Avoid Making Children Hypocrites Unintentionally

As a teacher or parent, if you only focus on transforming the behaviour of a child to your expectations, you will produce a hypocrite. Focusing on behaviour alone will cause you to miss the child’s heart—the child’s spiritual development. People who focus exclusively on their ‘spiritual resume’ (CV) are in danger of becoming hypocrites. They are the ones referred to in Matthew 7:21-23: they may preach and memorise verses but Christ will answer, “I never knew you.”

A child’s behaviour should be a result of what he or she is learning and internalising: not only what they say but also what they do. Don’t mistake good behaviour for genuine faith. It’s like an athlete who wins an Olympic race by using steroids. That athlete is actually a cheat and a fraud.

Help children to be virtuous. The Greek word for virtue is arête, which means excellence. For example, a knife’s arête is its sharpness. Virtue is an inner state rather than an outward behaviour. Therefore, a virtuous child would be concerned about having the right motivation for the right behaviour. One can use the analogy of a driver. There is a difference between a ‘good’ driver and a virtuous driver. If the speed limit is 120 kilometre per hour and the driver is staying below the limit just because his car cannot go any faster, that driver won’t get a speeding ticket and will be viewed as a good driver by the law. However, he is definitely not necessarily a virtuous driver.
His behaviour appeared good on the outside, but his motivation wasn’t necessarily virtuous.

We want our children to be virtuous in their daily living; they can only do this if they are taught to internalise what they have learned before they act it out.

You have heard the story of a man and his “wife” who had picked lots of money in the parking lot of a big and famous hotel. They walked back to the reception and handed over their find. The hotel personnel could not believe it. The manager told the couple that they need to call the local TV station to cover the story so that many people can learn from their honesty. The man quickly objected to that telling the manager that the woman he was with was not his wife. He feared that his wife would see this other woman on the TV screen. This man was honest but definitely he was not a man of integrity. He was not virtuous.

Saustin Sampson Mfune
Associate Director

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES NEWS

CHILDE-N-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Division-wide Children’s Ministries Convention

East-Central Africa Division held its first division-wide Children’s Ministries Convention on the campus of the University of Arusha, Tanzania, August 12-16, 2014. A total of 267 children’s directors, local church CHM coordinators, a few elders and ten pastors from all over the division territory attended this convention. Of the 11 unions, only 8 unions were represented. The participants were excited and enthusiastic to learn. The theme of the convention was: “Train A Child Today, Build The Church Tomorrow.” Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director were the guests of honor at this occasion. They did training for the leaders covering the Leadership Certification Level IV courses.

Each day was filled with plenary sessions in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. Other departmental directors from Stewardship and Health Ministries also assisted with a couple of seminars in the areas of child health and teaching children stewardship.

The division president, Dr. Blasius Ruguri opened the convention with a powerful message. He told the leaders, the elders and the pastors to make changes in their churches for the children because their culture is not valuing children within the church. He spoke very passionately and frankly to these leaders, identifying their problems and challenges in the local churches, such as not having rooms for children’s Sabbath Schools, no Sabbath School Bible study guides for children, etc.

Sabbath was the highlight with children from the schools and nearby churches presenting the Sabbath School program as well as the afternoon program of songs, memory verses, dramas, and preaching. Dr. Koh presented the sermon and the commitment message. The delegates expressed great joy and satisfaction with the things they have learned.

North East Congo Union – CHM Leadership Training

Under the leadership of Masika Katsyoto, a Children’s Ministries Leadership Certification Level III training was organized for 308 children’s leaders who came from all over the union territory. Guest of honors and presenters were Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director.

It was wonderful to see some young men keenly interested in working for children at this training. Each day the church was filled to capacity both in the sanctuary and in the entire balcony. The children’s leaders had lots of questions and time was given for Q & A. On Sabbath, the meeting was held outdoors because of the crowds that came from the surrounding churches. Children presented excellent programs and it was thrilling to see a 5-year old girl preached! It was amazing! God can definitely used children.

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

Kazakhstan Union – Children’s Ministries Leadership Congress

Kazakhstan Union Children’s Ministries Director, Ludmila Pavelko organized a leadership congress at its headquarters in Almaty from June 5-8, 2014 which was attended by over fifty CHM directors and local church coordinators from the missions. The Leadership Congress started off with a Health EXPO which was well received.
by kids from the church and the community. Using the NEWSTART program, children learned the importance of water, air, sunlight, rest, and more. It was a great outreach program for children in the community!

