

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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Jesus is... fond of children

At one point during Jesus' earthly ministry, some children were brought to Him so that He could lay hands on them and pray for them. The disciples tried to turn the children away, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them..." It is wonderful to think of Jesus interacting with a child. Children are needy and dependent, and they know almost nothing about life. Jesus' command to "let the little children come to me" reveals several truths: 1) Children need to be blessed by the Lord. 2) The Lord wants to bless children. 3) Parents should be encouraged to bring their children to Jesus at an early age and teach them His ways. 4) Jesus has regard for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. 5) No matter how compassionate Jesus' followers are, Jesus Himself is more compassionate still. 6) Those who come to Christ must do so in childlike humility, faith, and simplicity.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/let-the-little-children-come-to-me.html>

Nurture & Protection of Children

Behold, children are a gift that comes from the LORD" (Psalms 127: 3).

The Official Statement "Nurture and Protection of Children", was voted at the General Conference in Atlanta, 2010. During those days another Statement was issued, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, based on alarming statistics concerning "... family violence, rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honor killings, and dowry murders". "Manipulation, denial of personal liberty, and coercion are also acts of abuse and violence", the document declares, addressing to cultural practices, parental or educational abusive methods; then, everyone is encouraged to seek "partnerships and collaboration with others in addressing this global issue".

By official statements our Church gives a message for the inside but also for the outside of our denomination. These documents are born from the work of the different departments and institutions.

What about the previous period? In 2000, during the 57th General Conference, Toronto, Canada, the Statement "Well-being and Value of Children" affirmed: "... the right of every child to a happy and stable home environment, and the freedom and support to grow up to be the person God intended", based on the alarming situation of thousand of children and teens in the world, reaffirming their

right to a stable and loving family, to adequate food, clothing and shelter, to proper health/medical care, to an education developing their potential, to a religious and moral education, to freedom from exploitation and discrimination and to personhood, respect and the development of positive self-esteem. If it is true that in the last twenty years there have been improvements on some fronts, old threats have become more acute and have assumed new and disturbing tones. The church realized how different visions of the world, far from the biblical one, were and are shaping society in general and parenting in particular: narcissism and isolation of the digital age. Eating disorders, violence even in images and languages of game Apps, drugs and alcohol, early sexualization increasingly spreading thanks to the social networks... We have learned new words, such as cyberbullying, a complex phenomenon that leads to isolation, persecution, depression, suicide. I'm thinking to the deprivation of childhood in these years of economic crisis, even in industrialized countries; moral impoverishment (it is a euphemism) in its various forms affects the child in the most delicate years of psychophysical development and has consequences on the present and on the personal and social future. Other immense problems are that hundreds of thousands of children are victims of abuse, 70 million children

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD



ISLAM

Islam is an Arabic word and means, "abandon self and surrender to God". The believers are called Muslims, and they believe in one God, *Allah*. They believe *Allah* has sent prophets to teach his law. Among the prophets are Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed.

Muslims have a holy book, the *Coran*, where they can read *Allah's* word revealed to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel. The *Coran* is treated with highest care and respect.

Every Muslim who has the means is obliged to go on the *Hajj*, a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city, at least once in his/her life. Prayer is very important, and believers pray five times a day: before sunrise, at noon, in the afternoon, at sunset and at nightfall. For prayer, Muslims kneel and bow down, with their faces in direction to Mecca. With prayer, there is ablution; Muslims wash themselves in a special ceremony called *wudu*, in a given order: first, hands and face, then arms, head and ears, and in the end, the feet.

Muslim "churches" are called *mosques*. They are often decorated with art and painting, however, no images of living creatures can be found, because people should not start to worship them instead of Allah. The *mosque* has a big open space, where men gather for prayers and sermons. The "pastor", titled *imam*, gives a sermon every Friday and then leads the prayer. Also, he teaches the children to read the *Coran* and other writings in Arab language, and other things that are important in Muslim life.

During the year, Muslims celebrate several feasts: *Mouloud el Nabi*, the prophet's birthday; *Aid el Fitr*, beginning and end of the period of fasting; *Ramadan*, a month of fasting, where Muslims don't eat or drink during daytime; *Achoura*, which corresponds to Jewish *Yom Kippur*.

