



KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

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

DIVISION DIRECTORS

ECD Debbie Maloba
ESD Zhanna Kaminskaya
EUD Elsa Cozzi
IAD Dinorah Rivera
NAD Phyllis Washington
NSD Sally Phoon
SAD Graciela N. H. de Heins
SID Caroline Chola
SPD Julie Weslake
SSD Miriam Andres
SUD M. Wilson
TED Clair Sanches
WAD Omobonike Sessou
GC Attached Fields:
Greater Middle East Union: no director yet
Israel Field: Svetlana Shchelkunov

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General Conference
Children's Ministries Department
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
(301) 680-6144
Fax (301) 680-6155
MugandaT@gc.adventist.org

www.gcchildmin.org

Linda Mei Lin Koh
Director

Saustin S. Mfune
Associate Director

Tanya Muganda
Administrative Assistant

Erika Miike
Art Director



Statue of Venus

A sculptor by the name of Heines brought his students to Louvre museum in Paris, France where the statue of Venus is housed. When he saw this beautiful statue, beads of tears rolled down his face. When one of his students saw him cry, he asked: 'Don't you like the statue professor?' To this Heines answered, 'Yes, I do. But what is the point of such beauty when it is marked with such impotence. She has no hands'.

There are times I imagine Jesus shedding tears as He looks at children. I imagine Him saying, "What is the point of having such beautiful children when they are marked with impotence? They cannot serve me."

We have been entrusted with children so that they can be potent for the Lord. Therefore:

1. We should communicate divine truth in a clear and succinct way with a purpose of helping them learn how to serve the Lord.
2. We should realize that when children are able to serve the Lord, it will re-enforce the truth in their hearts and make them suitable candidates for the kingdom of God.
3. We should know that children are not just a strand in the adult human fabric. They are the fabric itself. They are the human race. We therefore need to give our all as we work with them so as to help them fight against the tactics and antics of the devil.

Saustin Sampson Mfune
Associate Director



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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



New director at SUD

We welcome our new director and his associate, Dr. M. Wilson and Dr. Deborah Samraj of Southern Asia Division to the Children's Ministries team. Dr. Wilson replaces Dr. M. C. John who has retired recently. He also serves as director of the Family Ministries and the Hearing and Speech-Impaired Ministry.

Dr. Wilson has served in the Ministerial Association of the Division during the past quinquennium as well as the Editor-in-Chief of the publishing house. Dr. John comments: "He is a very friendly, energetic, compassionate and committed leader.



He is good with children and I am confident that his involvement with the children of the division will be very supportive of the departmental goals."

Dr. Deborah Samraj, the associate director, has been a teacher at Spicer Memorial College for many years. Her experience in working with children and youth at the college will be helpful in responding to the challenges in the department.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Burundi Union – Leadership Certification Training

Burundi Union held its first CHM leadership training in Bujumbura, August 14-15, 2012. A total of 50 children's leaders and teachers from the various fields attended this training conducted by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director. It was wonderful to find many men leaders who loved being involved with children. They were given training from the Leadership Certification, Level I program. The participants were actively involved in the activities. At the end of the session many stood up to express their appreciation and gratitude for the teaching they have received, especially learning how to involve children in active learning, how to be creative, how to develop faith in children, etc.



► Burundi Leadership Certification Training

East-Congo Union – Assessment Visit and Camp meeting

From August 21-26th, Dr Saustin Mfune had an opportunity of meeting with Children's Ministries leaders in Lubumbashi in East-Congo Union headquartered in the city of Lubumbashi to assess the needs the department may have. Though there are a lot of needs, it was encouraging to note that Debbie Maloba, the ECD Children's Ministries Director together with Sister Kamwanya Ilunga Mevis, East Congo Union Mission Children's Ministries Director are doing their best to make both Swahili and French materials available to the children. Everything has to be translated and this is not a small feat. These great leaders



► Lubumbashi Children's Leaders



need our prayers. During his visit, he also had a privilege of conducting a camp meeting. 87 people decided to get baptized and 124 responded to the call to be volunteer Bible workers. We praise the Lord for what He is doing in Eastern Congo union.

