

# KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES

MISSION: TO NURTURE CHILDREN INTO A LOVING, SERVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

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## KidsNewsZone

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## The Accountable Leader

We all want to be a leader, but few are prepared to accept the accountability that goes with it. In the past, many leaders and kings have not seen themselves as accountable to anyone. Instead, many deemed themselves above the law and some even claim immunity just because they are leaders. Look at what has happened in the world today with regard to unaccountable CEOs, investors, and governments. Do you recognize these names? Estrada, Pinochet, Enron, Union Carbide? What about Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden? Indeed, globalization of personal accountability is catching up with the globalization of personal power!

What is Accountability? The Webster dictionary defines it as responsibility, answerability. It means that you accept the responsibility for the work you have agreed to perform and for the people you care for. It also means you are answerable for the outcomes expected of you whether good or bad.

Accountability is about setting your goal and expectations, communicating it, and then holding yourself and everyone working within your sphere of influence responsible for meeting these expectations. In other words, you are responsible for your actions.



What about Children's Ministries directors and leaders on every level of the Church? Are you accountable for the tasks you are given? Here is a checklist:

- Do you set your goals and strategic plans in place?
- Do you train and empower other children's leaders who work with you?
- Do you speak up for children in matters related to their spiritual growth and nurture, meeting their needs, and their rightful place in the church?
- Do you work closely with parents and families to involve them in the spiritual nurture of their children?
- Do you plan and implement a budget effectively?
- Do you work well with others?

God has chosen us to minister to children right now! Be accountable to your calling and to the children you serve. For when Jesus comes again, may you hear Him say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

*Linda Mei Lin Koh*  
GC Children's Ministries Director



COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



## AROUND THE WORLD

### EURO-ASIA DIVISION

#### Kubano-Chernomorskaya Conference – Young Missionaries Training & Outreach

Sixty children, ages 9-15 were given the opportunity to study at the conference-operated School of Young Missionaries once a month to learn new knowledge and practical skills. Administrators, pastors, and conference staff served as teachers to help children and teens develop good Christian characters and a personal relationship with Jesus. After two years of study, the children have to take an examination to obtain their diploma. After this training they will be involved in worships and missionary work.

Children's leaders were busy doing outreach to many non-Adventist children through "The Country of Health" program, Vacation Bible School, puppet shows, etc. CHM leaders like Svetlana Klinko of Labinsk City made all the puppets and then taught the children how to perform. In 2012 a camp meeting in Abkhazia brought in 60 children most of whom are non-Adventists. They were introduced to the Bible and the gospel and at the end each was given a Bible and children's Christian story books. Parents

greatly appreciated this and requested that the camp meeting be a longer one this year.



▶ Young Missionaries Commissioned for Outreach.

### INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

#### Division-wide Inter-Ministries Convention

A total of about 360 delegates from all over the EUD territory attended this Inter-ministries convention, held March 13-16, 2013. This was a very well organized division-wide convention that was a collaboration of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, Children's Ministries, Family Ministries, Ministerial Association, Stewardship, and Communication.

The Romanian Union brought the largest delegation of over one hundred delegates. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director, presented workshops and a plenary session touching on the importance of Intergenerational worship, and how to teach children to witness. Don MacLafferty from the Kids in Discipleship Ministry also made several presentations on discipleship. The workshops were helpful and many were very satisfied.



▶ Inter-ministries convention.



## MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA UNION MISSION (MENAU)

### Gulf Field – CHM Training in Doha, Qatar

From February 1-3 Dr Saustin Mfune GC Children's Ministries Associate director conducted children's leadership and parenting seminars in Doha, Qatar. On the 1st of February leaders gathered at the house of Mr and Mrs David Onchagwa where they were given leadership tips on how to work with children. On Friday evening and Sabbath, Dr Mfune presented parenting tips on building children's faith so that they can be prepared to meet the storms of this world and be ready for heaven.



► Group of leaders in Doha, Qatar.

### Union-wide Leadership Training & Advisory

About 160 children's leaders and teachers attended the leadership certification training held February 14-16, 2013 at the Gulf Field headquarters in Ras Al Khaimah. Linda Koh and Saustin Mfune, GC CHM directors presented several of the Level II certification courses. The leaders not only learned leadership skills but they were introduced to several new action songs. They were also given lots of resources to bring home. Children's choirs and individual children rendered beautiful musical numbers throughout the program. On Sabbath, the children's story at worship hour was told by 4-year-old Vashti who amazed everyone with the gift of storytelling. Yes, God can use children!

Then the CHM Advisory for MENA was conducted February 17-18 with eight CHM leaders from Bahrain, Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Lebanon. All the leaders were new and needed training; and many of them are foreign workers living in the Middle East., such as Filipinos, Indians, and Africans. This advisory was a great help to them as they were introduced to the initiatives of CHM for the quinquennium, such as Tell a Child, Tell the World: Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Across, Revival and Reformation, and others. They also received many resources to use in their ministry.



