



KidsNewsZone

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**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

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

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Come Down to Their Level

In 1975 I was at Solusi University, pursuing my degree in theology. I remember one Sabbath afternoon a group of us went for a walk. Solusi is surrounded by beautiful vegetation, and as we walked through a forest admiring God's handiwork, we suddenly came to a clearing where there was an ant-hill straight ahead of us. As we walked towards the ant-hill, someone in the group motioned for us to stop. His eyes were focused on something behind the ant-hill. Soon everyone was excitedly whispering and pointing at what they were seeing.

Unfortunately for me, since I am short, my stature did not allow me the opportunity to enjoy what was exciting my friends. One of them noticed my predicament and bent down to my level and tried to see. He discovered that from my level, I could not see the beauty they were enjoying. In jest, he lifted me up to show me what was behind the ant-hill, and there, grazing lazily, were two beautiful antelopes. When my other friends saw us they began to laugh at our antics and the antelopes galloped away.

The point is that when this friend came down to my level, he discovered that I could not see what the others were seeing. If teachers and parents will come down to the level of their children it will help them to better understand children. In fact, this is precisely what Jesus did. He came down to our level in order to lift us up. In theological terms, this is what we call the 'ministry of incarnation'. [Saustin Mfune, *Parenting for Heaven*, Africa Publishing Company, Cape Town, pages 81-82, 2012]

The Spirit of Prophecy has this to say:- "In teaching, He [Jesus] came down to their [children] level. He the majesty of heaven answered their questions and simplified His important lessons to meet their childish understanding. He planted in their minds the seeds of truth, which in after years would spring up and bear fruit unto eternal life." (Ellen White, *Evangelism* p. 579).

Saustin Sampson Mfune
Associate Director



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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Rwanda Union – Children On the Go!

In 2012, Rwanda Union has been a beehive of activities. From 18th to 23rd April, Kids In Discipleship training was held at Goma by Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM director. From 19th to 26 August 2012, Kigali English Church organized a camp meeting for children with the theme Revived by His Word at Nu-Vision – Kabuga (ECRF). It was attended by 42 children from Uganda accompanied by 15 Teachers; 75 children with 35 teachers from Kenya and 154 children and 12 teachers from Rwanda.



► Children "Ready to Go."

On November 17 Rwandan children conducted a program entitled "Ready to Go" where they visited their communities and conducted various Missionary and Compassionate activities. And on November 18 children were involved in Children's Talent Activities held at Remera Petit Stadium.

We praise the Lord for 2,404 children under the age of 14 who have been baptized in 2012. This is a result of 1,458 churches who conducted baptismal classes for children. We thank the Lord for the leadership of Consolata Uwantege, CHM director of Rwanda union, her team and the support she receives from Debbie Maloba.

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

Caucasus Union – Leadership Certification Training



► MinVody leadership training.

One hundred and five children's leaders and teachers gathered for the first union-wide Children's Ministries Leadership Certification of the Caucasus Union from October 19-23, 2012 in Mineralnye Vody, Russia. The leaders were so appreciative of all the courses presented from the Leadership Certification Level II by Linda Koh, GC Children's Ministries Director. Division CHM Director, Zhanna Kamis-

kaya, presented the plans of the department and gave away many resources for the children's leaders. Dr. Shirley Chang, a retired health professional provided lectures on child health. One highlight of the training was the round table Questions and Answers section that provided for sharing of information as well as answering some tough questions in the ministry to children.

Immediately following the leadership training, a one-day advisory was held for the conference/mission CHM directors of the union. More training was given for the directors through the Level III courses. Everyone went home very satisfied with the training.

Trans-Caucasus Union – Leadership Certification Training

The first union-wide CHM leadership certification training for the Trans-Caucasus Union was held at the Union premises in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 25-29, 2012. A



► Tbilisi Leadership Training.

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total of about forty children's leaders and teachers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia attended the training. Many indicated that they have learned a lot from the Leadership certification Level II courses presented by Linda Koh, GC CHM director. The Division CHM Director, Zhanna Kamiskaya presented the strategic plans of the department as well as introduced many new resources for the leaders. Health topics were also presented by guest lecturer Dr. Shirley Chang. They were also grateful for the many resources they received from the director. The three conference and mission directors gave very good reports and all the leaders re-commit themselves to working faithfully for children.

INTER-AMERICA DIVISION

North Colombian Union Conference – CHM Leadership Certification

More than two hundred and fifty children's leaders and teachers gathered at Santa Marta on September 28-29, 2012 for a union-wide leadership certification training weekend. Clad in pink and blue uniforms the leaders commenced the event with great singing. Two children were invited to chair the meeting and to

lead in song service. No one could doubt the children's leadership qualities.