From: Brown, A. & Langley, A.: *Les Religions du Monde expliquées aux enfants*. Hachette Livre, France, 1999

who cannot access school education or medical care because of poverty, crisis, wars. Children exploited in large factories, violently annihilated in armed conflicts. Behind the statistics, untold dramas. The document speaks aloud about "... efforts to nurture and safeguard children and youth" and "to minimize the risk for child sexual abuse and violence against children in the congregational setting" also by introducing protocols of safety. The goal is to make the Church a safe place, which requires greater commitment and responsibility of pastors and local mentors in prevention, identifying and action.

The Statement also touches the nerve of family discipline, sometimes severe, dictatorial, punitive, in the name of an erroneous biblical understanding, which "often leads to resentment and rebellion", with the risk of "... physical and psychological harm to children as well as increased likelihood the youth will resort to coercion and violence in resolving their differences with others".

A clear message to those parents who, for lack of preparation or cultural reasons, need to improve their educational approach and to rediscover their (biblical) role of spiritual mentors. In its second part, then, the Declaration promotes the emotional and spiritual healing of those who have already experienced violence. This is an important call to us as adults, to be an effective support, to not remain indifferent = accomplices. Our role (mine and yours) is defined by the document as a "sacred trust".

In 2009, ADRA and Women's Ministries gave birth to the ENDITNOW campaign (unfortunately, also within our walls we had and have cases of physical and sexual abuse). Through this strong document and concrete actions taken by Adventist Risk Management (see www.adventistrisk.org) in close contact with churches, Adventist schools and leaders, guidelines were implemented as soon as possible.

In the Church Manual, 2016, norms have been added about the safety of the premises and about behaviors in respect of the policies of the Church and of the laws of the State.

Several initiatives have been launched to help all this process:

- Support projects for parents and families, such as Kids in Discipleship, 2002 (since 2010 in Italy), and Messy Church (born in the Anglican Church, BRF, in Italy it is called Creative Church and started in a pilot church last February).
- Global Children's / Youth Day, in March.
- World Day of Prayer for children at risk in May.
- Children's Sabbath, in July.

Two years after the Official Statement "Nurture and Protection of Children", The 7 Campaign was launched by ARM and other partners in more than 200 countries. The following year in Italy, we organized training courses, created the Italian website and supported the interactive exhibition of the artist Claudia Bellocchi "TANALIBERATUTTI", inaugurated in Rome and repeated in Florence. In 2017, The 7 Campaign was incorporated into ENDITNOW: perhaps this is the strongest commitment of our Church against violence.

I cannot forget the new Special Need Ministries department created after the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas in 2015, on behalf of the value and dignity of people with disabilities.

Looking at the past, we went a long way, but as the issue is so vast... Above all, we need a lot of wisdom to understand how to implement precious guidelines at local level. We need divine strength and courage for the challenges that the years ahead reserve, and we need to know the world in which we live, remaining less isolated as a church, not forgetting that behind the facts mentioned in this article, there are real faces, real lives, and real sufferings we cannot justify or tolerate.

Mariarosa Cavalieri
Italian Union
Children's Ministries Director



JESUS

wants all of me

God's Peace

It's very common to feel like running away if a person is sad, frustrated, or ashamed. Even people from Bible stories have thought about running away one day, like Jonah.

But running away doesn't help, especially if we are the problem. Regardless of

where we go, the problem will go with us.

We need to experience God's peace even when we're going through difficult times. If we don't feel God's peace then, we won't feel it at any other time. Why? Because God gives us courage, power and wisdom to face every problem.

"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."

Psalms 55:22

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

PRAYER OF BEA



Dear Jesus,

We have learned a lot about you in religious classes. For example that you didn't like the merchants in the temple and that you didn't like the Romans. But whom did you like?

