

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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Kids of the Kingdom

God's Bible Promises for kids

Each new day is a new chance to wake up with God!

"Every morning He wakes me. He teaches me to listen like a student. The Lord God helps me learn."

Isaiah 50:4

God does not always answer yes to every prayer you pray. Sometimes he answers "I have a better way."

"Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

from: Daly, R., "God's Little Book of Bible Promises for Children". Autumn House, Grantham, Great Britain, 2000

Happy New Year to all the children's directors and leaders of the Inter-European Division.! Can you imagine 2019 is already upon us? But just think, you have another entire year to impact children for eternity!

Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." But have you wondered what role do children have in the Body of Christ? It is such a simple question with an even simpler answer, but it is often overlooked in the business of all the caring and planning.

Children in the kingdom are our **brothers and sisters** in Christ. They are joint heirs along with us. Sure, they wiggle and squirm (and all sorts of other things), but they are joint heirs of the kingdom with us. Do you see them as such? Treat them as such? Plan your programs with that in mind? So often

it seems that the focus is on keeping them quiet and out of trouble, when that should be a sideline benefit of children's ministry.

Children's ministry is not just any ministry. Children's ministry is ministering to a special people group of the kingdom. A really cute, adorable, and active people group whom God has endowed with various gifts and talents. So next time when one of these children is bugging you, look him square in the eye and say, "I am so glad you are part of the kingdom." It's important to recognize that children are important to all of us in the life of the church.

One convention had this beautiful theme: "Train A Child Today; Build the Church Tomorrow." Isn't it a powerful theme! Yes, building tomorrow's church begins with today's children! Don't hesitate any longer. Begin to train our children now so they can use their vari-

CARING FOR KIDS



What do children truly need to grow up happy? to feel that they fit in and matter? to believe that they are loved? They need you—you and other caring adults to genuinely be there for them as they're growing up. They need to know you care, not just on special occasions, but *every* day. How do you do that? By accepting, guiding, and loving them in simple, yet meaningful ways. You don't need a lot of time and money; you don't have to be a parent, teacher, or coach. Sincerely Showing children you care can make a difference, helping to bring out the best in them—and in you.

Notice them.

Smile a lot.

Acknowledge them.

Learn their names.

Seek them out.

Remember their birthdays.

Ask them about themselves.

Look in their eyes when you talk to them.

Listen to them.

Play with them.

Read aloud together.

Giggle together.

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ous gifts of preaching, praying, teaching, singing, writing, reading Scripture, and serving the community to glorify God. Don't press the **Pause** button now to wait till they are a little older. Begin today and advance forward with the training of these young leaders.

But don't forget the children who have never heard the name of Jesus! Right now, you have many displaced children in your territories; children who are refugees in a foreign land, children who need physical and emotional comfort, and children whose world had been shattered because of abuse, neglect, or warfare.

Be creative, be resourceful, and be bold to step out of your comfort zone. Try new and novel ideas of ministering to these children. In reaching the children, you will be reaching their parents, too.

Impact the next generation and their families for the kingdom. Jesus will fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit to touch the lives of children, to enable you

to teach them to love Him as you empower them to utilize their talents and gifts to serve God and their community.

One other thing, a leader needs to grow on the job. So be sure you find time this year to attend conferences or free webinars and network with other children's leaders so as to expand your ministry relationships and create opportunities for wider collaboration and service. Remember, individually we are a drop of water, but together we are a mighty ocean. As an African proverb says: "You can go faster alone, but you can go farther together."

Enjoy this new year of challenges, opportunities, and fun with the children. Anchor these **Kids of the Kingdom** deep in the Word of God and in the love of Jesus! ♦

Linda Mei Lin Koh
General Conference
CHM Director



JESUS

wants all of me

Available

What do you want to do today? If you stop and think for a minute, you will remember a lot of things you have to do. Some children have more commitments throughout the day than many adults. They are involved in playing a sport, taking musical instrument lessons, learning a foreign language, taking a painting or sculpturing class... Whew! They feel so busy that they can't make time to be with God. They

would even like to have a special time for worship, but they can't. So then they leave a time to pray, read Bible stories, and praise God for later.

