

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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Jesus is... caring

Many accounts of healing in the New Testament illustrate the depth of Jesus' spiritual affection. He cared deeply. Christ "voices to man the true idea of God. If you or I were to be in great need of care and caring, wouldn't we want to know where we could find such care?"

And we learn that God's care is ever present because God is Love itself. Since God is infinite, He is always with us. His presence is a constant fact, and the full measure of His love for each one of us is always in force. Depth of care - isn't this what the Christ tells us about God's love? This love goes to the root of everything instead of smoothing it all over superficially.

Once, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman at a well and told her about the water of life that would enable her to never thirst again. He went beyond a casual or superficial contact with this woman. Real caring is much more than human emotion. It has a clear healing aspect to it.

www.csmonitor.com/1991/0724/24171.html

Who cares about me?

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

Nowadays, we feel like we have to get everything done and do not have time for anything else. It is a time of modern technology that should make life easier for us so that we don't spend so much time at work and have time for our close ones and our hobbies. Yet it looks as if, thanks to this technology, we spend extra time working instead of rather dedicating our time to our children, family, friends or the elderly from our churches. Actually, the day only has 24 hours and so if all goes well, the family can meet at least at dinner. What makes us so busy?

We adults go to work, then work for the church and organize a variety of activities. All of this are definitely godly activities and everyone must understand that they take up most of our time. What keeps our children busy? School, of course, it is understandable that it takes up quite a bit of time, but not enough to keep them busy all afternoon. They

come home from school; they might have some hobby, a piano lesson or some other instrument. And then they still have some time left. But what should they do with it? Their parents are at work... and nowadays children don't spend time outside, because they can message each other through Instagram or some other social media. And when they're already surfing the Internet... there is a movie here, a video there or a game and basically, they are busy until evening and if they are connected to the Internet, we don't even notice they are around. At dinner, the usual conversation takes place: "How was school?" Mom asks. "It's still standing" the teenager replies. "But I'm asking how was your day in school?" Mom doesn't give up. "Good.," replies the teenager with another very short answer with the expression that these two answers have completely exhausted the daily dose of family conversation. It has to suffice because the parents still have much to do to put the children to bed, because everyone is getting up early the next day.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD



HINDUISM

The name of this religion comes from the name Indus, one of the main rivers in India. Also, most people from India are Hindus. They have many beliefs and customs, and their sacred books contain many stories, prayers and songs. Their goal is to live as virtuous as possible in order to be born again in a better life.

They believe in many gods who represent different forms of a supreme god. Among them are Rama, Krishna, Shiva, Ganesha, and others.

Throughout India, there are millions of temples, and still, many Hindus have a shrine in their homes where they do the *puja* (prayer). On the shrine, there is a statue of Krishna, and a little one of Ganesha, both of which are supposed to bring fortune. Offers of incense, rice, water fruits and flowers are given here as well.

Many places in India are connected to the many gods. During their life, Hindus should visit them all. One of the most known places is Benares, where Hindus bath in the holy waters of the river Ganges. At those places, you can find gurus, who are considered sacred men and serve as priests or teachers. It is a duty for the parents to choose the person their son or daughter will marry. Sometimes, bride and groom don't know each other before they get married. However, this tradition is less respected in today's time.

When a person dies, the body is washed and burned within 24 hours after death. After cremation, the ashes are spread in a river or the sea. Then the soul can be born again in another body.

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

The question is whether it is as the Lord God really intended with us when he created us in his image and gave us the responsibility to take care of this earth. We have two hands, two legs, a body, a head, from the beginning to today. I feel humans are still the same and have the same needs. From creation until today, one desires to be loved, someone to show affection for, someone to care for, and also to be able to share this love and care.

When I think of my childhood, my mother and I did many things together - we walked in the garden, where we had different types of fruit and vegetables. I can still taste the freshly picked strawberries or cherries. Fresh carrots were the best. Yes, it was a lot of work, but it was also fun. Or we together often visited one of my mother's lonely friends. She had an old typing machine at home which was amazing when I could try to type on it. The great thing about all of this is that we did all these things together. Today I can see how important it was to spend so much time together. Thanks to this I learned how important it is to care and show interest in others. Not just to learn that it's the right thing to do. It's like growing plants. If you plant a seed at home but don't take any more care of it, it will die. If you are patient a small plant will grow which you will take care of until it's time to plant it in the garden. But you can't stop taking care of it then. You must water it, weed it and be excited about how you will benefit from it. Once D-Day comes your reward will await you.