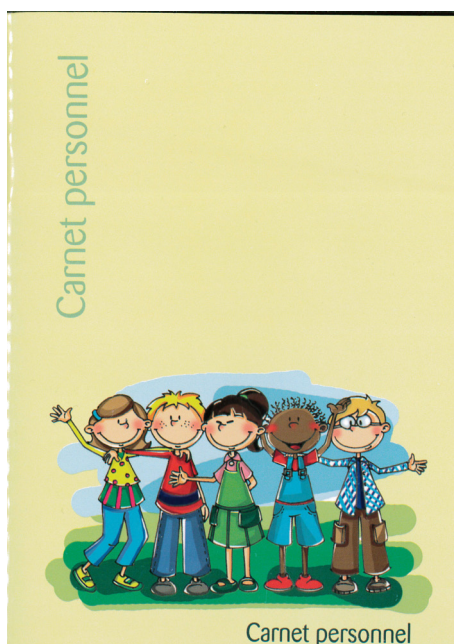
From: "Caro Gesù, potresti cambiare il sapore agli asparaggi? 100 nuove letterine dei bambini a Gesù". Sonzogno Editore, Milano, 2007

IN SYNERGY

Different Ministries - one project: "Libretto Personale"

Joining forces is important and I have to thank God because in my Union I have the full cooperation of all Departments and Officers. Surely, we can do more, in some cases it is not lack of will, but of time and we must grow in the ability to plan in synergy. However, we are doing many things together, and I introduce to you a small but important project.

One day I saw a little booklet from the EUD CHM office; it was in French and had been made by the Children's, Youth and Stewardship Ministries. It was titled "Carnet Personnel" and pocket-sized, with pictures, about Christian Stewardship. In this booklet, the child can insert his/her answers in an exercise of analysis of himself, to understand that he/she has been created in the image and likeness of God. What are my tastes? What are my gifts? How can I use them to grow, progress, and help others? I loved the booklet and I looked for the collaboration of the Stewardship Leader in the Union, Franca Zucca, who immediately agreed to cooperate. The Communication Department joined the initiative and helped us for the layout and in planning a special section on our Website, and the enthusiasm of the



Treasurer of the Union and of the Italian Publishing House Director are helping us to find ways to print this item. The booklet will soon be printed and brought into families, given in the hands of children. If you want to have a look at this booklet in Italian, go to <http://bambini.uicca.it/libretto-gestione-cristiana-della-vita/>



Mariarosa Cavalieri
Italian Union
Children's Ministries Director



MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES

Art Activity: Verse Poster

Supplies:

- art supplies
- pencils, rulers, and erasers
- word stencils
- precut paper letter
- large pieces of strong paper

Instructions:

1. Give each child a large piece of paper and a copy of the verse to be memorized.
2. Ask them to create a poster to illustrate the verse in any way they

like. Show them how to make letters for a poster using the stencils, precut paper letters, or a pencil and a ruler.

3. Let the children have the time and space to create their poster.
4. Display the finished posters.



From: Holford K. *100 creative ways 2 learn memory verses*. With permission from GC CHM

SPECIAL NEED MINISTRIES

First steps for launching

Surround everything in prayer—the planning, the children and their families, and your current and future volunteers. As you prepare to share Jesus' love with children who have special needs, ask their Creator to bless your efforts.

Pray that children's involvement will help them realize their God-given potential. Pray that children will hear the message of God's love and respond to it. Pray that families' needs will be met, both physically and spiritually. Pray for volunteers. Pray that children without disabilities will enjoy their friends with disabilities. Pray that your congregation will embrace this ministry. Occasionally send notes to remind people that they're being lifted up in prayer.

Recognize the value of every child regardless of his or her disability. These children matter. God loves them. They have souls. They need salvation. If this philosophy doesn't motivate our service, we'll be operating with the wrong motive. It is not enough to serve because parents ask us to do it or because we feel sorry for the kids or because we just want to



boost church attendance.

Psalm 139:13 doesn't have a footnote: "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." Children with Fragile X syndrome, Down syndrome, and autism are all a part of God's creativity. Mark 16:15 doesn't have a footnote either: "And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'" People with Asperger's syndrome, cerebral palsy, and blindness are a part of the church's responsibility to share the message to everyone regardless of ability.

From: Verbal, P. *Special Needs Ministry for Children*. Group Publishing, Loveland, USA, 2012

Parents are to teach their children pleasantly, without scolding or faultfinding, seeking to bind the hearts of the little ones to them by silken cords of love. Let all, fathers and mothers, teachers, elder brothers and sisters, become an educating force to strengthen every spiritual interest, and to bring into the home and the school life a wholesome atmosphere, which will help the younger children to grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.



Child Guidance, p. 86

Sneaky Request



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Incredi-Biblical

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:8

Arianna, you're my best friend, right?" Whitney asked.

