



Newsletter

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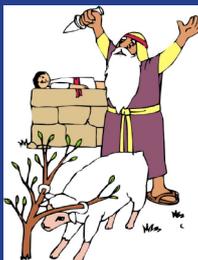


Parents as Patterns

Credentials
 producer: Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM
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Did you know? A trusting son

Isaac was probably between 16 and 25 years old when God asked his 100-year-old father to sacrifice him. Isaac could have easily escaped, but apparently he trusted God and his dad. God came through at the very last minute by providing a ram as a substitute for the sacrifice.



Many years ago I visited a good friend and relative. We hadn't seen each other for many years. Meanwhile we both are married and have children. Sitting in the living room, we loved to talk about past times. While we were talking, we remembered the time when we had been teenagers. So many events came up in our memory. A look at the family album reminded us about good times we had shared together. These pictures also showed us how the years had passed by and how we changed.

While talking and sharing experiences of the past, the two little girls (8 and 9 years old) of my friend, started to become nervous. First, they began to taunt each other. After a while they started to push each other. Their Mom then sent them out to their room. But the struggle continued outside the living room. So after a while one of the parents went to their room. We could hear them talk louder. Then the kids shouted at each other. Suddenly I heard the sound of a slap on the face. Then quietness.

A short time after, the parent came back to the living room. What an uncomfortable moment. None of us spoke. After a while I looked to my friends and said: "Do you remember, that, when we were kids, we promised each other, that, if we had children one day, we would never slap them?"

I always remember the reply that I had heard so often during my years of ministry. One of the parents said: "Yes, you are right. But, what should I do, if they don't listen?"

Maybe, during reading this article, you as reader can imagine what's behind that question. One of the parents was grown up in a home, where the hand of the parents very easily "touched the kids' skin". That was the reason why the remark was given. Fact is: When kids grow up, become adults, fall in love and marry, they found themselves very soon in the same situation as their parents have been.

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CHM in Portugal

How many children do you have in your union?

Around 850

Which activities are you doing for/with them?

We are preparing materials, translating and editing Sabbath school quarterlies, Bible Study guides, music and training teachers and parents.

What are your challenges?

Human and financial resources to respond the needs of the field. Due to the economic crisis a considerable number of young trained people go abroad to work. With that population movement we have been shortened in skilled people and young families with children.

Which dreams and plans do you have?

We would like to train families (children included) to put their skills and gifts in the service of the church and the community in an intergenerational perspective focused in the mission, in the community of faith and the service for the other around us.

Which products did you produce?

Translate, edit and print Bible Study and 28 beliefs Guides for different ages (along with Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department)
Some programs for evangelistic meetings children's programs (along with the Evangelism Department)
Music to go along with the 28 beliefs study guides and promoted other indicatives to edit children's music (along with the Music and Liturgy Service, Education and Youth departments)

What is your program from 2016?

Training and coach teams to implement KID Ministry in their local churches
Translate, edit and print a new curriculum for teenagers to start in 2017
Provide Sabbath School training and encouragement to teachers and families while visiting local churches; partner with other departments, services and institutions to produce Music CD's and training programs for children and families
Developing a stewardship system for children with the Stewardship department.

Which book would you recommend for reading?

I would like to recommend not a book but a series of books. As church we receive a lot of conceptual information but, rarely, we receive practical ideas and advice. Therefore, Karen Holford's "100 creative Ideas" series it's a good way of reflecting on practical, creative and intergenerational ways of worshiping, praying and activities in a context of busy and overwhelmed families.

Samuel Marcos Ferreira Simões de Abreu, 45, married with two children (a 16 years old boy and a 14 years old girl), studied and practiced Architecture while teaching arts (since 1997) in Colégio Adventista de Oliveira do Douro. Since 2007 he serves as Families Department Area Associated Director for Children's Ministries and as Unions Real Estate Technical manager and is Colégio Adventista de Oliveira do Douro's Principal since 2012.

And, although we want to behave different with our children as we have experienced it in our families home, we still act in critical situations as we have seen it from our parents. The reason is that if we haven't learned a new behavior, and trained a better way, most of the time we will do, what we have seen our parents doing.

This is one of the points where Family Ministry, Ministerial, Education and Children's Ministry intersect. The sentence still stands: "What good does the best education, when children just imitate everything." The parents' influence is more measured by being a good pattern than by words. So our departments have to, and will, complement each other.

I am the child of my parents. Now I am a parent myself. Soon my children will not only fall in love, marry and have a partner, but will be (if God gives) a parent too. God wanted it this way. The question will stand: Will they be a good pattern for their children? Family is always the place of learning and growing. So our departments have the call to educate, train and support parents and children as much as possible.