Rwanda Union – Leadership Certification Seminars

More than 450 children's leaders and teachers from all over Rwanda Union gathered at the Awaneki Secondary School in Ruhengeri for the Leadership Certification Level II seminars, August 19-12, 2012. It was most unusual to note that half of the children's leaders and teachers were young men who were passionate about children.

Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director and Linda Koh, GC CHM Director presented the seminars covering topics on visioning, postmodern children's ministry, involving children in missions, leading children to Jesus, and others. Every conference/field presented reports of what they were doing, and it was amazing to find that many of them were doing outreach for community children.

The highlight on Sabbath was the children's choir who presented beautiful songs. It was an excellent treat for everyone.



► Rwanda Union leadership certification

South Ethiopia Field – Leadership Training Seminars

South Ethiopia Field held its first Children's Ministries leadership training seminars in the city of Awassa. This field has never received many visitors and thus not much training. More than 50 children's leaders and pastors came from around the field to participate in this leadership certification Level I training. Gelane, CHM Director of the Ethiopia Union invited all pastors to be involved in this training so that they will understand how to support and promote the importance of raising a generation of strong future members and leaders.

Sabbath was the highlight as there was also a graduation service for Vacation Bible School children who received their certificates

for participating in the VBS. It was wonderful to hear testimonies by young leaders of how they worked hard to organize Vacation Bible Schools, Branch Sabbath Schools, etc. Several children's choirs presented beautiful musical items.

The participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation for receiving such training to equip them as effective teachers and leaders of children.



► South Ethiopia Field leadership training.

EURO-AFRICA DIVISION

Portugal Union - Leadership Training Seminar

The Portugal Union held its union-wide Children's Ministries Leadership Training in Porto, Portugal, August 30 to September 2, 2012. A total of 35 delegates from all around the union attended this training. This weekend training was one of practical skills for teaching children rather than just pedagogical and philosophical. Samuel de Abreu, Union CHM Director, invited Linda Koh, CHM Director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director as guest presenters for the training.



► Portugal Union leadership training



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)



The Friday training started out with a session on teaching children about prayer, with the room set up with prayer stations. The participants had the opportunity to rotate around to the five different prayer stations engaging in specific prayer activities.

Sabbath and Sunday were full days of training as children's leaders and teachers learn how to involve children in the sermon, sharing nature with children, teaching with object lessons and other techniques. There was also a session on learning a new craft.

Many participants were very glad to receive the practical training as well as many resources and lots of teaching ideas. We hope they will put these ideas into practice in their local churches.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Division-wide Children's Ministries Convention

The first division-wide children's ministries convention was held at Camp Kalaqua in Gainesville, Florida, July 10-15. It was well organized with 520 children's leaders and teachers coming from twenty-two unions of the Inter-American Division. The colorful Parade of Nations enhanced the opening night. There were plenary sessions and many breakout workshops. The theme for the convention was "Fit With Jesus" and it was wonderful to hear hundreds of voices singing the theme song "Fit with Jesus" in three different languages with great passion.

Facilitators for this convention included Dr. Linda Koh, GC Children's Ministries Director, Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM Director, the brainchild behind this convention and Dr Elie Henry, the Executive Secretary of Inter America Division.

One of the highlights was the Friday evening program presented by Dominican and Jamaican Unions leaders. The program highlighted Biblical readings, musical numbers and various performances. At the close of the convention, leaders and teachers of children stood and prayed as they committed their lives to the cross of Jesus.

Sabbath was special as it started out with the demonstration classes of Gracelink teaching on all levels from Beginner to



▶ A Drama depicting The New Jerusalem

Earliteens. Elder Israel Leito, President of IAD gave the sermon during the worship hour. In the afternoon the delegates learned how to involve children in missions. Everyone was inspired to go home with greater passion for ministering to children.