It's similar with our children. If you only plant a seed, show the children God's Word but don't take care of it believing they will find their own way, their interest in the Lord God fades. If you continue to take time and care of them making sure they understand what God's Word means in everyday life (giving your time to others, working together, even laughing together, visiting each other, sharing your troubles and joys, helping each other, loving each other as yourself and trusting God), we don't have to worry about planting our seedling in the garden. It will be strong enough to stand, but it will still need care and our help till it grows up and then we can look forward to D-Day. This responsibility is only ours as parents. No one else will do this for us. We will either show our children how to live a life full of activities with no time for each other or we can stop the stereotype that's been created and dedicate our time to our children. We can sit in their bedroom and just talk about their day, whom they spent time with, who got in trouble or who helped someone out. We can plan things together for the weekend. A good deed is also a smile, a hug or a kind word at the right time. Our children need them too. Don't waste it. We shouldn't forget, that for everything and everyone we have we owe the Lord God. ♦



Monika Medková
Czecho-Slovakian Union
CHM Director



JESUS

wants all of me

Well Accompanied by God

Adults don't always have time to talk or play. They carry very busy lives with work, bills to pay, and other worries and concerns. Because of this, at times you might feel abandoned and alone. You might become sad and feel like crying.

Well, even if you think everyone has left you, God will never abandon you. Everyone can run away from you, but God would never do that. He promised he wouldn't! We can count on God forever and ever. With him, we are never alone.

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.”

John 27:10

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

PRAYER OF ANTONELLA

Dear Jesus,
Do you think that nowadays, there is enough love?
I think the answer is no.

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



IN SYNERGY

Children's Sabbath School and Pathfinders

In our Czecho-Slovakian Union Conference, the children's department works in three conferences - the Bohemian Conference, the Moravia-Silesian Conference, and the Slovakian Conference. In these Conferences, there is a close link between the Children's Sabbath School department and Pathfinder since all the leaders in the Conferences are also active members of Pathfinder. Therefore, it is sometimes hard to find the border between the Children's Sabbath School activities and Pathfinder activities. Almost all these organizers work as Sabbath School teachers and Pathfinder leaders at the same time.

The Children's Sabbath School department in the Czecho-Slovakian Union Conference provides support for the individual Conferences in the form of educational seminars for teachers and parents. We organize a one-weekend seminar in spring and a one-day seminar in autumn. We also provide support for the publication of textbooks and supporting material for the textbooks based on established needs by the teachers themselves.

A joined project is a competition in Bible knowledge that takes place in all three Conferences. In the Slovak Conference it is called "Biblical Investigator," in the Bohemian and Moravian-Silesian Conference it's called "Writers Trail." The books of the Bible that will be in the competition are announced at the beginning of

each year. Children compete according to age categories. The competition has two rounds. Those who succeed in the first round continue to the finals. The second project that takes place in all the Conferences is "Muzicka." It is a competition for children in singing, musical performance, spoken word (poetry or prose), dramatic performances, artistic expression and newly added film-making. The competition is also divided into individual age categories. In the past, the competition progressed from individual regions, districts, Conferences to the Union Conference. Since 2014, children compete only in their individual Conferences for financial reasons. All three Conferences are also engaged in the training of Pathfinder leaders and Old Pathfinders.

Individual Conferences create their own separate year plan of activities. In the Slovak Conference, there is a very interesting project, "Ryha." It is an appreciation of teachers and children for having an impact on the lives of children. The award has two categories: Teacher of the Year and Child of the Year. Teacher of the Year award is divided into: 1) the systematic and long-term activity of the teacher and 2) a special act of a teacher. The Child of the Year award is divided into: 1) long-term regular preparation of the child and 2) a special act of the child.

In the Moravian-Silesian Conference children have an annual weekend event



called "Helfstyn." It is a project created to bring people closer together and for children to learn to understand each other through games with a biblical topic. This year's topic was the story from Revelation "The Final Battle." They dedicate themselves to teenagers in a project called PTD (Send it Forward) Pathfinder four times a year at weekend meetings.

In the Bohemian Conference, there is an interesting annual activity "Robinzonada." It is a competition for children in the skills of living and surviving in nature during which they learn about interesting places in our country and our history. In addition, they offer a rich variety of one day or weekend activities for Pathfinder teams.



Monika Medková
Czecho-Slovakian Union
CHM Director

MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES

Craft: Promise Box

Supplies:

- small purchased gift boxes
- precut cards, such as blank business cards, that fit in the box
- pens and markers
- list of Bible promises
- a collection of items to decorate the boxes

Instructions:

1. Give the children a list of the Bible texts, pens, a gift box, and a stack of blank cards.
2. Let them look up the texts and copy each verse and its reference onto a different card.

