



KidsNewsZone

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**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

MISSION: TO NURTURE CHILDREN INTO A LOVING, SERVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

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Let the Children Pray

All parents want the best for their children. We send them to school to learn the basic 3 R's. We send them to learn how to swim, ski, play the piano, and ice-skate. We signed them up for karate, ballet, French classes and more. While these are important and helpful in preparing them for life, there is something that is even more foundational for life. It is **prayer!**

When we teach our children to pray, we are teaching them to communicate with the great Creator, Father, Teacher, and Guide who knows what is best for them and who has the power to lead and answer them. Rick Osborne in his book, *Teaching Your Child How to Pray*, reiterates the importance of this value, "Teaching our children to pray will truly prepare them for life and equip them to face everything life has to offer."

What are the benefits of a healthy prayer life for our children?

- 1. A Better Inner Peace** – when we teach our children to pray, they learn about the joy and peace that are available to them. Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."





COME, YE CHILDREN, HEarken UNTO ME: I WILL
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



2. **Strength and Courage** – children and teenagers have their fears and worries. But when they learn about the power of prayer, it provides them strength and courage to face the world and their problems. Psalm 138:3: “When I called, you answered me; you made me *bold and stouthearted*.”
3. **Protection from Harm and Evil** – children face dangers every day, ranging from violent crimes to drug abuse. They are also tempted to do wrong. Through our prayers and theirs come protection and deliverance. Psalm 34:17: “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; *he delivers them from all their troubles*.”
4. **Purpose, Guidance, and Direction for Their Lives** – God has a purpose for each of us, and He desires that His children call upon Him for guidance and direction in their

lives. Psalm 57:2: “I cry out to God Most High, to God, *who fulfills his purpose for me*.”

Begin now and teach our children to pray. Release our children to pray with power, love, and faith. Pray with them, show them how, let them pray in groups, lead out in prayer sessions, and intercede for others. Watch how these young prayer warriors can bless and change their lives, our homes, our churches, our schools, and our community. Remember, praying children become praying adults. **Let the Children Pray!**

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Uganda Union – Children's Ministries Advisory & Leadership Training

March 22-24 was a beehive of activities for Uganda Union. Bugema Adventist University hosted a one-day advisory on March 22 for 21 children's leaders. Dr. Israel Kafeero, Uganda Union CHM director, Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director and Saustin Mfunu, GC CHM Associate Director were the facilitators. The focus was to review what had been achieved in 2011 and to map the way

forward. The leaders who participated generated great ideas. On March 23, leadership training was held at the Uganda Union Mission headquarters for about 216 children's leaders. They were reminded that the future leadership of the church is in the children and hence we need to build them on the Rock Jesus Christ.

On Sabbath, March 24, children congregated at BBunga Children's Center, an SDA facility for children where children did most of their activities. Pastor Saustin Mfunu made a call at the end of the activities and a

great number of children gave their lives to Jesus. Some even chose to become pastors. Later that afternoon, children at Kireka Primary and Secondary school some ten kilometers away from BBunga climaxed the day in style.

If what happened in Uganda is anything to go by, definitely ECD is *destined to fly*. We wish the leaders God's guidance in their work.

GREATER MIDDLE EAST UNION

Egypt Field – Children's Ministries Revival

From March 16-18, CHM leaders in Cairo attended a leadership training conducted by Ranya Maher, WM leader, Pastor Wagdy, CHM leader of Egypt Field, Aranka Bajic CHM Director of GMEU and Saustin Mfunu, GC Associate CHM Director. Topics covered included team-building activities for children, how to present difficult topics to children, the importance of early training, the negative impact of media on children and turning GMEU challenges into opportunities. The presentations generated both interest and concern. Leaders and parents were given greater



Some of the 216 leaders in Uganda

2



► Leadership Training - Egypt

insights into understanding why the early years of a child are of great importance. All who attended the meetings were thankful for the positive impact the lectures had on them. The Field leaders promised to translate the materials into Arabic and have them distributed to the members.

Lebanon University Church – Vacation Bible School

During the week of April 9 – 13, 2012, approximately 45 community children, 11 crew leaders from Bouchrieh School, 6 teenaged volunteers and 10 adult volunteers, both from University Church, dived deep in a Bible adventure during Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Bouchrieh Adventist Secondary School. The event, organized by the University Church Children's Ministry, was directed by Geidre Asmar. The theme of the week, Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure (SCUBA) encouraged everyone involved to dive deeper than ever before into the Bible, and by the end of the week, everyone involved was submerged in God's love.



