



Newsletter

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Credentials

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“Don’t you want to talk to Jesus?!” The Problem of Spiritual Abuse

I will never forget this scene: It is Sabbath morning. Church service. A young mother comes out of the worship room, drags the little daughter behind her shouting: “Don’t you want to talk to Jesus?!” And the little one crying, sobbing: “No, I don’t want to talk to Jesus.” What a sad story.

One of the most important developmental tasks of children is to gain trust and confidence in life. Religion plays an important part in this, because life for the little children is full of mysteries. Everything is alive, anything possible. The pet cat can fly, of course. It can talk and understands everything. Dear Jesus could walk on the water of the lake, of course. The pet dog can do likewise if necessary. When the child goes to bed, there is a protective angel at the bedside, maybe even more, of course. You don’t have to prove it or to argue about it. Anything is possible at this stage of mythological faith.

As parents or as the church we tell stories about Jesus. He likes children, even more, he loves them, protects them, is always with them. He understands when they laugh, when they cry. He understands even their little problems. And then, when our own child is disobedient, when he or she does not follow our rules, does not like to

pray or to sing the hymn or does not want to go to Sabbath school, then we punish the child? And we tell him or her that this Jesus whom they trust, who understands, is in reality always on our side, on the side of the parent, of the adult? Jesus is in reality the ally of the big ones, the mighty, the powerful? And every time the child does not follow the rules of the parent, Jesus is very sad, at least? As a disastrous result the “rebellious” child is alone, punished by the adults and abandoned by Jesus.

How can he or she develop confidence in faith? How will he or she ever understand the wondrous gift of righteousness by faith, when all the child experiences is conditional acceptance? The “if-then-game”? If you obey, if you go to church, if you pray, if you don’t get dirty on Sabbath, if, if, if... then you are a good child, then you get a reward, then you make the parents happy, then Jesus is smiling, then Jesus loves you. And if not? All too often I meet persons tantalized by inner doubt: Am I good enough, do I do enough, will I ever make it to heaven? Will God be satisfied when I pay double tithe, when I sacrifice money or talents, when I try hard to fight temptations

Continue reading on page 2

God’s Names: Jehova-Sabaoth The Lord of Hosts

All the men in Saul’s army were afraid of Goliath. He was a giant, big and strong, and he was mean. No one wanted to fight Goliath. No one except a boy named David. David wasn’t afraid. He was angry! Angry that Goliath would make fun of the armies of God.

David saw the big giant and his strong army ... but he also saw something even bigger. David saw the bigness of God, who is bigger than any giant, stonger than any enemy, greater than any army. David knew that God is Jehova-Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts.

A “host” is an army. El Shaddai has “hosts” of angels - armies and armies of angels - that He can send to fight for His people and for His great name!

Jehova-Sabaoth is always with His people. His mighty angels “guard [them] in all [their] ways.”



We can see and think about all the big, scary, sad, and hard things. Or we can see and think about Jehova-Sabaoth.



Lisa



Nilde

CHM in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division

How many children are listed in your Division?

Ca. 14.000

Which many countries belong to your division?

Japan, Korea, Mongolia, China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan

Which activities are you doing for/with children?

Among others, Children's Sabbath School, K.I.D., VBS, Children's Missionary Movement (CMM), Summer Bible Camps

What are your challenges?

There are more than 100 cities with a population of more than 1 million in our territory. Thus, one of the biggest challenges is how to reach children in these increasingly secularized large city environments where worldly success is top priority. There is a need for consecrated leaders, committed to working with and for children, investment in facilities for children's Sabbath School classes, funding for translations and development of material, and more involvement of children in church life, service and outreach.

Which dreams and plans do you have?

seeing children growing in their relationship with Jesus, serving with their talents

What are some programs or projects for 2017?

Launching Kids in Discipleship in Japan, introducing Celebrations book and DVD in Mongolia, Leaders' and teachers' training, First-Time-Parent's Project

Which books would you recommend for reading?

