

KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

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

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Model good-guy behaviour to children



In 2007, Yale University conducted some interesting research. Their goal was to investigate the development of morals in young children by exploring their response to the behaviour of others. Several ten-month-old babies were shown video clips. One showed a toy continually helping another toy that was trying to climb up a hill. In another video clip, a toy hindered another toy, pushing it back every time it tried to get up the hill. When these children were given the op-

portunity to choose a toy to play with, most of them chose the helper toy instead of the one that had hindered the other toy.

This study concluded that children as young as six months old are able to assess people based on their behaviour towards others. It has been further suggested that this ability is the foundation of a child's development of moral thought and action.

Researchers believe that children's view of society is adapted from the behaviour displayed by the adults they are exposed to. Help children to develop the ability to assess society correctly by modelling good moral behaviour to them. Show them what godly and moral behaviour looks like by treating others with kindness, love and a godly attitude.

Saustin Sampson Mfuné
Associate 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

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

A visit to Edmonton in Alberta Conference

The churches under the leadership of pastor Dario St Louis of Alberta Conference, Edmonton, Canada, met on July 5-6 for a CHM Seminar by Dr. Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director. The theme, *Leading Our Children to Christ*, covered topics such as, "The Ten Commandments of Parenting," and "The Dangers of Children below the age of 3 watching TV." The presentations were appreciated by all including children themselves.



▶ *Edmonton congregation making a joyful noise.*

Indianapolis

The Zimbabwe community under the North American Division Multilingual Department met August 9-11. The three-day meetings focused on how these Christian families could lead their children to Christ in these challenging times. The meetings



▶ *Indianapolis children listening to a children's story.*

were facilitated by Dr. Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director. He talked on parents' role in leading their children to Christ. He reminded them that if they don't model Christ to their children, it will be difficult to have their children led to Christ. They will need to take charge of their homes and don't allow TV to set the agenda for their homes. They need to have scheduled times when they can have worship as a family. During these worship times, they need to read the Bible as a family, enjoy Grace Link and pray together.

On Sunday, the 11th of August, as from 10:00 in the morning to 4:00pm, the families spent time socializing. They played different kinds of games and activities. A number of kids expressed their joy that they had time to play with their parents. As they said their goodbyes and traveled back to their various places, they all expressed that it was time well spent and they should plan to meet again soon.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Taiwan Conference—Children's Camps & Activities

Summer vacation was filled with children's camps throughout the conference. Under the leadership of Paulo Kuo, TWA CHM director, churches were encouraged to organize activities for children. The Peiwan District Children and Youth Camp, was held June 30-July 2. It was held on a farm where 120 children and young people stayed in tents throughout the three-day camp. They participated in activities and learned many new skills. The Guangshan church ran a vacation Bible school, July 3-5 for fifty children, many of who were non-Christians.

The Taichung Conference Church had a Sabbath afternoon children's program on July 6 where the kids did crafts, demonstrated shadow plays depicting Bible stories, and recited memory verses. About thirty over children attended.



▶ *Taiwan Conference children's camp.*



SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Bolivia Union July 19-21, 800 Leaders in Bolivia Union Trained.

The Union wide leadership meeting which was held at Bolivia Adventist University from July 19-21 attracted 800 Children's Ministries leaders. The facilitators were Graciela de Hein, CHM Director of South American Division and Dr Mfune from the General Conference. A variety of topics, ranging from How to implement CHM Philosophy, Building Children's Faith and Ten Commandments of Parents are some of the topics which were covered. It was fitting to have a New Jerusalem drama performed by both adults and children as the climax of the Sabbath activities.

At the end of the meetings, all the leaders, who were mostly women, received certificates and badges of honor.



► 800 CHM leaders in Bolivia.

Chile Union—Children's Ministries Leadership Training

Chile Union organized its union-wide Children's Ministries Leadership training from July 12-14, 2013 on the campus of Chile Adventist University at Chillan. A total of five hundred children's leaders and children's Sabbath School teachers attended this event. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Graciela de Hein, SAD CHM Director did training in areas such as discipling children for Jesus, developing spirituality in children's leaders, the importance of having the children's homily at worship hour and how to do it effectively.