ESD CHM Director, Zhanna Kaminskaya together with Linda Koh, CC CHM Director led out with the Leadership Certification Level III training. Topics presented included Growing Christian Values in Children, Helping Kids Develop a Quiet Time with Jesus, Teens and Religion, and others. A total of nine courses were presented with discussion groups after each topic. The children’s leaders participated enthusiastically and proposed many new ideas. Excellent reports were given by each mission director on the activities and programs they have organized for children.

Sabbath afternoon was special. Dressed in blue T-shirts, the leaders visited a children’s hospital where they sang and gave away books and coloring pencils. They prayed for each child.

The next stop was the Welly May’s Correctional Institution for Girls. This is a home (prison) for girls who are offenders but are minors. They sung and told the girls Bible stories. A Pathfinder club was organized right within the prison walls and the leaders have started making weekly visits.

The leaders who graduated were determined to start Level IV of the certification soon.

**St. Vincent & Grenadines Mission – Father-Daughter Conference**

The Children’s Ministries Department of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission, under the leadership of Alene Thomas, held its second Father-Daughter Conference on April 6, 2014. The first one was launched on November 7, 2012.

This one-day conference aimed to encourage fathers to have a special date with their daughters, thus allowing fathers to spend quality time with their daughters which fosters greater bonding and assurance of a father’s care, love, guidance and support to his daughter.

Dinora Rivera, CHM director of Inter-American Division and Pastor Claudette Andrews, CHM director of the Caribbean Union Conference were the main speakers. Topics presented included “Safe-guarding your daughter against abuse; “Being a model daughter that makes my father glad”, “Relationship of Father with Daughter at various developmental stage”, “Pure as lily, bright as a sunflower”; “Effects of the father-daughter relationship on marital success of the daughter”. This program has proven to be a success and a blessing to all the fathers and daughters in attendance.

**INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION**

**South Bahamas Conference (SBC) – Children’s Leaders Retreat**

Over fifty CHM leaders from SBC attended a first ever CHM leaders retreat held at Paradise Island Harbor Resort from May 30-June 1, 2014. Twenty-eight completed the Leadership Certification Level III course.

A never tiring and great motivator, SBC CHM Director, Diane Jones, should be applauded for her leadership. She takes leadership certification courses very seriously. Each year she trains her leaders sys-
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Southwestern Union Conference – Children’s Ministries Seminars

The weekend of May 9 and 10 found Dr. Saustin Mtune fellowshipping in Dallas New Life church where two churches congregated to sharpening their spiritual skills of raising spiritual giants. About 250 people were present. Dr. Saustin Mtune presentations included “How to Raise Spiritual Giants,” “The negative impact of social media,” and “How to communicate with children.” The meetings started Friday evening and ended Saturday afternoon. Children presented special items of music. The question and answer period slated for Sabbath afternoon left a big impact on the people. Probably this was the climax of the whole weekend.

Alberta Conference – Children’s Sabbath

August 2 was Children’s Sabbath in the All Africa SDA Church in Alberta. Dr. Saustin Mtune graced the occasion. On this day, children were involved in leading church activities. Some were deacons and deaconesses and others participate on the platform during divine service. Mtune talked on how to build a child’s Christian Self-Esteem and How to communicate to your children. In the afternoon, Bible games interspaced the discussions. The afternoon discussion entitled The “JA” Model. “JA” standing for Jochobed and Ahannam the parents of Moses. This discussion brought out some principles from this Bible story of how we can save our children from the decree issued by the devil who desires to destroy our children.

Lake Union Conference – Michiana SDA Church Holds a “Galactic Quest” VBS

The Sabbath of August 9 was a day when the Michiana SDA church ended their annual VBS program dubbed Galactic

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Korea Union Conference – Kids in Discipleship Training

Korea Union Conference launched a union-wide Kids in Discipleship training on June 22-25, 2014 at their union headquarters in Seoul. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Sally Phoon, NSD CHM Director provided the training. A total of forty pastors and children’s leaders from all five conferences attended the training. It was wonderful to have all the pastors present to catch the vision of the KID initiative because often times they are the ones who can impact their churches in this direction.

