

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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"In My Past.."

God's Bible Promises for kids

"A problem shared is a problem halved" so tell it to Jesus twice!

"The Lord is close to everyone who prays to him."

Psalm 145:19

It's more important what God thinks about us, than what other people think about us. "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. And my thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:9

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

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

The vacation comes, and I remember how all day I was out in the sun and playing with older or newer friends.

Times have changed and most children sit and spend their time on TV, computer, tablet or phone. Parks and playgrounds are forgotten. The moods of another time filled with the workaholics' voices are now full of brambles and forgotten.

I think it is imperative that we make the children go to fresh air and even if the weather is not very good, a few minutes outside are necessary to develop the harmonious development of our children.

If we have a puppy we walk every

day even if it rains, the more we take our children to walk every day, to run, to meet friends playing, even to get dirty.

As first parents, instructors, teachers need to make a change in children's lives, so they spend more time outdoors and know the greatness of God's creation. "Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens." (Psalm 148:13). That's why all the activities we prepare for children-time building, hiking, camps, excursions, mission activities in our churches-the town of Children, Health Expo, smoking, child Valdenz, Bible School of Holiday, etc., to be made in Places with as much greenery and fresh air.

Our children's holiday program needs to be diversified, and the phone and tablet take the least time. The instructor or/and a grandmother from

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.

Help them become an expert at something.

Be excited when you see them.

Tell them about yourself.

Let them act their age.

Praise more; criticize less.

Be consistent.

Admit when you make a mistake.

Enjoy your time together.

Give them a special nickname.

Marvel at what they can do.

Tell them how proud you are of them.

Pamper them.

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the church or several parents by rotation to help in the holiday period to diversify the daily activities of children. Together with the children you can prepare a diverse program:

- "Green Day"—When to visit the parks, to go to a "Picnic", picking the berries, mushrooms; Even to ecologize a space, or a river shore, along with other friends.
- "Game day"—Bike ride, Obstacle Race, ball games-tennis, volleyball, football, etc.
- "The day of the reporter"—on the street or in the park, at the Botanical garden, to photograph and ask the passers about certain topics-weather, plants, childhood memories, etc.
- "Fruits Day"—visit to a fruit orchard, in the absence of a orchards, go to the market. Then try some recipes

with fruit-salad, ice cream, etc.

And when you have no ideas stand and behold the clouds, the birds: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:26)*. Dream and Rest!

Thus children can see the greatness of God's Creation. *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" (Romans 1:20)*. All activities will be passed in a holiday diary!

So but, dear children, PLEASANT HOLIDAYS! ♦

A nostalgic parent



JESUS

wants all of me

A Ball on the Neighbor's Yard

If you like to play with a ball—be it a football, volleyball, or perhaps a basketball—you might have experienced the same thing that happened to Philip. He was playing with his friends, and the ball ended up landing at the home of one of his neighbors.

His friends said that the man who lived there was the angriest man of the entire neighborhood, and that the only way Philip could get the ball back was to jump over the fence and get the ball himself. What would you do if you were in his place? He said he didn't think it was right to do that. Everyone thought

Philip was just making an excuse to avoid doing something that he was scared of doing. And now, what would you do? Want to know what Philip did? He rang the doorbell and found out that the neighbor was not as angry as everyone had imagined. The neighbor returned the ball and even smiled.

Philip did what was right. It's not always easy to make the right choices, but as the Bible says that if people love God, everything works for their best. This means that God can help transform anything that may happen to us into something good.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

Romans 8:28

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

PIERRE (5 YEARS)

I like spinach a lot, except for the taste.

From: <http://www.enfandises.com/en/bibliotheque/cat-36-food/phrase-22032.html>



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IN SYNERGY

ADRA and Children Global Citizenship Education

It was a nice, not too warm summer day. A man sitting next to me was nervously pulling cigarettes out of his pocket, while a woman in a scarf was quietly looking down. Just as I was wondering what would be a polite and appropriate way of speaking to them, Ali took a mobile phone and started to show me pictures. No interpretation was needed. On the photos were their older children. Asim and Basima. The next picture was a picture of Ali's younger brother. The first photo was showing him still alive, next was a picture of his brother, laying on the ground with a deadly wound inside his chest. Ali's hands started to shake.

Their lives in Iraq were threatened every day because Ali did not want to fight. He declined the invitation and payment of one of the militia groups. He just did not want to join them. As a revenge for his refusal, they wanted to kill him. He was hiding, but meanwhile his wife Alya was shot and wounded seriously. The family prepared to flee but only the

youngest daughter Faiza had documents to travel; the older children stayed with their grandparents and the uncle, pretending to be his children. Every five to six days they had to change their residence so that they would not be killed.

ADRA helped and now the children are living with their parents in one of the European countries. The Government granted them asylum protection and they are part of millions of refugees around the globe. I met the whole family a few months after they arrived to Europe. The children attend school, speak one of the European languages, and their lives are not in danger anymore. They are simply happy.

The study by UNHCR found that four million refugee children do not attend school, an increase of half a million of out-of-school refugee children in just one year.

"Education is a way to help children heal, but it is also a key to rebuilding their countries," said Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "Without education, the future of these children and their communities will be irrevocably damaged. School is the first place in months or even years where refugee children find any normality."

Only 61 per cent of refugee children attend primary school, compared to 92 per cent of children globally.