The leaders were passionate about teaching children and showcased many activities they did in their mission or conference

for children. They especially highlighted the importance of small groups, community service involving children and teens, and Bible studies. One very impressive program they have developed is a set of materials for parents to prepare their child for baptism.

The Sunday session ended with the conference/mission leaders getting together to outline their plans and goals for the children in 2014 and the dates of when they plan to implement them. The most heartwarming part was the baptism of a 10-year-old girl whose parents have prepared her for this special occasion by using that baptismal guide for parents given to them from the children's leader. Indeed, there was joy in heaven!



► Chile 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 Brazilian Union Kids in Discipleship Training

During the weekend of August 16-18, fifty participants from every conference of North Brazilian Union came together for Kids in Discipleship training in Belem. The team from each conference consisted of Conference leaders, a pastor and his wife where the project would be started, an elder or two (some elders came with their spouses) and a family leader. They had five groups and one of the groups was from the North Brazilian Union office. Family Ministry and the Personal Ministry leaders with their spouses participated in the training. The training was conducted by South American Division CHM Director, Graciela Hein, and Pastor Josías Falcão and his wife Vivian with their children, Emanuel, Josias Junior and Daniel. This pastoral family started the project in their church in Sao Paulo. They were the pioneers of Kids in discipleship in South America. They shared their testimony. The children's testimonies impressed the hearts of the participants. Graciela concluded by stating that the training was great and they felt the presence of the Holy Spirit.



► KID Training.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Pacific Islands Make Children Disciples of Jesus

Three Children's Expos in the last three months have trained over 1,000 leaders to disciple children. These Expo's have happened in Tonga, Santo (Vanuatu) and Fiji. They have been organised by the local mission Children's Ministries Directors and supported by the Trans-Pacific Union and South Pacific Division. Julie Weslake comments that it is always a joy to work with the people in the Pacific. They love their children, but the structures of the church have not always put their discipleship as top priority. This is now changing as leaders and pastors get the vision and resources to ensure that both the church and the home are equipped as disciple makers.

We were very blessed to have Pastor Saustin Mfune from the General Conference to attend the Fiji Expos. These occurred in the two locations of Nagigi Village on the Island of Venu Levu and Yausania Church near Nadi on the Island of Vitu Levu. Over 2/3's of the churches in Fiji were represented at the Expos. We praise God for the impact of the workshops. Julie Weslake



► Some 500 people gathered for training at Yausania.

prays that themes of Making Disciples through Sabbath School, Intergenerational Worship, Service activities, and the impact of the family will ensure that this present generation of children have a lifetime connection to Jesus and the church. *(By Julie Weslake).*

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

South Tamil Conference—VBS Workshop

Mrs. Gunaseeli Rathinasingh, Director for South Tamil Conference organized a one-day VBS Training Workshop at Madurai on March 27, 2013. Dr. Deborah Samraj, SUD Associate CHM Director, highlighted in her opening message the reason why we conduct VBS and how to make it more effective and interesting. About 75 delegates participated enthusiastically and were taught the skills of storytelling, craft work, new children's songs and many more. All sessions were carried out with great enthusiasm and interest.



► VBS Workshop.



SOUTHERN-ASIA PACIFIC DIVISION

SSD Holds Division-wide Convention

Bangkok, the most visited city in the world, was the place where 220 delegates from the entire SSD gathered to attend a once in five years-leadership convention. It was held at Bangkok Palace Hotel. This spiritual festival, the dream child of Dr Miriam Andres the CHM director of SSD, ran from 21st to 24th August. Leaders came together to have their CHM tools sharpened so that they can serve children better. At this convention, the presenters as well as some representatives came from California, Inter-European Division, Inter-American Division, MENA, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, South Pacific Division and West-Central Africa Division.



► SAUM Delegates in national costumes.



► Presenters from Various Divisions.

The plenary sessions were great. The break-out groups were enlightening. The food was palatable. And the shopping was out of this world. But most of all, was the spiritual atmosphere. One could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. During Divine service on Sabbath, God used Dr. Linda Koh who spoke about the parable of the Pearl of Great Price.

The convention closed with a cultural show where different countries of the division showcased their various dances. Thank you Dr. Andres and your team for a job well done.



► When the short (Dr. Saustin Mfune) and the tall (Julie Weslake) get together in the Lord.

