



KidsNewsZone

Vol 13 #2 2016



**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

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

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KidsNewsZone

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Sharing Nature with Children

The Psalmist tells us, *"The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them," Psalms 111:2. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork," Psalms 19:1.*

Nature is indeed a wonderful book for our children to learn about the great Creator God—a God who created the world with a master plan in mind, not as a world that has evolved. Ellen White in *Desire of Ages*, p. 70 affirms this value when she said that "As we behold the beautiful and grand in nature, our affections go out after God. While the spirit is awed, the soul is invigorated by coming in contact with the Infinite through His works."

What are some values of nature study for children?

- 1) Draws them to the beauty of the natural world
- 2) Captures their interests
- 3) Enhances their thinking skills
- 4) Increases their self-respect
- 5) Eliminates most discipline problems

If nature study is so valuable to children, parents and teachers need to seek every opportunity to share nature with them. Naturalist Joseph Cornell suggests 4 principles that are helpful:

1. AWAKEN ENTHUSIASM

This stage is a playful one. You can use fun-filled nature games and activities to create a lively flow of energy between children and between children and between teachers and children.

2. FOCUS ATTENTION

While we use energetic, playful games with children, there should be games that call for quiet, focused attention. Use activities that require children to use all their senses, such as touching a tree trunk, smelling the flowers, etc. They can study the shape of leaves, or observe how a pupa change to a butterfly.

3. DIRECT EXPERIENCE

Give children the opportunity to discover new insights as they choose topics to work on. They can grow some seeds and watch how they germinate as they note the steps. It fosters wonder in learning.

4. SHARE INSPIRATION

Parents and teachers inspire the children with their role models of having a love for nature. Allow children to share their thoughts and exciting discovery of things in nature with the adults. We can inspire them further to know Creation and the Creator God.





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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



Nature learning is never exhaustive! The pen of inspiration tells us that, "He who studies most deeply into the mysteries of nature will realize most fully his own ignorance and weakness. He will realize that there are depths and heights which he cannot reach, secrets which he cannot penetrate, vast fields of truth lying before him unentered. He will be

ready to say, with Newton, 'I seem to myself to have been like a child on the seashore finding pebbles and shells, while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me.'" *Education, p. 133.*

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children's Ministries Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

ECD Holds Quinquennium CHM Advisory

ECD dynamic CHM leader and a gifted Evangelist, Debbie Maloba, with her team, organized a great and inspiring advisory at the ECD compound popularly known as Advent Hill. Pastor Saustin Sampson Mfunu, GC CHM Associate Director attended the Advisory. The activities started on Saturday, 11th June, with different kids' music groups presenting varied programs. As from 13th to 15th June, Union CHM Directors carefully examined what was done in the last quinquennium, seeing where things could be improved. They explored various strategies as to how best to meet the needs of children in ECD during this quinquennium. These committed leaders believe that God does not allow a Goliath to come in our path if He has not prepared a David to bring down the giant. Praise God for such dedicated and visionary leaders. Best days for ECD are yet to come.



► ECD Advisory team

were held at Kenyan Community SDA Church. Pastor Saustin Sampson Mfunu was one of the children's facilitators. Other facilitators included Dr Fenades Obinchi, a Kenyan scholar who lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Children up to age 14 moved from room to room meeting various facilitators who were stationed in various rooms. Babies 0 to 3 were carried by their mothers (in some cases carried by their fathers) to various stations. Every morning and afternoon, a group of children went into the neighborhood to distribute Christian literature. On Sabbath, since a large group of people was expected, the meetings were held at some Baptist Mega church where some 1500 saints congregated. The children had their own service. And when an appeal was made, 169 children gave their lives to Jesus. We praise God for leaders who give their all for the Christian success of our children.



