



KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

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

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Developing a heart connection with your children

It is unfortunate that many times the only conversation we are engaged in with our children is what I call 'level one of communication'. It has even been termed 'business talk'. This can be anything like, "Have you brushed your teeth?", "Have you eaten your breakfast?", "Don't be late for school", "Can I see your grades?", "Make your bed", or "Eat your greens." There is no sense of bonding in this kind of communication.

If you want to build a close relationship with your child, you ought to develop what I call "heart to heart talk"; sharing things concerning the heart. It is this kind of communication that will allow your children to develop trust in you and have a close bond with you. Heart to heart talk would be something like this: "What happened to you at school today that scared you?", "Do you want to share with me how Jesus used you to help somebody today?", "I see that you are limping – have you hurt yourself?", "I will

stay with you until you fall asleep because you are afraid of the dark", or "Let's play your favourite game."

While 'level one communication' is fine, it is heart to heart talk that builds a long and lasting relationship. If you want this close relationship with your child, you need to create opportunities to be with your child. You need to be intentional about developing it. It is important that you become your child's confidant. You should be the first person they will come to for help if they are in trouble. They should feel confident to share their sorrows and joys with you. Meet them on their level and understand them. Show them unconditional affection. Be there for them. Pray with them. When they can love and trust you, they will also learn to love and trust God.

Saustin Sampson Mfuné
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

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

Eastern-Russian Union Mission – CHM Advisory & Leadership Certification

Children's Ministries Leader's from Eastern-Russian Union Mission met in Novosibirsk, November 15-17, 2013 for an Advisory and level IV of Leadership Certification. The training which was held at the Union Office premises was conducted by Saustin Mfuné, GC CHM Associated Director. Zhanna Kamiskaya CHM director of ESD was very instrumental in putting the training together.

More than 50 directors attended the certification training. Though the temperatures were freezing cold, it could not dampen the spirits of the enthusiastic participants. If the enthusiasm and professionalism seen in the participants is what to go by, all one can say is that Russian's Children's Ministries better days are yet to come.



► Certified leaders pose for a picture in Novosibirsk.

Far-Eastern Union – CHM Leadership Certification

About 40 leaders met at the Far-Eastern Union Office church in Khabarovsk, November 8-12, 2013 to attend a Children's Leaders school and revival meetings which were conducted in the evenings. Pastor Saustin Mfuné was the facilitator of Level II certification program and also the evening speaker during the revival meetings.

Even though the temperatures had dipped to -15degrees C, delegates faithfully attended the certification program and the church at large flocked to the evening meetings as if it was summer. Two young ladies translated for the certification program while Mikhael F. Kaminskiy, the Ministerial Secretary of ESD and the husband of Zhanna translated for the revival meetings. The activities were spirit warming.



► Khabarovsk leaders who received Level II Leadership Certification Training.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Dominican Republic Union – CHM Leadership Certification

About 500 children's leaders gathered for the leadership certification training, September 20-23, 2013 at a Catholic Retreat Center located on the outskirts of the capital. The opening night was a heartwarming musical drama featuring six different Bible characters that touched the hearts. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM Director presented seminars on topics such as Developing spirituality in children's leaders, Raising Spiritual Giants, and others. Sunday morning was the demonstration of two interesting Vacation Bible School programs that could be used in the local churches.



► Dominican Republic Union Leadership Certification Program.



IAD CHM Director presented their division goals and plans to help nurture children in the Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Across world initiative. Representatives from the Inter-American Division Publishing House also presented many beautifully designed children's books for the leaders to purchase. Many received free books such as *God Loves Me 28 Ways*, & *Michael Ask Why* (children's Great Controversy). They graduated about 150 children's leaders who had completed Level III of the certification program.

North Colombian Union – CHM Leadership Certification



► North Colombia Union leadership certification at Medellin.

It was exciting to see 240 young leaders attended the certification held at the Adventist University of Colombia, Medellin, September 25-29, 2013. Linda Koh IAD CHM Director and Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM Director presented several courses of Level III for these young leaders who were education majors taking an emphasis in children's ministry. Such an enthusiastic group of leaders! They are our leaders today and tomorrow.

In the evening the GC CHM director presented more seminars at the university church where a graduation ceremony was held for these certified leaders of children. It was encouraging to see many were certified to work with children.

Seminars were also conducted for pastors' wives and children's leaders on September 27-29, 2013 at Bucaramanga, headquarters of the East Colombian Conference. Many of the leaders were young and energetic and they were happy to come together to learn. Indeed, they have so much to offer in terms of innovative ideas and technological skills.



