



# Newsletter

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**Credentials**

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## God's Names: A Strong Tower

Imagine being outside during a big storm. There is booming thunder, howling wind, and sheets of rain. You are soaked and cold. What would be your first thought? You might think, "I need to get inside!" Would you want to be inside a tent? Of course not! How about a big, strong, stone tower? You would feel very safe and protected inside the tower. The rain could not get in, the wind could not blow it over, and the thunder wouldn't be as loud in the tower.

Proverbs 18:10: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe". Just as a strong tower keeps you safe from storms, God's name keeps everyone safe who is trusting in Jesus. Does this mean that nothing will ever hurt you? No. It means that nothing will hurt you *forever*.

When you run inside from a storm, you are still wet and the storm is still there. When you run to God, all the hurts and hard things might still be there - but God is with you, and things are better and can't hurt you so much. God is strong and good, His children know they can trust Him.



## REACH THE WORLD

Issues Impacting Children, Women and Families

**BUDAPEST**

May 10th - 13th, 2017

## Reach the World - Children First

The first keynote of the multi-day conference was delivered by **Dr. Ella Simmons**, general vice president for the world Church. Simmons was clear and direct in her description of the modern family unit, an image characterized by significant dysfunction. Driving home the very reason the conference was organized, Simmons reminded attendees that "if we want to reach the world we need to remember that the first victories must be won in the home life."

Every delegate was impressed with the world-renowned researcher and statistician, **Dr. George Barna**, who in two presentations shared very practical statistics that leaders and parents can use in guiding children towards a Christian life and spiritual journey. His 2017 survey revealed that while 58-70% of parents see value in their children being exposed to extended family gatherings, church services, art exhibits and the Bible, children on average spend only two hours per week on these activities. In contrast, 33-43% of parents do not see value in their children being exposed to professional sports, television news, online content and current movies, yet children on average spend seven hours per day on these and related activities.

Barna then announced that statistically a very small amount of younger people

have what he called a "biblical worldview"—only 4% of 18-30 year-olds and 7% of 30-49 year-olds. **"We are in a crisis,"** Barna said. **"If the Church does not wake up and solve it, biblical Christianity in the United States is in jeopardy."**

The researcher then turned his attention squarely to parents, offering a statistical call to parental responsibility. He pointed out that **while children form their worldview by the age of 13, only 5% of parents with 5-13 year-old children in the US have a biblical worldview.** "Our children usually make their spiritual choices by default, acquiescing to cultural norms," he concluded.

Barna ended on a positive note, emphasizing that though not easy, worldviews can be changed through proper asking of questions and meaningful dialogue with children and teens, in an effort to "dislodge what culture has placed in their minds."

Closely related to Barna's research was content presented by **Dr. Kiti Freier Randall**—a pediatric neurodevelopmental psychologist from Loma Linda University Health. Randall, who works extensively with at-risk children—emphasized from the beginning the role of the

*Continue reading on page 2*



### CHM in the Euro-Asia Division

**How many children are listed in your Division?**

18,443

**How many countries/Unions belong to your division?**

10 Unions formed from the following countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,

**Which activities are you doing for/with children?**

Health expos, School of young preachers, Bible quizzes, Congresses for pastors kids, Festivals of children's crafts, Children's Town (a game familiarizing children with various city government offices and their role in the society), Camp meetings, Fairs where they sell children's crafts, drawings, children's clothes, toys and school supplies

**What are your challenges?**

The territory of our division is multi-ethnic, therefore we are facing challenges with translating and publishing various literature, books, songs for kids. Our division is the biggest in the world in terms of territory, that's why there is one more challenge – all Children's Ministries leaders cannot attend regular training programs.

**Which dreams and plans do you have?**

that all the books published in our division for kids, parents, teachers and CHM leaders would be translated into national languages. that we would open more Adventist Schools and the kids could get Christian education.

