

January 2017

Volume 2, No. 1



Newsletter

Contents

Supercharged for 2017.....	1
God's Names.....	1
CHM in GC.....	2
Jesus wants all of me.....	2
Out of the mouths of babes.....	3
In Synergy.....	3
Quick Relief for CHM Leaders.....	4
Ellen White on Children.....	4
Time Alone with God.....	5
Questions & Answers.....	5
Focus on Reformation.....	6-7
Object Talk.....	8
Upcoming Events.....	8
Last but not least.....	8

Credentials

producer: Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM

editor: Regina Fleischmann



Supercharged for 2017

Can you imagine 2017 is already upon us! Happy New Year! Have you made your new year resolutions? Can you see beyond the challenges and obstacles that beset you in 2016? Are you supercharged for lifting Children's Ministries to greater heights in 2017? Do you dare dream bigger dreams?

One bulletin board caption reads: "Ring in the New, Ring out the Old!" Yes, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can ring in more energy, more creative ideas, and more passion for reaching this generation of children. With the love of Jesus in your hearts, you can minister to children living in mega-cities, refugee children, children from other religious faith, at-risk children, and children with disabilities.

Because we believe that *Every child is a Disciple of Jesus*, and that we need to reach every one of them, our goal for this quinquennium is *Reach a Child, Reach*

the World. Yes, that means reaching out to the community through service projects and friendship. For example, North American Division's *Operation Wheel* will involve VBS children in raising funds to help purchase a minibus to transport refugee children to school, church programs, etc. in Arizona. Getting children to pack lunches for the hungry and homeless may be your goal for this year.

Getting involved in projects that reach children in the cities would be another rewarding experience for leaders. Organizing health fairs, sports events, music festivals, Messy Church, and many other new ideas will zap your energy. But just think how many children you can reach to share the story of Jesus?

Are you ready to try something bold? Incorporate in your programs provisions

Continue reading on page 2

God's Names:

El Shaddai - God Almighty

If someone *says* he can draw really well, would you believe him? Maybe he's teasing, or not telling the truth. Maybe he thinks he can draw better than he really can. But if he draws a picture and *shows* you that he can draw really well, then you *know* he can do it. After he proves he isn't teasing, doesn't lie, and understand what he can do, you know you can *trust* him.

All through the Bible, God has shown that He can be trusted. He has proved that He is God Almighty. Nothing is too hard for Him. He is all-powerful. He can do all things. He can send a big fish to save a man, make blind eyes see, bring the dead back to life, and quiet a storm.

God can do anything! He is El-Shaddai, God Almighty! Nothing is too hard for Him!





CHM in the world church

How many children are listed?

The statistics show that we have over 8 million children around the world church

How many countries/Unions belong to the world church?

13 Divisions with 60 Union Conferences, 58 Union Missions, 10 Union of Churches Conferences, 4 Union of Churches Missions, 362 Local Conferences, 270 Local Missions

Which activities are you doing for/with children?

Spiritual growth and nurturing programs like Bible camp, stewardship camps, Ellen White camp, Vacation Bible School, prayer conference, Messy Church, music festival, health EXPO, leadership training

What are your challenges?

- Need to translate resources into many languages
- Finding funds to assist unions and divisions with translation.
- Work with union/conference leadership to prioritize children in all aspects of church life.
- Work with union/conference leadership to appoint children's ministries leaders in caring for this aspect of ministry.
- Have pastors and leaders of local churches involve children in worship and the life of the church.

Which dreams and plans do you have?

- That children are given opportunities to use their gifts and talents in the church.
- That children and teens accept and become his disciples.
- That children be trained to be leaders now and today.
- That children be actively involved in sharing the gospel

Which products did you produce?

Leadership Certification course packages; coauthored God Loves Me 28 Ways with Charles Mills, and My Quiet Time With Jesus Prayer Calendar and Journal with Karen Holford

What is your program for 2016/2017?

- Collaborate with Youth Ministries in Global Youth Day to involve children and teens in community service
- Develop the theology of the child

to serve children with special needs. It will probably require more planning and new approaches, but don't these special children need to know Jesus too?

Continue to champion for the protection of children. Launch the *Enditnow* initiative and speak up against violence against children. There is no limit to your boldness!

Dear children's leaders, I challenge you to be supercharged with the power of God in 2017. Look past the obstacles towards your gifts and God's working power to lift your ministry to new heights of growth,

passion, and larger vision to reach children for Jesus. Have bigger and bolder dreams to help children *Say Yes to Jesus!*



Linda Mei Lin Koh
Children's Ministries Director
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



New every morning

Jesus is ready to help me. He is ready right now. He knows what I need. He wants me to have it. His well of love will never run dry. Yesterday's help is all used up. I need Him right now. So I will go and get my bucket. I will fill my bucket from the deep well of Jesus' love. And then I will pray!