3. Put the cards into the boxes, and decorate the boxes.

Other ideas

- Add new cards to the box each week after new verses have been learned.
- Use another type of container, such as a pocket cut from an old pair of jeans, a small basket, a gift bag, etc.
- Use a clear, vinyl pouch, like those used to create conference name tags, and stick a small piece of adhesive magnet onto the back of the pouch to create a fridge magnet.



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

SPECIAL NEED MINISTRIES

How to find the right volunteers

Volunteers may come from anywhere, but you need to make sure they're the right people and that you provide the right training. Often it's the parents of children with special needs who are the most eager to help. They want their children to have fulfilling experiences at church, and they're experts regarding their own children's needs. Plus, these parents can spot an adult who has an open heart for children with disabilities from a mile away.

Volunteers may be parents, church staff members, or people you'd never think of. However, you must be intentional about communicating with and recruiting volunteers, or it's unlikely you'll get the right people on board. And you must be intentional about training your volunteers to ensure they'll be effective once they're working with children.

Start with job descriptions. Unless you're specific about who you need, how will you recognize the right person if he or she appears? It's important you think through a number of issues:

- What is the time commitment involved? How many hours per week?

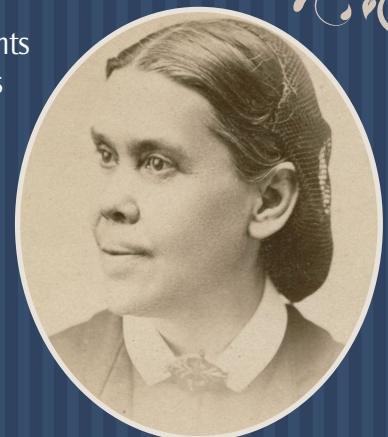


- What's the duration of the commitment? A year? Two years? A week?
- How much contact will they have with the children? Will this volunteer be a one-to-one buddy or the leader of a group that includes other volunteers?
- Will the person specialize in one disability? Two? Or serve in a classroom that includes a broad mix of needs?
- Will the role include home visits or leading support groups?
- What sort of evaluation can the person expect? What sort of training?

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

One great reason why there is so much evil in the world today is that parents occupy their minds with other things to the exclusion of the work that is all-important—the task of patiently and kindly teaching their children the way of the Lord. Parents should allow nothing to prevent them from giving to their children all the time that is necessary to make them understand what it means to obey and trust the Lord fully.

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 29



Teddy named the Bear



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Incredi-Biblical

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6:36

Jimmy, could you please take Steph to bed? I'm swamped," Mom called from the study. She sat surrounded by papers, trying to look over her notes for the last time before her exam the next morning.

Jimmy groaned. "OK," he said, and scooped up his little sister in his arms.

As Jimmy pulled Steph's blankets around her, she wined, "I need Teddy." She pointed at a tattered brown bear propped up against the wall of her room. Grunting, Jimmy reached over, grabbed the stuffed animal, and handed it to the little girl.

"I love you," she told the bear, covering

it with kisses. Then she begged, "Tell me the teddy story."

Jimmy sighed. He was hoping for a fast getaway so he could instant-message a couple of his buddies. But then he looked into his sister's brown eyes. He thought a moment. "OK," he said, sitting down on the edge of her bed. "Many years ago there was a man named Theodore. He was the president of the United States, and his nickname was Teddy."

Just as the story was told to him when he was a little boy, Jimmy began the teddy bear story for his sister.

Later, leaving Steph asleep, Jimmy went back to his own stuff. "Thanks for being kind to your sister," Mom told him, reaching over with a hug. "I know you had things you wanted to do, but you chose to be patient with Steph. I'm proud of you. I'm sure God is proud of your loving heart too."

Info Splat

On a hunting trip in 1902, out of a sense of fair play, President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt refused to shoot a captured bear. After reading a newspaper cartoon that captured the event, a pair of Brooklyn candy store owners received permission to make bears using the president's name.

React now!

How did Jesus react to the children He knew here on earth? In what ways can we show mercy to others?

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



Why do most Seventh-day Adventist adults always say what not to do?

– Adrian, 12

It's sad but true. Adults do tend to dwell on the negative instead of the positive when dealing with juniors. That's not the way Jesus taught us to love.

His sermon on the mount overflows with the encouraging phrase "blessed are." There's not one "Thou shalt not" in it. Christ continually challenged sinners by telling them what they *should* do, not what they *shouldn't* do.