Ellen White: *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*

Lisa Clouzet was born in the USA, and serves now as Director for Children's/Family/Women's Ministries in the NSD. She is married to Ron, NSD Ministerial Association Secretary. They have three young adult children, Christoffer, Alex and Stefani

Nilde Itin Lust was born in Argentina, and now is Associate Director for NSD Children's/Family/Women's Ministries. She is married to German Lust, NSD Treasurer. They have two young adult children, Alexis and Brenda Annelise.

and to avoid any pleasures in life. When Peter met Jesus at the lake of Galilee, when he experienced the abundance of the goodness of Jesus, he felt his shortcomings, his misery. To our astonishment he was not happy about the catch of fish nor was he thankful to Jesus. He was afraid, he wanted to depart, to hide, to be left alone. And then he heard to words of Jesus: "Do not fear. I know you, I want you. Now." This is the miracle of unconditional acceptance. This is the end of the "if-then-game". We will never be obedient enough, never good enough, never pray enough, never sing enough to stand blameless before Jesus, even before ourselves. And when the fear crawls up at night in our bed and we feel miserable, then we hear the words: "Do not be afraid. I know you. I want you. Now." Was Peter worthy of this unconditional acceptance? The big-mouth Peter? "If all leave you, I will stand by you". Then he sits in the courtyard and swears that he never knew this man Jesus from Galilee. Jesus knows Peter and he accepts him, not partially, but totally. And Peters learns how to walk, to fall and to stand up.

Where and when will our children experience this miracle? This wonderful freedom of unconditional love? Our conviction is that there is a desire for good in everyone, even in this little sobbing girl. This desire for good is the point where God meets man, where he ties in with us, where his Spirit kindles trust and faith and brings us forward. We cannot grow through control, coercive power or punishment. Power and punishment may hinder some evil elements, but they never transform a person towards a

positive goal.

What then should the young mother have done? She should have left Jesus out of her own quarrel with her daughter. She is the parent and she should have dealt with the problem on a human natural level, not reaching up to a supernatural power to coerce obedience. She could have listened to the child, asked about the needs of her daughter, should have comforted her, and not be embarrassed by the looks of other people around her. She could have told the child that the behaviour was inappropriate. But she never should have made Jesus her ally because by doing so she committed what we call "spiritual abuse".

Too many leave our churches because they never felt accepted. Too many leave their faith behind because they experienced coercion and control, they never could develop trust and confidence in God because they never felt the warmth and the power of God's unconditional love conveyed through parents or church. What we need is the realization of the Gospel in our churches, in our lives, in our families. God is a God of unconditional love. What a message!



Johann Gerhardt, Prof., M. Div., D. Min. Theologian and psychological Advisor

Jesus wants all of me

Rise Up

Trouble will come. But I will not be afraid. God is here. He is bigger than any trouble. Nothing will ever separate me from His love. My hand is in His. We will go through this together. And we will reach the other side of the trouble.



Photographie.eu/Shutterstock.com

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

Romans 8:35

Out of the mouths of babes...



Morphart Creation/Shutterstock.com

The headmaster made an impromptu visit to a junior classroom. The pupils sweated with fear as he fired questions, one after another, which they failed to answer.

“Who made the world?” the headmaster raised his voice threateningly.

“Children,” he bent over the front row, “I want to know who made the world.” A small boy blurted out in terror, “Oh sir, please sir, it wasn’t me.”

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

In Synergy Special Need Ministry, Children’s Ministries and young people together to care

by Elsa and Corrado Cozzi, EUD Children’s Ministries and Communication Directors

At the beginning of August, about four thousand of young people from around Europe, as also from other countries of the world, joined in Valencia to participate to the Pan-European Youth Congress. It is an event that takes place every four years and it is an important appointment for the Seventh Day Adventist Youth and their friends.

During about 5 days, participants are involved in main sessions, breakouts and many other activities that motivate young people to focus on the importance to be effective Christ’s followers.

The choice of breakout sessions is pretty big to try to satisfy the many different wishes and expectations of the participants. Among the many there was also the Special Needs Ministry workshop. The purpose of the presenters of that workshop was to arise awareness and thoughtfulness of the participants regarding a group of people that are in some and many ways different but deserve support and attention as any other, either in the church community as in the society.