"We... plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain."

2 Corinthians 6:1

Do/Did you have special event(s) that may inspire other Divisions/Unions/Conferences/Churches?

- Celebration of annual days: Children's Sabbath; World Day of Prayer for Children At Risk
- Reach the World International Conference in Budapest.
- Leadership training

Which particular book(s) would you recommend for reading?

- George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions.*

- Barry & Smith Hudson, *If Disney Ran Your Children's Ministry*
- Dale Hudson & Scott Werner, *100 Best Ideas to Turbocharge your Children's Ministry*
- Brian Dollar, *Talk Now and Later; How to Lead Kids Through Life's Tough Topic*

Linda was born and raised in Singapore where she taught school for twenty-four years on the elementary, secondary and college levels. She is married to Oliver Koh who pastors the Capital Chinese Church in Maryland. They have two grown sons and five grandchildren. She enjoys working with children and people from all walks of life.

Out of the mouths of babes...



A minister, arriving as a visiting speaker to a neighbouring church, decided to take a very informal approach with the children. Word had reached him of the strict and pious atmosphere of the Sunday school, and he decided he would introduce a refreshing change of approach. Sitting on the edge of a desk, wearing an open-necked shirt, he leaned confidentially towards the children. "Can anyone tell me," he asked them, "what is small, grey, eats nuts and has a large bushy tail?"

There was a long silence, then one small boy put up his hand and said, "I know the answer should be Jesus, but it sounds like a squirrel to me."

Taken from Watts M., "Children on the Loose", Mill Hill, London, 2001

In Synergy Invitation from the EUD President

Dear Children's Ministries leaders, teachers, parents and co-workers in discipleship journey with and for children.

As a new year just started we can easily imagine and be sure that many different challenges and opportunities are expecting us all along the year.

As children's ministries leaders, as Sabbath School teachers and as parents we have the great responsibility, moreover opportunity, to guide and help children to continue their journey and improve their personal relationship with Jesus, our best Friend and Great Saviour. It is not always easy and not given for granted to share our own experiences and relationships with our Father to allow the youngest sheep of the flock to continue to trust Him and understand His impact in our daily lives.

During the past year, every single month CHM leaders have been inspired by most of the different departments that are working in our Division, to catch the

possibilities and opportunities we may have to work together in collaborative projects and for the same goals. We tried to share this idea also by organizing the Joint EUD Advisories in Seville (Spain) in September 2016.

Children are an essential part of our spiritual life and we need to do our best to support them and make them aware of their gifts, talents and abilities by allowing them to be involved, as much as possible, in intergenerational activities and projects. This will enable children to understand better their mission and prepare them to be the future leaders of our church.

I would like to kindly invite and remind every leader in EUD to focus on this possibility of involving our children and teens in specific intergenerational projects. Let's consider 2017 as the turning point to have all generations involved in common mission projects and activities. This will help us to grow into a strong family of faith.

As we plan how to reach this goal, may God's most abundant richness fill our heart and overflow as a powerful river of blessing into the lives of all those He will place around us throughout the New Year 2017, especially the tender and youngest sheep of His flock! With much appreciation for your dedicated ministry!



Mario Brito
President of the
Inter-European Division

How should I plan the year? What's a good guide for how many activities to plan?

First, what do you and your church want to accomplish through your children's ministry this year? Spend some time deciding this before you even begin to think about programming for the year. Make sure the goals and objectives of your children's ministry are in step with the goals and objectives of your church. The balance in your programming comes from using these goals and objectives as your guide.

- **Determine your core programs.** These are programs you offer, no matter what your goals and objectives are. They could be Sabbath school, children's church, midweek programs, and perhaps vacation Bible school. What you do in these programs should help achieve your goals and objectives. Scrutinize these programs to see how well they help you achieve your goals and objectives for the year. Decide what you need to incorporate into these existing core programs to meet your goals and objectives.
- **Fill in the holes.** After shaping your core programs to help you accomplish your goals, find the holes in your programming. What still needs to be done that can't be done through the core programs? This helps you to see what programs to add to your children's ministry this year.
- **Consider the budget.** Will you have enough money to do everything you want to do? If not, prioritize your program needs. A program may be needed and it may be a really good idea, but it might not be essential to the coming year. Shelve the program, and plan to budget for it next year.
- **Volunteers.** Don't forget to take a realistic look at your people resources. Children's ministry coordinators are creative people and come up with hundreds of

great ideas for programs and events, but sometimes the staffing necessary to implement those ideas out-runs the available people resources. Ask if you have the people available to make the program successful. If not, maybe it needs to be put off until next year. Spend this year getting people excited about the idea so you have volunteers ready to go next year.

- **Coordinate with other church events.** Check your church calendar. Make sure a program you are planning doesn't conflict with something else your church is planning. Make sure all your programs and events are part of the church's master calendar.