"Only since forever," Arianna answered. "What kind of question is that?"

"Well, I have a secret, but you've got to promise you won't say anything to anyone."

Arianna rolled her eyes. "Whitney, I've never told any of your secrets. I'm not that kind of friend."

"Good." Whitney plopped down on the bed and put her face between her hands. "I met somebody online."

"What—do you mean?"

"I met someone—this guy," Whitney

said. "He sent me his pictures, and he's so hot! He asked me to meet him at the mall this Sunday, so I told my mom you and I were going to the mall together so she'd drop me off. You've got to cover for me, OK?"

"Whitney, I can't..."

Whitney glared at Arianna. "Are you my friend or not?"

"Yes," she said slowly.

All weekend Arianna felt miserable. She knew it wasn't safe for Whitney to meet this stranger. She also knew that if she said anything to get Whitney in trouble, their friendship would be over. Forever.

"You OK? You're awfully quiet," Mom asked as Arianna stared out the window. The girl sighed deeply. She could never forgive herself if something bad happened to her friend. "Mom, there's something I need to tell you," she said.

Info Splat

According to Pew Internet, nearly 60 percent of teenagers say they have received an e-mail or instant message from a stranger.

React now!

When you're online, are you careful to make choices that keep you and your family safe?

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



I have trouble talking to my parents about personal things. Do you have any advice?

– Girl, 12

Juniors face many, many questions. They're growing, changing, being given new and bigger responsibilities. Sometimes life can be a little overwhelming. (By the way, it doesn't get any better.)

Personal things are the toughest subject to handle. You wonder, "Am I supposed to know how to deal with this? Am I dumb or something?"

No, you're not dumb. You're just learning. And that's the secret to talking to parents about personal stuff. Don't go to them with the attitude "I should be able to figure this out on my own." Instead, say to yourself, "I'd better learn what I need to know so I won't make big mistakes down the road." Use your parents as a library of

experience. They've been where you are. Think of them as guides, not police officers. Use what they've learned to help you succeed.

Many young people are shy when it comes to talking to their parents about personal topics. Whatever you do, don't keep your questions inside or try to find all the answers among friends. While your buddies may be whizzes at math or geniuses at science, they may not be your best choice for some of the tough "adult" matters.

I suggest you make a private appointment with a pastor, teacher, or some other grown-up you've come to trust. Remember, the only things worse than having no information is having

the wrong information.

Save yourself some embarrassment down the road by getting facts from a reliable, experienced source.

And never forget your number one source of guidance—the Bible. It contains timeless principles that can be applied to any situation.



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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



ACTIVITY REPORT



Messy Church in the Italian Union

Chiesa Creativa (Messy Church)

Surely you have heard about Messy Church. In Italy, since last February, after some training courses, we have tried to launch this project in a pilot church thanks to the support of the EUD (Personal Ministries, Children's Ministries and Communication Department).

We have chosen a very small church to try; a church which does not have many advantages. The premises are small and there is only the essential. A kitchen is missing, a courtyard is missing. There are few members who are not particularly inclined, except for a few exceptions,

to work with children; there was no Children's Sabbath School, there was no Pathfinders club, and the pastor had arrived only one year ago. A small church with few members that certainly have difficulties, but that have joined and embraced the project with all their heart. Messy Church is a wonderful project, and for the moment it has won us over. We feel it is good for this community and its families. To begin with, it has put us all to work, from the youngest to the oldest: all members have a role. Then, we are giving to our parents and their children, some quality time together; they are

families with difficulties and really big challenges. Moreover, this project is uniting us and teaching us to cooperate each one with his/her own gifts. Finally, and we could say much more, we started in small, but we are already receiving, on one Sunday per month (it's affordable with our little strengths), families friends of our church. For the future, after this initial break-in, we pray to be able to receive among us many more families from the neighborhood and from the town in which we find ourselves. Thanks to God for the Messy Church! Pray for us!