The Leadership Certification Level III courses were presented by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM Director. Children were also involved in many aspects of the Sabbath School program. They preached, recited Bible verses and poetry, and sang. The seminar climaxed in the afternoon with a graduation service to award those leaders who had completed the entire level of the training.



► North Colombian Union Leadership Certification.

NORTHERN ASIA- PACIFIC DIVISION

Chinese Union Mission – Implementing KID in Local Church

A dedicated mother who attended a KID training went home to implement what she had learned.

After much thinking and praying, she hatched an idea that the church should dedicate every third Sabbath to children. Many mothers and other women in the church supported it enthusiastically.

While planning for the November 17 Children's Sabbath, she checked into the Chinese Union website and was so glad to discover that the same Sabbath was dedicated to children at risk. Upon informing the mothers, they decided to make donations to a disabled child who was a member of the church. They also suggested to their children to make gifts for this child. Although the disabled girl did not attend church that Sabbath, they sent the gifts to her home.

It has been two years now and mothers are still working together to learn and share as they disciple their children.

Someone said, "If you take a child by the hand, you take the mother by the heart." The kind spirit shown to the disabled child will by grace win the entire family to the church.

Mongolia Union Field

A VBS was held at summer camp end of July to beginning of August with 72 young people. It was very successful. The best blessing was that everybody was changed through these two weeks by God's grace.

A young boy, an unbeliever, who was brought here by his friend testified that before he came to the camp, he had written his last will and decided to commit suicide if he could not meet someone who loved him. When he came to the vacation Bible school, he was changed when he received Jesus as his Savior. After re-

turning home, he told his parents that he believed in Jesus, he was compelled to stay in a hotel because of persecution from his parents. Please pray for him.

Five other students were baptized after the VBS ended on July 28, 2012.



► VBS in action.



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)



SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

North Ecuador Mission – Leadership Certification Seminars

More than three hundred children’s leaders and teachers attended the mission-wide leadership certification training seminars in Quito, November 21-22, 2012. Special guests included Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director, Graciela Hein, South American Division CHM Director, and Yesely Salomon, Ecuador Union CHM Director. The leaders not only learned leadership skills but they were introduced to several new action songs that they loved tremendously. They were also given lots of resources to bring home. Children’s choirs and individual children rendered beautiful musical numbers throughout the program.



► Quito Leadership Training.

South Ecuador Mission – Leadership Training Weekend

A mission-wide leadership training weekend convened in Guayaquil, November 23-25, 2012 for more than three hundred children’s leaders and teachers. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director presented a couple of plenary sessions and Graciela Hein, SAD CHM Director introduced the division departmental strategies for the quinquennium: Communion, Relation, Mission! All workshops were related to this theme and the leaders were excited about the prayer activities introduced by Dr. Koh in her workshop. The leaders received resources and all kinds of ideas for the ministry as well as certificates. Children’s groups were always an added blessing to the program.

A second training seminar was held at the Adventist School in Galapagos Island, November 26-27, 2012, where children’s leaders and teachers gathered to learn to effectively grow Christian values in children and how to disciple them. The second meeting was a community outreach with the auditorium filled to capacity with parents coming in from around the island of Santa Cruz in Galapagos.



► Guayaquil Training.

Northwest Brazil Union – Children’s Ministries Training

Children’s Ministries right in the heart of the Amazon is very much alive and active! November 29-December 2 was a busy weekend for Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Graciela Hein, SAD CHM Director as they presented seminars for children’s leaders and teachers from two missions, visited a children’s small group where 11-year-old Cliffordson ran a Friday night small group for 28 non-Adventist children, and spoke at the Indigenous Community gathering in Manaus, Brazil where many of these indigenous people and their children have become Adventists. We praise God for the leadership of Analu Zahn, CHM Director of the union who are training her children’s leaders and teachers to empower children to participate in the gospel commission.



► Manaus indigenous community.



SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Malawi Union - Children Trained as Leaders

The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division Children's Ministries Department in conjunction with the Leadership Office of the Division has initiated a training program to equip trainer of trainers who would in turn train parents and leaders on how to raise children as leaders in the church. The training took place in Lilongwe, Malawi from 23rd to 25th August 2012. Dr. Prudence Pollard Assistant Vice President for Faculty Development and Research at Oakwood University was the facilitator. She used her book 'Raise a Leader God's Way' as the main textbook. Topics covered were such as developing time and talents, nourishing moral health, building relational health, developing good habits etc. Fifty children and 10 adult Trainer of Trainers from all over Malawi were trained. This is a pilot project and SID hopes to spread it to all the unions.



► Children trained as leaders.

