

A Newsletter for all those involved in Children's Ministries



Children First!

Issue 2 - 2007

SPECIAL MISSION EDITION

Enclosed with your newsletter are three resources:

- 2007 ADRA Countdown 'making a difference'. Please photocopy it for your children or print an A4 colour edition from the BUC Children's Ministries website. Dawn, the Children's Ministries secretary, has made it 'child friendly' so your children will enjoy using it over the ADRA period. The London area has an extra week to most of the BUC so the third week will not be relevant to all. The younger children will need their parents help so please explain what to do, preferably during the ADRA promotion time at church. This will also help the church members recognise what an important part the children are doing during Ingathering.
- An introduction to the Trans-European children's mission project at Esiphephelweni. Please read carefully the enclosed sheet as the information will guide you how to involve your Sabbath School children/teens in this mission project *after Ingathering finishes and until March 2008*.
- KIDS in discipleship leaflet – a 'must ministry' for every church. Two training sessions will take place between 21-26 May 2007.

YOUR CHILDREN – YOUR MISSION.

At our workshops you are being encouraged to understand the need of, and make plans for, the 0-14 year olds during 2007. Writing a mission statement helps in clarifying your purpose. It is best to keep it simple, easy to understand and practical. Pages 6-19, 48-54 in the Children's Ministries Manual gives plenty of ideas you can

choose from. For example you may choose 3 areas to focus on:

1. preparing your children for baptism
2. training those involved with children
3. support a mission project

Your statement could then be

"The mission for 2007 is to reach out to our children helping them to understand how to have a loving commitment to Jesus and to serve others. Also to train, resource and support those who minister to them."

You will then lay plans on how to put your mission vision into practice.



1. Decide who is to organise the Bible studies; when, where and how to invite the children to them; set the baptismal date with the Pastor, etc.
2. Contact the Conference, Mission Union director to find out the training programme, and resources.
3. Involve the children in the TED mission project.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING A MISSION FOR CHILDREN?

Was it the Sabbath superintendent, teacher or nominating committee that saw in you the potential to be a part of the children's ministry team? How did it make you feel? "Oh no, not another church office!" "If I do not look after the children who will?" Perhaps these comments went through your mind but you said "yes" in the end. What does this mean to you? Well it says your church has:

- confidence in your ability
- noticed you are gifted in nurturing children
- value your contribution to the mission of the church

YOUR CHILDREN NEED A MISSION

When we feel valued and needed and also have a mission in life then we enjoy attending church. Our children need a mission too. Just as you feel valued and needed at church the 21st century children must have a similar experience or they will stop attending. "You see, when you love Jesus it motivates you to do something for Him and if you do not find a suitable way to use your giftedness for God then what is the point of being a Christian and attending church?" shared a young person.

Our children must know

- you have confidence in their ability
- have noticed they are gifted
- you value their contribution to the mission of the church. This will help them enjoy attending church and have a practical relationship with God.

12 OTHER REASONS TO TEACH MISSION TO CHILDREN



We belong to the church world-wide. When a child becomes a Christian he should learn about his family.



In heaven there will be people of all nationalities. We need to prepare children for heaven.



Jesus died for all, not for some. Anything on His heart should be on our hearts and on children's hearts too.



Mission is a theme throughout the Bible and we have a responsibility to teach the whole truth.



Mission is an activity for the whole church, including children.



God has important roles for children in His world-wide purposes, and always has done



Children can be involved in mission now, particularly through praying and as givers; but some will go as God's ambassadors too. Children are some of the most effective intercessors and missionaries because they have uncluttered faith. They are world-changers.



Children are missionaries now and of the future. We should prepare and

involve every child in what God wants him or her to do and be their role model.



It can help children deal more effectively with the non-Christian culture around them and warn them of the dangers of getting involved in non-Christian practices.



It can help non-Christian children become Christians. Through learning from their Christian friends how to become a Christian.



Participation in God's world-wide purposes is exciting.



Children are naturally interested in everything around them. Mission is a colourful topic bursting with activity and compassionate action. It's fun, moving and rewarding.

FROM WEC INTERNATIONAL

THE TWO BEST WAYS TO TEACH MISSION.

- Understand the 5 keys to interacting with the 21st century child:
 1. Children's individual families differ in structure and function: single parents, step parents, working mothers, etc.
 2. Children mature earlier, both physically and mentally, and they are more independent.
 3. Children learn from the media, they learn in groups, and they are expected to know more than children of previous generations.
 4. Children are growing up in a post-modern society that does not provide leadership on moral issues and rejects religious values.
 5. Children are growing up in a multi-cultural society. They are expected to relate to people from all cultures and values.

(Taken from: Teaching the Faith – D J Habenicht & L Burton - Review & Herald Publishing Association)
- Secondly, we must understand how today's children learn. This can differ in many ways, to how the older generation was taught. Here are 4 Keys of teaching today's children:
 1. Provide many opportunities for hands-on activities.