If this happens to you, talk to your parents immediately. Nothing—regardless of how interesting it may be—should completely take up your time, to the point where it steals the time you should spend worshiping God.

“Speak, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel 3:10

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, S. *Talking with God*. Editorial Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

GUILLAUME (3 YEARS)



When I'm big, I want to look like Daddy, only with muscles.

From: <http://www.enfandises.com/en/bibliotheque/cat-39-dad/phrase-22026.html>

IN SYNERGY

ADRA and Children Global Citizenship Education

Just few short days ago, we have been celebrating the birth of a baby named Jesus. The birth that changed the course of human history and turned this world up-side down. The festive time was for the majority of us filled with joy. We were surrounded with people we love the most, sounds of beautiful songs, sweet chocolate, smell of cinnamon and funny gifts.

But the most precious gift remains the same throughout the centuries. The gift of Love. The gift of a perfect little baby, who grew up and became a perfect teenager. And now this same man, who gave His life for us and our children, is a perfect Parent to us all.

Every parent and every teacher dreams a dream for his or her children. A dream of prosperity and happiness. God is dreaming the same dream for us. And this is why He created and called us. To fulfill His dreams of love and prosperity for humanity. He has put us in this special time of human history, to live a life of Love.

What does it mean to love? Love is not just an emotion, it is also God's way of living life. And this is something we are going to explore in year 2019. We will step into the exciting journey of loving humanity and making this world a better place for every human being. Together we will be creating different ways of serving humanity, so all may live as God intended. Lives abundantly filled with

love, compassion and justice.

A special type of education, called Global Citizenship Education, aims to empower learners of all ages to assume active roles, both locally and globally, in building more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure societies.

It is based on the three domains of learning - cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioural.

- Cognitive: knowledge and thinking skills necessary to better understand the world and its complexities.
- Socio-emotional: values, attitudes and social skills that enable learners to develop affectively, psychosocially, and physically and to enable them to live together with others respectfully and peacefully.
- Behavioural: encourages conduct, performance, practical application and engagement.

The sustainable development goal on education, (goal number 4 and target 4.7), calls on countries and communities to "ensure that all learners are provided with the knowledge and skills to pro-



mote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development".

So, be ready in the next few months to walk this path of leading our children to be living the lives of love and seeking the wellbeing of others.

Maja Ahac
ADRA Eurpoe
Advocacy Coordinator



Where are the borders?

In last few years, we have been trying to find paths and opportunities to open the doors of our Church community for people with different kinds of special needs – and this is true for children, too. Although people with special needs represent more than 10% of the population, they have remained, to a greater or lesser extent, aside of our interest and unaware of the good news of the Gospel. It's time to invite them to Christ! All the more so that many of them already express an interest in becoming a full part of the Church.

One of the most active groups is deaf people and those with a hearing impairment, but we also want to address and invite people with visual impairment, physical disabilities, mental or learning disabilities, people with communication disorders, or with any other kind of disadvantage – including social and cultural disadvantages. In our families and congregations, we can meet more and more frequently with children with ADHD syndrome (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) or with autism spectrum disorders, which are not always accepted by others with comprehension. For parents, the education of such children is a challenging task as well, and it is time to support those who care for children with special needs, as well!

We all need to get rid of many

prejudices and myths in relation to those who are different. Indeed, the people with special needs made probably the majority in crowds following Jesus (Matt. 15:30) – and they also have to be part of Christ's body today (1 Cor. 12:27). If

Jesus welcomed the kids around him (as those who belong to the kingdom of God – see Matt 19:14 etc.), he certainly did not miss children with special needs. He himself takes care of such people and even identifies himself with them directly (Matt. 25:40). Though God certainly does not consider disability or disadvantage of a man as something beneficial and natural, people with special needs were never rejected by him. And he is expecting the same from us! We are to accept the most needed (e.g. James 1:27), because even the smallest among the small ones and the weakest among the weak ones should co-create the body of Christ. Nobody can be excluded simply because of his or her



difference and disadvantage. The Lord's grace knows no boundaries in the form of an unacceptable peculiarity. To those who have been rejected and disadvantaged in human society, the Lord promises to return and to be equally included in His people (Jer. 31:8-9, Mic. 4:6-7, Isa. 35:4-10, Luke 14:21). What a privilege that we can participate in this plan of God today!