As refugee children get older, this gap grows. Nearly two thirds of refugee



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children who go to primary school do not make it to secondary school. In total, 23 per cent of refugee children attend secondary school, compared to 84 per cent of children globally.

There are many casualties of wars and the impact of conflict on children cannot be overstated.

More stories about refugees and how church and ADRA are supporting them inside Europe, can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BekFQ-J40K2E&list=PLHlTyU7ArSTISQqXmy17W-KajhtGf701sK&index=2&t=0s>

Watch the program and talk with children how to show hospitality to refugee children.



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Nobody has to be alone

“Extreme loneliness!” — This is the title of a book written more than 40 years ago by one psychiatrist. It’s about children and adults with autism (the concept of “autism spectrum disorders” was not yet used at that time). The title of the book expresses the feelings and experience of the main characters of several stories in which the author attempted to bring readers closer to the world of people living with autistic spectrum disorders. The loneliness associated with autism is not caused by the disorder itself, but by a very different way of thinking and world-view of these individuals and their surroundings.

The typical “triad of autism” is manifested in significant differences in *communication* (children with autism sometimes do not speak at all or speak in a very special way), in *perception* or *imagination* (these individuals are often ritually focused on details and cannot perceive a complex whole) and in *social behavior* (such persons may be extremely closed, with great difficulties in establishing relationships with other people—even with their parents, sometimes avoiding physical contact and unable to adopt the common social behavior rules, often referred to as “socially blind”).

The truth is that the manifestations of autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)

are various, their causes are basically unknown, and although the number of children with this diagnosis is increasing, the circumstances are very confusing and there are still many myths and secrets around these disorders, as well as the possibilities of the prevention and effective intervention. For example, it is not true that all children with autism do not like to cuddle—the truth is that they are cuddling (or expressing the affection for their closest persons) in a completely different way than other children. Sometimes it takes a long time for parents to understand it and accept it—especially mothers suffer very much from the lack of response to their motherly love manifestations, and they feel helpless in raising their child (as the usual educational practices do not work here, and these children can sometimes react even aggressively when the surroundings do not understand their needs, etc.).

The main reason for closing themselves is the fact that these individuals regard the surrounding world as unstructured, unsystematic, chaotic—and thus confusing and dangerous. We may not understand them well in everything, but we do not have to leave them closed in their shell and simply ignore them. Yet we know from the Bible that “it is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18)—and this word also



applies to people with ASD. There are some effective behavioral approaches in the education and upbringing of these children, based primarily on structuring and visualization (structured learning, structured instruction, TEACCH program etc.). We should respect the differences and personal boundaries of each child, but at the same time try to seek the way to him (into his world) and also try to open our world for such individuals. And pray! It's not easy, it's a long way—but with Jesus' help there is nothing impossible...



Josef Slowik, PhD
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Some parents—and some teachers as well—seem to forget that they themselves were once children. They are dignified, cold, and unsympathetic.... Their faces habitually wear a solemn, reproving expression. Childish mirth or waywardness, the restless activity of the young life, finds no excuse in their eyes. Trifling misdemeanors are treated as grave sins. Such discipline is not Christlike. Children thus trained fear their parents or teachers, but do not love them; they do not confide to them their childish experiences. Some of the most valuable qualities of mind and heart are chilled to death, as a tender plant before the wintry blast.



Child Guidance, p. 147

Who's to Blame?

Incredi-Biblical

"We will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Kylie was in shock when she and the rest of the teen group went into the nursing home. All around her were people who inspired her sympathy. Some had mental disabilities, some were paralyzed and attached to machines, others were cramped in arthritic positions and confined to wheelchairs. Kylie swallowed hard and attempted to smile as she went from person to person, trying to be cheerful and to pretend she didn't notice the acrid odor of urine.

As the kids got back into the van to leave, Kylie felt furious. "All my life I've

heard, 'Oh, God created you just how He wanted you to be,' or 'God doesn't make junk,'" she fumed. "If that's true, then God wants all these people to be sick and deformed!"

The whole van was silent. Finally Pastor Joe spoke. "You're right," he said simply. "God meant for all of us to be tall, good-looking, with perfect skin, perfect hair, nice teeth, and healthy muscles. But sin has gradually morphed us into what we are, and what those people in that home are. Don't be mad at God, Kylie. Be mad at Satan. He did this."

Pastor Joe paused. "But God will eventually turn us back into who He meant for us to be. If we let Him work on our hearts and minds until they're perfect, He'll also give us new, perfect bodies."

"I hope it happens soon," Kylie whispered, her heart still sad.



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Info Splat

According to a Fox news poll, 92 percent of Americans believe in God.

React now!

What was Jesus' purpose when He came to earth? (See 1 John 3:8 for a clue.) What can we do through Jesus?

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 like watching TV more than cleaning. What should I do?

– Tasha, 11

Well, of course, you do. So do I. I'll take an exciting adventure story over a vacuum cleaner any day!

Trouble is, life isn't all play. There's a whole lot of work thrown in there, too. Like it or not, work makes play possible. Not the other way around.

When what I *have* to do interferes with what I *want* to do I simply look out the back window of our house for inspiration. In the forest, high among the branches of the oaks, lives a family of squirrels. I see them scurrying about, ceaselessly gathering nuts and seeds, scampering from limb to limb searching for food. This is serious business for them. Without a large store of rations, they'd not survive the coming winter months.