The allotted workshop room was full with young fellows from different countries and cultures showing a significant interest in trying to know better the topic suggested.

The issue of disabilities – which we prefer to define *different-abilities* – is a huge and challenging world with many different issues and matters. Life is totally different for a child, an adult, or an older person, this is even more true when we speak about disabilities and special needs.

The responsible and speaker of the workshop was Corrado Cozzi who presented the topic with the support of Taida Rivero, Special Needs Ministry in Spain, and Elsa Cozzi, EUD Children’s Ministries. The three of them presented Special Need topics from different perspectives to help participants to have a broader vision of this specific area of population.

A person who is deaf, blind, paraplegic, who struggles with de-

manding ways of life or who is for many reasons different than the majority, is in need of acceptance, help and support, but not pity. It is important to focus on this and act accordingly. In the case of children they are not only the ones who are impacted by their challenging lives but also their families that have to deal with them and help them to grow in an appropriate environment.

This workshop was an interesting combination of different departments working together to create awareness and mutual support. We wish and hope that this will continue and allow a greater support of people with special needs.



How do I go about counseling kids?

Unless you are a trained counselor, you need to know your limits in the area of counseling children. Children's pastors can certainly provide a listening ear to kids who are encountering problems. Part of your job should be to cultivate an environment in which kids feel comfortable coming and talking to you. However, kids may come to you with deeper problems than you are equipped to deal with - problems such as abuse, mental illness, or thoughts of suicide. You need to know when to alert parents. You need to know when the problem is too big for you to handle and when to refer the family to a trained professional. You also need to know your state's laws regarding your role as mandated reporter. Some state laws require church workers to report any instances of abuse that they know about or suspect.

Baring all that in mind, here are several ways to convey to children that you are a safe person and that they can come to you with their problems.

- **Get to know the kids.** First, be physically present to children. If kids know you, they will be more likely to talk with you when they encounter a difficulty. Kids need to see you as a person who will listen. Pay attention when kids talk to you, and this will establish your credibility as a listening person in their minds.
- **Respect confidentiality.** Sometimes kids are unwilling to talk unless they are assured you won't tell anyone. For the most part, you may promise to keep confidentiality with the kids in your church. But also tell them that you won't keep secrets when the situation they tell you about might hurt them or someone else.
- **Talk to kids about God.** Also remember that you may in a way represent God to the kids who come to you with a problem. This gives you a wonderful opportunity



to address faith issues with them.

- **Be an advocate.** You can sometimes play the role of advocate in a child's life. By establishing an atmosphere in which kids feel safe talking to you, you may be able to protect a child when few others will.
- **Support groups.** Programs exist to help you set up support groups for kids dealing with a variety of difficulties. For example, you can find specific curricula or programs for children dealing with divorce, a death in the family, a parent's illness, a move, or a parent's job change. These support groups offer kids a safe place to talk about their feelings and offer them life skills to cope with the emotional disturbances that come from personal crises.

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

It will pay to manifest affection in your association with your children. Do not repel them by lack of sympathy in their childish sports, joys, and griefs. Never let a frown gather upon your brow or a harsh word escape your lips. God writes all these words in His book of records.

- *The Adventist Home*, p. 309



Reptiles in the Bedsheet

Peter was staying with Simon, the tanner. Tanners cleaned animal hides to make leather, and their houses *stank!* But Peter had some attitudes that were even stinkier! Read Acts 10:9-28, 34-48.

Think About It

- Jews considered non-Jews unclean and sinful because they worshiped other gods, so Jews had nothing to do with them. What was God telling Peter?
- Why was this hard to accept? Is there anyone whom you find difficult to accept?



Prayer Starter

Is there anyone you look down upon? Honestly tell God how you feel. Ask Jesus to show you that He loves all people and to help you do the same.

Facts and Fun

Pour salt and sugar on a plate. Spin the plate around. Can you tell which is which? Like sugar and salt, outwardly people all look pretty much the same. But it's our "Taste" or our hearts that count. Peter had to learn that God sees the heart and all that matters is that a person believes in Him.