► Minnesota Conf Twin City Camp Meetings

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Minnesota Conference Twin City Camp Meeting

The mostly Kenyan, a few Zambians, and a sprinkle of Africans living in Minneapolis and St Paul Cities of Minnesota held their annual Camp Meeting which they term "Twin Cities Camp Meeting" from 12th to 16th July. The Meetings

Oregon Conference Camp Meeting

Oregon Conference held its annual camp meeting from 19th to 23rd of July at their property in Gladstone, Oregon. Dr. Saustin Sampson Mfunu, the Associate Children's Ministries Director was the speaker for the Primaries - 6-9 year olds. The theme of this age group was SonCreek Junction - Cowboy theme. The music was great. On two separate evenings the children enjoyed the presentation of 2 TV personalities, the Bird Man and the Reptile man. These two gentlemen brought their beautiful and some scaring creatures. The activities helped children



to enjoy the adventure of Living in God's Family. The themes were based on the book of Acts. The daily sayings were Start Up! Listen Up! Open Up! Look Up! and Speak Up! Occasionally Mfune spoke to the Adventurers. God blessed the meetings in a mighty way as on Saturday children responded to accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. To God be the glory.



► Oregon Conference camp meeting

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

SAD Holds CHM/WM Advisories

SAD decided to hold a joint departmental advisory for the Children's and Women's Ministries departments. This vast division with sixteen unions has over twenty directors from these two departments attending. Both Heather Dawn Small, GC WM director, and Linda Koh, GC CHM director presented several plenary seminars for the participants.

Each morning there were joint worships and training seminars for both Children's and Women's Ministries directors. In the afternoon, each department separated for their own advisory.

The world initiatives like Reach A Child, Reach the World; total member involvement, Believe in His prophet, etc. were discussed. They outlined many good programs and their own division initiatives that tied in very nicely with the world church. Graciela de Hein, SAD CHM director is an excellent and vibrant leader who led her team very well.



► SAD CHM/WM advisory

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Samoa/South Australia Gracelink Training

Litiana Turner, SPD CHM director was actively involved in providing Gracelink training for her children's leaders and children's Sabbath School teachers in Samoa Mission and South Australia in Adelaide. The teachers were very happy for this training.



► Samoa Mission Gracelink Training



► South Australia Gracelink training

SPD Division & Union CHM Advisories

South Pacific Division and its territories held their quinquennial advisories beginning in May as they laid plans for the children's ministries work in their territory. The division advi-



► SPD Children's Ministries Directors



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)



sory was held May 16-19, 2016 and after that The Papua New Guinea Union Mission and the Trans-Pacific Union Mission held their own respective advisories. Litiana Turner, SPD CHM director attended these advisories as a resource person to inspire greater vision for the ministry to ministry.



▶ PNGUM Children's Ministries Directors



▶ TPUM Children's Ministries Directors

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

SUD Holds Quinquennium Advisory

The quinquennium CHM advisory was conducted by Milly Lakra, SUD CHM director, at the SUD headquarters at Hosur from May 30 to June 1, 2016. A total of twelve union children's



▶ SUD advisory

ministries directors attended this 3-day advisory. Their theme was the one that reflects the GC world initiative of "Reach A Child, Reach the World". Their greatest strength was Vacation Bible School. Hence, a great deal of discussion was on VBS and the need to use newer resources. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director was present to conduct several seminars for the leaders.

The second day of the advisory was moved to another venue where there was a short agenda and the morning was a fun-filled picnic activity at a nice resort.

When the topic of launching Kids in Discipleship was discussed, the Northeast India Union director requested to be the first to launch this initiative next April. The advisory provided the union directors a great opportunity to network and to share ideas.

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

SSD Holds Quinquennium Advisory

The Children's Ministries director of SSD, Dr. Orathai Chureson organized an excellent advisory for her ten union CHM directors on May 19-22, 2016. Half of her leaders were newly elected to the task with only one male director. They discussed at length their strategic plans of the division, incorporating many of the world initiatives proposed by the General Conference.