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

South West India Union – Children's Camp

About 200 children attended the first union-wide Children's Camp held August 29 - September 2, 2012 at the SDA Higher Secondary School, Kaloor. The theme of the camp was 'Come Meet Jesus'. It was organized by the Union Children's Ministries Director, Mrs. Kochu Thressia Selvamony of South West India Union. Activities included fellowship, prayer, Bible activities, health message, video show, Bible games, outing, camp fire and others.

The children were provided with a T-shirt, a bag, book, pen and many other goodies at the time of registration. Special guests included Dr. Deborah Samraj, SUD Associate CHM Director and Mrs. Premila Jayachandran, former Children's Ministries Director of SEIU. We thank God for Children's ministries and also for the support of many.



► Children at the Camp.

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

West Indonesia Union Mission – Children's Ministries Reaping Campaign

A seven-day reaping campaign which was organized by the CHM Department concluded on the Sabbath of October 27. The meetings which were held at MT Haryono Adventist Church in Jakarta at the Union headquarters, climaxed with the baptism of 277 people. The main speaker, Pastor Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director was assisted



► Some of the children who gave their lives to Jesus and were baptized.



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)



by Dr. Miriam Andres, SSD CHM Director. The success of the meetings can be attributed to Mrs Nelly Sihotang CHM Director of WIUM and her team who did a magnificent job in planning for the meetings. All departments worked together like a calm flowing river.

Taking their stand for baptism, Deswanto and his paralyzed wife Augustina were living testimonies of the untiring work of their son Wira who was baptized at 12 years old. Wira never gave up on sharing Jesus with his parents. True to its words: A Child shall lead them. During the campaign, many children were also baptized. Sixty children (ages between 11 -14 years old) were baptized during this campaign.

West Visayan Conference – CHM Leadership Certification and Children Involvement

Virgie Baloyo, the new conference CHM Director had launched full swing into training children’s leaders around her territory. In April, Virgie and her team conducted 4 CHM Level I Leadership Certification. Two hundred and five leaders were in attendance. Plans have been made to conduct more leadership certification December 1 and Dec. 14. She hoped to have another 100 leaders in attendance.

It was a blessing to see children and their leaders sing to raise funds for the ongoing construction of a three storey church

school building. The concert held on November 4 at La Paz Church in Iloilo City raised P10,000 (\$250.00) for the project. One part of the concert which moved people hearts was when Cypress Jobel Alavata, 4, the youngest of all the singers, sang all four stanzas of Sally Deford’s An Angel to Watch Over Me. The amount may be drop in a bucket, but we applaud the children for learning the spirit of using their talent for the Lord’s service.

West-Central Africa Division

Children’s Ministries Advisories took place as from June 3-10 and September

9-15 in both CAUM and NWNUM respectively. The objectives of the advisories were:

- To develop and adopt the CHM strategic plans for the quinquennium and the plans can be implemented in the local churches of the unions.
- To determine specific solutions to problems facing the CHM in the Unions.
- To help leaders move from mere efficiency to effectiveness.

These advisories were fully supported by the leadership from all the Conferences and Missions.



▶ Advisory in a Nigerian union.



▶ Children and their leaders singing at La Paz Church



LESSONS FOR TEACHERS/PARENTS

Infants and Salvation

On February 13 I received an email. The inquirer wanted to know if children who died before knowing sin would be saved if neither of their parents would be saved. I verified my response with the Biblical Research department of the General Conference.

Catholics: They believe in the doctrine of the original sin. A child is born with sin and its guilt. For Catholics, a child's salvation is based on the church's elaborate cleansing rituals. This, they believe, will make the child receive salvation.

Lutherans and Presbyterians: Based on their Covenant Theology, they teach that Israel was a community and through circumcision, children were accepted into the community. Covenant theology hence teaches that baptism is equivalent to circumcision and if parents are baptized and will be saved, children will also be saved because their salvation is based on the deeds of the parents. (There are some Adventists who believe in this).

Seventh-day Adventist:- Our answer generally is based on Deuteronomy 1:34-40. ³⁴ When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore: ³⁵ "No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors," ³⁶



except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly." ³⁷ Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, "You shall not enter it, either. ³⁸ But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it. ³⁹ *And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they*

will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it. ⁴⁰ But as for you, turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea." (Emphasis supplied) (NIV)

Using this passage as the basis, we seem to get an indication that children will go to heaven since they died not knowing good and evil.

By Saustin Sampson Mfune
GC Associate Children's Ministries Director

May Our "God with us" (Matthew 1:21) continue to bless us all during the festive season. Happy Xmas and prosperous New Year.

From – Linda Mei Lin Koh, Saustin Sampson Mfune and Tanya Muganda.



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January 16-19, 2013 Orlando

CHILDREN'S PASTORS' CONFERENCE
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