**Which products did you produce?**

Song books, Prayer calendar, Prayer journal, Games and Doctrines for children, Bible reading plan

**What are some programs or projects for 2017?**

Kids in Discipleship, Messy Church, Spirit of Prophecy for Children

**Which books would you recommend for reading?**

Leo Tolstoy, *Where Love is, God is*  
Ulrich Hub, *Meet at the Ark at Eight!*

*Zhanna Kaminskaya, originally from Moldova, is married to Michael Kaminsky and has two adult children and three grandchildren. She enjoys reading books, gardening, and likes animals.*

home in childhood development. "Although other supportive institutions in society play a role, **it is in the family that nurture is effective and meaningful.**"

Randall contrasted the idyllic statement with the reality that **children around the world are at risk from a great number of factors.** Lack of access to education, especially for girls, is a significant risk, leading to other risk factors such as poverty, drug use and an increased rate of teen pregnancy and gang violence. Childhood obesity is another risk factor, leading to "serious lifelong consequences."

At the same time, malnutrition and starvation continue to present a risk to children around the world, in addition to abuse of various kinds. "Trauma, abuse and neglect actually change the architecture of the brain," said Randall, who also informed participants that if a child is born healthy and they die before one year-old, the number one reason they will die is "because their parents will kill them."

Randall also spoke to a controversial subject, the risk factor involving technology addiction. "Too much, or misused technology can impact a child's physical and mental health," she explained, leading to negative impacts such as sleep disturbances, depression and anxiety. To spontaneous applause from attendees, the pediatric psychologist challenged parents not to expose children under two years of age to technology. "It is wrong when technology is raising our children," she said.

In her second presentation, Randall stressed the idea of resilience, "the capacity to maintain or develop competent functioning in

the face of major life stressors." Factors such as social support, connectedness, meaningful activity and exercise all lead to increased resiliency.

Randall also strongly noted that **bonding relationships are made during the first three years of life and if not successfully achieved will affect children right into adulthood. Even in the spiritual realm most choices for life have been made by age 13.** A radical suggestion: **Maybe we should be spending more on children and family** outreach and less on mega-campaigns!

The overall theme Children's Ministries contributed was "Children at Risk", speaking about HIV, affluent families, and drug addicted and at risk children.

Across the hall, the Children's Ministries department, led by Linda Koh, director, and Saustin Mfune, associate director, was exploring a topic—among others—with an unexpected twist. Seminars focused on impacting and ministering to children from **affluent homes** who are at risk, too.

Presenters shared several of the leading causes contributing to the possibility of emotional troubles within affluent environments, including excess pressure to excel exerted by parents attempting to stay ahead of the success curve. Another risk factor includes increased isolation typically experienced by children as parents become more affluent and, in general, busier and less connected as a result. Various principles and ideas were shared for effective ways to minister to children in these circumstances.

*with material from*

*Adventist Review and TED Communication*

Jesus wants  
all of me

**What God can do**

People will hurt me.  
But I won't let that  
make me mad. I know  
what God's love can  
do. His love can melt  
the coldest heart. It  
can change anyone! It  
can even change me.

*"Jesus did not commit Himself to them...  
for He knew what was in man."*

John 2:24-25

Out of the  
mouths of  
babes...



Jesus healed ten leopards and the one that lost his spots came back to thank him.

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

## In Synergy International Leadership Conference

Budapest, Hungary -- May 10-14, 2017

"It was indeed an international conference for we could network with many leaders from over twenty countries around the world church. We were greatly blessed by the outstanding plenaries by Drs. George Barna and Kiti Randall. Both reminded us about the utmost importance of nurturing the faith of our children when they are young. Dr. Barna urged parents to take on their vital responsibility of mapping the spiritual journey of their children seriously. Today's children are impacted by many sources, such as movies, TV, music, internet, books, magazines, peers, schools, video games, and others. Parents need to intentionally map out ways to help their children mature in their spirituality and to develop a biblical worldview.

Dr. Kiti highlighted the necessity of the church becoming the "village" to help build resilient children and youth in these times of confusing values, uncertainties, and adversities. Besides the family, the church has an important role to play in assisting families to come alongside the children to help them become strong in facing difficulties. It's my prayer that all the attendees will put into practice the things they have learned from both the plenaries and workshops."