All of a sudden, they stop their work and launch into what appears to be a high-flying game of tag. With blinding speed and breathtaking agility, they streak across the leaves, leaping great distances between branches, sometimes bringing their fun to the forest floor, where they tumble and roll in the dirt. After a few moments of this seemingly blissful play, they pause to catch their breath, then continue with their nut gathering.

You like watching TV, Tasha? Take a lesson from the squirrels. Work hard, clean hard, then reward yourself

with a little break and enjoy your favorite show. Then get back to the important jobs at hand. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest" (Hebrews 4:11). Find time for both work and play.



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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

Death

Walking through the Grieving Process with Children

The Basics

Grief is a very painful emotion, and it can be difficult to see a child hurting. Because of this, adults often try to shield children from the intense emotions that surround the loss of a loved one. But like adults, children need the opportunity to grieve. They experience the same stages of grief as adults, but these stages do not have to go in a certain order or follow a specific timeline. The grief process can range anywhere from a month to several years.

However, children do grieve differently from adults. While adults tend to grieve for an extended period of time, children tend to go in and out of the grieving process because they don't have the ability to deal with those big feelings on a consistent basis. Here are three of the most basic stages of grief, and how children handle them:

- **Shock and disbelief**—thinking "this can't be true," making comments that a family member will be back soon, asking questions about death.
- **Extreme feelings**—anger, sadness, aggression, tearfulness, having difficulty concentrating, lashing out at people close to them because they don't understand their intense feelings.
- **Acceptance**—starting to move forward without frequent thoughts of the death, returning to normal activities, sharing positive memories of their loved one rather than focusing on their sad feelings.

Children understand death differently at various ages. Here are some ideas for how a child's age affects his or her understanding of the finality of death:

- **Under 6 years old:** Most children under 6 won't be able to understand what it means to never see someone again. They might say, "Is Grandma going to be dead tomorrow?" They will probably ask repetitive questions about what death is in an attempt to understand it.
- **6 to 8 years old:** At this age, children start to gain a greater understanding of death, but often think on a fantasy level. They may develop a fear of ghosts and see death as a scary thing.

They may show signs of guilt, feeling like they somehow caused the death. They may also display fear that others around them will die.

- **9 years old to teenager:** Children will now start to fully understand the finality of death. While they can express their feelings more verbally, they may not choose to initially. At this age, they want to feel accepted by their friends, pastors, teachers, and coaches—if a parent dies, they may feel different from their friends. Encourage kids this age that their feelings are accepted and normal.

Care Tips

- **Encourage active grieving.** The healthiest way to grieve is by active grieving, where a person spends time trying to live a normal daily life while still devoting time to expressing feelings of sadness. Adults may spend long periods in active grieving. Children, however, will display brief spurts of sadness or anger. The rest of the time they may want to play or go about their daily routine. This doesn't mean they don't care—it's normal! The average intense grieving period for a child is eight to ten months, but, obviously, a child will feel the effects of the loss for a long time after that.
- **Be there.** Help children and their families feel cared for. Just knowing that you're there to help will make a big difference. Be available to the grieving family, and follow their lead in finding ways to help.
- **Listen.** It's helpful for a grieving child to have someone outside the family to talk to. Don't judge or feel like you have to give advice—just listen. In any given conversation, the child may or may not want to talk about the death. Be available to listen to whatever the child wants to talk about.

What not to say

- **"You're the man of the house now."** After the death of a parent, a child often feels a sense of responsibility for surviving family members. It's common for children to try to follow all

the rules and do extra chores because they don't want to be another cause of stress. They may even try to take on more responsibility than they can handle. Saying "You're the man of the house now" only reinforces the unrealistic notion that it's the child's job to take care of the family. Allow the child to mourn in age-appropriate fashion, and dissuade the child from trying to take on adult responsibilities.

- **"It's time to move on with your life."** Everyone moves through the grieving process at different rates. One thing a grieving child doesn't need is more guilt—even if it's been a year or two since the death. Suggest ideas to help the child continue processing the loss, and then help him or her implement the ideas. For example, build a memory garden together or help someone else who is grieving.

What to say

- **"It's OK to cry."** Children don't know how to deal with strong emotions. Letting them know that those emotions are normal and that it's OK to express them will help them grieve.
- **"What do you miss most?"** Help a child share feelings by asking clear questions that can't be answered with a simple yes or no. For example, instead of asking, "Do you miss your brother?" ask instead, "What was your favorite thing to do with your brother?" This will give the child a starting place to sort out his or her feelings.
- **"He loved you so much."** A grieving child longs for the loving touches and words that are now missing. Remind the child of how much the deceased loved him or her, and recall times you saw that love in action.
- **"Let's go get ice cream."** Help the child find a bit of normalcy. Don't have an agenda, but be willing to listen if he or she wants to talk. Otherwise, just have a quiet time together. Ask about school, friends, or pets. Sometimes it's nice just to think or talk about something other than the loss.





Redeeming the time (5)—The role of the father

We resume our dialogue on one the most important aspects in parenting (time with our children/pupils) summing up the previous stops, highlighted by the lesson delineated in Deuteronomy 6: 5-7: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home...”* The conclusion is obvious: the larger the amount of time dedicated to your children, the greater the chances to save them for eternity. Concretely, this means that the value of our personal example is decisive, that the parents should embody the values they utter and should invest time and energy in training the spiritual characteristics, at any given time or circumstance.