The pastors were enthusiastic and excited about this vision and participated whole-heartedly in all the activities. There was time
for prayer walks, personal time with God, and also learning the various skills for running Footprints for Parents and Mentors and Footprints for Kids.

The last day of training ended with a commitment with each conference pledging to go back to launch KID in their churches. Praise the Lord for their commitment!

**Mongolia Mission – Children’s Camp**

The annual mission-wide Children’s Camp under the theme “Walking with Jesus” was held from June 29 – July 3 in a beautiful rural camp site outside of Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. One hundred and sixty children were in attendance. This year the group that led out in the children’s activities was a group of 14 teachers and lay volunteers from the Singapore Balestier Church.

The children were divided into three groups according to their ages, with each group wearing brightly colored caps of orange, green and red. More than half of the children who attended the camp were non-Adventists and non-Christians. Each day began with lots of singing and a devotional. Then they had Nature nugget, Bible stories, group games and crafts. Their favorite craft was Tie and Dye whereby each one made a scarf or bandana with colorful designs.

Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Sally Phoon, NSD CHM Director provided the devotionsals and taught them new songs. They also taught them how they can share Jesus with their friends through “snip and tell.” The final day was the concert held at the central church where children showcased some of the songs learned as well as the crafts and resources they made. Many parents were present at the concert. This was an excellent outreach planned by the mission Children’s Ministries Director, Purevdulam.

**SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION**

**South Central India Union – Children’s Ministries Director’s Advisory**

Our children are precious to all of us. Their proper nurturing in the fear of God, for sure, may result in fast fulfilling the completion of God’s work on earth. Pastor Peter Halemane, CHM Director of SCIU organized a union-wide Directors Advisory for CHM Directors of the Union territory on July 24, 2014 in Bangalore. The training was done Dr. Victor Sam and Dr. Deborah Samraj. CHM leaders from Southern Asia Division who made presentations on Dynamics and essentials for CHM leaders.

[Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division]

**Southern Cape Conference – “Loving my neighbor” CHM Community Outreach!**

The CHM department in Silvertown, Thembalethu (George), South Africa together with Pastor Carolus, the church pastor, demonstrated to the town that old-fashioned love still exists in this sin sick world. Riding on the platform of their program “Loving My Neighbor”, children and their leaders went out to help. Pastor Carolus, a great handy person, together with the children and church members worked tirelessly as they cleaned, renovated, and donated clothing, cutlery, bedding, curtiling and groceries to the needy in the township.

Probably the climax of their trip was their visit to a shack where three orphaned siblings lived. Southern Cape Children's Ministries team, led by the energetic Lynn Botha, and together with Pastor Carolus transformed their shack into a comfortable home with electricity and running water. The siblings have now started to attend Somelleze SDA church. CHM department is planning more such projects to maximize their Christian impact in the area.

Yes, Jesus said that “When you helped those people in Thembalethu, you were doing that to me.”
Northeast India Union – Vacation Bible School

During the first quarter of this year, Pasighat SDA Church of Arunachal Pradesh Region conducted a Vacation Bible School at Siang Valley Academy. Children comprised of Siang Valley Academy Boarding students and SDA day schooler students. All the SDA teachers from the school were actively involved in conducting the program successfully. A total of 125 children attended and they were divided into 3 groups according to their ages and academic class. Each class had one VBS leader and two assistants. And then there were four additional resource personal who went to every class to give additional teaching.

The VBS program started in the auditorium learning new songs and opening prayer. Then the students and teachers dispersed to their respective classes for regular VBS activities.

This was a very effective outreach program to reach non-Christian children and some have started coming to church. The children simply loved VBS! We praise God for blessing this outreach.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

North East Conference (NEC) – Camp Meeting

Some 1,500 people emanating from NEC territory gathered from June 30 to July 5 for their annual Camp Meeting held at Pontin’s Prestatyn Holiday Park in North Wales. The theme of the Camp Meeting was “Transformed Agents.” Dr Saustin Mfune was invited to speak to two age groups, totaling 210 children altogether. He was with the 6 to 12 years olds from 9:00 to 10:00 then with the 13 to 17 year olds from 10:30 to 11:30.

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Singapor Adventist Conference – Children’s Music Fest

The very first ever Children’s Music Fest was held at Jurong English SDA Church on the evening of August 23, 2014. Children from the different churches presented a night of music and songs with the theme “Kids Helping Kids.” The objective of this event was to provide a platform for the children to share their God-given talents as well as to raise funds for less fortunate children. We hope to continue that spirit of community service and giving through this event.