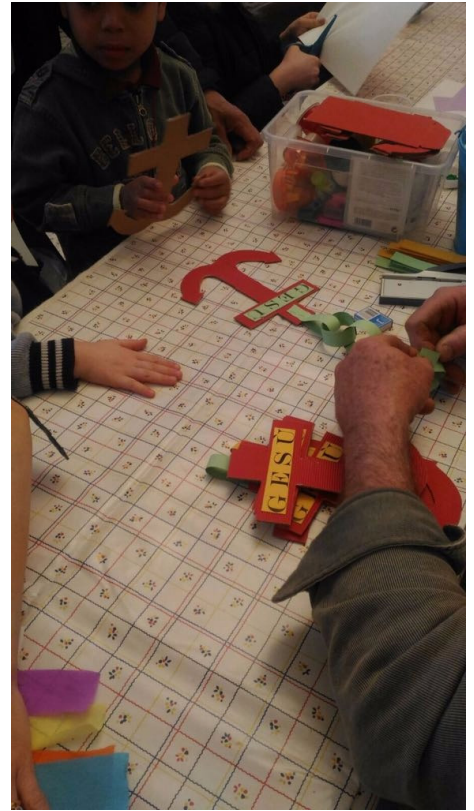




ACTIVITY REPORT



Messy Church in the Italian Union





ACTIVITY REPORT



Kids In Discipleship (KID) in the Italian Union

KID adventure: Don't miss it!

In the past, I would have said that KID is aimed at families but focused on children to make them disciples. Now that I know better, I realize that there are two more important goals connected with the first one:

- to awaken in us as parents the desire to be spiritual mentors in the family
- to help Churches to be in dialogue with families and with different generations, from an intergenerational point of view of inclusion in mission, service and worship. We have already held several training courses all over Italy with the total support of the Inter-European Region. Do you want to know some news? You can browse the Italian KID website, <http://bambini.avventista.it/kid>, where you will find stories, photos, and videos. I think you will enjoy seeing faces and reading real experiences from pastors or church members. Among the more than 30 churches that have followed the training, the results are varied; not all have made the same path at the local level; some have completed it, some have started it but they have not yet been able to finish it, others have even repeated it several times with the children, as they grew, and others did not start it.

What's different about the KID project from other children's projects? KID helps the dialogue of faith in the family; parents study the Bible with their child and are involved in his or her faith choices, accompanying him/her in his/her spiritual growth. I think it's fundamental that KID gives the opportunity to pass on the Adventist identity from parents to children which reinforces the identity of both the parents and their children, as believers, as well as fostering a precious treasure: the dialogue among parents and children.

KID builds family relationships around prayer and TAG (Time Alone with God). You will see it more clearly in the testimonies of two communities that wanted to launch KID project for their families.



KID Training, Bovisio, Italy, 2017



KID Training, Bovisio, Italy, 2017



ACTIVITY REPORT



Kids In Discipleship (KID) in the Italian Union

KID Cesena

In the city of Cesena, the church is deeply integrated into society and has been organizing a 24-hours non-stop Bible reading for seventeen years. This initiative has been recently included in the Bible Festival: the Adventist Church invites other churches to work together for 40 days to encourage citizens to make the Word of God a reference for life. Theater, music, projections, art exhibitions, children's Bible festival. A novelty is the relay of the Bible: a Bible is passed through a tour of Evangelical, Orthodox, Catholic, and other Christian Churches. This year, the reading involved 87 people, and the KID Director of Cesena, Laura Paris, tells us, "Our kids from Kids In Discipleship have cooperated and given to all the visitors a white stone with the acronym TAG (Time

Alone with God) to remember how important and fundamental our relationship with God is. Young and inexperienced hands, simple hands and voices with little power, with God can become rocks on which to build an eternal future. May the blessings be on these young donor hands and on adult receiving hands.

KID in the church of Cesena has encountered many difficulties, but the TAG seems to have become part of family life. It is a time when our children propose daily readings of Psalms (book chosen because the chapters are short), or more practical objectives. Our group is small but intense. Each family has rediscovered the value of family worship and step by step, it creates an unforgettable experience. David, 10 years old, writes: "I choose Jesus because he has come to our level, because he

gives us freedom, because he helps us in the worst moments, because he died for us and always forgives us." Like David, all of you, adults and children, love spending time with Jesus.

"In Cesena", Alessandra Olivucci, Pastor's wife and Sabbath School teacher, writes, "a blog has been created inspired to the 31-day prayer program, an initiative of the CHM to inspire families to pray especially for their children". The title of the blog is: "*Genitori non si nasce, ma si diventa - Occasioni di scambio per genitori e bambini da 0... a oltre 6 anni, perché stanno crescendo*" (Parents are not born but made - Occasions for exchange for parents and children from 0 to 6 and over, because they are growing.)