► MENA training.



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.  
FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE  
THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

(MATTHEW 18:10 ESV)



## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### Potomac Conference - Atholton Adventist Academy Week of Prayer

On March 11-15, 2013, Saustin Mfune, GC Associate Director conducted a week of prayer at the Atholton Adventist Academy. Student response was wonderful. One student remarked, "His stories helped me both laugh and think!" Another said, "His sound effects were fun!" AAA celebrates biannual Weeks of Prayer, both of which highlight their school slogan, this year being "One Team, One Goal. . . . Pressing Towards the Mark." The students were divided in two groups. Grades 5 going up met first and grades 4 going down met second. Throughout this 5-day series, Pastor Mfune shared stories of eagles, trees, and others, but above all he shared his story of how Jesus has led him and guided him through many an adventure in his native country and in his transition to America as a student—towards God's goals for his life. Students laughed as Pastor Mfune croaked, cawed, hooted, and cried—his

sound effects helped students focus and think in a whole new way about the truths of Scripture and the reality of Jesus in their lives. The week culminated with 24 students indicating their interest in baptism, and several dozen others expressing a desire to study further with a pastor. Many even wrote letters of thanks to the speaker.



► The second group at AAA listen attentively to Dr Mfune.

## NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

### Tokyo International Church – Nurturing Faith Seminar

The Tokyo International Church comprises many young families with concerned parents who are interested in nurturing their children and ensuring their salvation. They invited Drs Sally and Chek Yat Phoon to share a sermon and seminars over a weekend in February. The group had a rousing discussion on how to be the right kinds of parents and the importance of linking our children directly to Jesus and His grace so that they become His children was stressed.

Another topic of interest was children's church—the why's, how's and wherefore's—were discussed. The group participated with their ideas, their opinions on the curriculum, the strategies and children preaching in church. Tokyo International Church and the Tokyo Central Church is one of the few places in NSD where they intentionally run children's church every other week. It is our prayer that God will keep our children safe as we make every effort to grow them for God's Kingdom.



► Nurturing Faith Seminar in Tokyo International Church.



## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### Baixo Amazonas Conference (ABA) – Revival Meetings

March 24 to 30 was a special day when all officers and departmental directors of South American Division conducted 7 days of revival meetings in the various churches of Belem city in the North Brazil Union. Sabbath afternoon was heartwarming as about 8,000 people gathered in *Coqueirao*, a large auditorium near the Union office where many were baptized. Almost all the people who were baptized had studied with church members in their small groups.

Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director conducted meetings in one church from March 29 to April 4. At the end, 32 individuals, twelve of whom were children ages 7-12, gave their lives to Jesus and pledged to be baptized.

On March 31 about 300 children's Sabbath School leaders from Belem City gathered at *Grao Para Adventist Academy* where they shared insights with Dr Mfune on how to deal with teenagers and understanding the importance of the period from pregnancy to ages 3 in relation to the Children's Ministries department.

### South Para Conference (ASPa) – Day Retreat for University Students

About 350 SDA students from various Universities in Maraba gathered at *Maraba Adventist Academy* on April 6 for their one-day university retreat. Guest speaker was Dr Saustin Mfune who dwelt on theories which challenge the SDA young people that it is not possible to be a Christian. The theories which Mfune addressed were *determinism*, *social learning theory* and *doctrine of predestination*. Mfune showed that no matter what these theories espouse, one can be a true and committed Seventh-day Adventist.

The youth and all who attended the retreat appreciated the meetings.

### Leaders Training

About 80 children's ministries leaders gathered at *Novo Horizonte SDA Church* in Maraba on April 7 for a one-day training session. They were reminded of the importance of implementing the Gracelink lessons. They also learned about the dangers of TV, especially for children before the age of three. Marilia Dantas, CHM Director of North Brazil Union and the participants appreciated the seminar.



Leaders at Grao Para Adventist Academy.



University students at the retreat.



CHM leaders after the seminar.

“ WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I SPAKE AS A CHILD, I FELT AS A CHILD, I THOUGHT AS A CHILD: NOW THAT I AM BECOME A MAN, I HAVE PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS. ”

(1 CORINTHIANS 13:11 ASV)

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

### Division-wide KID Coach Training Workshop

About 133 leaders who had been trained at the KID University in Bloemfontein in 2012 were present at this KID Coach training, February 20-24, 2013. It was held in a beautiful retreat center in Heidelberg, South Africa. Don MacLafferty, Director

of KID Ministry was there to conduct the fasting and praying sessions. He introduced the KID Coach DVD as a new way of training for KID.

The last three days were practical sessions supervised by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director, whereby each coach taught the lessons and ran KID University. They were certified as KID trainers and can now go back to their churches to launch KID and train the families.



► Kid Coach Training.