Today, let us deal with the value of “talk about them when you are away.” The children have a moral and spiritual nature to be nurtured, even if this is a work of difficulty. For that, the parents play different roles for the education of their children. Whether in the OT culture, “talk about them when you sit at home” had pointed to the role of the mother, the phrase we analyze today was a clue about the father’s role. “Talking along

the road” might be the role of the father. When fathers are seriously connected by participation or association with the education of their children, the little ones learn more, perform better in school and expose healthier conduct. The active involvement of the fathers can strongly influence the displaying of affirmation and acceptance.

Recently the researchers proved that when the fathers involve actively in tending their children, there are positive outcomes. A recent study realized by the Department of Social Policy and Social Work of Oxford University, inquired into fathers’ involvement with their children, when the children were aged 7, 11 and 16 years of age. According to this study (Flouri E, *Fathering and Child Outcomes* – www.wiley.com) an ‘involved’ father is one who spend time with his child reading, taking outings and playing a role equal to mother’s in managing his child. I summarize below the main findings.

The earlier the father involvement with a child, the higher the percentage of continuing involvement with that child, along childhood and adolescence. Generally, once fathers are ‘involved’ they remain involved with that child throughout childhood, and the higher the level of a father’s education, the greater is the

likelihood of his involvement with his children.

A good parent-child relationship in adolescence is the outcome of father’s involvement, which positively influence even the adult life and the academic motivation. When the children grow up, those who have felt close to their fathers in adolescence are more likely to have satisfactory adult marital relationships.

Children with involved fathers are less likely to be in trouble with the police, in particular boys.

Father involvement protects children against later mental health problems. This serves as a protection against psychological disorders in adolescences who experiences parents’ separation. Involvement of the father or a father figure has a significantly protective role against psychological problems for adolescents in families where parents have separated, aspect much stronger for daughters, and works against psychological distress in women.

Father involvement is strongly related to children’s later educational attainment.

When the fathers involve at age 7, this encouragingly foretell a higher educational acquisition by age 20 for both girls and boys.

Next time we will further analyze the decisive value of father’s involvement in parenting, aspect neglected so far.

CREATIVE WORSHIP IDEAS FOR BUSY FAMILIES

Jesus makes us new

Bible Connection

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Things you need:

- Books, pictures, video clips, or models how caterpillars change into butterflies
- Attractive junk, scrap paper, clothespins, chenille wires, colored cellophane, glitter, etc.
- Scissors, adhesive, paper, pens, etc.

Worship activities

1. Read the Bible verse. It's very exciting that Jesus can change us and make us into new creations! He doesn't take away our sins and give us clean hearts, but He makes us into princes and princesses and gives us special gifts to help us share His love with others.
2. Show whatever props and pictures you have found to illustrate the way that a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. Look at a picture or model of a caterpillar and a butterfly and list all the differences you can find.
3. Take the junk and craft supplies and invite each person to make a butterfly, using a clothespin, black cardstock, or chenille wire as the body. They can make any design they like, but the wings must be symmetrical and have a heart-motif included in the design.
4. Discuss how different junk look when it has been turned into butterflies.
5. We may not always feel different when we choose to follow Jesus. We still make mistakes, but He will always forgive us. The biggest change is that once we choose to follow Je-



- sus and keep following Him, we will not die forever but have everlasting life (John 3:16).
6. Display your butterflies in a special place, or attach them to plain canvas to make interesting wall art. Write the Bible verse on the canvas.

Prayer

Let each person use the leftover junk to make something to praise God for loving us enough to transform us and for giving us eternal life.

Experiment #5: The Vanishing Paper

The Bible teaches us repeatedly about God’s forgiveness. Not only that He forgives, but also that His forgiveness is complete and definitive. In Micah 7:19 we learn that God will send our sins to the bottom of the ocean, and Isaiah 1:18 shows us that He can turn any stubborn red stain of sin into the purest white. This experiment is a powerful illustration of this idea. When we confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness, they disappear, forever.

Materials: Flash paper, lighter

Time: 3 minutes

Safety warning: This experiment uses fire so it must be performed at a safe distance from children. When storing it, keep flash paper in a cool environment, away from heat sources.

Values: God’s forgiveness

Procedure:

1. For this experiment, you need to purchase “flash paper”, a special material used by magicians for their shows. It is easily found Online and affordable (e.g. <https://pyromaniac-magic.com/>).
2. Cut several pieces of flash paper into squares of 12x12 cm.
3. Tell the audience that these pieces of paper represent our sins. Write the word “SIN” on one of the pieces.
4. Ask the audience what happens with our sins when we repent and ask for God forgiveness. Comment



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on some of the Bible verses on forgiveness. What does it mean to send our sins to the bottom of the ocean? That they are gone! No one will never reach the depths of the ocean to retrieve them because of the unbearable water pressure. Isaiah teaches us the same lesson: when God forgives you, the stains of sin just vanish and you look as good as new.

5. Take the piece of paper with the word SIN in one hand and the lighter in the other. Tell the audience “When we ask for forgiveness, this is what happens with our sin.”
6. Light the paper on fire by one corner. Wait for 1 or 2 seconds until half

of the paper is on flames and then, throw it in the air. The paper will vanish without leaving any residue.

The Science Behind The Experiment:

Flash paper (also called Nitrocellulose) is a highly flammable material. When ignited, an exothermic chemical reaction releases energy in the form of bright light. The products of this reaction are all gases (nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and water vapor) so no ashes are formed.

Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office



HEALTH AND CHILDREN

Healthy Lifestyle for Children

Childhood obesity has become a prevalent health problem around the world. The consequences are seen in osteoarthritic problems, daytime sleepiness, decline in school performance, and a decrease in personal image and self-esteem. Obesity also increases the risk to develop chronic diseases in adulthood. Unhealthy diets are common among children. In Europe for instance, 9% of the children skip breakfast, while 21% do not regularly consume fruit or vegetables, and 43% frequently drink sugary drinks. Sedentary lifestyle is also a major concern. About 16% of children play sports a mere one an hour a week, while 36% watch TV and / or play video games more than 2 hours a day. Besides encouraging a sedentary lifestyle,

television viewing exposes children to marketing for junk foods and unhealthy beverages. The good news is that overweight and obesity can be prevented and body weight improved through simple lifestyle changes. Dietary changes should include providing children with three moderate meals, where fruits and vegetables are presented in varied preparations. Whole grain products and legumes should be preferred to refined cereals and white bread, with water being the main beverage. In addition, simple sugars should be avoided. Children should not be rewarded with high calorie snacks and sugary drinks. Regular physical activity (at least one hour per day) and adequate sleep are

also central to a good weight management for children.

As a parent help your children to form good health habits by being a role model!

From: <http://secretsofwellness.org/>
With kind permission from the EUD Health Department



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TURBOCHARGE

your Children's Ministry

Through the Cracks

Good Old-Testament Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego offer us amazing insight into what children, properly nurtured, are capable of. Ripped from God-fearing homes and dropped into a pagan palace, they faced constant obstacles. Eat this. Do as you're told. Worship or die. With no visible reason to hope, no future, they could easily have given in. But their resolve was unshakable. They peered through the cracks in the wall of their prison, and they saw light, *the* light. Where does faith like that come from?

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."

Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego were the next generation in an entire legacy of faith, one passed down to them lovingly, with conviction, from their elders. These boys' commitment wasn't based on popular opinion or circumstances. It was

rooted deep, in one simple, unshakable belief: that God's word is true. Oh that we may see children like that in our ministries in this generation! Our primary ministry is to partner with parents in pointing their children toward Jesus.

Children are not subordinate Christians. For too long, the church has viewed children as subordinate, even lesser, Christians. Scripture disagrees. Every promise made to adult believers is 100 percent true for *all* believers, regardless of age. When we pursue God, when we seek him, he pursues us in return. Does that cease to be true below a certain age?

Lay a foundation early, or risk missing the chance. George Barna's research indicates that the moral foundation on a person's life is established in the preteen years. In children's ministry, we have the opportunity to grab their attention as infants and assist their parents

in ushering them into a strong, lifelong faith. We have a responsibility to teach our kids how to explore their own hearts, to confirm their faith for themselves. This is a precious gift. We must rise to the challenge. We need to teach their parents how to teach them, too, to reinforce the truth in their lives.

Children have the faith to believe. Jesus said (more than once), "You want an example of what your 'adult faith' should look like? Look no farther than the faith of a child." (I'm paraphrasing—but only a little.) Do you remember a time in your life before you learned to doubt? Do you remember when you heard God's Word and just believed it? We are surrounded by a great cloud of little witnesses who operate in that kind of faith. What if we could tap that same faith they have? What would our prayers—not to mention our lives—look like if we simply believed as they do?

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

Managing conflicts peacefully - Soothing anger (part 2)

In most families parents have their conflicts out of the sight and earshot of their children. Many of the conflicts parents have are best discussed privately. But it's also good to have some small, well-managed conflicts in front of your child. By watching and hearing how you resolve conflicts in a healthy way they will learn that disagreements are a normal part of most close relationships, and that they can learn to manage their conflicts by following your good example.

Peace-making tools

- Food and sleep! Many arguments happen when those involved are tired and hungry. Getting enough sleep is one of the best ways to reduce the arguments that happen when you and your child are tired and irritable. Having regular, healthy meals helps to prevent the argu-

ments that happen when low blood sugar and hunger make us, and our children, feel grouchy and miserable.

- Positive attention. When children are squabbling together they're often trying to send you the message that they want your focused and loving attention for a while. They quickly learn that you'll come running whenever they fight and yell! Instead of rushing in and adding to the upset, or taking sides, try to find a way to say something like 'It sounds to me as if we all need a diversion...' and suggest something fun or calming they can do with you.
- Share the problem. It's helpful to talk about any problem or conflict being a shared problem. Any problem is not *my* problem, or *your* problem—it's *our*



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problem and we share it because we love each other, and because we have each contributed to the problem in some way, whether we realise it or not. Children need to know that *they* are not the problem, not the *only* cause of the problem, otherwise the problem may feel too big for them to solve, and they can be overwhelmed with sadness. Imagine the problem is in a box on the floor between you, where you can explore it together, and work on a solution together, rather than 'inside' one of you, or just one person's fault.

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



ACTIVITY REPORT



News of the Romanian Union

Health Town

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. (3 John 2)

Nowadays, when the possibilities of communication and knowledge have increased enormously, the ignorance of the essential health principles is alarming. The "Health Town" project was organized to inform children about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Therefore, on the territory of the Oltenia Conference, this educational activity took place in many villages and towns where over 5.000 non-Adventist children participated. The project promoted health principles, as well as Pathfinder programs. Children from grades 1 to 8 participated in educational and recreational games on health issues which were organized in the park or in certain schools.