This division has a new union, Pakistan Union added to it at the last quinquennium. The challenges were huge as it has more than 90% of Muslim believers in that country. However, the Lord is working mostly through families with children.

They used the GC CHM theme: Reach A Child, Reach the World in all the plans they put forward. One of the emphases the leaders decided to do this quinquennium is to organize prayer conferences for children. The North Philippine Union has tried it once and reported the impact it had on the children. Another area that all agreed upon was the introduction of Ellen White and the pioneers to the children. Surveys have



▶ SSD CHM Advisory



shown that many Adventist children are not attending church schools but instead go to public or government schools. Hence, many children have not heard much of Ellen White.

GC CHM director, Dr. Linda Koh was present to introduce the Special Needs Ministry which many felt was long overdue. They were so glad that the church is zeroing in on serving these children.

Negros Oriental Siquijor Mission—Children's Ministries Convention

A total of over two hundred and twenty children's leaders and teachers participated in this mission-wide convention at the newly built academy in Dumaguete City, central Philippines, May 26-28, 2016. Though the weather was very hot and humid, but the participants were all happy to pitch their tents for their lodging for the next five days.



► Negros Oriental Siquijor Mission CHM Convention

The new CHM director of the mission was an efficient and capable leader. They had good training programs and also lots of interactive activities for everyone to participate in. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Dr. Orathai Chureson, SSD CHM director presented several leadership certification courses from Level IV for the leaders as well as the Sabbath sermon and other devotionals. Sabbath was filled with musical items performed by children as well as several outstanding child preachers. God can definitely use children.



► Children singing their hearts out!

The children's leaders were enthusiastic about learning for they have very good questions. Many even shared their experiences and new ideas with the others. This baby mission of the Central Philippine Union, is growing very fast. These outstanding and dedicated children's leaders never compromise in spite of small budgets.

North Central Mindanao Conference—Child Evangelist Training Workshop

Under the passionate and capable trainer, Pastor Edgard Engles, another child evangelist training workshop was conducted from May 30 to June 4, 2016 with a total of 66 children participating. The children learned how to give Bible studies, share the gospel with their friends, and preach. Many child preachers have continued to be actively involved in preaching in their local churches. Yes, God can use children too!



► Child Evangelist Training workshop

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

TED Holds Interdepartmental Advisory

TED, desiring to model a unified approach rather than showcasing a silo mentality, held a combined advisory at Oatlands Park Hotel in Weybridge, England from 16th to 20th May.



► TED CHM Advisory



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)

The Advisory comprised of 8 departments namely Children, Communication, Family, Health, Mission, Youth, Women and Ministerial. These met concurrently. Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune, Associate GC CHM Director participated in this historic venture. Clair Sanches-Schutte, TED CHM Director had a well-crafted and power packed agenda which kept everybody rolling. Plans were made for the next 5 years and beyond. Resolutions were adopted for the smooth running of the Department. Great reports were given by various directors and one could see that CHM in TED was on fire for Christ. We continue to pray for TED.

Hungarian Union—Children’s Leaders Training

The union-wide CHM leaders’ training event was held July 14-17, 2016 at the Catholic Retreat Center in the beautiful town of Szeged. It was well organized by the CHM director, Dora Mihalec, assisted by her husband Gabor Mihalec, the Family Ministries director. TED CHM director, Clair Sanches and Linda Koh, GC CHM director were present to conduct several seminars for the leaders.

A total of about 56 children’s leaders attended the training. This group of leaders who came from all over the union territory were so eager to learn. They participated in all the activities, asked many questions, and were eager to share their experiences. It was indeed an interactive group.



