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Faith & Hope

QuickTakes

Thou Shalt Get Money

George Kelley believes the nation has lost its moral compass, so he's doing something about it—one child and \$10 at a time. The 76-year-old retired flower shop owner runs a ministry out of his Nashville home that pays kids \$10 each to memorize and recite the Ten Commandments.

Nearly 7,000 children nationwide have taken advantage of the offer over the last five years. Kelley hopes to eventually reach 10 million kids.

Kelley's project was born out of desperation in 1997. "Kids were running around shooting each other for tennis shoes and jackets," he says. So, with help from friends and generous donors, Mr. Kelley and his wife, Marion, started the Ten Commandments Project.

The Kelleys, both Presbyterians,

believed that children who memorized the Ten Commandments might think about them when tempted to lie, steal, or get involved in other wrongdoing.

To qualify for the \$10, kids, 16 or younger, must recite the commandments to an "authorized" adult witness. The witness then must sign and return an affidavit form that can be downloaded from the ministry's official website (www.tencommandmentsproject.org).

The Kelleys concede that many kids will participate simply to get a check.

However, they have faith that the lesson will stick long after the money is gone. Says Marion Kelley, "We hope someday that it won't be the \$10 that's important, but that they'll have God's Word in their heart."

Sources: Associated Press and The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 27, 2002.



Ten for Ten: George and Marion Kelley offer \$10 to every kid who learns the Ten Commandments.

The Rebirth of KIRK MERON

former teen heartthrob left his ego behind

LEASURE? The Sex Lives of Christian Teens

CR Survey

Is religion increasing or losing its influence on American life?

Dec. 2002

43% said it is increasing
51% said it is losing

Dec. 2001

71% said it was increasing
24% said it was losing

Source: ACSI/USA Today/Gallup Poll of 1,009 adults, Dec. 2002.

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