Volunteer trainers had installed one roll-up of each health principle and promoted life lesson through games and age-specific activities. Participants were encouraged to go to all the roll-ups along the route to discover the principles of a healthy lifestyle.

The project was organized in collaboration with other institutions that promote preventive health education: Police, Fire Brigade - The department of emergency situations, Ambulance, and the National anti-drug Agency.

At the end of the route, the participants received diplomas, gifts and other objects made within the project. Moreover, children were challenged to commit themselves to respecting the principles of a healthy lifestyle. The organizers' hope is that, through such activities, young people and their parents become aware of the importance of health by adopting good habits. Everything is possible by choice so that eventually the saying goes: *Mens sana in corpore sano* (healthy mind in healthy body).



City of Children

This is the fifth year when the city of Reghin turns into a City of Children. "Advent Kindergarten" association, "Exploratori pentru Viitor" (Pathfinders for the Future) and the local town council have organized one of the most frequented and appreciated moments for the little ones.

Every child that wants to attend the educative and re-creative activities offered in this City needs to become a citizen, and children that become citizens for a day in this City will benefit from the playful education and joy that has been specially planned for them.

The activities prepared are many and includes almost 40 stands and workshops. Beside these, we also have a bike, roller-skate, drawing and poetry contest for preschoolers. We also have shows held by the local administration such as: Ambulance service, Firefighters, Road Police and Law enforcement.

Even though all the activities are designed for children, this event also shapes parents and the community to offer quality family time.





ACTIVITY REPORT



News of the Romanian Union

Lecturici

With the desire to stimulate young children to read, the Muntenia Conference Youth Department started a reading program called "LECTURICI". The name is a combination of a word used for reading and "Licurici", the name of the Romanian Union Adventurer program. LECTURICI is designed for children of Pathfinder age and coordinated by the Pathfinder Leaders throughout the Conference.

This year, the enrollment program grew to over 50 Pathfinder Clubs with the children being divided in three groups according to their age: preschool, begin-



ners and advanced. The program starts each year at the Conference level where a group of Pathfinder leaders choose the titles for the next year's program. Afterwards the books are purchased by the Conference and sent to every Pathfinder club enrolled, facilitating a library system from which the children can borrow and return books. Every year, the local Pathfinder library grows, and every year more kids are involved in the program, and more books are read. For example, in order to be able to "graduate" from the advanced group, a child has to read between 30 and 35 books in three months. This year, the program took place for the fifth time. With an enrollment of 612 children, 7430 books were read.

The children have to read the books either with their parents, or as they grow, by themselves. After a child completes a book, a reading questionnaire and evaluation has to be completed and sent to the Conference for validation. This year, the graduating festivities were held on June 2, 2019, and it was great to hear many



parents encouraging us to continue the program as they saw their children's' growing desire to read.

A special mention is needed to say that this year, the Pathfinder Directors wanting to be an example for their kids, were enrolled their own category, advancing their reading level. Seeing the success with the instructor class, the organizers are thinking of offering to more classes, one for parents and one for pastors.

Children Preachers

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (Mark 10: 14)

The childhood age is the best in order to start to develop spiritual abilities and also the availability to serve in some of the church ministries. Children are available to learn, to try, to involve ... If these opportunities are intelligently approached, we can build today the Christians of tomorrow, the leaders of tomorrow...

"Children Preachers", a program that we are doing in Banat Conference, aims at especially kids from 6 to 14 years old, but the younger ones, if they are ready to engage, are more than welcome. Training these kids in the program is a very efficient tool that confer the Adventist identity to the new generations, helping them to develop, early in their lives, the spiritual gifts and to live authentic Christian service experiences.

In order to have this program in your church, you have to:

Talk to the most influential local leaders (pastor, elders ...) in order to make them understand the benefits and to gain their support. Then, of course, the church boards will have to accept the program.

Prepare short and easy sermons that will help the children in their first steps in the preaching art. They need this helping tool in order to have a good start and to enjoy a positive experience they would like to repeat later.

Organize a meeting with the parents. They will be the main supporters of their sons and daughters, helping them to learn (maybe to memorize) the short sermon selected and to deliver them as good as possible. It is important to settle a new meeting, with parents and kids in about 1-2 weeks in order to rehearse together, getting ready for the program in the local church. It is important to help the parents to understand that it is very probably that not all the kids have the talent of preaching but it is important to search in order to see if their kids have it through the program that is not a contest! Some will find other areas where they are good and able to serve well.

Run the first rehears. The leader of the program will observe every child and help with motivation and suggestions both kids and parents. An adult that is a respected preacher (the pastor, a lay member) could do every child sermon in order to offer an example to which the

parents should be very attentive.

Run the second and last rehears. The last details are putting in order here.

Run the program in the church. Some of the kids will show good skills and capacities for preaching and they have to be kept in the leaders attention and given possibilities to develop their preaching gift. The others should be appreciated too and lead to other ministries necessary in the church: music, poetry, prayer ...

Run new training sessions and programs with the preacher kids, developing today the lay preachers and, why not, the pastors of tomorrow! If the pastor and the elders are won for the program, they can include these children preachers in the local church preaching program, using 2 - 3 on them for a divine hour and leading the conclusions and the appeal after their presentations.