The text for our wedding still guides my

wife and me through all the years: "But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

In our best try to be a good parent, we learned: "He who keeps his sins secret will not do well; but one who is open about them, and gives them up, will get mercy." (Proverbs 28:13) We are learners and on our way with Jesus. Thanks to him, who helps us: "An upright man (parent) goes on in his righteousness: happy are his children after him!" (Proverbs 20:7) Kay Kuzma in her book "The first seven years" (3ABN Books) quotes Ellen White: "Let father and mother remember that they themselves are but grown-up children. ... Because of their own mistakes and errors they should learn to deal gently with their erring children." (p.11) Healthy children and healthy parents are our goal – with God's guidance and help we want to give the best support possible.



Rainer Wanitschek



Jesus wants
all of me

My everything for God

Abraham loved God. He was ready to do anything God asked. Even if it meant going against everything he had come to believe. Beliefs can be wrong. Abraham did not trust his beliefs. Abraham trusted God.

"Take now your son... and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:2

Out of the mouths of babes...



“Dad, did you go to Sunday School when you were a boy?”
 “Yes, my son, I was always sent to Sunday School.”
 “Well, I think I’m going to quit; it’s not doing me any good either.”

Taken from Mason P., “Out of the Mouths of Babes”, Mill Hill, London, 1999

Being connected: Sabbath School and Personal Ministries

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (Joel 2:28).

I take the opportunity of this window in this beautiful initiative Elsa has started to launch a challenge.

Both Sabbath School and Personal Ministries are related to the Gospel Commission. Mission is first of all “to bring people to Jesus” and “Jesus to people”. To all people no matter their skin color, their nationality, their culture, their age, their genre. From childhood to old age.

Childhood comes first, naturally, in many ways. At first: Since the beginning of the history of Sabbath school children have been one of the first target group. “My Little Friend” and “Youth Instructor” have been the first two quarterlies that sign the starting point of the story of this ministry. Then, after years, came the Sabbath school and the quarterlies for adults. Second: through Sabbath School children learn how to express their capacity and their talent in witnessing

Jesus. We have stories of children who learned from the Sabbath school classes how to share the stories of the Bible and their faith in Jesus to others. They learn to be active protagonists in the mission of the Gospel even in public meetings. As Joel states, God calls all to prophesize: old people, adults, fathers, young people and sons and daughters. Everyone.

I think we need to reflect on this, we need to study how to create occasions and how to offer to our children opportunities of service and witnessing for the community and to minister inside the church. Together with the contribution of the different ministries, this will help the church grow.

I have still in mind the experience I had almost nine years ago with a young church. I was appointed to lead a weekly prayer meeting. One Wednesday of October 2008, due to fog I arrived late. The brethren had decided to start and a teenage girl, Silvia, 11 years old, read a bible story and, at the end, just when I arrived, she started to comment the text. A passionate and well done comment with an appeal at the end. I myself and many others were

speechless and touched for the fresh message. Then I invited Silvia to preach in the church of Milano one Sabbath morning. I could not attend, but the members were profoundly touched.

So as leaders of Sabbath School for adults, for children, together with family ministries, women’s ministries, education ministries and with the training role of the pastors we must work in synergy for this goal: children, young people, adults, prophesying.



Paolo Benini
 EUD Sabbath School &
 Personal Ministries Director

News from Italy

A full day to worship God with songs

One of my colleagues, Leliana Barbulescu, asked me: "Why don't we do a Saturday of worship open to all the Sabbath School classes? A conference dedicated to music for Jesus. I'd like to name it: Praise Jesus!" What could I say? Lilli overwhelmed me with her initiative, making me believe in it, too.

We started all the preparations, from the advertising to preparing a form for signing up, geared toward children from the Sabbath School groups - from Beginners to Cornerstone Connections - to find volunteers, drafting the program; since we wanted the event to purely be worship to God, without being the least bit competitive, we were very careful in creating the program. Rather than the aptitudes of the children being exalted for their musical skills, we wanted the children to exalt God through their talents. The main ways to achieve this goal were to replace the applause with the singing of a very short Alleluia, while the audience held up colorful cards (all handmade) with the words "Praise Jesus."

Here's how it went: After lots and lots of praying, Sabbath, May 14, at the wonderful historic chapel of Villa Aurora in Florence, the first edition of the "Praise Jesus" Sabbath School Music Conference took place. There were about 100 entries and 300 guests, including the choirs, singing groups, soloists from different Italian cities, parents, friends and curious church members. When it finished, after a lot of effort and trepidation, and almost six hours of music, I found myself standing at the foot of the empty stage, stunned, embracing Lilli. We couldn't believe it. We felt such a thrill, overwhelmed by a sense of praise, worship and joy that permeated the entire praise event, and it will remain in the memory of more than 100 children and teens, their parents, the organizers and volunteers who completely gave themselves, from setting up the hall, to the technical part, ushering, and much more.

We had a foretaste of the heavenly atmosphere, where, one day, we will all together worship Jesus, our Savior.

Being convinced that children deserve our attention not only for a healthy mental and physical development, but above all, for their spiritual growth, we felt the need to give space and time for them to express their love for Jesus.