Go deeper

Read Acts 10:1-8, 11:1-26; Galatians 3:28; 2 Peter 3:9.

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

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Question: Why should I not speak to strangers?

Answer: Unfortunately, there are bad people in the world. Some of them want to harm children. That's why children are told not to speak to strangers. There is no law in the Bible that prohibits children to speak to strangers. But God said that you should obey your parents, so it would be bad to disobey them if they told you not to speak to adults you don't know. Even if your parents don't say anything to you, it would be wise not to speak to strangers. Of course, some strangers are good people, and some may need help. But generally speaking, I'd say it's a good thing not to speak to adults you don't know. So, it is not bad to speak to a stranger - it could be dangerous. That's why your parents tell you not to speak to strangers. They don't want strangers to harm you. If a stranger asked you for help, or if you see someone in difficulty, look for your father, mother, or another adult you know. Don't try to help on your own.



Key Text

"Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires."

2 Peter 3:3

Additional Texts

Proverbs 14:15; Romans 16:17-18; Ephesians 6:1-3

Note for parents

One way to help your child learn how to speak to strangers is to put him/her in the situation. This can give your child the possibility to train what he/she should say and do in a critical situation. Explain him/her as well that, in certain contexts, God wants us to be nice to people we meet.

Taken from: Veerman, D. et al.: *103 Questions que les enfants se posent au sujet du bien et du mal*. Éditions Bérékia, Montréal, Canada, 2000

Festival of Health and Awareness for Disabled

Children's Ministries of the FSRT (French Swiss Conference) participated in the Festival of Health and Sensitization for Disabled which took place on June 17, 2017, in Gland, Switzerland.

The Festival was organized by several ministries of the SDA Church, with contributions from the Swiss Federal Associations of Blind and Deaf People.

During the day, while there were plenary sessions for the adults, children participated in several workshops:

- a sensory trail to discover nature and its wonders with all 5 senses
- a film workshop, to observe and comment about situations of handicap
- a handicraft workshop (for different age groups) to build the body while discovering the characteristics and functions
- a sports workshop done with simulations of visual, hearing, and moving disabilities

- a workshop "5 senses" to guess odors, taste, objects, persons, and words
- a sign language workshop to learn how deaf people communicate
- a workshop "art and taste" with fruits of the season to experiment with imagination and creating one's own taste

This wonderful day helped everyone to enjoy the nature, with additional workshops for relaxing and dynamics.

During lunch break a health expo took place which was designed specifically for this occasion.

Of the children who participated some greeted their parents in sign language, one has tasted a nut for the first time, and another one recognized the outline of its body.

A rewarding experience, for all!

*Elena Melzi Zagara, FSRT Children's Ministries
Director*





Photos: Elena Melzi Zagara

Children's Sabbath: Stand & Shine

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)

Special Material for Children's Sabbath has been prepared and translated into some languages of EUD territory. If you are interested, please contact us.

Image: Samuel de Abreu



2017
EUD
Children's Sabbath

Stand & Shine

Coming Soon!



ON THE TRACK OF THE REFORMERS



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

EUD - Inter-European Division

**Object Talk:
Out of My Mouth**

Theme: Watch what you say - you can't take it back.

Object: A tube of toothpaste, plate

Text: "I hope my words and thoughts please you. Lord, you are my Rock, the one who saves me."

Psalm 19:14



Application

There are many ways to get toothpaste out of a tube. Some people neatly roll it from one end, forcing the toothpaste out the other end. Others squeeze the center. I need a volunteer to squeeze the paste out of this tube. I don't care how it's done. We'll keep it from going all over by holding it over this plate. (Choose a volunteer and hold the plate while the tube is emptied.)