► Hungarian Union CHM Training

On Sabbath the entire training moved to the Szeged central church where church members were also invited to attend the seminars. In the evening the training moved back to the Catholic retreat center in Szeged. The leaders were passionate and so excited in asking questions and getting involved in the activities.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

WAD Headquarters Hosts CHM Advisory

WAD CHM Advisory took place at the Division’s headquarters office in Abidjan, Côte D’Ivoire from May 24-28, 2016. Nine out of ten Union CHM Directors attended the advisory. The local Côte D’Ivoire Conference Director also participated. Elder Manu, the Division Treasurer, delivered the keynote address. The last quinquennium’s activities were evaluated and the strategic plans for this new quinquennium were discussed and adopted. The Directors were equipped with new materials and seminars. Pastor Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director, was in attendance.

International day of Prayer for Children at Risk program climaxed the advisory. This program was held on Sabbath, May 28 at “ Latrille Event”, one of the largest auditoriums of Abidja. The Division’s CHM singing group called “Rossignols de l’Espoir” was in a concert. The occasion was graced by Government officials, representatives of different Embassies in Côte D’Ivoire, representatives of different religious organizations. The National Press team witnessed this event. Throughout the program, an awareness about the suffering and abuse of children was made.

After witnessing the Children at Risk powerful program, Pastor Koch Irineo, WAD Communication Director, with a big smile adorning his face, told Pastor Mfune that since he had been in WAD, he had not witnessed such quality of a program.

We trust that the 2015 to 2020 quinquennium will be blessed by the Lord.



► WAD CHM advisory



Francophone Unions in WAD Hold Advisories

Three of the four Francophone Unions, namely Cameroon Union Mission, West Sahel and East Sahel Unions held their advisories on June 24-30, July 14-24, and July 25-31 respectively. It was thrilling to note that nearly all leaders from the local Conferences participated in the advisory. While the advisories were an orientation for newly elected leaders, all leaders left the meetings empowered to go and make a difference in the lives of children and their parents. Each participant made a commitment to employ all their spiritual gifts to enhance the success of the department. We praise the Lord for the administrators of these entities for their willingness to support the CHM department. The challenge of a lack of adequate finances continue to plague most of these territories. But we thank the Lord for the committed Union leaders, Assembe Micheline, Enyde Roger and Kra Tabitha, who together with their counterparts, like Moses, are willing to use whatever is in their hands to empower children so that they can be fit citizens for this world and the world to come.



► *Cameroun Union Children's Leaders*



► *East Sahel Union Children's Leaders*



► *West Sahel Union Children's Leaders*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS ATTEND CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCES

FIFTH CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE: CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES - JUNE 12-14, 2016

A total of six children's leaders and university lecturers from South Pacific Division attended the Fifth Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives held in Nashville, Tennessee June 12-14, 2016. Litiana Turner, SPD CHM leader together with Daron Pratt, CHM director of North NSW Conference, and three lecturers from Avondale College contributed much to this conference. Barbara Fisher, Sandra Ludlow and Bev Christian presented papers, another Australian lady from Andrews University presented a workshop, and Daron Pratt showcased his 7-Gifts Ministry model at the Conference.



► *Australian contingent at Children's Spirituality Conference*

15TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY - JULY 26-29 2016

Five Children's Ministries directors from around the world church attended the 15th International Conference on Children's Spirituality - Spirituality and the Whole Child: Interdisciplinary Approaches held in Lincoln, United Kingdom, July 26-29, 2016. GC CHM directors Linda Koh and Saustin Mfune, IAD CHM director Dinorah Rivera, EUD CHM director Elsa Cozzi, and Italian Union CHM director Mariarosa Cavalieri found the workshops interesting and the research eye-opening.