If you want, have a look and visit: <https://genitorinonsinascce.blogspot.it>.



KID Forlì

In the midst of many difficulties, with the persistence of Chiara, a young mother, KID started in the local Church. I still remember when she came with her children to attend the training course, 300 km away from her home. Huge difficulties had "decimated" the team some days before, but nevertheless, Chiara came with her two children and a very valuable help, Arlete. And guess what? That very day, a train strike hit Italy, with a lot of inconvenience for all passengers,

including Chiara and her children. Still, after an endless day of travel, they made it.

Today Chiara, KID director, testifies: "The Lord has greatly sustained us and blessed us. It was not a simple undertaking, but we are at the 3rd lesson for parents and mentors and we are 14 families that participate with enthusiasm and joy. The preparation of the church was challenging but with my team, we managed to instill the curiosity and, above all, to show that the Church holds every child and every family. A crucial Sabbath, after sharing video clips, bookmarks, a

special worship, and sermons, we tickled the curiosity of many and when we proposed a potluck and a meeting with families, many people accepted. We were more than 50: smiling children, non-Adventist dads, aunts and uncles, grandparents... In short, many people happy to share a friendly time together. Now we have a long process of preparation and consecration to be disciples, but more than ever, we know that the Lord is with us and guides us. Don't be discouraged: GOD HAS GREAT DREAMS FOR YOUR CHURCHES AND FOR YOUR CHILDREN".





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Italian Union

Lode a Gesù (Praise to Jesus)

One of the initiatives we are carrying in the Italian Union is "Praise to Jesus", a festival of praise and worship organized by the Children's Sabbath School, for children, teens and youth from 0 to 18 years. This year, the second edition took place in Bologna, on April 7, with ca. 250 people attending. Among the guests, Elsa Cozzi, CHM director of the Inter-European Division, who held a sermon about spiritual gifts, much appreciated by the children.

A musical group composed of young people from Florence, led by two stu-

dents of the Conservatory, Federico Alma and Gabriele Nardoni, for whom music is a gift and a vocation, presented two songs. Then they gave their testimony on how to put the talent(s) that God has given us to the service of the church and of my neighbor. It was also an encouragement for the parents attending, who often make sacrifices to guarantee the study of an instrument to their child, to continue in the hope that this will bring their child closer to God. Moreover, the irresistible Monica De Paolis, Pastor's wife and chaplain at the Italian Adventist

old people's home, who volunteers also in hospitals with clown therapy, made both young and old sing and laugh with her faithful puppet Arz.

The Festival of praise and worship is one of my favorite initiatives, because it is not competitive; there are no first, second and third places, and instead of applauding, we raise a fan with the words "Praise to Jesus" on it, intoning an "Amen", thus shifting the attention from those who have performed to God, the One and Only to whom true adoration and praise are due.



ANDREA PUGLISI

Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2018



May 20

"Chiesa Creativa"
Latina, **Italy**

June 1-3

Children's Conference
Sofia, **Bulgaria**

June 8-10

CHM Meeting and Training Course
Timisoara, **Romania**

July 29

Children's Sabbath

SDA worldwide official day



SAVE THE DATE!

2019

September 18-22

People 7.0. Forward Together

Interministries Summit

Organized by

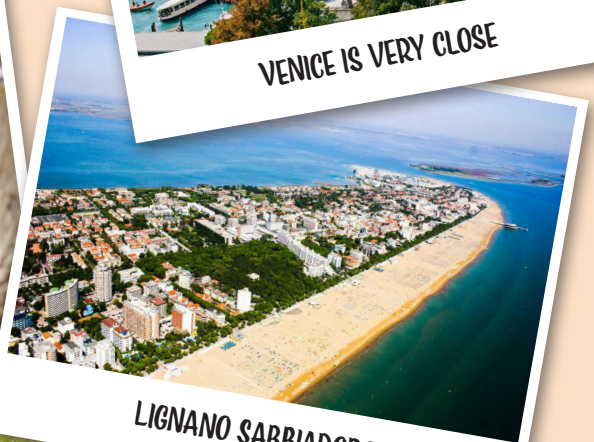
Children's / Family / Personal / Women's Ministries

Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

**Very important event for all people involved in CHM / FM / PM / WM.
Write it already on your agenda for 2019!**



VENICE IS VERY CLOSE



LIGNANO SABBIAADORO



MAKE SURE YOU COME!