Taken from Beckwith I., *Quick Relief for Children's Ministry Leaders*. Group Publishing Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 1998

Our children are the Lord's property; they have been bought with a price. This thought should be the mainspring of our labors for them.

- Review and Herald, May 6, 1909



NINETY-YEAR-OLD WOMAN GIVES BIRTH!

It's really hard to wait for a long time for something to happen. We become impatient and start thinking it will never happen. Read Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 to find out how Abram, now called Abraham, and Sarah's long wait was rewarded.

Think About It

- Sarah laughed and then lied. Why?
- Think about a time when you laughed or said, "Oh, sure!" when someone promised to do something. How did you feel when they actually *did* it?
- God is bigger than any of our problems. Think of one of your problems. If God can give a very old woman a baby, what can he do for you?



Prayer Starter

You are not an accident. God has a plan for your life as He did for Isaac's. Thank God for your life, and ask Him to make you what He wants you to be.

Facts and Fun

The name Isaac means "laughter"; Abraham means "father of a multitude", and Sarah means "princess". What does your name mean? If you can't find out, write something that best describes you.

Go deeper

Read Genesis 21:8-20; Psalm 139; Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Romans 4:17-22; Hebrews 11:11-12.

Taken from: Dall, J. et al.: *My Time with God*. Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, USA, 2000

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Question: What should I say to God when I pray?

Answer: When we pray, it's easy to always repeat the same thing. The prayer can become a routine, something you do without thinking. But we should think about what we say when we pray. We should also be honest to God. We should not pray to make ourselves interesting, but we should tell God what we want to tell Him. The "Our Father" can guide us when we want to speak with God. In our prayer we can thank God for who He is and what He has done. In prayer, we can confess our sins and tell God that we are sorry for the bad things we've done. We can also make requests to God - we can ask Him to help others, to strengthen and guide them. We can speak to God about everything that comes to our mind.

Key Text

"This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

Additional Texts

Luke 11:1-3; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:8; James 5:16

Note for Parents

When children pray, it can become a kind of routine. When you pray as a family, make children participate in different ways. For example, you can suggest that every family member prays about what happened during the day. Or you can make a list with requests that concern the family and use it when you pray together.



Taken from: Veerman, D. et al.: *101 Questions que les enfants se posent au sujet de Dieu*. Éditions Bérékia, Montréal, Canada, 1998



John Wycliffe
Great Britain

Martin Luther &
Philipp Melanchthon
Germany

John Hus
Czech Republic

John Calvin & Ulrich Zwingli
Switzerland

Huguenots
France

Peter Valdes
(Waldensians)
Italy

Peter Valdes

(c. 1140 - c.1205)

is credited as the founder of the Waldensians, a Christian spiritual movement of the Middle Ages, descendants of which still exist in various regions of southern Europe. Unfortunately, specific details of his life are greatly unknown.

John Wycliffe

(1320 - 1384)

was an influential dissident within the Roman Catholic priesthood during the 14th century. Wycliffe attacked the privileged status of the clergy, which was central to their powerful role in England. He then attacked the luxury and pomp of local parishes and their ceremonies.

John Hus

(1369 - 1415)

was a Czech priest, church reformer and a key predecessor to Protestantism. After John Wycliffe, the theorist of ecclesiastical Reformation, Hus is considered the first Church reformer, as he lived before Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli. He was burned at the stake for heresy against the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Martin Luther

(1483 - 1546)

came to reject several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. He strongly disputed the claim that freedom from God's punishment for sin could be purchased with money, proposing an academic discussion of the practice in his 95 Theses of 1517.

1517-2017: Anniversary of the Reformation

500 years of challenges and experiences with God's Word

The word "Reformation" is not new for Europeans and many of them are aware of the great impact that the Reformation had on our history and our culture. As Inter-European Division, we decided to celebrate in a special way this important anniversary to allow this significant event continue to impact lives and people in the world. Almost all countries belonging to our Division are ready with projects and activities to give visibility to this extraordinary Reformation. Children also need to know and hear about Luther, Hus, Calvin, the Huguenots, Waldensians, and many others that gave their all to allow people to have a different understanding of God and Salvation. Their experiences and their lives are a great example of bravery and bold-

ness giving courage to stand despite persecutions and threats of death. They put their lives in danger and did all that was possible to protect and preserve God's Word and allow us to have it and read it in freedom and peace. All along 2017, ideas and projects will be put in place to share this important event and inspire every generation to continue holding the flag of Truth and spreading the Gospel and give honor to those that never stepped back despite threats, coercions, tortures and persecutions. Let us celebrate Reformation with such vision in our hearts!

Corrado Cozzi

Inter-European Division, Communication Department

Ulrich Zwingli

(1484 - 1531)

was a leader of the Reformation in Switzerland. In 1519, he began to preach ideas on reform of the Catholic Church. In his publications, he noted corruption in the ecclesiastical hierarchy, promoted clerical marriage, and attacked the use of images in places of worship.