► *CHM Directors at Children's Spirituality Conference*

“

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)

”

LESSON FOR TEACHERS /PARENTS

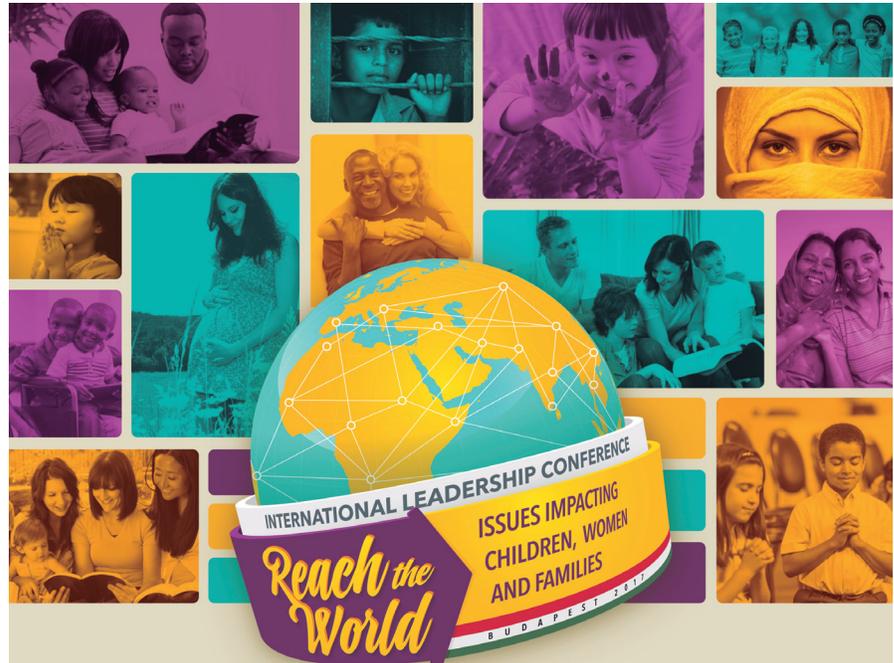
It Takes More than Experience *Part 1*

I am sure you are familiar with the story as recorded in John 21:1-11 of Peter and the other disciples who fished the whole night but caught nothing. Then Jesus tells them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat and they end up netting lots of fish. In this story I see a great lesson for parents and teachers.

Jesus is directing Peter's attention to a very important fact of Christian life. Without Jesus we can do nothing. Peter and his friends were in the water at the best time for fishing, had the right equipment and the experience needed to catch fish, yet they caught nothing. It was only when they obeyed the command of Jesus – a command that did not make sense to experienced fishermen, since the sun was rising – that they were able to catch lots of fish.

It is the same with children. You can have all the books written by experienced educationists and psychologists at your disposal; you can know all the theories on parenting; you can have all the modern gadgets to keep children entertained; and you can have dozens of interactive learning activities for your children, but still not succeed at 'fishing' your children for Jesus. It is only when you obey God and do things His way, even when His way makes no human sense, that you will win your children to Jesus.

It takes more than human experience to raise children for God's kingdom. We need to be bonded to the Master Parent.



◦ **WHY:**

The objective of this conference is to galvanize the energies and ministry imagination of our colleagues around the world from *Children's Ministries, Women's Ministries and Family Ministries* to get behind the quinquennial strategic plan of Reach the World.

◦ **SPEAKERS:**

Ella S. Simmons, Raafat Kamal, George Barna, Geoffrey Mbwana, Kiti Randall, Mark Finley

◦ **WHERE:**

Budapest Congress Center, Hungary
Novotel Budapest City

◦ **WHEN:**

MAY 2017 10^{Wed}
13^{Sab}

◦ **COST:**

\$375 REGISTRATION + 3 LUNCHES + 1 DINNER + MATERIALS

BEST FOR CO-WORKERS (Sharing room)

\$675 EVENT REGISTRATION + 4 NIGHTS **DOUBLE ROOM** + 4 BREAKFASTS + 3 LUNCHES + 1 DINNER + MATERIALS

BEST FOR SPOUSES (Both attending)

\$925 EVENT REGISTRATION + 4 NIGHTS **SINGLE ROOM** + 4 BREAKFASTS + 3 LUNCHES + 1 DINNER + MATERIALS



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D6 CONFERENCE 2016

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