



Children First!

A newsletter for all those involved in Children's Ministries

Please put a copy on the Church notice board

LAUNCH OF NEW-IMPROVED TRAINING COURSE 5-7 December 2008

Jesus focused on a child's faith as an example of how we adults should respond to Him. After research done by George Barna, www.barnaresearch.com, it is no surprise

that statistics show that the prime time an adult had given their heart to Jesus was in their childhood.



Barna further found that we are losing from church over 50% of our children. Of those adults that have stayed, this is the age range at which they committed their life to Jesus:

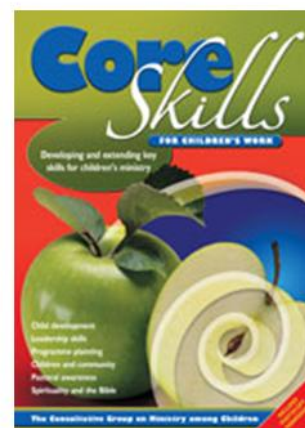
- ◆ 32% between the ages of 5-12
- ◆ 4% between the ages of 13-18
- ◆ 6% from 19 yrs old until death

What conclusion can we draw from Barna's and our Value Genesis findings? The modern pre-teen child must be a focus of much of our ministry if we want our church to grow. Pathfinders and Sabbath School are already ministering to our children and helping to keep the 42% in church.

More can become members. In the 1970s it was calculated that if all the children from the conception of the SDA church had remained in church, and their children remained in church, then by the 1970s the numbers of members would have been multi-millions. It is possible to turn the tide of losing our children. It needs leaders like you who are willing to refocus the membership on suitable in-reach evangelism.

To assist you and your church in this evangelism we have in-

cluded a leaflet describing the Core Skills Children's Ministries new certificate training course. This will be launched at the 5-7 December 2008 Conference (see the enclosed poster and booking form). The aims of this residential weekend course are described on the back of the leaflet. Please take the time to read it, and prayerfully decide, with your church board, who to send for the weekend training.



Winning Children—SEC Children's Outreach & Ministry Day

"Sit on a table facing a blank wall while listening to a sermon in Chinese for an hour and a half, once a week," the 30 participants at the 'Winning Children' workshop on Sunday, 27 April were told. This is what church can be like for many children for the first ten years of their life. Stanborough Park church was the venue to explore creative approaches for reaching out to children in the communities around their churches, and to discover fresh ways to evangelise and win the children who already attend our churches each Sabbath morning.

The day began by using dozens of black and white postcards of children to help the group explore different aspects of most children's experience of church today, and then what God wants them to experience as an active part of a spirit-filled community. Several groups who are actively involved in

children's outreach projects shared some of their experiences and prayer requests.



Learning about messy church, creative ways to encourage children to pray, creative storytelling, using parachutes and flags in worship, child protection, how children learn, how to access community funding for children's events, ways to involve children in a church service, and how to run small groups where children can explore the Bible and develop their faith in a loving God all made for a very active day.

People left the Stanborough Centre at 5.00 pm buzzing with ideas to enrich their ministry, and comments such as "This should be a regular event, for it

is very important... I wish that as leaders/teachers in Children's Ministries, we get more help with support so that we can help children know Jesus. They are not only the future church; children are also the church of today... If we don't value the children today, they won't be here tomorrow... We need to do all we can to include the children in our church services and ministries, and help them to discover and use their spiritual gifts."

The day was coordinated by Karen Holford, Associate Children's Ministries director at the South England Conference, together with Heather Haworth, Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, Ian and Romolà Lorek, Rosemary Lethbridge, Heather Hanna, and Linda Green.

[Karen Holford, SEC Associate Children's Ministries Director]

Faithshapers: SEC Children's Ministries Training Day

From the beginning it was clear that FaithShapers was going to be a training day with a difference. Karen Holford, Associate Children's Ministries director at the SEC, began by introducing a brand new approach to ministry: "**Aim lower, think smaller, give up and go have a cup of coffee!**" The group of almost forty children's workers, who had gathered at the Advent Centre in London on Sunday, 11 May, in search of encouragement and inspiration, were probably relieved to discover that this was not an admission of defeat on the part of the South England Conference! Instead it was a challenge to think differently about how we as a Church can fulfil the Great Commission.



When 60-80% of all people making a positive response to the gospel are children, it makes sense for our churches to **aim lower**, targeting outreach projects at

a younger age-group, and to **think smaller**, to realise our children's great potential to evangelise others. We may have to **give up** time and resources in order to plan programmes that will really make an impact, so it is important to go have a **cup of (decaffeinated) coffee** with other leaders to network and pool resources and ideas. Karen's thought-provoking video presentation and the discussion that followed provided a fitting opening to a day of hands-on learning, designed to equip Children's Ministries leaders with the skills to create innovative, interesting and engaging programmes for children.

Seasoned Children's Ministries coordinators Romolà Lorek (Bournemouth), Heather Haworth (BUC), and Bernie Holford (SEC) introduced specialist children's programmes like Messy Church, Holiday Bible Clubs and Kids in Discipleship. There were also practical demonstrations by children's author and leader Heather Hanna, showing how parachutes and flags can be used to keep children actively engaged in worship. At the end of her energetic presentation, one participant remarked, "it's contagious – it makes you want to go out and do it yourself!"