Josef Slowik, PhD
University of West Bohemia
Department of Pedagogy



Christ, the Majesty of heaven, said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Jesus does not send the children to the rabbis; He does not send them to the Pharisees; for He knows that these men would teach them to reject their best Friend. The mothers that brought their children to Jesus did well.... Let mothers now lead their children to Christ. Let ministers of the gospel take the little children in their arms and bless them in the name of Jesus. Let words of tenderest love be spoken to the little ones; for Jesus took the lambs of the flock in His arms and blessed them.

The Adventist Home, p. 274



Ralphie, come home



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Incredi-Biblical

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."

Luke 19:10

Jenna sat on the curb, shoulders slumped, her eyes raw from salty tears. Every tiny movement of grass caught her attention, and she strained her ears to every sound in the distance.

Ralphie had vanished. Jenna had knocked on every single door in the neighborhood and called his name until her throat was dry, but there was no sign of the little Yorkshire terrier. She even carries a handful of his favorite treats, hoping to somehow entice him home. But he was gone.

As light faded from the sky, Jenna

fought against the realization that she might never see Ralphie again. She wandered through the neighborhood, looking in all the same places she'd searched before. Her heart would not let her give up when Ralphie still needed to be rescued.

This must be how God feels about His lost people, Jenna thought. She suddenly felt like she understood God's heart a little bit better—it must be about as broken as hers.

Just before dark, Jenna saw a man walking toward her with a bundle in his arms. "Are you looking for this?" he asked.

"Ralphie!" Jenna ran toward the man, overwhelmed with relief as she saw her terrier's face. "Thank you!" she said gratefully.

Jenna couldn't help feeling sorry for God. He was still waiting for *His* loved ones to come home safely.

Info Splat

In Denali National Park in Alaska, the average cost of providing search and rescue services is more than \$100,000 per year.

React now!

If you knew someone was lost, would you help search? What about those who are spiritually lost?

From: Bockmann, M. et al.: *Elasti-Brain. 365 Devotions to Stretch your Mind and Shape your Faith.* Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2008

SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



Will our animals go to heaven?

– Kendra, 13

People and animals were never supposed to be separated. In Eden God told Adam, "Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground" (Genesis 1:28, NIV). "[God] brought [the animals] to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name" (Genesis 2:19, NIV).

Not only did the Creator ask Adam to care for the animals; He even let him name each and every one of them! This was not just a passing relationship God was forming between people and nature. It was designed to be an everlasting bond.

Sin really messed things up. It

created enemies where there used to be friends, distrust where there used to be harmony, and introduced to both human beings and animals the most heartbreaking result of evil—separation from God through death.

I still miss a dog I had when I was a kid. His name was Toodles, a fox terrier-beagle mix. He was my best friend in all the world. Now he lives only in my memory and fading photographs.

Kendra, I believe that someday, when

sin has been wiped from the universe, and Eden has been restored as the Bible promises, the everlasting people-animal bond will be reestablished, and my little Toodles will run by my side through the meadows and mountains of the new earth. No, there is no Bible text to prove it one way or the other. But since God says He's preparing a home for me, He's got to know what I long to have waiting at the front door of my heavenly mansion. And God can do anything.



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From: Mills, C.: *Secrets from the Treasure Chest. Questions Kids ask about Life.* Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 1996

Bullying

Dealing with Tough Relationships

While schools have come under scrutiny because of violent incidents, churches often feel exempt from having to deal with the bullying issue. Church is supposed to be a safe place, right? But the truth is that bullying happens wherever kids are. As a children's minister, you can take concrete, practical steps to thwart bullying and to build a caring community among the children you shepherd.

The Basics

Bullying is the deliberate attempt by a person or group to harm or intimidate others. One of the first steps to stopping bullying behaviors is to recognize the signs and symptoms. But be aware that bullying often happens right under the nose of a caring adult. Bullying can be subtle, so you need to know what to look for. It may come in three forms: physical, verbal, or social. The following signs and symptoms will help you identify when someone is being bullied.

