



New Look ... Same Great Program

July 2009

The P.R.A.Y. Program has a brand new look. It's the same great program, but the recognitions and workbooks have had a "face lift" since July 2009.

This fresh new look is a blend of the traditional and contemporary. The recognitions retain the cross on the shield, but they feature a new color-coded design to symbolize how the four programs come together to build a foundation of faith for young people. The four colors represent the four levels in the P.R.A.Y. series, i.e. *God and Me* (red), *God and Family* (yellow), *God and Church* (blue), and *God and Life* (green). The four colors converge into a point to create an "X" at the center of the cross. "X" is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, and it is symbolic of how Christ should be at the center of our lives.

This new look coincides with a name change. Rather than referring to the curriculum as the "God and Country" series, it will now be called "The PRAY Program," and the individual medals will no longer say "God and Country" but rather the specific program name, i.e. God and Me, God and Family, etc.

These changes stem directly from a desire to increase the number of youth participating in the P.R.A.Y. program and to increase the number of congregations developing a P.R.A.Y. ministry. A large number of clergy perceived "God and Country" to be a BSA program and hence would not teach it, not realizing that it is actually created by the faith community. There is no other reason for the new changes other than to reach more children, youth and families for Christ.

The actual curriculum content has not changed: the program themes and requirements (i.e. GAME Boxes, Pizza, Bible lessons, etc.) are still the same. The "old" books are not obsolete, but the order/application form will need to reflect new prices.

These changes come a great deal sooner than originally anticipated. The new Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 and subsequent regulations and mandatory testing of children's jewelry, forced P.R.A.Y. to not only accelerate the implementation of the new name and new look, but to also revamp its entire line of awards. Denominational medals have changed in order to reduce the number of items that need to be tested. Instead of having 9 different denominational medals to choose from, there is only one standard medal. Everybody will use the same medallion and have the option of "customizing" it by pinning a denominational pin into the ribbon. The medallion and pin are sold separately. These denominational pins are available at the God and Church level only. Out of respect for the older youth who have already completed two of the four programs, P.R.A.Y. will continue to make the standard old style God and Church medal available for the next 2 or 3 years, and the standard God and Life medal even past that. This commitment extends only to the standard Protestant medallions, not the supplemental items such as charms and pins. Please visit the P.R.A.Y. website for more detailed information.

P.R.A.Y.'s mission is to *foster the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth serving agencies.* P.R.A.Y. is a not-for-profit organization that oversees the Protestant and Independent Christian religious award program and encourages churches to embrace Scouting as youth ministry.



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