

**CHM Leadership Certification
Level II, Course #4**

**INVOLVING CHILDREN IN MISSIONS
Linda Mei Lin Koh, GC Children's Ministries
(Handouts)**

Did You Know?

- The basic traits of a child's character are formed before age 6.
- Major interests in life are taking permanent shape by age 12.
- According to the George Barna Research Group:
 - 5 -13 years -- 32 % accept Jesus as personal Savior
 - 14-18 years – only 4% accept Jesus
- Children are most likely to hear God's call to full-time Christian ministry (missionaries, ministers, etc.) between the ages of 4-14. (*Christianity Today*)
- Missiologists refer to this period of time as the "4/14 Window".

Biblical Counsels on Compassion

- *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress . . ."* James 1:27
- *"Carry each other's burdens, and this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2
- *"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves."* Romans 15:1

Ellen White on Compassion

*"The principles of heaven are to be brought into the government of the home. Every child is to be taught to be polite, **compassionate**, loving, pitiful, courteous, and tenderhearted."*

Child Guidance, p. 143

Why Involve Children in Missions?

- The Bible tells us to do it.
- Help kids identify needs of others and see how they can make a difference in the world.
- We must sow seeds of mission interest at an early age if we expect to reap missionary recruits and strong mission supporters in the years ahead.

Why Involve Kids in Missions?

- Children are sensitive to God. They can begin to learn about God's heart for missions at an early age.
- Children easily understand the concept of compassion.
- Responding to needs of their world help children develop into caring adults.

BCD Cans for AIDS Orphans in Africa—story of involvement in compassionate service

Lessons Learned from Mission Involvement

- Compassion, empathy, and willingness to share.
- Praying for others.
- Generosity in giving.
- Appreciation of other cultures.
- Trust in God.

Ellen White, Testimonies, v. 4, p. 554

“All who profess to be children of God should unceasingly bear in mind that they are missionaries, in their labors brought in connection with all classes of minds.”

Ellen White, That I May Know Him, p. 42

“Whole armies of children may come under Christ's banner as missionaries, even in their childhood years. Never repulse the desire of children to do something for Jesus. Never quench their ardor for working in some way for the Master.”

Ideas for Involving Children in Missions

1. Mission Camp
 - A program to inspire and introduce children to missions and missionary work.
 - Children get to:
 - *interact with missionaries
 - *listen to stories of mission heroes
2. Mission Festival/Fair
 - A weekend of mission emphasis.
 - Children make exhibits showing missionaries, places they want to do missionary work, and mission projects which they display in the church.
 - Games, fun activities and foods of other countries are introduced to children to get a feel for understanding other cultures.
3. Mission Newsletter
 - Produce a monthly or bi-weekly brief newsletter to inform members about missionary projects done by the children.
 - Children can help illustrate or write brief news.
4. Mission Projects
 - Encourage children to adopt a project to help the mission field.
 - Children can raise funds or collect items like old clothes, toys, books, and others for the project.
 - Join hands with ADRA to help disaster victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, or tsunamis.
5. Mission Clubs

- Organizations for children that meet regularly for fun activities about missions, and participate in “live action projects.”
- Examples:
CIA – Children in Action
* GA – Girls in Action
* Mission Kids

6. Mission Prayer Calendar

- The Mission Prayer Calendar helps children identify with missions on a personal level. The scripture memory verse each day teaches children why we do missions.
- Pray for missionaries and their families.

7. Children’s Missions Books

- Encourage children to read different missions books.
- Have children present book reviews.
- Have children present puppet plays or skits.
- Record their reviews on video.

8. Mission Trips

- Take children on mission trips nearby or overseas if they are older.
- After returning home, they can give a report and share their thoughts on what it is like to be a missionary.
- Children can write up their experiences and publish them in the mission newsletter.

9. Missionary Speaker

- Invite a missionary or missionary family to come & tell their story—include the children.
- Have the missionary family dress up in the costumes of the country they serve in; or the children can also dress up like them.
- Make up a radio program to interview the missionary.

10. Compassion Ministries

- Encourage children to participate in compassion ministries to their local community.
- Helping at a local shelter or volunteering at a soup kitchen provides opportunities for children to develop love and desire to minister, and later as a missionary.

Other ideas for involving children in God’s mission

- Post a world map in an area of high visibility—place a pin in the places where you have mission involvement.
- Gather a special mission offering once a month.
- Ask children to identify and pray for people who they know that do not go to church.

More idea . . .

- Memorize Psalm 67:3-4.
- Read the book of Jonah—talk about Jonah’s missionary service.
- Send birthday cards to missionaries and Missionary Kids.
- Pray for unreached people groups.
- Interview an international student.

- Learn phrases in a foreign language.
- Hold a walk-a-thon to raise funding for a mission project

Jesus' Commission

Jesus' commission for us to preach the gospel throughout the world includes the children.
Involve them now.

Tomorrow's missionaries begin with today's children!