The evening program was graced by Pr Johnny Kan, President of SADMAC and Ms Evelyn Goh, HOD of Preventive Drug Education of SANA. The Children’s Ministries have adopted the children from clients families of the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA). The fund-raising efforts will help purchase Popular bookstore vouchers for the recipients to buy schoolbooks and school supplies in preparation for the new school year 2015.

At the end of the Music Fest, all the groups came together to sing the finale “We are His Hands”, What a fitting way to end the evening’s program by committing our life to be God’s Hands and Feet. (Reported by Debbie Chan, SAC CHM Director)
teens from 10:10 to 11:30. NEC CHM Director, Patricia Douglas, a trained Pastor, a lady I would describe as creative extraordinary, did a great work. I sent her a script and music of a musical drama we have created at the GC entitled CELEBRATIONS CASTLE. “Creative extraordinary” went ahead and got a company that built a castle and mounted it in the room we had our meetings.

Working together with her Pastor husband and a good number of volunteers clad in their red gold shirts, they were such a sight to see. One could tell that they were one in purpose and had put much effort to make this possible. They learned all the 15 songs.

And each day the team presented part of the musical drama. It was brilliant. After the presentation of the drama, Mlure presented a devotional. Children were captured by the stories. On Sabbath day, an appeal was made to children to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. It was a blessing to see children responding to the call. As for the teens, the program was spirit filled and many young people chose to walk with Jesus through baptism.

Koh, GC CHM Director. This was the first time more than ten pastors attended this training to equip themselves to work with children. It was wonderful to find pastors in this conference so passionate about children.

The participants were actively involved in active learning activities, round-table discussions, and Bible crafts illustrations. Patricia Douglas, CHM Director of NEC is a pastor by training and hence plays an effective role in influencing other pastors to be involved. Union CGM Director, Heather Haworth was also present to present a seminar on protecting children.

About five children were also present and they were involved with the leaders in Bible drama and modeling of Family worship. After the training all the participants were given certificates for completing the Level I course. They plan to do Level II next.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

East Sahel Union Mission (ESUM) – Launch Children Abuse Prevention Program

It was a big day on May 25, 2014 in Lome, Togo, when ESUM children decided to call the attention of parents and adults of that city to stop child abuse and violence against them. The date chosen was the “Children at Risk” day in Togo. The program began on Sabbath May 24 with members praying for children at risk and visiting orphanages where gifts were given to orphans.

On Sunday, May 25 more than 400 children came together to march round the city with different banners and placards carrying the message “Stop Abuse against Children” and “Children have right to live and grow into adulthood.” Children also appealed to Boko Haram, a group in Nigeria, to release the girls they kidnapped. Children presented heart moving songs, drama, poetry and recitals condemning these acts of brutality against children.

The Government Director responsible for the prevention of abuse and violence against children in Togo was the guest of honor. Her speech echoed the sentiments of children, reiterating that time was overdue for Togo Government to end abuse and violence against children. The Leaders of the church in Togo Mission, East Sahel Union and ECD also grace the occasion. They presented brief and yet power packed messages condemning child abuse. (Reported by Omoobonike Sessou, WAD CHM Director)
LAUNCHING OF
NEW HEALTH BOOK
& DVD PROMO

CELEBRATIONS!
HEALTHY INSIDE OUT!

The GC Children’s Ministries launched its new health book for children, CELEBRATIONS! Healthy Inside Out! at the Second Global Conference on Lifestyle & Health at Geneva on July 10, 2014. The book, written by Dr. Shawna Vyhmeister and Sonia Krum, is the children’s version of CELEBRATIONS produced by GC Health Ministries. A copy was presented to each of the following individuals: Elder Ted Wilson, GC President, Dr. Peter Landless, GC Health Ministries Director, and Dr. Allan Handysides, recently retired GC Health Ministries Director who proofread our book and gave us the go-ahead for publication. Everyone who attended the children’s health tract also received a copy of the book.

On the same day, the participants were also given a glimpse of the forthcoming animated DVD, A Musical Journey; Pro-Active Kids Adventure At The Celebrations Castle. It was a hit! Everyone loved it and was asking where they could purchase them. The DVD will be ready sometime this year.