The program was also enriched by a family of young presenters: Mom, Andra and Dad, Christian with their little Aileen, who was only a few months old! In addition, we enjoyed the participation of two special guests, Rachele Lamuraglia Cupertino and Monica De Paolis Caccamo, who, in their own style, heartened us to dedicate our talents and abilities to serve God and give him praise.

Considering the great interest and enthusiasm proven by the participants, it is our aspiration, with God's help, to repeat this event every year. Therefore, we are longing for the next year's appointment...

Praise Jesus!

Mariarosa Cavalieri, CHM Director, Italian Union
Leliana Barbulescu, field coordinator



May 13-16: International Congress for Deaf and Deaf-Blind

It is the beginning of a global people movement that is releasing the giftedness of those who have been quieted, shunned and marginalized far too long.

It was an amazing experience: Two hundred-thirty deaf, deaf-blind and hearing met in Seville, Spain for the International Congress for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind. Attendees came from 15 countries mostly from the Inter-European Division which was the host division but individuals and groups also came from South America, Inter-America, United States, Korea, Latvia and Poland. Nine different languages were interpreted (the term used for sign language as contrasted with translated).

The theme for the congress was "Through My Hands"—a very fitting theme for a deaf congress. The event was held in Seville, Spain May 13-16. The General Conference Special Needs Ministries assisted with some of the financial expenses.

The congress featured spiritually inspired sermons presented by the deaf for the deaf but relayed in audible English for those who were hearing. A large portion of the time was giving to touring historical and religious sites in Seville and Cordoba. How ironic that the congress should be held in a city that generations ago during the Spanish Inquisition oppression for one's belief resulted in torture and death – of course, all for "good reasons."

To the contrary, this congress, sought to liberate and restore meaning to those who are so often marginalized. They spiritual gifts, intellectual insights and compassion for others to share. We have so much to learn from the Deaf culture. Symbolically this was a perfect place to hold this special international event. The grand finale was a Broadway type musical featuring biblical characters with both verbal and sign language. The leaders from the Inter-European Division were Corrado Cozzi and Taida Rivero. However, working with them was a large host of individuals who helped make this happen.

This congress is but a sample of things to come. It is anticipated that the General Conference will host a world congress for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind in 2019. The venue is yet to be determined. The vision is spreading – not only for the Deaf but for the blind, those with physical and mental limitations as well as for the orphans of the world.

The new General Conference ministry, called Special Needs Ministries, recently voted a new motto: "All are gifted, needed, and treasured!" This is not a program. It is the beginning of a global people movement that is releasing the giftedness of those who have been quieted, shunned and marginalized far too long. Join the movement.

Taken from: <http://news.eud.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2016-05-22/international-congress-for-deaf-and-deaf-blind-in-spain/6/>



Worldwide International Convention

IN A NUTSHELL

- What:** Worldwide International Convention
for Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries
- When:** May 10-13, 2017
- Where:** Budapest, Hungary
- Organizer:** CHM / FM / WM of the General Conference

**May 10-13, 2017
KEEP THE DATE!**



What you need

- Modelling clay (such as Fimo) in assorted colours
- Craft magnets
- Strong glue

Activity

Roll some clay to a thick sausage in your hands and shape in to the letters of your chosen name.

Decorate the letters by mixing two different coloured clays together to create a marbled effect, or using scraps of another colour to make dots or strips to press on to a letter.

Bake the clay following the manufacturer's instructions. When hard and cool use strong glue to attach a magnet to the back.

All done!

Tip: You can also make figures and forms like flowers as magnets.

**Crafts idea:
Name magnets**

Upcoming events

May 28 & June 4

Children's Conferences
Plovdiv & Varna, Bulgaria

June 3-5

KID Training
Poppi, Italy

July 23

Children's Sabbath

September 4-10

EUD joint Advisories
Sevilla, Spain

September 30-October 2

CHM National Training Course
"Learning Disabilities"
Florence, Italy

October 7-9

CHM Field Training Course
"Learning Disabilities"
Valle Grande (EN), Sicily, Italy

October 14-16

KID Training Course
Porto, Portugal

October 28-November 1

"Restart" Meeting
for Youth and CHM Directors
Florence, Italy

November 3-8

EUD Year-End Committee
Abufeira, Portugal

November 6-12

Multigenerational Week of Prayer
Parma, Italy

2017

May 10-13

**Worldwide
International
Convention
for Children's, Family
and Women's
Ministries**

Budapest, Hungary

Last but not least: new material



Table Talk has been written to help your family talk naturally at the family table about spiritual things and to give you quality time connecting with each other. Studies have shown that families that regularly share together around a family meal, grow together and pass on values. There are four different types of discussion starters, so that you can choose cards that fit with the monthly GraceLink Faith themes.



We have prepared an Italian version of Table Talk, and soon we will also have a Portuguese one. If you are interested in having the set in your language, please contact us.