► Leadership training at Bucaramanga.

INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Bulgaria Union of Churches Conference – CHM Leadership Training

More than ninety children's leaders and teachers gathered to participate in the CHM leadership training in Sofia, November 8-10, 2013. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director conducted several seminars to empower the leaders. On the last morning, the delegates had a wonderful prayer experience by participating in different types of prayer at the several prayer stations. The leaders also received many resources and were very happy with the training.



► Bulgaria leadership training.

On the following day, GC director and EUD director had the opportunity to visit the largest Roma church (Gypsy) in Kyustendil. The church was packed full with many still standing all around the church. The gypsy children sang with all their hearts, exuberating a joy of being happy in Jesus. Linda Koh and Elsa Cozzi spoke about Children's Ministries to the congregation.



► Gypsy church.



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)



Czecho-Slovakian Union Conference – Children's Ministries Program

Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director attended a CHM program held at Brno, Czech Republic, November 16-17, 2013 and presented seminars and also introduced the Kids in Discipleship initiative. Large groups of children presented special musical programs in between seminars and reports. On Sunday morning the children participated in the union-wide finals of the Bible quiz. It was wonderful to see children and teens with such knowledge of the Bible. Both the GC director and division director shared with the children why the Bible was important to them.



► Czech union children's program.

Italian Union of Churches Conference – CHM/Pathfinders Leadership Training

About 50 Children's Ministries and Pathfinders leaders attended this training event held in the Adventist retreat center "Le Sorgenti" in Valleggrande, Sicily, November 22-24, 2013. Elsa Cozzi and Linda Koh from the GC and the division presented seminars on the protection of children, safety, ministry to children with special needs, and others. Then on Sabbath afternoon, a special lawyer and clinical psychologist from the community were invited to speak specifically on the laws that protect children. In the evening the leaders participated enthusiastically in doing the circle craft.

On the last day, a seminar on bullying and how parents can help their children deal with it was presented by Elsa Cozzi, CHM director of EUD. The leaders were very satisfied with the training event.



► Sicily leadership training.

NORTH AMERICA DIVISION

Alberta Conference – Parenting Seminars

Some drove for about one hour from Calgary while others drove for two and one half hours from Edmonton and they braved the cold temperatures and dangerous icy roads of Canada to meet at Foot Hills Camp to enjoy an empowering seminar for parents and their children from November 22-24. The facilitators were Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune, the GC CHM associate director and his wife Gertrude.

The message was simple. If parents cannot unite, children will lose direction. Parents need to love each other and work together to give children the right environment.

Pastor Dario St Louis the senior pastor of the churches who organized the week-end camp out was very grateful for the way the Lord blessed the meetings. Sabbath evening was a social evening. It was great to see parents and children playing all sorts of games together in an auditorium.



► Empowering Seminar participants .

Southeastern California Conference – Parenting Seminars

Rancho Cucamonga Seventh-day Adventist Church organized a seminar on November 1-2 to help parents understand the impact of the 21st century on their children. Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director was invited to facilitate the seminar.

Parents were told that the devil is not sleeping. Knowing that his time is short, he is doing everything to win our children to his side by using all kinds of activities and media gadgets. "Parenting is not for cowards," Mfune explained to the parents. "We are not wrestling against flesh nor blood but against unseen powers. Therefore, we cannot afford to slacken." Parents appreciated the insights gained during the seminar.



NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Division-created Stewardship Devices for Children

NSD has created a children's offering device based on a similar resource shared by SSD (thanks Miriam!) to teach children about stewardship. We recognize that God has trusted us with many treasures—our abilities, time and the treasure of money—a treasure that we can share with God and others. When children learn from as young as 2 years old to share what they have, the sin of selfishness can be banished and a spirit of generosity nurtured in these disciples of Jesus. Our goal is to help our children establish a life-long habit of following God's commands, thinking unselfishly of others, caring for those who are less fortunate and being a compassionate disciple of Jesus Christ. The rewards are tremendous just as He has promised in Malachi 3:10.

This device, funded jointly by the NSD Children's Ministries Department and Stewardship Department, was introduced at our NSD mid-quinquennial meeting held on Jeju Island on September 1-2, 2013, for children's, family & women's ministries directors. It has 4 pockets with 4 flaps—the first one contains instructions to the parents as to how to use the device. Into this first flap, users can insert the name or picture of the child with the title, "My Love Offering to God". The second pocket is meant for tithe; the third for offerings and the fourth for a special mission contribution towards a specific project of the local church. The versatility of the see-through flaps allows for our leaders to print their own labels in whichever language they choose.



