

# KidsNewsZone

Vol 14 #1 2017



CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES

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## KidsNewsZone

is published triannually by the General Conference Department of Children's Ministries for the purpose of communicating news and information about Children's Ministries.

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## Involving Children in TMI

**W**hat's TMI? That's Total Member Involvement! TMI encourages every church member, every child to be involved in God's last-day message—from speaking the Word to living the Word. Everyone can be a soul-winner and that's what TMI is all about. Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Ellen White advocates the same message when she said, "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" (*That I May Know Him*, p. 42).

Just like a seed germinates and grows to a full-sized tree, so the followers of Jesus need to grow to full stature in their Christian walk with Him. Many children accept Jesus as their special friend and Savior, and we want to help them grow into strong and faithful disciples of Jesus. That means involving every child in the mission of the church. Every child can be involved in sharing the gospel; every child can invite their friends to church pro-

grams. In fact, children are the best sales agents in selling a program. If they are excited about the Vacation Bible School, or the health EXPO they attended, you can count on them telling their friends and neighbors. Soon they will be coming to your program with one or two friends, and maybe even a whole gang. Children who get involved in community outreach and participate in church activities are more likely to continue doing this when they become adults.



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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)

”

Involving children requires that we first help them to discover their gifts and talents that God has given them. Then help them utilize those gifts in working for Jesus. If Jason is excellent at preaching, then involve him as the speaker for evangelistic meetings. Soong Mi and Chiu Li simply love to share Jesus with their friends and neighbors. Get them to lead a small group to go door to door sharing gospel tracts and books. Kumar is passionate about his guitar; why not get him to play for the song service?



Indeed, there is a place for every child to get involved in the mission of the church. Here are some suggestions to get children involved in reaching out to others, making connections with non-believers, building relationships, and sharing the gospel:

1. Help your neighbor wash his/her car.

2. Invite your neighbor to a children's camp.
3. Help to serve food at a shelter.
4. Donate clothing and books to the less fortunate children.
5. Share your lunch with a poor classmate.
6. Pray for someone you know who is sick.
7. Play the piano at church for song service.
8. Tell a children's story at the worship hour.
9. Help your neighbor clean his/her yard.
10. Visit the elderly with your parents and pray for them.
11. Fundraise to help refugee children.
12. Preach at church on Children's Sabbath or at an evangelistic campaign.
13. Participate in a health puppet show for community children.
14. Pass out missionary books and gospel tracts at the bus stop.

There is no limit to the different ways children can be involved in doing something for Jesus. Creativity of children's leaders and teachers can help enhance such experiences of children. So let's get moving and start involving our children today. Involve our children in TMI!

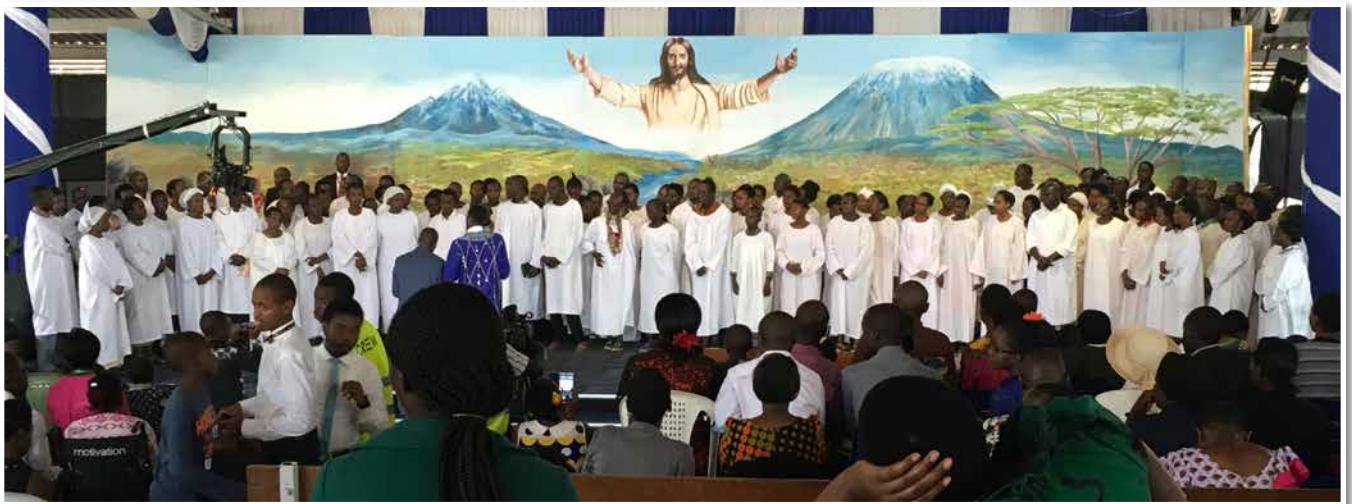
*Linda Mei Lin Koh*  
GC Children's Ministries Director

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



### EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

East and West Kenya Union Conferences host TMI Evangelistic Meetings.