- **Physical**
While physical bullying is the most common form adults look for, it's often the least common form of intimidation in children. And even when physical bullying is present, the signs are often subtle and can be mistaken for various activity-related injuries. For example, you might notice bruises or abrasions that are difficult to explain. Further, if a child complains of feeling sick without showing symptoms of an illness, shows uncharacteristic nervousness, poor posture, or a low energy level, bullying may be the cause.
- **Verbal**
Verbal bullying may take the form of jeers, taunts, put-downs, and insults—all devastating to a child's self-esteem. Keep in mind that bullies are masters at playing their trade out of the earshot of adults. If you suspect bullying is taking place among the children you minister to, you're probably correct. Emotional reactions can range from increased fear and anger to withdrawal. Watch for unusual outbursts of anger, a significant decrease in spoken words, and a definite increase in crying and sadness.

- **Social**
Social bullying can be more powerful than either physical or verbal bullying and it's the form most favored by girl bullies. The bully shuns and ostracizes the victim from the group. Signs of social bullying may include spreading gossip and rumors, the deliberate exclusion or isolation of a child, and hostile body language or expressions. Rolled eyes, aggressive staring, and derogatory gestures often take place behind an adult's back. Bullied children may refuse to attend school, avoid certain activities and children, cling to loved ones they trust, develop a pattern of playing alone, or have an unhealthy attachment to one or both parents.

Care Tips

If you suspect that bullying behavior is occurring, here are some steps you can take.

- Pay attention to targeted kids. If you hear kids refer to another child as "loner", there's a good chance that child is being targeted. Hone your listening skills. Be alert for telltale signs.
- Teach children how to respond. Don't let any situation reach the "boiling point." Encourage kids to talk to a trusted adult long before exploding in response to bullying.
- Encourage kids to report bullying. Teach your kids that it's not only OK, it's the right thing to do, when they report bullying to a trusted adult. Encourage kids to stand up for themselves and others—either during the incident or by reporting it. Make sure that both bystanders and targets know that reporting bullying is not tattling.
- Deal with bullies sensitively. Understand that bullying children may be bullies at home. Change the pattern by encouraging good behaviors and creating situations that'll help these kids succeed in "being good." Give bullies the opportunity to serve others and experi-

ence the positive emotions associated with putting someone else first.

What not to say

Every bullying situation has unique circumstances. Try to consider the history, current facts, and future implications of each situation.

- "You just need to toughen up." Such comments are insensitive and will hurt the child and make him or her feel even weaker. It may be that the child is already acting as "tough" as he or she can. Teach kids to advocate for themselves by talking to a trusted adult before the situation escalates.
- "God will always protect you from being hurt." While God *does* protect us, sometimes he allows difficult things to happen. And we can learn and grow from these things. Pray with the child for strength.
- "You need to learn to fight back." Encouraging a child to use physical force such as kicking, hitting, or pushing to deal with a bully often makes matters worse by adding fuel to the fire. A child should learn how to stay safe and seek help from an adult rather than reacting in anger and violence.

What to say

- "You did the right thing by telling me." This validates a child's difficult decision to bring the matter to an adult's attention.
- "I care about you." This is always a good thing to say in a difficult situation.
- "You're a cool kid, and God has great plans for your life." Let children know that they are uniquely created, gifted and valued by God. Help kids develop healthy self-esteem based on their worth to God and awareness of his great love for them.





”Preach less and educate more!”

“My ministering brethren, do not think that the only work you can do, the only way you can labor for souls, is to give discourses. The best work you can do is to teach, to educate. Whenever you can find an opportunity to do so, sit down with some family, and let them ask questions. Then answer them patiently, humbly. Continue this work in connection with your more public efforts. Preach less, and educate more, by holding Bible-readings, and by praying with families and little companies.”

— Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, 193

Being persuaded by the divine inspiration of this advice,

Being fully aware that all those dealing with children and youth are in great need of bidirectional communication and training,

Being overwhelmed with the shortness of time and the urgency of our mission,

Being under an obligation to indicate our fellow workers, through bidirectional dialogue, the way towards those aspects of our mission that are extremely compelling,

In agreement with the EUD priorities for 2015-2020, which consider education and children strategic areas,

From the very first monthly written

collaboration of our departments, I kindly suggest to all our readers to militate in favor of using wisely the time available during either formal or informal church meetings, inserting in the running-sheets of all these, special time for general and specific training. The short training sessions will fit to the reality and the strategies of the local community.