ACTIVITY REPORT



News of the Romanian Union

Ministry to non-Adventist Children

I'm so glad to share with you the project we started last year in Maramures. Maybe someone can remember the facts. In August 2018, a week of camp meeting started with non-Adventist children. It was a wonderful time. Children learned to pray, sing and read the Bible.

At the beginning of this year, pastor Adrian Dorgo decided to continue the ministry for these children. Sustained by faithful brothers and sisters from his church he believed that God can do another beautiful thing for kids. So, in Nanesti, a little village in the Maramures, near Sighetu Marmatiei city, took place an evangelistic campaign. The entire attention of the program was put on children. In fact, every evening about 30

children assisted to spiritual program. Adi Dorgo remembers that time with pleasure. He speaks about experiences the children lived in the church and in the evening program. To see non-Adventist children singing, create a choir, praying and participate in activities prepared especially for them is a wonderful memory. Their laughs, sunny faces, candid attitude and humble interest to learn new lessons from the Word of God can't be forgotten.

To offer a good opportunity to children to interact with the nature, they visited touristic places like Suior in the Gutai mountain. Maybe, for a large part of us, to have a warm and clean place is normal. But it's different for a part of this children. They found in the evangelistic program not only a special time to stay together and take part in the spiritual

knowledge. They found new friends, warm hands, lovely hearts and a new community.

To see them together, and listening their spiritual development, demonstrate that God doesn't abandon little hearts. Our efforts can add to the Kingdom of heaven new citizens, like these wonderful children.

I hope that the interest in the ministry to children through evangelistic campaigns will continue. God can move children from non-spiritual interest to great spiritual experiences. Time spent with them, in praying, campaign meeting, touristic visits, games and activities can help the little generation to find the power of the Word of God in their life. May God help us to be available in His great ministry.



Joseph Festival

This year, in the Oltenia Conference took place a festival for children between 5 and 14 years, accompanied by instructors, parents and grandparents.

For this occasion, children have studied the life of Joseph in the Bible and the book Patriarchs and Prophets. The children presented poems, songs, plays, prose, devotionals, PowerPoints, videos, and photo collages. Each group of children prepared a model from Joseph's life, using different techniques - painting, graphics, drawing, sculpture, quilting, origami and many other techniques and specializations. Here are some photos to show the atmosphere

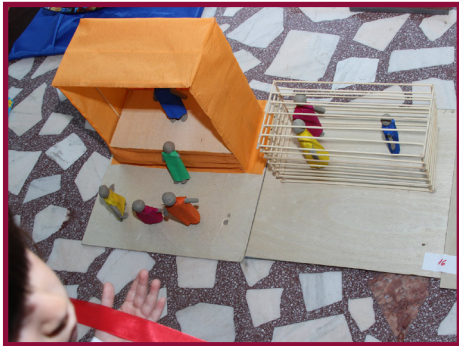




ACTIVITY REPORT



News of the Romanian Union (Joseph Festival ctnd.)





ACTIVITY REPORT



Visit of Linda Koh (GC CHM) in EUD Territory

Activity Center for Children

In May, Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM director, along with Mariarosa Cavalieri, Italian Union CHM Director, visited the Center of Influence OASI in the surroundings of Milano (Italy).

Since several years this center gathers immigrants' children from 5 up to 14 years old, helping them to learn Italian and to better understand the culture of their hosting country.

Twice a week, for about 2 hours, the children are involved in activities and tasks that they really enjoy. The serene atmosphere and the kindness of the responsible of that center is a real plus for the children attending.

They hear inspirational and motivating stories; learn about special places or people from around the world; discover the importance of life values; make some crafts and coloring activities, and, when the weather allows it, they enjoy some sports or outdoor activities.

There are up to 40 children that are joining every time and sometimes even more. Beside that they are also involved in a pathfinder project as also some social projects.

It is superfluous to say that children are very pleased to join the center to spend some time with friends and participate in all the activities proposed. They

feel almost like home and very comfortable with the leaders that are waiting for them every week to welcome them and take care of them. Also parents appreciate very much this center because they see how their children enjoy the time passed in that center.

It was uplifting to visit that center and realize how children appreciate to be together with friends and caring adults. As the center already exists since several years, it is impressive to think on the considerable quantity of children that have attended, and even when they are grown, they keep the memories of such impacting experience in their hearts.



Special Weekend in Banat Conference

Arad and Timisoara are quite fascinating Romanian cities located in the western part of the country. Both are pretty touristic and historical towns, and are located in the Banat Conference in the SDA Romanian Union. There are several SDA churches in both towns with quite a number of children involved in several activities.

For this reason, from May 17-19, Narcis Ardelean, Children's Ministries director from that conference, invited Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director, for a special weekend of training and CHM

activities. The new Youth and CHM director of the Romanian Union, Gelu Poenariu, took advantage of this special event to be part of it.

A good combination of meetings, training and activities with children enriched the schedule.

Noteworthy, the program on Sabbath afternoon presenting children talents' was of great inspiration for the attendance. The children choirs, the lovely music played on solo or in groups, the special messages presented by motivating children preachers were properly mingled to delight and awaken the

interest of the audience, pointing out to the many talents children have as also underlining how they are willing to put their whole in action to God's glory.

It is always heartening to notice how the simplicity and naturalness of children grant them abilities and skills, allowing them to go beyond their limits.

We thank God for the good experiences we enjoyed together with the children, the pastors, the church leaders and all other person that contributed somehow and somehow to make that weekend memorable for everyone...

Many blessings to Romania!



Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019



July 27-August 4

EUD Camporee
Sesimbra, **Portugal**

October 3-6

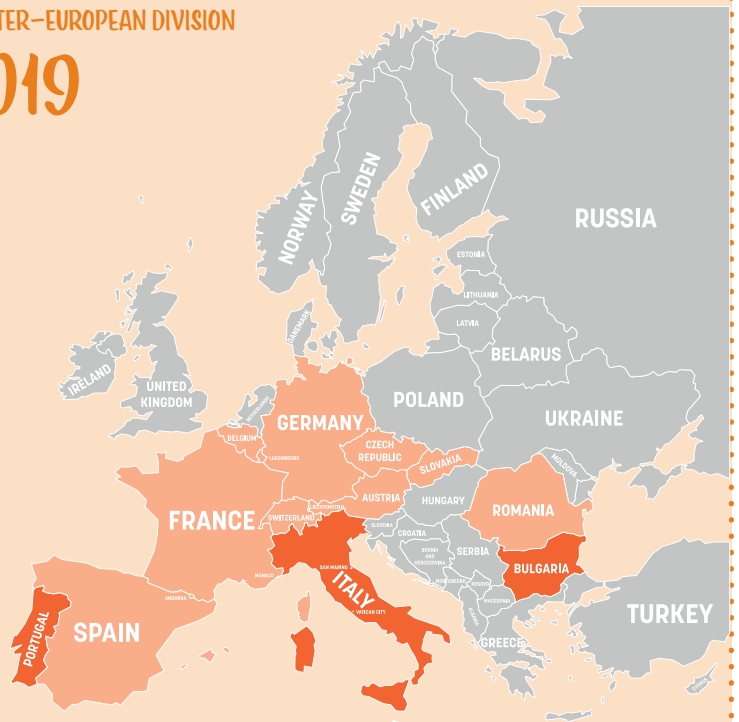
Deaf Interpreters Training
Milano, **Italy**

November 15-17

CHM Training Course
Sofia, **Bulgaria**

September 18-22

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



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Informational or Transformational Discipleship?

The answer to this question is the key. “Informational discipleship is focused on delivering content to kids. Bible stories, character qualities and spiritual truth. These are all important and even necessary. However, if our ministries stop there, all we are going to be doing is creating informed disciples.”

It’s not enough. We need to focus on *transformational discipleship*. This is where delivery of content follows relational investment. God has wired human beings of all ages with a desire to learn throughout life. Relationship allows content to be observed in real life. We can teach about grace and forgiveness and the power of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. However, when a child not only hears about it but *sees it in real life* (which can only happen through relationship), then the potential for transformation in his/her own life is exponentially multiplied.

Equip parents to disciple their own children.

Discipleship with children is primarily a responsibility of parents, and churches purposefully should equip them for that. Are parents in your church taking responsibility for discipling their children, or do they bring them to the church for you to disciple their children?

What we do in church is important, but the investment—or non-investment—by Mom and Dad is critical. Their relationship with the child is the one that really matters more than any other. As church leaders, we need to understand that most parents want to invest in their children, but most feel completely inadequate to do so. But we get so busy managing our own programs and activities that we forget to invest in the single greatest discipleship opportunity we have—equipping parents.

Finally, whether we are a parent, a Christian leader, a pastor, or just someone who loves kids, we can impact children. By investing our time, money, and prayer in discipling them we are impacting and changing children’s lives for ever.

We are drawing them closer to their friend and Savior Jesus. There is no greater gift, privilege or responsibility.



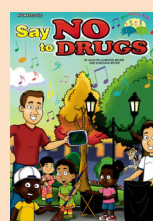
Ideas freely gathered from: childrensministryleader.com/ministry-informational-transformational/ and: blog.lifeway.com/growingdisciples/files/2013/08/Stepping_Stones-2008.pdf

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



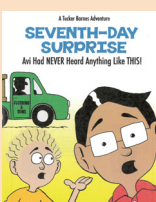
THE BITING SOLUTION Lisa Poelle, M.A.

Does your child bite siblings, friends, classmates—and you? Is your child threatened with expulsion from child care because of chronic biting? Here’s practical, realistic advice that is guaranteed to help. This book offers a script that walks you through what to do and say the instant a child bites, what adults need to know about child development, temperament, and limit setting to prevent biting, and much more.



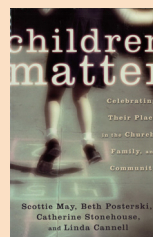
SAY NO TO DRUGS (Animated DVD) Saustin and Dumisani Mfuno

Follow the **Pro-Active Kids** in an amazing adventure as they introduce to you great ideas to **Say No to Drugs!** Learn fun songs about living healthy habits, accepting yourself, and reaching out to help others that will fortify you against the drug trap.



TUCKER BARNES SERIES Randy Fishell

Kids everywhere have followed the adventures of Tucker Barnes in the pages of Guide magazine. Tucker’s escapades have gotten him into hot water, but they’ve also taught him important lessons. Along the way, kids have learned about Telling the truth, Prayer, Helping others, The Sabbath, and many more. This pack contains all ten adventures.



CHILDREN MATTER

S. May, B. Posterski, C. Stonehouse, and L. Cannell

Children today are no longer expected to be “seen and not heard,” yet in many churches children are involved only in programs specifically designated for them. This book offers a full discussion of children’s spirituality and shows how the faith community can better nurture its youngest members.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

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