Maybe adults lean toward the negative because they see dangers lurking in certain activities juniors are drawn to. If you see a friend running onto a busy highway chasing a ball, you don't shout, "I think you'd better turn around now." No. You scream, "Stop! Don't go

any farther!" Negative, but effective.

When God-loving adults see young people heading full speed into what they believe to be sinful or damaging situations, they get all nervous. "Don't do that," they say. "Don't listen to such mindless music. Don't wear such revealing clothes. Don't go out with such reckless classmates. Don't ruin your health."

I heard a TV comedian say, "It's not that we lie to each other. It's just that the truth takes so long to explain." Perhaps we can translate that to adult talk. "It's not that I mistrust you. It's just that the reasons for my saying 'don't' take so long to explain." Adrian, kids deserve more than a quick "don't."

When time allows, ask for a thorough explanation. You might be surprised at what you discover.



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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



News from the Czecho-Slovakian Union

7 - Christian Puppet Theater

For several years in the Bruntal Church, there is an activity called “7 - Christian Puppet Theater.” Although it is a small church and there aren’t many children we created a puppet theater and named it “7” because it is part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and also because in the beginning there were only 7 members.

The children took part in the theater when they were preparing for the competition “Muzicka” for the first time. Although they didn’t succeed in the competition, they loved to perform shows in the theater and were interested in continuing with it. They were very much in love with the puppets which were sewed by their leader for each show. Everyone got their own puppet with which they played in the performance. The

beginning wasn’t easy, the children had to learn to handle motion with the puppet, coordination behind the screen, to create backdrops and props and most importantly learn to work with their voice. They had to prepare all the performances and choose the right music. And then followed hours and hours of practicing individual shows during which they learned to communicate, to cooperate, to be respectful, responsible and punctual, to think of one another, to be devoted to it and also have fun.

We started to organize performances for our church, then other churches and I will never forget their first public performance when they were worried about how the public will accept their play about Jesus Christ.

What great satisfaction they got when they heard the applause after the end. From

that time on we’ve organized several performances for children from local and neighboring churches, followed by an afternoon of games and songs inspired by the topic of the puppet show. Gradually, we also started to prepare thematic performances when we went to a Retirement Home or a Special School for Children with Mental or Physical Disability, as well as to public elementary schools. Thus, their service was very discreetly and naturally shared with other people whom it filled with joy.

I am grateful to God that even though the first generation of child actors has already grown up, the Lord God is leading the second generation to continue with the same enthusiasm. Puppets Katka and Misha and others are the most natural way for them to evangelize.



Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2018



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

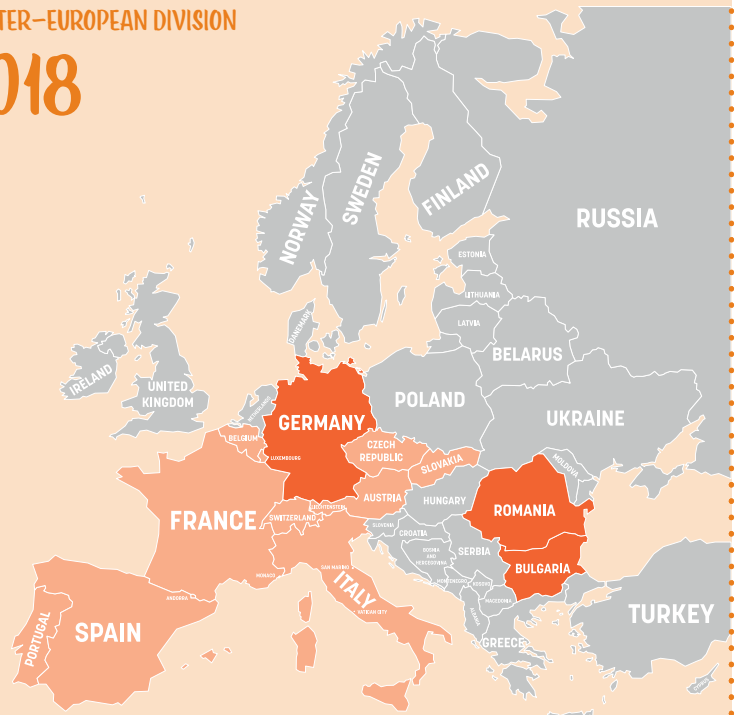
Make plans for your territory

July 31-August 4

GC Youth Leadership Congress
Kassel, **Germany**

August 25

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day*
Worldwide
*Ask for available resources



SAVE THE DATE!