Laos Attached Field: "Go Mission Bibles' for Lao Children"

Pavina Keovana, Children's Ministries Director of Laos Attached Field had a vision to purchase Bibles for Lao children whose parents couldn't afford to give them one. So she shared this vision with Sim Sew Moi, Southeast Asia Union CHM Director who in turn shared it with Debbie Chan, CHM Director of Singapore Adventist Conference. The children of Balestier Church in Singapore stood up to the challenge. They called the project "Go Mission Bibles' for Lao children". The kids gave their pocket money to buy the Bibles. They raised US\$783.00. They also raised additional money through the sale of the Elijah Musical DVDs.

Twenty Bibles have already arrived from Thailand and have been given to Junior Sabbath School in Phonxay Adventist Church in Vientiane. The remaining 80 Bibles will be distributed to the children's Sabbath Schools in other churches. Pavina is very thankful for the children of Balestier Church under the leadership of Debbie Chan and the support of Sim Sew Moi.

“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)

“Our sincere hope is to see that every child owns a Bible. We still need your support to buy more Bibles for Lao children. Thank you,” expressed Pavina Keovana gratefully.



► Happy Laos children with their Bibles.

Sabah Mission—Children’s Ministries Training for Pastors

About 60 Pastors and their president gathered at Sabah Mission head office on June 7. They gathered to learn and understand Children Ministries. This meeting was a result of an assessment needs research which had been conducted by Sharon Laung, the CHM leader of Sabah Mission. In her research, she discovered that Pastors in Sabah Mission don’t have much knowledge as to what CHM is all about.

The resource personnel for this intensive training were Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune from the GC and Miriam Andres from SSD. Many pastors appreciated the training and expressed that they were greatly enhanced in their understanding of the department and that the knowledge acquired would greatly assist them in supporting and implementing the department’s needs in their local churches.



► Sabah Pastors’ training.

Sabah Mission Children’s Congress

From June 7-9, 2013, the Goshen Adventist Secondary School Auditorium in Kota Marudu, Sabah, was filled with about 1500 children who were there for one very good reason. They all wanted to learn how to have Jesus as their Champion. The Congress which was planned by Sharon Laung the director of Northern Conference was facilitated by Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune from GC, Dr Miriam Andres from SSD and Sim Sew Moi from SAUM. These leaders challenged children to grow spiritually and become Strong Spiritual giants for Jesus.

When a call was made by Pastor Saustin Mfune on Sabbath, about 400 kids gave their lives to Jesus, choosing to be baptized and 25 others, both boys and girls chose to be a pastor when they grow up.

This congress showcased the various abilities of children of Sabah, such as presenting original songs by local children and leaders, memorizing Bible chapters and verses, preaching, storytelling and performing skits and dramas. At the end some were given awards while others received ‘Michael Asks Why’ certificates and gift buttons. A nine-year old received a top award for memorizing 200 Bible verses.

Sim Sew Moi, SAUM CHM Director, states that it was inspiring at the congress to see children excited for Jesus and that teachers and pastors were passionate for children. A big thank you to Sharon Laung for a job well done.

Central Luzon Conference—Branch Sabbath School at Barangay Lucsuhin

Regularly about 25-30 children gathered for a branch Sabbath School at Barangay Lucsuhin. Children learned about Jesus through songs and Bible stories. After the class, they are being fed with nutritious and healthy food!



► Children gathered for a branch Sabbath School.



Singapore Adventist Conference Holds Children's Congress

Singapore Adventist Conference held a day camp for city Juniors and Early Teens from May 31 to June 2. 44 children were in attendance at San Yu Adventist school and 10 of them were non-Adventist. "Heart of the problem", "Coping with life's Chal-lenges", "Where do I fit in," and "Signs of the Second coming of Jesus," were the topics which were covered. The guest speaker was Dr. Saustin Mfunne who captivated the children with his excellent storytelling skills that no child could be seen using any cellphone or any media gadgets .

There were lots of activities which kept children busy and one could see that the children enjoyed every bit of it.



► Singapore Children's Congress.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Baltic Union—Children's Ministries Leadership Training

Fifty Children's Ministries leaders and coordinators gathered at the headquarters of the Baltic Union in Riga, Latvia for a leadership training event from June 7-11, 2013. The children's leaders came from Lithuania and Latvia. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Clair Sanches, TED CHM Director presented several training seminars. Time was given on Sabbath for children to present musical items with many displaying great talents.