Great job! That was part one. Now for part two, I need another volunteer. Are you ready? (Get response from the volunteer.) OK. Very carefully, I want you to put all the toothpaste back in the tube. (Without pausing.) I'll keep holding the plate for you. Let's see - maybe I can hold it on this side to make it easier. Can you reach that? Now, just carefully put it back in. (Pause.) Let me raise the plate. THAT should make it easier. Will that help? (Wait for volunteer to respond that it's nearly impossible.) Well, that's right. Getting the toothpaste out was much easier than putting it back. (Allow volunteer to sit down.) Our words can be like that. They sometimes come out of

our mouths quickly and without a lot of thought. Have you ever said something to someone and then wished you hadn't said it? can you put the words back into your mouth after you said them? (Discuss.) Just as it is impossible to put toothpaste back in the tube, it is impossible to take words back after they are said. Thoughtless words can make someone cry. If spoken in anger, words make others feel bad and make us look bad. Once the words are out of our mouths, it's too late. That's why it is important to be careful what we say. Even our thoughts must be good, because words often show what we are thinking. I've caught the toothpaste on the plate, so we didn't make a mess. But words can't be caught that way, and what we say can make a big mess. Let's pray that our words and thoughts will be pleasing to God.

Prayer

Lord, help us to think pure thoughts and speak words that are pleasing to 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 ready and waiting for your translation

September 1-3
Deaf Ministry: Training Course for Interpreters
Lisbon, Portugal

September 29-October 1
CHM Training Course
Poppi, Italy

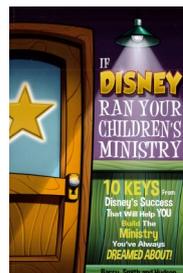
October 6-8
CHM Training Course
Vallegrande (Sicily), Italy

October 15-19
CHM Leadership Training Course
postponed to 2019
planned to be in partnership with Family, Shepherdess and Women's Ministries

AL TO GE TH ER
Wonderful
Exploring Intergenerational Worship
By Karen Hollard

Holford, K.: *Altogether Wonderful. Exploring Intergenerational Worship*
This book explores the "why" and the "how" of intergenerational worship. It provides a simple history of worship through the Bible, an exploration of Jesus' theology of childhood, and His own approach to intergenerational worship. It also contains practical information, and an emphasis on including children, not because intergenerational worship services are just for children, but because we have ignored their needs for so long that we have lots to learn about helping them to experience worship in a way that is meaningful to them. We have also deprived ourselves of the inspiration and gifts that they can bring to our worship services.

Last but not least: books worth reading



Barry, B., Smith, J, and Hudson, D.: *If Disney ran your Children's Ministry. 10 Keys from Disney's Success that Will Help You Build the Ministry You've Always Dreamed About.*
Finally, a book on children's ministry that is kid-approved. This book will help churches build a children's ministry of the highest caliber.

This book will challenge you to capture the imagination of children so they will grow up believing in a big God.



Hudson, D. and Werner, S.: *100 Best Ideas to Turbocharge Your Children's Ministry*
Kids' time at church can be the best hours of their week! This book gives you the tools and techniques to take your children's ministry to the next level... and impact kids' lives like never before. These 100 sure-fire hoe to's were developed by children's ministry leaders who've spent years fine-tuning these strategies that bring real success. Turbocharging your ministry is easier than you might think. Small changes will give you big results - from Bible learning that really lasts to making Jesus really irresistible to every child. Discover how to equip volunteers to love serving and stay for the long haul, develop a dynamic ministry area that kids love, rev up your vision and get your team excited, and so much more. You'll be ready to give your children's ministry the fuel and fire it needs to do great things for God!

Special for German Speaking People
A series on Reformation started 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

SERIENSPEZIAL ZUR GESCHICHTE DER REFORMATION
Hilft du, ich bin begeistert, sehr begeistert. Ich möchte mich für deine tolle Initiative bedanken. Ich bin sicher, dass du mit deiner Arbeit viel Gutes bewirkst. Ich bin stolz auf dich und hoffe, dass du weiterhin so viel Freude daran findest. Ich bin dir dankbar für alles, was du für uns tust. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Liebe und deine Geduld. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Treue und deine Ehrlichkeit. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Offenheit und deine Ehrlichkeit. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Liebe und deine Geduld. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Treue und deine Ehrlichkeit. Ich bin dir dankbar für deine Offenheit und deine Ehrlichkeit.