2. Connect teaching to real life, and include many opportunities for problem solving and creativity.
3. Focus on understanding rather than facts and give children time to reflect on what they have learned.
4. Focus on understanding children and building relationships with them.

(Taken from: Teaching the Faith –
D J Habenicht & L Burton - Review &
Herald Publishing Association)

HOME MISSION IDEAS

Sometimes, especially for younger children, it is hard for them to relate to mission projects abroad so involving them in home projects is better. Here are some ideas from Karen Holford, SEC Children's Ministries associate director:

- Children often love to help distribute outreach cards. Teach them how to be good witnesses by only walking on pathways, and being courteous. Always have an adult close by in the same road.
- Encourage children to pray regularly for the conversion of a few people they know.
- Have a theme party for your child's birthday, such as Noah's Ark, and show a Bible Story video at the party, and give tiny books about Noah in the party bags, with plastic animals, rainbow stickers, etc.
- Give a gift that is fun, but also on a Biblical theme, such as a Noah jigsaw puzzle, Bedtime Story books, Noah sticker books, Creation stamping kits, Bible-theme puzzle books, or give inspiring biographies.
- Lend out Christian videos to friends.
- Invite all their friends to Holiday Bible School.
- When a new baby is born, look in Christian Bookshops for gift books for the parents that have some spiritual content too.
- Develop a really lively and interesting family worship together, and then let your children invite a friend for supper, and to share in the worship time. Light some candles and create a cosy atmosphere.
- If your children are in a special event at church, invite non-Christian relatives along to share the occasion, or video the event and show it to family members.

- Buy or design and make a witnessing T-shirt for your children to wear. Make sure it is tasteful and attractive.
- Involve the church children in a community outreach project, or aid project, and invite the local paper to write a report about them.
- Children can have pen-pals, and email friends with whom they can share their faith in a non-threatening way.
- Do all you can to make sure that your children are delighting in their Christianity, and that their experience of God is fresh, exciting and enjoyable. They will be naturally exuberant about their faith, and that is an incredible witness to others.

In all things be sure that your children are safe and not working alone when they are involved in outreach activities. Pray that God will richly bless their efforts!

MISSION RESOURCES

Following are sources of information that have proved helpful in preparing programmes for Children's Mission. You may want to order these for your own Sabbath School.

Visual Aids

- New from Adventist Missions, a box set that contains:
 - A DVD with videos and music videos.
 - A CD with programme outlines, stories, games and activities.

Initially this was done for our church schools but the GC Children's Ministries Department are promoting this Adventist Mission material as it is suitable for Sabbath School too. It:

- demonstrates the importance of mission work around the world
- connects geography and social studies to the world wide work of the Church
- presents mission service as a soul-winning adventure and a worthy career
- inspires children to support mission work through their prayers and offerings
- instills a sense of pride and responsibility as they see how they are an important part of the world Church.

For more details look it up on the website:
www.Adventist.Mission.org.

- Kid's Mission Discovery kit has a mission wall mural to colour that illustrates the stories for the current quarter. It contains felt figures to help tell the weekly mission stories. B.J.K. Triplets, 601 Cameron, Spangle, WA 99031, USA.
- WEC international
Bulstrode
Oxford Road
Gerrards Cross
Bucks
SL9 8SZ
Tel: 01753 884 631
Email: lcr:ukwec-int.org
- British & Foreign Bible Society (Bible Society)
Bible House – Stonehill Green
Westlea
Swindon
SN5 7DG

Tel: 01793 418100
Fax: 01793 418118
Internet: www.biblesociety.org.uk
- Christian Aid – UK
35 Lower Marsh
Waterloo
London
SE1 7RL

Tel: 0207 620 4444
Fax: 0207 620 0719

Books

- Children Just Like Me, by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley (Dorling Kindersley Books, 1995). A beautifully illustrated large-format book that introduces children to many cultures through children. Includes information on the children's hobbies, homes, schools and lifestyle.
- The Great KidMission, edited by Mary Gross (Ventura Calif: Gospel Light Publishers, 1996). Contains reproducible learning activities, crafts, dramas, games and patterns.
- The Kid's Multicultural Art Book, Alexandra Terziar (Charlotte, vt; Williamson Publishing), contains easy-to-follow instructions for creating several crafts.
- You Can Change the World: Learning to Pray for People Around the World, by Jill Johnstone, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993). This book is rich in full-colour

illustrations, and helps children understand about unreached people groups.

NEED TO CONTACT US



Do you want to get in contact with Heather Haworth, BUC Children's Ministries Director?

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ON THE INTERNET

Lost the newsletter? You can also find it on our website.

www.adventist.org.uk

You can browse other SDA Advent Sources links that have Children's Ministries resources:

<http://childmin.com>

Another Adventist website is:

www.secadventist.org.uk. Go to Children's Ministries website for some good resources.