

One Man's Campaign to Help Kids Appreciate Biblical Values

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — One man can't change the world, but a 76-year-old retired flower shop owner is trying to make a positive impact in the U.S., one child at a time. Six years ago, George Kelley started a ministry in his home that pays children \$10 when they memorize and recite the Ten Commandments.

Since the ministry's inception, Mr. Kelley has sent \$10 awards to about 7,000 children nationwide who have learned and recited the Pledge. Mr. Kelley hopes he will eventually hear from 10 million children who have learned the biblical tenets. He admits that many children probably learn the Commandments for the cash prize, but he believes that the long-term impact of Scripture on their lives will be significant.

"Our vision is to have 10 million children who have memorized the Ten Commandments in ten years, and ten million adults who will reaffirm The Ten Commandments as the standard for morality in the United States," Mr. Kelley said on his Web site (tencommandmentsproject.org). "If we have ten million Ten Commandments children, it follows that ten million parents and/or friends would be an easy task."

Mr. Kelley believes the timing of the project is right, noting that a recent survey revealed that less than one percent of adults and teenagers could name all of The Ten Commandments.



PERSONAL MINISTRY: George Kelley, exhibiting a copy of the Ten Commandments from his Nashville home, is responsible for nearly 7,000 children learning the biblical laws. He hopes to impact the lives of millions of kids through his Ten Commandments Project.

Mr. Kelley started the Ten Commandments Project along with his wife, Marion, and several friends. They believe that children who memorize the Ten Commandments may think about them when tempted to lie, steal or get involved in other wrongdoing throughout their lives.

When people learned of the project, they began financially supporting the effort through donations; a wealthy friend also promised to help when needed.

To qualify for the \$10, children 16 and under who live in the United States may recite the Commandments to their pastor, rabbi, priest, teacher or other "authorized" adult witness. The witness then signs an affidavit at the ministry's Web site, pledging that he/she heard the child's recitation.