► NSD Offering device.

As soon as our Children's and Women's Ministries Director, Purevdulam from Mongolia, received samples of the device, she very promptly started with her own children at home. She also shared the device with another mission director, and they taught their children about stewardship. Since she had only a few of the devices, she decided to begin with her own family and as God blesses, they can testify of His goodness. The offering devices are still being prepared for shipment to every union in NSD, and I am certain that once they arrive at the churches, the children and families will be blessed many times over as promised in Malachi! Do pray for our children that in giving, they may overcome the basic sin of selfishness; that in generosity, they can become like their Father in Heaven. (Reported by Sally Phoon)

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Cambodia Adventist Mission – Children's Sabbath Celebration

"I will wear a crown, in my Father's house," is what people heard loud and clear when coming to church on Sabbath morning of September 28, 2013 at Tuol Kork Seventh-day Adventist church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Children provided the messages for the day complete with singing, praying and telling stories about heaven while wearing robes of white and golden crowns. Songs of praise lifted thoughts to heaven. The church itself was transformed into golden streets with houses made of gold.

The Beginners Sabbath School teacher, Phearom, had seen a scene of heaven in a recent Sabbath School workshop in Bangkok and knew just what to do to transform the church, with the help of her husband, Pastor Sor Sokhem. Everyone worked hard and all were rewarded when the children, taking it all in, were able to share with everyone a taste of what heaven is like" (Reported by Ann Stickle).

When Dr. Miriam Andres, SSD CHM Director learned of this story, all she could say was, "Thank God for people like Ann and Phearom and many others who are dedicating their time to work for the salvation of children.



► Tuol Kork SDA church children presenting their program.

“ 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)

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Central Papua Conference – Regional Children’s Ministries Convention

Central Papua Conference held its regional convention from October 17-20 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, to train about 500 children’s leaders and teachers who came from all over the conference. It was wonderful to see many young men who served as children’s leaders and teachers. The director, Ruth Batu also invited all the pastors of the conference to attend this training so that they could also catch the passion to care for and nurture the children in their congregations.

The opening night was held in their largest church in Port Moresby and it was filled to capacity with even people standing all around the church. Part of the program was held in a large government convention hall where there was more space to house all the participants. Julie Weslake, SPD CHM Director and Linda Koh, GC CHM Director presented several seminars throughout this training program.

Lots of resources were given out to each church group represented, such as the Gracelink flipcharts, Daily Bites, Table Talks for Kids in Discipleship use, Bible Adventures for Young Readers, and many others.

The participants were so grateful for the resources that would be a big help for them in their ministry.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Danish Union Conference – Weekend Program for Parents and Leaders

As from 25 to 27th October, the International Church of Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune, Associate Children’s Ministries Director of the General Conference of SDA. Anne-May Muller, the wife of the Danish Union Conference president who was supposed to be the co-facilitator during the meetings, failed to fulfill her duties due to illness. Saustin’s itinerary started early in the morning on the 25th when he presented a worship talk for the Danish Union workers.



► Copenhagen group breaking bread together.



► Papua New Guinea Regional CHM convention.



In the evening of the 25 he addressed an enthusiastic group who learned the importance of empowering children. Sabbath morning the people were told of helping children understand the 90/10 principle. And in the afternoon, the audience was informed of the negative impact of media on children and the ten commandments of parenting. Sunday, after presenting on the topic of building resilient children, the people were divided into groups to discuss how they would implement the learned topic in the lives of children.

North England Conference – CHM Seminars

During the weekend of 18-20 October, the Nottingham Upper Room Seventh-day Adventist church hosted the visit of a small man with a big message. Saustin Mfune, Associate Children's Ministries Director at Adventist World Church headquarters. His unspoken theme was, 'Your children come first'. The event began at the church's regular meeting place, All Souls Community Centre, with a presentation about parenting. It then moved, on the Sabbath, to a local Baptist church to cope with the large numbers attending. Pastor Saustin told a children's story based on his childhood experience when he was stung by bees while trying to capture them. He discovered the value of learning lessons from adults who know better than little boys. This led into a sermon focused on the importance of laying a solid foundation in the first three years of a child's life. A biblical base was set as Pastor Saustin related the parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock. Parents and church leaders were reminded that they cannot control the storms of life, but they can control the building of a child's foundation. Using scientific research the congregation were reminded that children truly do have their foundations set in the first three years of life. The reminder for parents and church members was to spend real time, not just quality time, with children in those years—and to provide the best of resources for the children.