Different Models:

Flow Church

Flow-style services are a useful model for churches looking for an effective way to experience intergenerational worship. They are semi-structured, with some corporate worship experiences for everyone, and a range of optional activities, or worship stations, that are created around the theme for the day. These alternate throughout the service so that each act of corporate worship is followed by a choice of worship activities. In one hour there would be three to four whole congregation worship times and three times when each person can choose the worship experience that best suits their needs, age or interests.

Everyone is together for the start of the service, which includes a few praise songs, a prayer, the collection of tithes and offerings, and an introduction to the theme. There may also be a short orientation to the worship activities being offered. After the introductory session everyone is invited to move around the room and choose a worship activity that appeals to them. After 7-10 minutes a worship song will play to call everyone back to worship together. The second corporate worship experience might include a more

reflective song and a scripture reading. The third might include a ten-minute 'sermon', and the final corporate worship experience will include a closing thought, hymn/song and a benediction.

The choice of activities might include an art or craft activity, a discussion group, a quiet (prayer) zone, a film clip that illustrates the theme, a Bible quiz, etc.

Benefits

- Flow church is a flexible model of worship.
- Each person is involved in the corporate worship experiences, as well as in a range of worship activities that they have chosen themselves.
- Different people can take responsibility for preparing each of the optional worship experiences, so the workload can easily be shared.
- If there is a last minute emergency, one of the activities can easily be discarded, as there will still be several other choices.

Challenges

- Flow worship does take time to prepare and set up. It's important to meet

as a team and work closely together to organize an inspiring choice of worship activities.

- Flow worship can feel strange at first because people are not used to having choices about their worship experiences, moving around the room, and being active during a service.
- Parents may need to accompany young children to some of their activities. But try to provide at least one activity where children can be left while parents choose a worship experience to meet their needs. Interactive story sessions, or even a crèche with some simple toys on the theme of the service, can be helpful.
- Some people may feel uncomfortable moving around and doing different activities during a worship service. They may prefer to sit and listen to three short devotional thoughts, or mini-sermons. If necessary, invite three speakers to give three different five-minute talks on the theme for the day and so that sitting and listening to them can be one of the available options.

From: Holford, K.: *Altogether Wonderful. Exploring Intergenerational Worship*. With permission from GC CHM

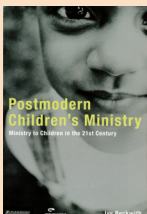
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



MEET GENERATION Z

James Emery White

The percentage of teens who identify [as atheist] ... is double that of the general population (13 percent vs. 6 percent of all adults)." (Barna Group on Generation Z, youths born between 1999 and 2015). James Emery White gives an interpretation of the present cultural moment to give to pastors and church leaders insights about how to connect and share the Gospel with this so called post Christian generation.



POSTMODERN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Ivy Beckwith

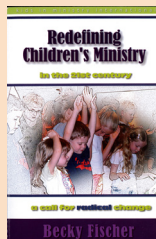
No longer considered "church day care", children's ministry has emerged as a vital growth element for many congregations. Yet, in the midst of such great success, ministry to children has lost its way. Fun and games has become the aim of many programs while spiritual development has faltered. This book offers a vision that meets children where they are and gives them the tools to sustain their faith into adulthood.



ALLA SCUOLA DELLA GRANDE QUERCIA

(Italian only)
Laura Ferraresi

This book tells fictive stories about little animals and insects and their school, which is underneath a big oak tree. The stories aim to teach acceptance of diversity and social inclusion. Most important, however, are the pictures, as they were painted by Celeste, an 8 year old girl with autism, who had the courage to express her feelings through these images.



REDEFINING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Becky Fisher

Research shows as many as 70% of the children who have been raised in our Bible believing churches and families leave our ranks in droves when they reach their teen and young adult years and very few of them ever return. They often make this decision when they are as young as ten to twelve years old. Could this be because we have underestimated their spiritual potential? It's time the collective body of Christ reevaluate and redefine what valid discipling, equipping children's ministry really is.



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