Linda Koh  
GC Children's Ministries Director

It was a great privilege to be part of the Global Reach the World Convention in Budapest, Hungary, organized by the General Conference Children's Ministries', Women's Ministries' and Family Ministries' Departments in May 10-14, 2017.

Women make up a majority of

the Church and they actively engage in all Departments' and areas of Church life. Therefore, Women's Ministries ever since put emphasis on Interdepartmental Corporation. This Convention which was meant to deal with issues impacting children, women and families was very much welcomed by us and we were glad that 12 Women's Ministries leaders from different levels of our Division were able to participate in this convention. Women are mothers of the Children, women are part of marriage couples and they are part of the family. The plenum sessions were greatly appreciated, the topics were of great interest, even though we missed the balance. All topics were on Family and Children, and they only indirectly touched women's issues. We would have appreciated some topics specifically on women, which for mutual understanding would have been of interest to the others too. The breakout sessions for women were specifically on how to reach out to non-Christian people, a very important topic, which could have been of interest to all participants.

We returned richly blessed, not only by the topics presented, but maybe even more by the meetings between the meetings, the encounters in the hallway, at meal times or at the hotel. It is always good to see what happens in other countries, Unions and Divisions and to share experiences, challenges and joys.

Family Ministries, Women Ministries and Children Ministries could cooperate so well together, we need each other, we have common goals and common interests with a different approach. It seems we still have to

learn to understand each other better to be able to support each other in our common goal which is to help, support and encourage each other to grow nearer to Jesus our Saviour and to be ready for His coming.

Denise Hochstrasser  
EUD Women's Ministries Director

A Network was painted on the logo of our conference to show connectness. And I have taken the opportunity to make this network accessible for me – I connected with many of the participants from all over the world. Thanks to the organizers for this opportunity. Since I was in Budapest for the first time, I was happy about the venue. Many talks with brothers and sisters in charge once again made clear to me what Winston Churchill once formulated when he was asked how long it would take to free London from his filth. His answer was, "One day, when everyone comes back to his own doorstep." The lectures by Dr. Barna and K. Randall made this very clear when they showed how urgently we need to strengthen families, support women and protect children. Because too many families do not work in a healthy way – and as a result the society breaks. But information is not everything to solve that problem. Jesus has shown us that healthy life and a good communication needs active and authentic relationship and friendship. Once again: Jesus is our model – especially for our church and our mission: Reach the world.

Rainer Wanitschek  
EUD Family Ministries Director

### How does divorce affect what I do in children's ministry, and what should I do about it?

Divorce affects children's ministry programming in several ways.

- **Some children won't be at church every Sabbath.** When children are in the custody of parents who are living apart, they often spend the weekend with the noncustodial parent. This means that the child will probably not be in your Sabbath school every week. This has implications for the structure of the lessons and for projects done in Sabbath school classes. If a teacher plans a project to be completed in two weeks, it could mean that half the class won't be there to start it and the other half of the class won't be there to finish it.
- **Be aware of possible behavior problems.** Children whose parents are divorcing are often confused and angry about what is happening to their family. They may act out their emotions through inappropriate behavior.
- **Money is tight.** Single mothers and their children often have a lower standard of living than average. This may have implications for the types of events you hold in your children's ministry. Families with more than one child may not be able to pay for program handbooks or special events.
- **Be sensitive during holidays.** Having kids from divorced families in your church will affect the way you talk about holidays such as Mother's Day and Father's

Day. We can no longer assume that every child has a mother and father living at home. If it's been your custom to hold such events as father-daughter banquets, you may need to rethink them.

- **Safety issues.** Safety procedures become an issue when you are working with kids from divorced families. Custody issues are often heated and emotionally bloody. Churches may become prime targets for child-snatching in a custody battle.

These are all issues to consider if you are working with a lot of kids from divorced families. The more of these kids you have in your programs, the more it will change what you do in children's ministry.