Our church has an educative role! This initiative does not request to supplement anything of what we already have (time, money), especially as our church departments turn out on a regular basis a significant amount of materials adapted to training and formation. Rather, this initiative is a fervent appeal to properly understand,

urgently improve and wisely extend the true training at every church level.

This opening should not be a new label affixed to the same church reality, but the premises of an effective change, sustained by our solemn oath that “we will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.”

P.S. I am delighted to meet you on a monthly basis, through the agency of this newsletter. Starting next month, we will step forward, dealing with topics related to both our departments (Education and Children’s Ministry) and worth taking into consideration during the suggested training sessions.

CREATIVE WORSHIP IDEAS FOR BUSY FAMILIES

God Loves Everybody

Bible Connection

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10, NIV).

Things you need:

- Pictures from magazines with photos of people from around the world
- Photos of each person in your home
- Paper, paper glue, scissors, marker pens, and superstrong glue
- A large red heart cut from cardstock, along with leftover cardstock scraps
- Hole punch
- Thread, yarn, or twine

Worship activities

1. Write the Bible verse on the large heart. Punch some holes along the lower sides of the heart so you can hang pictures from them.
2. Paste the photos of your family onto paper or leftover cardstock and cut them out. Leave a small tab above each person's photo. Punch a hole in each tab and hang the photos from the heart.
3. Find pictures from people all over the world, so that you have a wide variety. Paste them to leftover cardstock, cut them out, leaving tabs above each photo. Punch holes in the tabs, and hang them from the heart too.
4. Talk about everyone in the world being tied to God's heart because He loves them all the same, regardless of what they look like, where they live, what they do, and whether or not they love Him.
5. Tell your children that God always loves them—even when they make mistakes or forget about Him or disobey Him. Nothing can separate them from God's love. Read Romans 8:38, 39.



6. Cut two small identical cardstock hearts. Write Romans 8:38, 39 on one heart and your child's name on the other heart. Stick them together with strong glue to illustrate that God will never, ever stop loving them.

Prayer

Hold hands and thank God that nothing can ever separate you from His love. Or make a card to thank Him for His incredible love.

Scientists Wanted! - Why we should not scare our kids away from science



In this day and age the words *science* and *religion* are often perceived as opposite and even incompatible. Science is supposed to be about “objective reality”, “observation” and “proof”, quite away from the “believing without seeing” implied by religious faith. So much so that many current scientists look at anything religious with at least skepticism, if not with plain contempt, and declare themselves proud atheists.

This trend has caused a negative reaction in some religious communities, which have grown anti-science feelings and attitudes. Parents are concerned that learning science may create doubts in the minds of their children, so they avoid science teachings. Pastors and youth leaders fear that science will drift young people away from the church, so they advise them against pursuing science careers. Some even label science as evil or satanic. As a consequence, some churches now bustle with scientifically illiterate people who fight science per se and give atheists the perfect excuse to mock religion per se.

But the current polarization —atheist scientists vs anti-science believers— is not necessary. There is no real dichotomy between religion and science. On the contrary, there are very

good reasons for religious people to be deeply interested in science:

1. **God himself invented science-** God wants us to study nature using the scientific method. He encourages us to study the animals to know him better (Job 12:7-9), and tell us to “test” (Malachi 3:10), “taste” and “see” (Psalm 34:8) Him.
2. **Modern science arose from religion-** The fathers of science (Francis Bacon, Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, and many others) were religious educated people who invented science to investigate the works of God.
3. **Science is the study of nature, the second book of God-** There are so many messages from God in nature that we miss if we reject science.
4. **Many scientific discoveries point directly to God-** Nature speaks loudly about God, even to those who do not listen. Former atheists such as Anthony Flew, Francis Collins, and John Sanford found compelling scientific evidence for believing in God.
5. **Scientists tend to find what they are looking for-** Each scientist has a world-view that affects their research questions, their interpretation of the data, and their conclusions. We need more scientists looking at the natural world through Bible lenses!