► SCUBA VBS in Lebanon

The participants in VBS didn't have a hard time imagining they were on a deep-sea dive because the scene was creatively set. Walking into the auditorium, where daily opening and closing activities took place, was like taking a plunge into the crisp, blue seas. The stage was draped in a deep-sea blue with a variety of colorful fish swimming peacefully in the depths, from orange-striped clown fish to sea turtles, to schools of minnows to uniquely shaped sea horses. Even the leaders helped to set the scene; each day, they dressed in scuba gear, including fins, goggles, life vests and floaters. During the five days the kids SCUBA dived into 5 topics: Believe in God, Obey God, Trust God, Love God and Share God. Children were also learned that Christianity is not what you say but it is what you do.

Pastor Marcelo Viana, Pastor of University Church in Lebanon and Group Leader of SCUBA VBS said that we all need to invest time in children. Geidre Asmar, VBS director, points out that children are more open and eager to learn about God than many people realize.

If children are going to be revived by His Word, we need to help them SCUBA dive deep into God's word.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Collegedale Church – Kids In Discipleship Training



► KID Coach Collegedale-Group Picture, Feb 2012

Don MacLafferty, president and founder of Kids in Discipleship and his team led KID training on February 24-26 at the Collegedale Church on the campus of Southern Adventist University. About 25 people attended the training with some coming all the way from Canada. Pastor MacLafferty and the KID team launched a DVD training program to introduce many to the new approach to KID training without having to travel all the way to Collegedale.



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.
FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE
THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

(MATTHEW 18:10 ESV)



► Children's day - Angaza Sharon Church in Delaware

Allegheny Conference – Angaza Sharon Church – Children's Day

It was a thrilling Sabbath for Saustin Mfunne, GC Associate CHM Director who participated in the Children Ministries Day celebration on April 7 at Angaza Sharon SDA Church in Delaware. Different children participated in all kinds of activities, which brought tears to one's eyes. Dr. Mfunne spoke in the morning and afternoon focusing on the importance of the child's first three years of life, and the dangers of TV viewing and its impact on children's development of delayed gratification.

Norfolk Virginia SDA Church – Children's Emphasis Day

March 5 was a big day for parents and children of Norfolk SDA church. Dr Saustin Mfunne was the speaker of the day filled with activities. The theme of the days' activities was: "You have no control over the storm: It will come." Leaders, parents, and members were challenged to ask themselves if they have done all their best to save their children? Though we have no control over the storm or the tornado, but like Stephanie Decker, a woman who saved

her two children from the tornado that ripped through their home, we must save our children from devastating destruction of the devil's storm.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Chinese Union – Empowering Teachers with Gracelink

Xiao Chuan had the privilege of attend-

ing a number of training workshops on how to teach using these newly translated materials for children's Sabbath school called GraceLink. As a teacher in China, she saw how powerful the teaching strategies were in reaching children. Hence, after trying it out with her home church, she decided to use her teaching skills to help other teachers. So, very regularly, she gathers teachers from other Adventist churches in the area to share ideas of how to teach each lesson.

The training we have been doing is bearing fruit; more importantly the local leaders are empowered now to carry on training other leaders. With this ripple effect, I pray that the teachers and children of China will grow to be strong disciples for Jesus.

Children's Prayer Training School

The Korean Union Conference (KUC) Children's Ministries Department held the Children's Prayer Training School at the Adventist Training Center from February 20 to 26, 2012. About 100 children, along with guidance teachers, participated in the event and learned to be like Jesus. Participants started at 6:20 in the morning with a lecture and



► After spiritual food, a young girl waits for physical food



prepared programs, such as manual training, which was then followed by Bible Meditation training. They had time to meditate on the Word of God and to pray individually in the prayer room for over four hours a day. They also made a list of things that they were repentant for. Moreover, they experienced spiritual change through memorizing Bible verses.

Attending the Cross Ceremony, children gave their testimonies. "I could realize my sin by engaging in many different training programs." "The love of Jesus who died for me brought me to tears." Closing the event, children wrote a letter to their parents, friends, and teachers. They also decided to dedicate their life for gospel preaching.

This annual event was held to assist in raising spiritually blossoming children to be excellent Adventist members and to provide an opportunity to learn the habit and training for good prayer. It also serves as a foundation of spiritual change for children through participation in faith development and spirituality enhancement programs.



Children Prayer Training School

interactive activities, and observing families modeled the *Footprints for Parents and Mentors* and *Footprints for Kids* lessons. After this, each group was given the opportunity to teach these lessons to real families who have come in with their children on Sabbath afternoon. The teams participated enthusiastically and everyone who attended felt the power and value of Kids in Discipleship and strongly pledged to bring this to their local churches so that parents can learn to disciple their children and prepare them for the Second Coming of Jesus.