Oksana Mizina/Shutterstock.com

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

Our most precious time belongs to our own flesh and blood. Never let your children hear you say, "I cannot do anything with you." As long as we may have access to the throne of God, we as parents should be ashamed to utter such a word. Cry unto Jesus, and He will help you to bring your little ones to Him, and to keep them out of the power of the enemy.

- Review and Herald, July 16, 1895



## Now you see til! Now you don't!

How do you feel about friends or classmates who keep on doing wrong things? How do you act toward them? Read Genesis 18:20-32, 19:1-3, 15-29 to find out how Abraham felt about his wicked neighbors.

### Go deeper

Read Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 86:15, Luke 17:28-30; 2 Peter 2:6-9

### Think About It

- Abraham cared about the people in Sodom who were not wicked. How many people were rescued?
- God loves us but we still suffer for sin. Do you think God is fair for punishing sin?
- When other kids try to get you to do bad things, what can you do to not give in to peer pressure?



### Prayer Starter

If you know someone who is sinning, ask God to help him or her realize that hat he or she is doing is wrong and ask for His forgiveness.

### Facts and Fun

From the top of the mountain near Hebron, Abraham could see the Valley of Siddim and the wicked cities far below. And he could see the smoke of the burning cities. Lot was much closer, and he thought the world was ending!

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

## CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

**Question:** When my parents have a quarrel, it is bad to tell them to stop?

**Answer:** Sometimes parents disagree, and they have to discuss. Just because husband and wife are discussing doesn't mean that they have serious problems. Even people who love each other will disagree from time to time. To be in disagreement is not bad, and when people have a quarrel, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. It is not your duty as a child to make sure that your parents don't have a quarrel. You can tell them what you feel, but don't try to stop them. Pray for your parents when you see them have a quarrel. Ask God to help them understand each other and give them wisdom when they have a quarrel.

However, when they start to scream, blaspheme and to hit each other, it could happen that you need to tell another adult who could come to help your parents. This person could be your pastor.

### Key Text

"Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own."

Proverbs 26:17

### Additional Texts

Philippians 4:2



Alexander\_P/Shutterstock.com

### Additional Questions

If it is bad to have a quarrel, why do many parents do it? Do adults always know better than children?

### Note for parents

It can be difficult for a child to hear his or her parents have a quarrel. For sure you will have a quarrel from time to time. But pay attention as to how you argument, especially when your children are there. Do not blaspheme, don't call the other names, and don't use information you have against each other. Be rather calm, lower your voice, recognize the position of the other, explain your own position and suggest a solution. Show your children that there can be a solution to your disagreements, and that everything can take place quietly and with love.

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

## Reactions to the International Leadership Conference

It has been a great opportunity to participate to the CHM FM WM convention in Budapest.

The main goal of this event was to bring together worldwide leaders from those departments and try to focus on common issues to consider the possibility to work in synergy for essentially the same population.

When we speak about children, families and women are involved in their world in many ways. When we speak about family, women and children are part of it. Women are involved in family life and are the privileged category of persons that plays an important role in children's and families' life. Those 3 departments are tightly connected and the idea to look and consider common grounds was good. Actually, these three ministries have also a lot of connection and common grounds with some other departments and ministries of our organization as, for instance, Youth, Ministerial, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, and so on.

Dr. G. Barna and Dr. K. Randall challenged all participants about the importance of creating the appropriate environment and care for the youngest ones. If everyone who participated to this Convention will try to find ways to open more and stronger connections among departments, I think that we will see great changes and shifts in our churches.

We have a great privilege and impact in our generation and in the ones to come and we cannot ignore it any longer. During her presentation, Dr. K. Randall quoted an African Proverb: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito."

Let's never think that we cannot make the difference and do our best to work for changes and opportunities of interaction.

*Elsa Cozzi, EUD Children's Ministries Director*

An international and yet inter-ministerial meeting is undoubtedly a benefit for those involved in it. Indeed, who has benefited from this meeting were the three departments represented: Children, Family and Women's Ministries.

But for outsiders, as I am Communication Department Director, participating for the appropriate report, this meeting assumes a different value. Seeing the Conference from a purely neutral point of view, we can better understand the synergy in communication that can be found between different departments.