▶ IAD Leaders

East Venezuela Union – Children's Ministries Convention

East Venezuela Union held its first union-wide Children's Ministries Convention on the island of Margarita under the able leadership of its director, Beni del Rodriguez. A total of 460 delegates came from all over the union territory. Unfortunately, a group of 12 who came from the farthest end of the territory from the mountain region, were not able to make it after traveling a full day to the nearest town to discover that there was a landslide and the roads were closed. Prayers were offered for them.

It was an excellent convention with the objective of training the children's leaders in the level II certification program. At the end, over one hundred of children's leaders from two conferences who completed the level I program received their certificates.

There were exhibitions of materials produced by various conferences, Bible musical dramas, and inspiring testimonies of the children that were won to Christ. This is one of the few unions that subsidized 45% of the cost of the Gracelink Sabbath School lessons. The union officers were all there and were excited to put children as priority. Praise the Lord!



▶ East Venezuela convention



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Michigan Conference – Seminars at Pioneer Memorial Church

Dr Saustin Mfuné who had gone to Andrews University to attend World Mission Institute which ran from July 9-28 ended up conducting 3 seminars at Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) and told a children's story for the Sabbath of July 21. The first seminar entitled, "You Have no Control over the Storm: It will come: The importance of the first 3 years," was conducted on the 14th. This was held in the main Sanctuary. And the other two seminars entitled "10 Reasons Why Children before The Age of 3 Years Old Should Not Watch TV," and "The 10 Commandments of Parenting," were held on the 21st of January in the PMC Youth Chapel." The seminars were well received.

The story told by Mfuné which gripped not only children's but adults' attention as well was entitled "Why I am not a soldier."



▶ Dr Saustin Mfuné telling a children's story in Pioneer Memorial Church

lose a child during this age, we would have probably lost that child. On Sabbath, the meetings were climaxed at Civo Stadium where about 15,000 people were in attendance. Pastor Gary Swanson was the speaker.



▶ Children at Civo Stadium

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

North Central Mindanao Conference—Leadership Certification Training

A province-wide CHM Leadership Certification Level I training seminar was organized by Rofaly Dumpasan, NCMC CHM Director for about 80 children's leaders and Sabbath School teachers at Bagontaas on May 18-20, 2012. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Miriam Andres, SSD CHM Director, Shirley Aguinaldo, South Philippine Union CHM Director and together with the conference CHM Director conducted the training as well as doing some illustrations on how to teach the GraceLink lessons. Children participated on Sabbath in musical renditions and preaching. Indeed, they were gifted with so many talents. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic the children's leaders were as well as their desire to learn and be equipped. Praise the Lord for such dedicated teachers!



▶ NCMC leadership certification

SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Malawi Union – Festival of Laity in Lilongwe City

Gary Swanson, Associate Personal Ministries Director and May-Ellen Colon Assistant Personal Ministries Director, both of the General Conference, Gasper Colon Professor of Religion at Washington University (he is also May-Ellen's husband) and Saustin Mfuné associate director of GC Children Ministries Department were invited to facilitate the Festival of Laity meetings which were held at Natural Resources College in Lilongwe from August 9 to the 11. 300 delegates attended these meetings. Dr. Mfuné's role was to help seminar participants understand the value of children. He emphasized on the importance of the ages 0-3 years old which form the foundation of a child's life. If we

“ 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)



► Sri Lanka Leadership Training

Sri Lanka Mission – Children’s Sabbath School Leaders/ Teachers Training

Esther Ambikapalan, CHM Director organized a weekend leadership training on May 24-26, 2012. About 75 children’s leaders and teachers participated in this children’s Sabbath School training. More than half of them are new teachers and they were eager to participate in all the readiness activities as they learn how to teach the Gracelink curriculum, how to decorate the Sabbath School rooms and how to discipline, etc. The participants were appreciative of the training they got.

This is a training program pioneered by Pastor, Edgard Inglis, who has a passion for children. He provides a 7-day training program for children ages 6-14 in preaching, sermon construction, presenting health talks, and giving Bible studies. These children demonstrated great skills in preaching and developing their own sermons. It is amazing how well these children preach! Little Trumpets training takes place during the summer months when children are out of school.