There were workshops on topics ranging from Child Protection to Storytelling, Getting Kids Talking in Class to Creative Prayer and Interactive Worship. Participants also had the opportunity to develop their artistic flair in the Make & Take Creative Space, as Katherine Dalton (Luton) and Harriette Baisden (Southall) helped them produce eye-catching visual aids and classroom displays to take back to their respective churches.

The event was concluded with a time of reflection and prayer for the children of our Conference, and participants left motivated to adapt the new ideas they had discovered to nurture the faith of the children in their own churches and communities. "Overall I think it was a great experience for me. It was a packed day but everything that was offered was necessary," commented one children's worker, "I loved the interaction, meeting other church colleagues, sharing ideas and trying things out... I'm going back home to tell the rest of my team to **aim lower, think smaller and give up** – and I hope we can join you at the leadership training in December for another **cup of coffee!**"

[Anna McLarty]

Another Successful KID Event

Watford, England—"This is probably the most well rounded and valuable Conference-sponsored training programme I have attended," stated David Riley, Central London church pastor. His comment was reflective of the response of those who attended the "Kids In Discipleship" (KID) training at the Stanborough Centre, Watford, 6-9 March.

Adventist Church teams from Hungary, Lebanon, Lithuania and the United Kingdom, a group of more than 40 participants, came together for four days of intensive training. This was the first training seminar run by a team of Trans-European Church based trainers and coaches, a very capable team which over the last two years have been prepared for this task.

The training of church teams was

preceded by a two days coaches' training. This was arranged for those who will be coaching local church teams and KID presenters. Carsten Berglund, a Swedish Adventist who teaches coaching, led out the first day, while on the second day Anne-May Wollan, TED Children's Ministries director, and Barbara Clee, teacher, provided guidelines in how to make presentations.

"We all felt that the Holy Spirit was with us, and as before it became a real spiritual high," says Anne-May, who is in charge of the TED KID Training events.

The enthusiasm and faith in this ministry was evident in those already involved in KID in their local churches. "KID training is an enabler. It has equipped me with the resources that I need in order to

disciple my children and to help parents like myself disciple and mentor their children," said Rebeca Asamoah, London, UK.

"KID gives insight to a new way of ministry in which children, along with their parents can come closer to God. And that makes the future of the church hopeful. Thank you for sharing it with us!" said Palam Arvai, a member of the Hungarian team.

"I believe that the KID ministry will help our children, families and the whole congregation to grow spiritually," concluded Aranka Bajic, Children's Ministries director in the Middle East.

NEXT TRAINING EVENT: 23-26 OCTOBER, 2008

For more details contact the BUC Children's Ministries department.

I'm a Lamb—Feed Me!

The North American Division commissioned Mrs Karen Holford, SEC Associate Part time Director for Children's Ministries, to write this

annual programme. Thanks to Karen, we are able to send it out much earlier this year.



New Style Newsletters

The BUC and SEC have both updated their newsletter formats so they are bright and cheerful to look at and informative to read. Go to www.secadventist.org.uk to download the SEC news and resources.



NEED TO CONTACT US?

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

Phone (& fax): 01159 164 125

or email Heather at: hhaworth@adventist.org.uk

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>



"God Made Me Special" – creation resource page

The world will celebrate Darwin's bi-centenary in 2009 but a worldwide growing group of hundreds of serious scientists are publically asserting that science proves Darwin is wrong. Unfortunately effective media and academic blackout stop these facts from being widely known. Here are some websites whose information you can use to share with your children/teens stating that it is true, "God made me special".

Creation Resources Trust

P O Box 3237, Yeovil, BA22 7WD

Tel/Fax: 01935 850569

www.c-r-t.co.uk

Useful links on their website:

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|---|-------------------------------|
| *Institute for Creation Research | *Creationism |
| *Creation Research Society | *Biblical Creation Ministries |
| *Creation Science Movement | *Creation Research UK |
| *Creation-Evolution Encyclopedia | *Biblical Creation Society |
| *Centre for Science & Culture | *The Genesis Agendum |
| *Creation Moments | *The Darwin Papers |
| *Forgotten History | *Creation Tips |
| *Truth in Science | *ID in the UK |
| *Creation Research & Apologetics Society of India | |

Other useful websites which also sell DVDs, tracts and books for children:

- ♦ Creation Ministries International
15 Station Street, Whetstone, Leicestershire, LE8 6JS
Tel: 0845 6800 264
www.creationministriesinternational.com
- ♦ Trinity Vision
8 St John's Parade, Alinora Crescent, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN12 4HJ
Tel: 0845 166 8464
www.trinityvision.co.uk
Trinity Vision sells a number of DVDs and videos, including 'Life's Story' that gives evidence against Darwinism.
- ♦ Adventist Book Centre
www.adventistbookcenter.com. The following resources are found on this website:

Video	The Kids Creation Story
Video/DVD	Animated Kids Bible—Creation
Books	Adam & Eve (creation & redemption), by Ruth Redding Brand A Brand New World, by Cari House God Makes a Promise, by Cari House Evidence for Creation, by George Javor
Teaching Series	Discover God's Creation (age group 10-13) Explore God's Creation (age group 14-16) Books for this series include: resource book, students' textbook, teachers' textbook
Holiday Bible School	The Amazing Creation