### Malawi Union – CHM Material Production Workshop

Saustin Mfune, GC Associate Director, conducted a material production workshop for about 200 delegates in Lilongwe, Malawi, February 28 to March 3. Delegates included CHM Coordinators from the local churches, Sabbath teachers, Pastors, Shepherdesses and CHM departmental directors. The focus was on producing materials and teaching devices from existing, available resources to help teach children's Sabbath School. The workshop participants were encouraged to be innovative.

On Sabbath, the children of Lilongwe City had what it termed in Malawi as a "Big Sabbath," where a twelve year old boy, surnamed Kapitao was the speaker. Children and parents who attended were inspired by the boy.

Pastor Chancy Banda, the CHM Children's Ministries Director encouraged participants to go and implement what they had learned. Dr Elphes Luwani, the Malawi Union CHM Director, in his farewell remarks stated that the workshop was an eye opener to many leaders.



► 12-year old Kapitao doing what he does best and that is preaching.



## TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

### Albania Mission – Vacation Bible School

In 2012 a summer Vacation Bible School for children was held in Korcha. The school lasted from Tuesday to Sabbath. The program had three segments: spirituality, games and creative work. More than 30 children attended and every child got a T-shirt.

On Sabbath morning the children also attended the worship. Sabbath afternoon was an exciting time with more than 50 children and their parents attending. A craft exhibition showcased the crafts that the children had made during the week; food and presents were also given to all children. But the greatest joy was when children's books and Bibles were distributed to them.

Bobo Marceta, the CHM director of the mission has this to say: "It was a real blessing and it encouraged the church to do the same thing next year.



▶ Korcha VBS Participants in action.

## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

### Northwest Nigeria Union Mission – Children's Ministries Graduation Ceremony

Children's Sabbath School graduation program took place at Babcock University Pioneer Youth church on January 26, 2013. It was a Reach Up program to foster in children and teens a lifestyle of personal devotion to God through the use of the Gracelink study guides. It was aimed to motivate parents and guardians to see the importance and benefits of the Gracelink lessons, and that they would purchase them for their children regularly.

300 children attended and 58 were presented by CHM teachers/coordinators for promotion to the Beginner, Kindergarten, and Primary levels. The children presented songs, recitation and many inspiring motivational activities. Parents and children appreciated the support of the University Pastor and the Pioneer Church leadership.



▶ NWNU children's graduation.

### Cote d'Ivoire Conference—CHM Outreach to Doukwe

The small town of Doukwe in Cote d'Ivoire, Sahel Union witnessed a surprise visit from the leaders of WAD Children's Ministries and Cote D'Ivoire CHM departments. This town was seriously affected by the post electoral war of 2011, leaving many children without parents, and poverty was very rampant. The Children's Ministries departments donated food, clothing, and toiletry items to 210 children from 41 families.

During the same visit, seminars on forgiveness and reconciliation were conducted for adults so that they help the children overcome the trauma of the war and to desist from taking vengeance. The children and the adults from the village were happy for this generous donation and they manifested their sincere appreciation to God for it.



▶ Some of the recipients of the CHM's help at Sahel Doukwe.

“ AND SAID, ‘TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!’ ”

(MATTHEW 18:3 NASB)

LESSON FOR TEACHERS /PARENTS *By Saustin Mfuné*

# 15 Ways for building a positive relationship with teenagers.

- 1 Be a consistent model:** Continually changing ‘goal posts’ confuses teen-agers.
- 2 Walk the talk:** It is important that you put in practice what you ‘preach.’
- 3 Admit when you are wrong:** Teenagers will respect you when you admit that you are wrong.
- 4 Forgive them when they make mistakes:** We all make mistakes, so learn to forgive. Don’t hold grudges.
- 5 Love them unconditionally:** Don’t love them when they pass and disregard them when they haven’t done as well.
- 6 Give honest answers to honest questions:** When they ask, “What’s wrong with watching movies?” or “What’s wrong with wearing jewelry?” or “Is dancing a sin?” If you don’t have an answer, let somebody help you answer them.
- 7 Let them develop their own identity:** Don’t try to make them to be like you.
- 8 Communicate approval and acceptance:** Don’t be quick to condemn.
- 9 Don’t make long and winding speeches:** If your speeches are too long, teenagers will tune you off.
- 10 Don’t threaten them:** Don’t shout at them and say, “If you keep on doing this, I will send you away from my house.” They may just take the challenge.
- 11 Give them a listening ear:** When they are speaking to you, stop whatever you were doing and give them undivided attention.
- 12 Communicate your love for them:** Let them know that you appreciate them.
- 13 Build a relationship with them:** Don’t talk to the teenagers only when they are in the wrong. Maintain a positive relationship with them. They will listen to you when you talk to them.
- 14 Give your teenagers the right to fail:** Don’t try to make it as if it is the end of the world when they fail. Encourage them that they should do better next time.
- 15 Pray with and for them:** Take time to pray with the teenagers. And in private, pray for them.