KID Training ins SAD

SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Division-wide Launching of Kids In Discipleship

Kids in Discipleship ministry was launched in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division on February 1-5, 2012. More than 110 participants from all corners of the SID territory met in Bloemfontein, South Africa, for five days of intensive training in disciplining children. Represented in the meetings were union and conference CHM and FM directors, front-



KID training SID

SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION

Division-wide Kids in Discipleship Training

Under the leadership of the new director, Graciela Hein, South American Division CHM launched its first Kids in Discipleship training April 19-21, 2012 at the Central Brazil Union Conference Retreat Center in Sao Paulo. A total of 150 children's leaders, pastors, Family Ministries directors together with 15 church teams attended this special training. Don MacLafferty, Director of KID Ministry, was invited to do the training.

It was a highly spiritual journey for many participants. Time was given for group prayers, learning skills, involvement in



WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I SPAKE AS A CHILD, I FELT AS A CHILD, I THOUGHT AS A CHILD: NOW THAT I AM BECOME A MAN, I HAVE PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS.

(1 CORINTHIANS 13:11 ASV)



line pastors, local church CHM coordinators and laypersons. Pastor Don MacLafferty, President of the Kids in Discipleship ministry and Linda Koh, General Conference CHM Director led out in the training.

The seminar's objective was to equip participants to grow parents into spiritual mentors who will disciple their children. Dr. Paul Ratsara, President of SID, in his sermon said, "Little things we do to the little ones, good or bad, will shape the lives of the children." Later on, in his charge to the participants, he said that the missing ingredient was commitment and urged the participants to be committed to the training they have received. The General Conference Children Ministries Director, Linda Koh emphasized the point that values are caught and not taught, therefore everyone that is involved with children should be a model because as Dwight Moody puts it: "where one reads the Bible, one hundred read you and me."

Pastor Don MacLafferty's interactive teaching and personal testimonies inspired the participants to commit themselves to spending time alone with God, and to support the discipleship ministry in their homes and congregations.

Southern Africa Union – Leadership Training

From March 16-18, 149 Children Ministries' leaders from Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and South Africa participated in a Leaders' Convention organized by Zodwa Kunene, SFU CHM Director. The highlight of the convention was that it was the children who were ministering to their leaders during the devotions and song services. 12-year-old Thando Dyasi, was the guest devotional speaker and 8 year-old Zuzu Munez was the guest singer. Caroline Chola, SID Children's Ministries Director spoke about 'Raising Spiritual Giants', 'Ministering to Children with Special Needs', 'Partnering with Parents', and 'Casting the Vision for Kids In Discipleship'. Leaders returned to their homes delighted to do more for children. This really delighted the leaders as they got empowered to take children's ministries to a higher level.



► Southern Union Leadership Training

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Sri Lanka Mission – Children's Bible Camp

The annual Children's camp was held during the holiday weekend of April 12–14. It was held on the campsite of an old tea factory nestled amidst a lush carpet of velvet green tea bushes surrounded by the misty blue mountains of Bogawantalawa, in the central hill country of Sri Lanka. A total of 83 children, ages 9-16, came with full energy and enthusiasm. The rain and the tsunami warning which had been issued the previous day did not dampen their spirits. The guest speaker for the camp was the General Conference Associate Director of Children Ministries. Dr. Saustin Mfune, who was affectionately called Uncle Saustin by the children. The theme of the camp was 'Made in the Image of God' and Mfune wrote the camp's theme song. The lyrics of the song emphasize that it is not how you appear, how negatively you may feel about yourself or the labels people may put on you. They should know that they are special. They are made in the image of God. His inspirational and motivational talks were stories of his life.



► Sri Lanka Camp

Every moment of the three days was packed with all sorts of activities which included, singing, making crafts, working, eating, playing and learning of Jesus. On Sabbath when Uncle Saustin asked children to dedicate their lives to Jesus and choose to be baptized someday, almost all the children stood up and came forward. And 15 of them responded to the call to become pastors. This was indeed the highlight of children's camp 2012 – that young children were not ashamed or reluctant to stand up for Jesus and be counted as His workers. Heaven rejoiced with us all!

Central Philippine Union Conference—Leadership Certification Training

Zita Jucaban, CPUC CHM Director organized a union-wide CHM Leadership Certification training for about 100 children's



► Central Philippine Union leadership certification

leaders and directors on the campus of Central Philippine Adventist College on May 14-15, 2012. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director, Miriam Andres, SSD CHM Director, and Jose Calera, CLC CHM Director involved the children's leaders in actively participating in the eight courses of the Level II certification program.