I am a scientist AND a believer and every day my science teaches me more about the amazing God I believe in. I love teaching about nature and science, but I love even more teaching about my wise, thoughtful and loving God through nature and science. That is why I want to share with you some ideas on how to use scientific experiments and illustrations to teach Bible lessons to children. Each month we will learn a simple experiment that you can use in Sabbath School, children sermons or pathfinder activities. I assure you that children (and adults!) will enjoy them, learn more about their Creator, and get excited about science.

There is much more to say about this topic but I hope I said enough to attract your attention. If you cannot wait until next month for the first experiment, you can start learning some on your own, from this interesting book:

DeYoung, Donald B. (2013) 77 Fairly Safe Science Activities for Illustrating Bible Lessons. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Noemi Duran
Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office





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TURBOCHARGE

your Children's Ministry

Are you Ready for a Miracle?

A huge crowd of people. A few loaves of bread. Even fewer fish.

And then a miracle where everyone's hunger was satisfied and their faith fed.

When things seem impossible, Jesus is ready to give you a miracle. As I've studied this passage over the years, I've always found great joy and peace in it. When it seemed like everything was out of control, God was ready to shine.

At times, we all face what seem to be impossible situations—there's just no money for this event; we don't have enough volunteers for the weekend; we've totally outgrown our facilities; we don't know which direction to go.

When we find ourselves on the brink of chaos, what lessons can we learn from this miracle of Jesus?

Look out for the needs of others.

Even with everything that was going on around him, who did Jesus care about? The crowd. He knew they were hungry and needed to be fed. Always be aware of the needs of your team, your volunteers, and the families of your ministry.

Remember who's sitting on the hill with you.

The disciples had been with Jesus. They knew his power. They had seen the miracles. And yet they thought, "There's no way we can do this." No matter what you're facing, you're not alone. You have Jesus. He's with you, and he can do more than you can ask, think, or imagine.

Look for something he can work with.

Andrew, Peter's brother, said, "There's a young boy here..." God always provides a way. Many times it won't make

sense to you. But be on the lookout for something God can work with in your situation.

Believe. Even after bringing a potential solution to Christ, Andrew followed up with, "But what good is that with this huge crowd?" When you come to God, come with faith. Not butts, just faith.

Get ready for your miracle. God's ready, he's able, and he loves to demonstrate his mighty power. As we face difficult, even impossible, situations, he will show himself strong and provide us with more than we ever imagined.

Sometimes it may seem as though the odds are stacked against you. In those times, God wants to come through for you! He's waiting to blow your mind. So look around, ask him for faith to believe, and get ready!

From: Hudson, D. & Werner, S.: *100 Best Ideas to Turbocharge your Children's Ministry*. Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2013

52 WAYS TO PARENT HAPPY CHILDREN

Listening to Your Child

Some children can chatter away all day long! As parents it's so easy to let it all 'go in one ear and out the other'. But our children may be trying to tell us some important things about their love needs, so we need to understand how to listen to them better.

Give them your full attention.

Whenever your child is talking about something really important to them, stop what you're doing, crouch down so your eyes are level with theirs, and hold their hands if you can. Or sit down somewhere quiet. Giving them good attention when they start to talk is never a waste of time—it may save you and your child hours of distress and unhappiness later.

Listen well. Listen to what your child is telling you, as well as what they are trying to tell you. Be patient, and let them talk without your interruptions, so that you hear the full story, and don't

jump to any unhelpful conclusions.

Listen for their needs. As you're listening, look out for the clues they are giving you about their important love needs.

- **Acceptance.** Accept what your child tells you and don't criticise their way of speaking, or what they say.
- **Affection.** Touch or hold your child when they are telling you about important things, and look into their eyes.
- **Appreciation.** Let them know how much you appreciate listening to them and hearing about the important things in their life.
- **Attention.** Pay close attention to what they're saying.
- **Comfort.** Comfort the sadness, anger, frustration, and distress in their stories
- **Encouragement.** Encourage them to



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tell you more by asking thoughtful, curious questions.

- **Respect.** Listen respectfully and politely.
- **Support.** If they are concerned or troubled, ask them what you can do to help them.
- **Security.** Be confidential about what they tell you. Only tell others if you need to, and if you have their permission.