► Saustin Mfune telling a Children's Story.

In the afternoon, Pastor Saustin focused on the visual influences upon children in their very earliest years. The audience heard of the danger of subliminal messages found in many cartoons which seep into the subconscious mind of a child and manifest themselves as the child grows older. The weekend ended with meetings at Nottingham Central church. With a youth emphasis, young people were given sound advice about courtship and relationship development.

Mothers, fathers and church leaders who attended the meetings will now be looking at how to apply the teachings to the future good of the numerous children in the church. (Reported by Pastor Peter Jeynes.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Northwest Nigeria Union – Kids in Discipleship Training

Kids In Discipleship (KID) was launched in Northwest Nigeria Union on October 24-28, 2013. Don MacLafferty, Director of the KID Ministry, was invited to do this initial training. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Omobonike Sessou, WAD CHM Director were also present to assist in the training.

A total of about 200 of children's leaders and teachers from the union participated in this first KID University training at a training center in Ede, Nigeria, about three-hours drive from the capital city of Lagos. The participants were so excited to be introduced to KID for the first time and all of them were highly motivated to bring this to their local churches. Many were eager and excited to cast this vision and move this initiative forward. We praise God for helping our children's leaders catch this vision.



► WAD KID Training.

“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)

LESSON FOR TEACHERS /PARENTS *By Mimi Bullock*

Fun Ways to Teach Backpack Evangelism to Kids

Kids are natural evangelists, they tell everything! Cultivate this love of sharing by teaching your kids about evangelism. Teach them to share their faith effectively. Keep the gospel message powerful but simple. Incorporate some of these practical ideas backpack evangelism ideas into your curriculum and inspire your kids to build God's kingdom. Mimi Bullock came up with this idea of teaching kids how to share the gospel with school friends using common school supplies. Start with an ordinary backpack. Fill it with items that any student would carry like books, pencils, paper and a calculator. Then demonstrate how they could use each item to explain to friends how much God loved them.

Sheets of paper: I drew an X or some words like “lie” and “steal” on a piece of paper. I held a blank sheet of paper up to the kids. I explained that this is how God wants to make our souls, clean. Then I held the other paper up. I pointed to the words and said, “When we make wrong choices, we end up writing on our souls.” I wadded up the written paper and tossed it away. Next, I hold up the clean sheet. I say, “God gives me a clean sheet of paper, a clean soul, every time I repent.”

Books: I hold up the books and say, “These books can get heavy after carrying them around all day, right?” Kids will agree with me here. Then I say, “Life can get heavy sometimes too, right?” Kids agree again and some will share about how heavy life gets. I say, “Did you know that Jesus promised to make life lighter? When you invite him into your heart, he carries life for us!”

Pencils: I hold up the unsharpened pencils and let everyone look at them. I ask kids questions like, “Can we write our homework with these pencils?” Kids will say no. Then I say, “What do we need to do write our homework?” Kids will

say “Sharpen them!” I say, “Did you know that when you live without Jesus you are like this unsharpened pencil? God can't write anything nice on our lives when we remain unsharpened. Who wants to be a sharpened pencil for God?”

Calculator: I use a really large calculator for this object lesson. I hold up the calculator and show the number 0. I say, “When we start our lives we start with 0's but pretty soon a few numbers get added. Every time we fib, or cheat, or cuss or steal we add numbers.” I tap away multiplying and adding numbers to the final amount. I hold up a huge number like 142,756 or whatever I end up with. I say, “Wow! It's not zero anymore. I made that many mistakes. Did you know I can get to zero again?” Kids will say yes. Then I say, “Just be pressing the C button, I can get back to zero. Would you like your soul to get back to zero? All you have to do is press the C button and ask Christ to forgive you!”

These backpack ideas make it easy for kids to share their faith with their peers on the bus, on the walk home or wherever the opportunity arrives. It's time to mobilize God's army of evangelist by empowering our kids with his gospel message.

*See more at: <http://ministry-to-children.com/backpack-evangelism/#sthash.E4I7ccir.dpuf>

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Why not plan to join us in Eastbourne, along with hundreds of others, for learning and worship, resource discovery and spiritual refreshment?



Children's Pastors' Conference

Orlando, Florida – Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
January 15-18, 2014

Ontario, California – Ontario Convention Center
February 17-20, 2014

Register at www.group.com