Philipp Melanchthon

(1497 - 1560)

was a philologist, philosopher, humanist and theologian. Together with Martin Luther, he was a driving force for the Reformation in Germany and Europe, and was also called "Praeceptor Germaniae" (Teacher of Germany).

John Calvin

(1509 - 1564)

was an influential French theologian and pastor during the Protestant Reformation. He was a principal figure in the development of the system of Christian theology later called Calvinism. After religious tensions erupted in widespread deadly violence against Protestant Christians in France, Calvin fled to Basel, Switzerland.

Huguenots

is a designation for an ethnoreligious group of French Protestants that follow the Reformed tradition. It was used frequently to describe members of the French Reformed Church until the beginning of the 19th century. The term has its origin in 16th-century France. Huguenots were French Protestants who were inspired by the writings of John Calvin and endorsed the Reformed tradition of Protestantism. Huguenot numbers peaked near an estimated two million by 1562, concentrated mainly in the southern and western parts of France. As Huguenots gained influence and more openly displayed their faith, Catholic hostility grew. A series of religious conflicts followed, known as the French Wars of Religion, fought intermittently from 1562 to 1598. The wars finally ended with the granting of the Edict of Nantes, which granted the Huguenots substantial religious, political, and military autonomy. However, between 1620 and 1685, these privileges were abolished and thus forcing the Huguenots to convert or flee in a wave of violent dragonnades.

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

Registration: <http://gcchildmin.org/resources/budapest.html>



Object Talk: Lighten up

Theme: Positive Thinking

Object: Dark sunglasses

Text: "Let us look only to Jesus. He is the one who began our faith, and he makes our faith perfect. Jesus suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame of the cross as if it were nothing. He did this because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne."

Hebrews 12:2



Application

(Enter wearing dark glasses.) It is really dark in here. Really dark. The ceiling is dark, the windows are kind of dark, and all of you look kind of dark. I wonder why that is. (Someone will respond that you have on dark glasses.) Oh, I guess that's true. I don't really need these glasses in here; I just left them on because it was easier than taking them off. That may seem kind of silly to you, but have you ever known someone who talked as if they *always* had on dark glasses? Someone who always looks on the dark side of everything isn't much fun to be around. Instead of being happy with the sunshine, he or she is worried because it might rain tomorrow. Instead of being glad to be at church he feels bad if he isn't sitting next to the right person. For some people, it's easier to be unhappy than to be happy. If you're like that, it's time to look at Jesus. He allowed many bad things to happen to him here on earth so that you and I could learn from his example. He was even willing to die on the cross so that you and I could be saved! When bad things happened to Jesus he thought about the joy that was waiting for him in heaven. What an example for us! Don't let problems keep you from remembering the joy we have because we belong to a wonderful God. Don't look on the dark side. Look up to the light of Jesus and stay focused on the good things we have because of him.

Prayer

Thank you for the joy we have when we fix our eyes on you. Amen

Taken from: Kokmeyer, V.: *Object Talks for any day*. Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 2001

Upcoming events

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)

Special Material for Children's Sabbath is being prepared

February 10-12, 2017

CHM Training Course
Belgium

March 11, 2017

Valdesian Child
Arad, Romania

March 12, 2017

Special Meetings in a School:
Seminars for parents
Craiova, Romania

April 21-24, 2017

National Spiritual Congress for the Italian Union
"Back to Jesus"
Intergenerational program with workshops for children

May 10-13

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

October 15-19, 2017

CHM Leadership Training Course
postponed to 2018

Special for German Speaking People

There will be a series on Reformation, starting on Friday, February 3, 2017. Every Friday (18:00), Saturday (14:30), Sunday (9:30) and Wednesday (18:00), one episode will be broadcasted. The themes are about the Waldensians, John Wycliff, John Hus, Martin Luther and others. Episodes can be watched online on www.fribos-dachboden.de



Last but not least: books worth reading



The Pocket Guide for Parents: Praying with & for Your Kids

As a parent, you have a great desire to make sure you give your children everything they need to succeed. One of the best ways you can do that is to pray for them regularly. Another great way is to teach them how to develop their own relationship with God through prayer.

Praying with & for Your Kids

With this life skill, they will be able to navigate all the twists and turns that the future will surely bring their way! This book was designed to help you and your child in this task.

Holford, K.: 52 Ways to Parent Happy Children

In this book, Karen Holford discusses a series of practical ways through which parents can enhance the lives of their children. Typical of Karen's approach, this book is very practical and filled with interesting and fun-filled ways to implement her suggestions.

Irrespective of the age of your child, or the level of your parenting experience, this book will surprise you with new ideas on how to make your efforts more effective.