2019

September 18-22

People 7.0. Forward Together

Interministries Summit

Organized by

Children's / Family / Women's Ministries
Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

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



VENICE IS VERY CLOSE



LIGNANO SABBIAADORO



MAKE SURE YOU COME!

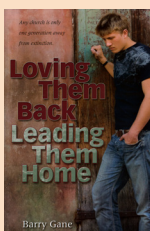


Ten ways to involve children in the congregational prayer

1. Invite a group of children to write different sections of the congregational prayer and then pray them in sequence.
2. Invite older children and teens to create an attractive PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the different sections of the prayer, the people and situations being prayed for, etc.
3. Teach children over six years of age (some younger children can manage this too) how to pray simple prayers for other people in the congregation. Invite those who'd like the children to pray for them to put up their hands. The children can find them, ask about their requests, and then pray short prayers for them.
4. Invite a small group of children to act out the Lord's Prayer with actions or to teach it to the rest of the church.
5. Print off the following words, two to a page on different colored paper, so they can be cut in half:
Yellow paper: Praise
Blue paper: Sorry
Green paper: Thanks
Pink paper: Please
 Stick one of each of the printed words onto a gift bag that's the same color as the paper. Place these at the front of the church. Give one set of the four different colored papers to each person in the congregation. Invite them to write sentence prayers on the papers (a sentence praise prayer on their yellow sheet of paper, etc.). Small children can draw pictures on their paper instead of writing sentences. Invite the children to collect all the colored papers and bring them to the front of the church. Then they can post them in the correct bag—matching the color of the paper to the bag. Pick up one bag at a time and present it to God as a congregational prayer. Then pull a few of the papers out of each bag and read them aloud, prayerfully. This is a useful way to involve everyone in the prayer.
6. The week before you want to do this activity, invite the children to search for objects that represent things they want to thank God for. Arrange all the objects on a table at the front of the church. Ask some children to tell the congregation why they chose the objects they brought along. Use some of their items in your prayer of thanks. Or ask each child to say "Thank you God for..." whatever they brought along.
7. Ask the children to create attractive prayer postcards, decorating them with their artwork, or a simple collage. Send the cards to home-bound or sick church members to let them know that their church has been praying for them, or write a short prayer on the card and post it to their home.
8. Pray a pray-dough prayer of confession- Give each person a piece of white play-dough and invite them to make an object that represents something they want to ask God to forgive. Let them hold the object in their hands as you pray a prayer of forgiveness. As you pray you can also invite them to squash their dough into a ball, and then form it into a pure, white heart-shape. They can take their heart home with them as a reminder that God can take all of our sins away forever, leaving us with lovely clean hearts again.
9. Find a small "tree": a bare twiggy branch that you can place in a pot. Give everyone, including the children, green card leaves that have a hole punched in one end, and a short piece of raffia or string attached. Invite people to write the names of those who are sick and need healing onto the leaves. The leafs can be brought forward and tied to the tree, and the whole tree of healing prayer requests can be presented to God. The tree can have a place in the church, and, when healing has occurred, a coloured paper flower can be stuck to the leaf representing the person who has been healed. If someone dies a white flower can be attached to their leaf and talk about how healthy they will be when Jesus raises them from the dead.
10. Invite the children to write a praise prayer to God. Give them lots of large photos of nature scenes (such as those from calendars) and let them choose one and take it home. Ask them to write a sentence or two praising God for the things they can see in the picture. Then let them hold up their picture for everyone to see, and say their praises as part of your prayer time. Remember that it's alright for us to pray with our eyes open! God doesn't mind!

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

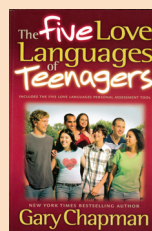
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



LOVING THEM BACK

Barry Gane

You probably know people who have left the church. Maybe you know why they walked away, but more likely you don't. But you do care. The author explores the reasons so many young people decide to leave, considers the complexities of the adolescent mind, addresses the stages of faith development, and offers effective strategies for reclaiming missing youth.



THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES OF TEENAGERS

Gary Chapman

Never before has the task of parenting teenager been more perplexing. Despite the peer pressure that teenagers face, it is still parents who influence teens the most. And the door to that influence is love. Love is the most functional building block of parent-teen relationships. According to the author parents must learn to express their love in a language that makes sense to their teenager. Some teens long for tender words; others desire a gentle touch, a thoughtful gift, a kind deed or quality time spent together. Find out which of these love languages your child speaks.



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