South Philippine Union – Little Trumpets Ministry

The “Little Trumpets” Child Preachers Training was held at the Malaybalay Church and Elementary School on May 21-25, 2012.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Division-wide Kids in Discipleship Training (KID)

WAD launched the Kids in Discipleship training at the division headquarters in Abidjan June 14-18, 2012. A total of thirty children’s leaders from three unions attended this first training. The remaining three unions were not able to make it due to other challenges. The division Youth Ministries and Family Ministries directors also attended the training.

Don MacLafferty did the training. The participants were actively involved in all the interactive activities and even had the opportunity to practice their skills from the *Footprints for Parents* and *Mentors and Footprints for Kids* lessons with families who came in from the community church nearby.



► Little Trumpets



► Kids in discipleship Training

The children's leaders were very excited about this initiative and they vowed to go back and cast the vision to their churches and leadership so that many families will see the urgency of intentional discipleship of their children.

Cape Verde Conference – Women/Children Ministries Congress

Cristolita Cruz, the new WM/CHM director organized the WM/CHM Congress July 25-29 in a small town about sixty miles outside of Praia, the capital of the Republic of Cape Verde. A total of 216 women leaders attended this training. The opening ceremony was colorful as all the delegates wore their pink uniforms. They were excited to have the division and GC CHM

directors there for the first time. The Leadership Certification Level II courses were taught by Linda Koh, GC CHM director while Omobonike Sessou, WAD CHM director presented topics for women.

It was wonderful to have the mission president, Pastor Elavo Santos present throughout the congress. He supported the women's and children's leaders enthusiastically. It's wonderful to have the administrators as advocates for children and women.

Eastern Nigeria Union – 'Bible Brain Box'

Bible Brain Box also called Memory gem is a special program developed by the Children Ministries Department to nurture a personal devotional lifestyle



► Bible Brain Box

in kids. This program encourages the children to memorize Bible passages and how to apply it in their daily lives.

In addition to that this program also serves as a means of equipping the local church children Sabbath school classes with audiovisual materials for teaching and nurturing children.

A bible brain box (memory gem) was held in all the conferences in the Union with the grand finale at Mile 3 Church, Port Harcourt in November 2011 in which children who are able to recite many bible verses were rewarded. The WAD CHM Director chaired the occasion. Audio visual aids such as Television, Video Players etc were given out to deserving churches while every child went home with a copy of the Bible and Steps to Christ.

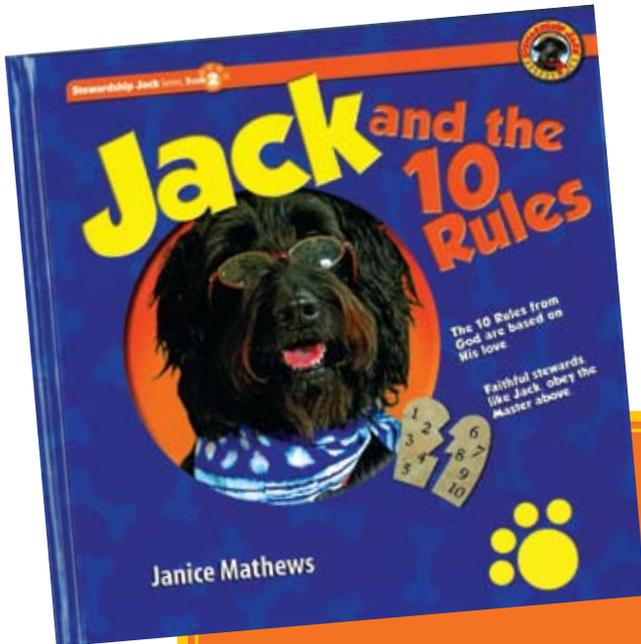


► Women/Children Ministries' Congress – Cape Verde

“ 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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