaking time.) The Biblical Champions was a huge success! We were very excited especially since her first attempt to hold a church-wide Biblical Champions on a Saturday afternoon failed. It ended during set-up when she realized the vision was clear only to her. Not giving up, she returned to the drawing board to improve the format and set-up process. Armed with an improved setup process and a team of many members volunteering, the Biblical Champions continued to grow and be refined church-wide. This teamwork completed the Biblical Champions creation.

The Biblical Champions continued to be held annually at Genesis Church for the Children's Ministry. The format was identical to the Sports Olympics e.g., "events were held" for the children to display and recite what they had been taught during Sunday mornings' Children's Church. These events were for children to 1) display Sword Drill (an exercise to use the Bible as a tool to find, read and memorize scriptures and 2) recite from memory the pledge to the Bible, the Christian Flag, the pledge of Allegiance, Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Fruits of the Spirit, and Scriptures and 3) answer a Bible Quiz. The children received points at each event for their knowledge. These points were tallied and each child received a gold, silver or bronze medal based on their overall score. The decision to award each child a medal rather than just award the top three scorers was easy for Carolyn to make because she knows God gives the gift of salvation to everyone.

INVITATION TO THE GREATER SACRAMENTO AREA CHURCHES: In approximately 2011, Carolyn was inspired to call Pastor Tecoy Porter and ask for approval to expand the Biblical Champions with an invitation to the churches in the greater Sacramento area. After prolonging approaching Pastor Tecoy, she recalls that built up excitement overwhelmed her and it was time to act. One day on her way home from work she stopped next to the park behind her house and called him. He listened carefully and understood. Her lack of courage stemmed from the thought that elation would limit her ability to briefly and clearly explain. But God!!! In that conversation he gave his approval and the rest is history. The Genesis Church Biblical Champions was established as a community wide event. It continues to happen as a meaningful community event today. In the future, the goal is to share pictures, photo album and video on social media, iCloud and thumb drives by having parents sign Photography/Video Release Forms.

In 2018, she was encouraged by Pastor Ellington Porter to write an instruction manual on the Biblical Champions (completed June 2020). Carolyn registered the logo as a trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and it was approved in 2021. The vision to extend the invitation worldwide has begun with the interest of another city and another state. Praise God! Let the growth continue.