This was indeed a historical event for these children's leaders as this was the first union-wide leadership training for them. They were so eager to learn, taking notes, asking questions, and participating in activities and learning new songs. This was indeed a group of leaders who were passionate about their ministry!



► Baltic Union Latvia training.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

West Africa Union Mission—Children's Ministries Leadership Certification

On May 23-26, 2013 about fifty CHM leaders and coordinators attended their first CHM Leadership Certification training in Freetown, Sierra Leone. While most of the leaders were women, there were six men who had a passion for children. This was indeed a historical event for these children's leaders as it was the first time they had leaders from the world headquarters and the division to do training for them. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Omobonike Sessou, WAD CHM Director did the training.

Sabbath being the Children's Sabbath weekend, 170 children participated in a variety of programs—reciting memory verses, performing Bible dramas & musical items, and preaching. It was a wonderful day for 170 children who came in their bright yellow uniforms.



► Sierra Leone Children.

“ 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*

Help your children develop a 4x4 mind capacity

A 4x4 or four-wheel drive vehicle is usually not intimidated by the kind of road or weather it encounters. Whether the road is muddy, icy and treacherously slippery, or whether it is sandy or rocky, this kind of vehicle will forge boldly ahead. This vehicle's secret is that it was designed to overcome these situations. It is this kind of vehicle that will be sent to retrieve other vehicles that have gotten stuck in the rugged terrain where the 4x4 will be quite comfortable.

Life is like driving on all kinds of roads and encountering all kinds of weather. If children do not develop a four-wheel drive mind capacity, they will struggle to navigate something as small as an anthill. We should realise that in life, our children are going to find not only anthills, but mountains, obstructing their way. Unless they are empowered with a 4x4 mentality they will not get very far.

How do we empower a child to develop a 4x4 mind capacity? I would like to share six practical recommendations for teaching your child to overcome life's many challenges.

1. Help them to know that failure is a part of life: Help your child to know that there will be times when failure will come their way. Instil in their minds that it is not failure that matters in life but rather how one reacts to it. Failure is a valuable ingredient in the recipe of those who succeed. Learning from failure is what makes life worthwhile.

2. Allow them to experience problems: If your children experience challenges they will develop the skills needed to overcome those problems. But if you are always protecting them from experiencing problems, or if you take it upon yourself to solve their problems for them, you may live to regret it.

I'm sure you have heard the story of the little boy who found a caterpillar struggling to get out of its chrysalis. The boy felt sorry for the caterpillar and decided to help it out. But after he had removed the casing from the worm, the creature that was on its way to becoming a butterfly died. This is because the butterfly needs to struggle out of the cocoon to strengthen its wings.

3. Allow your children to make their own decisions on some issues: Logical reasoning is not a skill that is acquired overnight; it is a gradual process. Therefore, parents should teach their children to develop the capacity to reason by allowing them to make their own decisions on certain things they would like to do. The parents remain in an advisory role and allow the child to experience the consequences of their choices, whether positive or negative.

4. Trust and love them: As mentioned earlier, it is human nature to respect and love those who respect and love us. Children will find it easier to accept the instructions and suggestions that come from people who love and trust them.

5. Pray for them: Many years ago, my brother, Israel, and I, disobeyed our parents and went to attend a function held in Blantyre City some 70-odd kilometres away from where we lived. It was around 22:30 pm when we tiptoed to the window, quietly opened it and climbed through, careful not make a noise.

As soon as we entered our bedroom we heard voices coming from the living room. Immediately we froze. Listening carefully, we discovered that dad and mom were praying for us, their prayers coming out between sobs. This completely disoriented us.

When they finished praying, we went into the living room and asked for forgiveness. We all prayed together asking for God's forgiveness. This is what prayer can do.

6. Inspire them with the experiences of people who have succeeded in the world: Most of us are acquainted with the phrase, "By beholding we become changed." Inspire your children with stories of people who have succeeded in life. Let them see that most of them succeeded through hard work and perseverance in the face of trials.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

This website has 6 video clips, about 1 hour long, dealing with issues of Teenagers. It is a great resource to help one understand why teenagers behave the way they do.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/>



Register at: <http://www.d6conference.com/registration>



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