From: Holford K.: *52 Ways to Parent Happy Children*. Autumn House Publications, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK, 2016



SPECIAL MESSAGE



Messages from the EUD President and Secretary

Children are a Gift From the Lord



We are just in the beginning of a New Year – plenty of challenges and opportunities. Success, in all realms of our life, including our ministry for the children, depends on how are we going to face the definite reality of the upcoming opportunities and threats with which we are and will be confronted.

We should always have in mind that “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him” and only in

cooperation with Him – following His instructions and working with a loving and patient heart – we will be able to succeed in reaching and keeping our children in good relationship with their own family, the Church and God. “Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted”. (Psalm 127:1, 3)

Mario Brito
Inter-European Division
President



Count Aright

It is almost unbelievable how fast has another year gone by! As the clock inexorably ticks onward, we are forced to turn the pages of our calendars and write 2018..., 2019... At the beginning of a new year the words of Moses easily come to mind: “Teach us to count our days aright, that we gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:11).

How are we counting? Are we counting aright? Usually, when it comes to the passing of time, we are counting cumulatively. We are adding one year to another, thus creating the impression of a forward movement or development. However, in the Bible we often see that God is counting down. The number of the years of our lives are known to God, and the moment that we were born, the countdown has started. This perspective makes us aware of how finite we are and therefore how responsible we have to be with the time that has been leased to us for a period.

Are we counting aright? Besides counting cumulatively, it seems that we are counting our years instead of our days. We feel that the end of a year is a great milestone in our lives. Yet the Bible tells us that we have to count our days instead of our years. The day is the building brick of our lives. Today is ours, but the reality of tomorrow is uncertain. This is where the wisdom that Moses tells us to attain comes in. We need to learn how to count our days. Today is hours. And this is also



good news. We need to live well only for one day: today. And if we live every today well, we will have lived wisely. As Robert Louis Stevenson wrote: “Anyone can carry his burden, however heavy, until nightfall. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live sweetly, patiently, lovingly, purely, until the sun goes down. And this is all that life really means.”

The same thought has been captured by other, ancient writers as well:

“Look to this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life.
In its brief course lie all the truths
And realities of your existence;
The bliss of growth
The glory of action,
The splendor of beauty;

For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well lived makes
Every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day.
Such is the salutation of the dawn.”

(Kalidasa, Indian Poet)

May the Lord help us in this coming year to live our days wisely and well. May He teach us how to count our days aright, so that the final result will be a heart of wisdom, a heart that brings glory to Him.

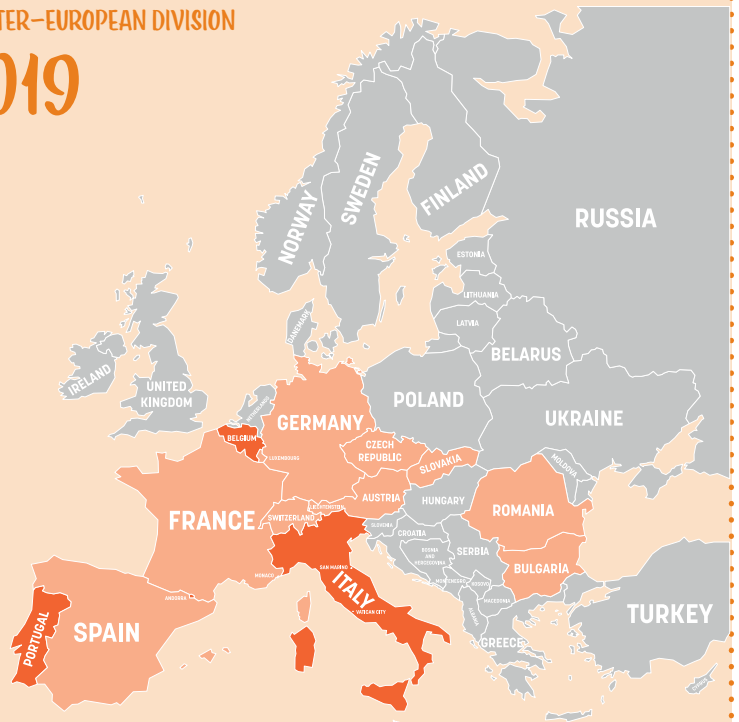
Barna Magyarosi
Inter-European Division
Executive Secretary



Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019



February 8-11

CHM Training Course with L. Koh
Brussels, **Belgium**

February 25-March 6

KID U Training Course
Porto, **Portugal**

March 7-11

KID U Training Course
Madeira, **Portugal**

March 21-25

CHM Evang. Project
Andorra

September 18-22

People 7.0. Forward Together
Interministries Summit
Organized by
Children's / Family / Women's Ministries
Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

SAVE THE DATE!