Hands-on experience and active learning on how to teach Gracelink was also presented. All leaders and teachers participated with great enthusiasm. They left there with great interest to attend training for the next level. They were eager to be equipped to work with children more effectively.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Adriatic Union Conference—Seminar on 'Sexual Abuse of Children'

A seminar on 'Sexual Abuse of Children', organized by Children's and Youth's Ministries of Adriatic Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was held in Zagreb, Croatia on March 18, 2012. The seminar, organized for teachers and others who are involved in work with children was held in two parts by two distinguished professionals in this field, Professor Gordana Buljan-Flander, principal of the Children's protection polyclinic in Zagreb, and Ms Slavica Marčeta, who is specialized in therapy

for sexual abusers highlighted this not so pleasant topic.

Prof. Buljan-Flander, dedicated her profession to helping abused children in Croatia in the early 90, founder of maltreated and neglected children's help line 'The brave phone,' and later on as principal of Children's protection polyclinic in Zagreb that is now recognized by the European Council as a model for good practice and was also presented to the UN.

The presenters touched on what sexual abuse is, how to recognize the signs of an abused victim, prevention of sexual abuse, as well as juridical circumstances in Croatia regarding children's abuse.

The second part of the seminar covered the topic of abusers, their typology and recognition of the same. Ms Marčeta,

holding a master's degree in this field, analyzed this problem within the context of church environment. She warned the participants of misconceptions like "there are no sexual abusers in our churches." It's just that it is very difficult to recognize them as they behave and live just like everybody else.' She also stressed the importance of educating children on the norms of behavior and body privacy.

Even though it was hard to talk about this sensitive topic, it was an eye-opener for about forty teachers present at the seminar who greatly valued the professional insight into the matter.

We believe that God's will is to protect the weak and helpless because God's Word bid us to do that especially helping children and families affected by sexual abuse.



► Sex Abuse seminar participants

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AND SAID, 'TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.'

(MATTHEW 18:3 NASB)

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TABLE TALK

Make meal times a wonderful opportunity to pass on your faith to your children! Get this new resource from **South Pacific Division Children's Ministries**, designed just to help you do that. These are interesting starter topics to talk with your children and are based on the four dynamics of GraceLink: Grace, Worship, Community, and Service. You can purchase it from Julie Weslake, SPD CHM at JulieWeslake@adventist.org.

TIPS FOR TEACHERS WEBSITES

www.kidsbibleinfo.com/kidzone_request.php

FREE Bible guides for kids. This is a set of kid friendly Bible Guides for kids to enjoy. There is even a lesson or 2 on health and the temple of our body you can use. Check it out!

www.thetakebacktour.com

Check out this webpage. Great suggestions for healthful living!

STEWARDSHIP JACK

The first in a series of 12 books by Janice Matthews on teaching children about stewardship. Using Jack, a black pup, the author weaves stewardship values into this interesting book. The first book will be out at the end of May and the second in August. So order your hard cover copies at a special price of \$3.00 from GC Children's Ministries. Contact MugandaT@gc.adventist.org



LESSONS FOR TEACHERS/PARENTS:

THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE COLT

It is interesting to note that as Jesus neared the end of His earthly ministry, He decided to use a baby colt to enter Jerusalem. He told the disciples that after using the donkey, He would return it to the owner. (Mark 11:1-3, Luke 19:29-33 and John 12:14, 15). In Matthew's account of the story Matthew adds an element of great significance. Matthew 21:2 records Jesus' instructions to his disciples: "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, *with her colt by her*. Untie them and bring them to me" (emphasis supplied).

Why did Jesus decide to use, for this important trip, a very inexperienced colt? What are the lessons to be learned from this story?

- Jesus can use even little ones to serve Him.
- Jesus decided to use a colt which had not been ridden before, in other words, it was untrained. The 'untrained colt' would suggest children unpolluted by earthly philosophies. This emphasizes the importance of early training. Training children in the way they should go before they are polluted by the devil.
- Why did Jesus want the mother to be around and yet He would only ride the colt? This suggests that children need the support of their parents for Jesus to use them effectively. One practical example is parents accompanying children to church and being there with them as they are being moulded to be used by Jesus.
- The untying of the colt and the mother suggests to me that we need to be untied from whatever we may be tied to before God can effectively use us.
- If the colt had human feelings, this action from Jesus would have significantly built the colt's self-esteem. When children are trusted, it significantly builds their self-esteem and motivates them as they develop their relationship with Jesus.

I believe this brief story teaches us that children can be trusted to handle significant responsibilities if given support by their teachers and parents.

By Saustin Mfunne