Personally, I found the initiative very interesting and enriching, even if I would have extended it to other departments like Education, Youth, etc.

I think working in network not only gives better results, but also better incentives, in terms of improvement. And for that we are already on the right path.

*Corrado Cozzi, EUD Communication Director*



Photo: Corrado Cozzi



Photos: Adventist Review, TED Communication, and Facebook

## Children's Sabbath: Stand & Shine

**2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)**  
**Special Material for Children's Sabbath**  
has been prepared and we are waiting to receive translations.  
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: God knows my name!**

**Theme:** God knows and cares for each one of us

**Object:** License plate

**Text:** "I will not forget you. See, I have written your name on my hand."

Isaiah 49:15, 16



**Application**

Every car has a license plate. Not only does it show the country the car comes from, but it also includes a few numbers and letters that no other car has. Why does a car need a license? (Discuss.) Yes, the license plate tells us where the car belongs, and who owns it. If the car is lost or stolen, the license number will help the police find the car again, so they can get it safely back to the owner.

People don't wear license plates. I'm glad, aren't you? I'd hate to walk around with a number on my back. Yet, God made each of us different from everyone else. Do you think he'll forget us, or get mixed up? (Discuss.)

We don't need a license plate taped to our back because God knows each of us by name. The Bible says your name is written in the palm of God's hand. How does that make you feel? (Special, loved, safe, etc.)

We don't have to worry about getting lost, or being taken away from God. He is right beside us. We don't need to worry that God will forget who we are. God knows who we are, and that we belong to him. We are safe in his love.

**Prayer**

It is very good to know we are special, and that our names are written in the palm of your hand. Thank you for your love. Amen.

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

**Upcoming Events**

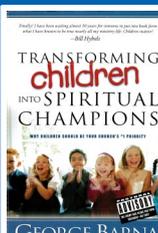
**2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)**  
**Special Material for Children's Sabbath is ready and waiting for your translation**

**June 16-18**  
 KID Training  
 Milano, Italy

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

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

**Barna, G.: Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions**



In the simplest terms, cultivating a biblical worldview means learning to think and act like Jesus. Many parents have never had early spiritual training, so they look to the church to provide it for their children. The problem is, churches usually focus on teens and adults - failing to realize that a child's moral development is set by the age of nine. The answer? Barna says that churches must begin now to come alongside parents and equip them to provide their children - at the earliest age possible - with biblical precepts that will protect them from a barrage of worldly ideas and teaching hostile to the biblical worldview.

**Last but not least: books worth reading**

**Barna, G.: Revolutionary Parenting**



Determined to learn the secrets of those who've raised spiritual champions, author George Barna conducted a series of surveys and thousands of personal interviews with both young adults and their parents. In the process, he was able to uncover a number of common denominators to parenting success. Some of his findings will encourage you; others will surprise you. But be forewarned - raising a spiritual champion takes Revolutionary Parenting.

**Special for German Speaking People**

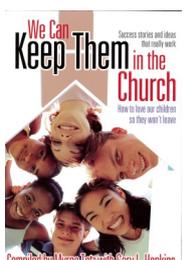
A series on Reformation started on Friday, February 3, 2017. Every Friday (18:00), Saturday (14:30), Sunday (9:30) and Wednesday (18:00), one episode will be broadcasted.

The themes are about the Waldensians, John Wycliff, John Hus, Martin Luther and others.

Episodes can be watched online on [www.fribos-dachboden.de](http://www.fribos-dachboden.de)



**Tetz, M & G.: We can keep them in the church**



Picture ten young people from your church, some of them may be your own children or grandchildren. Got their faces in your mind? Mentally divide the group in half. Now, ask yourself, "Which five am I willing to lose?" This is a book of action, not heory. Through stories, interviews, and personal testimonies, some of our church's best and brightest explain how they are making a difference in the lives of young people - differences that onnect them with the church before they walk out the door. Church leaders share a wealth of specific actions that members can take to draw young believers into church fellowship and relationship with God.