Visit
people7.net
for more information
and registration.

INTERMINISTRIES SUMMIT
Children's Ministries • Family Ministries • Women's Ministries

PEOPLE 7.0

Forward together

SAVE THE DATE

LIGNANO SABBIAORO
ITALY

18-22
SEPTEMBER
2019

Registration Coming Soon
www.people7.net

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

More information: info@people7.net • [+41] 31 359 15 55



LIGNANO SABBIAORO



Some Intergenerational Projects of the EUD

Messy Church

Creative Church in Latina (Italy)

Since several months, the project “Chiesa Creativa” (Messy Church) is going on at Latina Church in Italy. It is a tiny church, with very few members with almost no children, but they are putting all their energies and heart to support this project and doing all their best to be able to continue despite of many challenges.

Every time, the atmosphere in the meetings is full of joy and children appreciate it. It is inspiring to see adults dedicating part of their time and talents to make children enjoy those powerful two hours of a Sunday morning. For sure, it is a treasured time for children to share with their parents and they probably will remember it for long time.

We hope and pray that many other churches will decide to start this special adventure that impress children’s memories and remind them how God is caring for them and their families.

May God bless the children, their families and the church members that are involved in the Chiesa Creativa.

KID Ministry

Training Course in Porto and Madeira (Portugal)

In February, after almost 10 years, KID Ministry will start again - or continue its way- in Portugal. In 2009, Portugal was the pilot Union that allowed KID Ministry to start in EUD and allowing several other Unions to get involved in that surprising ministry.

It is always a challenge but also a great blessing to be part of a KID Training. It is inspiring to see all participants getting involved step by step in the process and realizing how important their role is for the families of the church.

KID Ministry is an intergenerational tool to help churches to equip and support parents and children in their discipleship journey. It is not something that happened from one day to another and neither per chance, but it takes time and intentionality to a daily commitment to God and his Word.

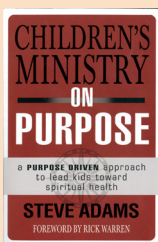
Great experiences and blessings are told and shared by children, parents, families and churches that decided to

enter in the KID Ministry. Many times the results are not evident and, or, immediate. Life transformation needs time and can happen only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that the churches that will participate to the new KID training in Portugal will get inspired and involved by the Holy Spirit and bring great benefit to their families.

Let's continue being in touch with these two amazing projects!

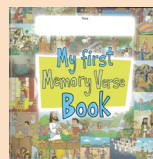
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON PURPOSE

Steve Adams

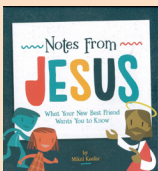
Many children's ministries are a flurry of activity, run by dedicated volunteers and staff who put in long hours and work hard for the good of the children and parents they serve. Yet despite the best intentions, many children's ministries today are not effective. They lack purpose and intentionality. In this book, the author leads readers on a journey of discovery, showing them how to develop an intentional ministry process that moves children toward spiritual health.



MY FIRST MEMORY VERSE BOOK

GC CHM

God loves you. And His word, the Bible, has stories and verses that tell us how much He loves us. These are twenty-four verses and pictures to share with your child.



NOTES FROM JESUS

Mikal Keefer

Jesus is the stuff best friends are made of—especially if you're a kid. He's always up for hearing how your day went, listening to worries, and laughing at silly jokes. And he wants to share about himself, too, as best friends do. Perfect for kids ages 6+ who are just starting a relationship with Jesus.



MY FIRST MEMORY VERSE COLORING BOOK

GC CHM

God loves you. And His word, the Bible, has stories and verses that tell us how much He loves us. These are twenty-four verses and pictures to share with your child.



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