► Baptismal Candidates taking their baptismal vows.

ECD organized Total Member Involvement (TMI) evangelistic meetings in East and West Kenya Union Conferences, March 3-18, 2017. Six thousand evangelistic centers were planned, with almost every church in Nairobi conducting the meetings. Preachers came from the ECD territory, USA and England. Pastor Saustin Mfune, the GC CHM Associate Director was a speaker at New Life SDA Church with a sitting capacity of about 3,000. Mfune's meetings were broadcasted live on Hope Channel, Kenya. Mfune's meetings were entitled "God Speaks Salvation through Mountains, Hills and Valleys." Dr Catherine Ontita, the Director of Hope Channel, Kenya, wrote after the meetings that she was amazed how Mfune managed to involve all age groups in his meetings. At the end of the meetings 125 people were baptized. We praise God for that.

Mfune laments that he failed to convince the people of New Life Church that children from age 12 and above are matured enough to be baptized. Even though New Life Church took an action in their Church Board some time ago that children age 12 and above can be baptized, it did not work during these meetings. Except for one, the rest who were baptized were age 17 and above.

Our prayer is that all the people who have been baptized during these TMI meetings, will remain strong in the Lord.



► New Life Pro-Active Kids singing an appeal song.



► Lord Transform Me Campaign Baptism

## INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

### Belgian-Luxembourg Conference – CHM Leadership Training



► Children's Leadership Training in Brussels.

## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

### Inter-Oceanic Union – Mass Baptism

April 1, 2017 was a special day for Inter-Oceanic Union in Mexico! As a result of the "Lord Transform Me" campaign, 1,026 children and adolescents were baptized on that Sabbath. We praise God for the working of the Holy Spirit on the lives of these children and adolescents.

“ 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)

About sixty children's leaders from around the conference gathered for a Children's Ministries leadership training weekend, February 10-12, 2017 at a lovely retreat center in Brussels. They were enthusiastic and eager to learn new ideas to work with children. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM director provided the training with many of them participating in the activities provided. Linda ended her seminar on Ministry to Children with Special Needs with each participant fitting their puzzle piece to form a huge puzzle of inclusiveness to include children with special needs. They were also introduced to puppetry and how they can use them for reaching children in the community. The children's leaders left with many resources that would enhance their ministry.

#### Division-wide Global Children's Day on March 18

With the slogan “Involve your Children in ministry and service” the Children's Ministry (CHM) department of the General Conference invited all children to participate in the Global Youth Day (GYD). Inspired by the command of Jesus, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31), and “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12:31), the children were encouraged to follow their “senior brother” in activities according to their age.

Following the live broadcasting of GYD that lasted for all 24 hours from Fiji to California on March 18, 2017, it was amazing to see these little “volunteers” in action. Most of the groups gave them the task to distribute items like food, flyers, messages, or simply follow the program made by the youth according their age and size. In some places, children have been included in games with their peers, or animate some programs in the elderly homes in front of charmed grandparents. They were proud to do what they did.

Voted at the GC Executive board, the purpose to include this year the children into the GYD impact, was following the intention to create an intergenerational context. Also the adults and



► “Involve your Children in ministry and service” at the Global Youth Day

the elderly enjoyed the pleasure of the social contribution, giving this intergenerational imprint/watermark to all program.

Ellen White wrote: “Whole armies of Children may come under Christ's banner as missionaries, even in their childhood year. Never repulse the desire of children to do something for Jesus. Never quench their ardour for working in some way for the Master” (E. G. White, *That I May Know Him*, p. 42).

Actually, all CHM director at Division level had the possibility to suggest to their Youth Ministries colleagues to “Get Kids Involved.” In each local set where the children have been involved, this has made the difference. More than the words, the images will give you the glimpse of this extraordinary partnership. Enjoy. Reported by Corrado Cozzi, Communication Director.

#### SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

##### Trans Pacific Union – Tuvalu Mission

Children with the Youth and their families for the Global Youth and Children's Day were involved in Bucket Ministry where they prepared buckets with food and groceries to distribute to the elderly, widows, disable and the sick people in the Funafuti community.



► Bucket Ministry



## Solomon Island Mission

Trainer: Pr Nasoni Lutunaliwa (TPUM Children & Women's Ministries Directors)

Purpose of Training was to train and equip Children and Women's Ministries Leaders in the Discipleship of Children through the Gracelink Curriculum. There were 514 attendees and people left the training reaffirmed in Gods' calling on their lives and in their call to share Jesus more effectively through the resources shared during this week.



► Discipleship of Children

## New Zealand Pacific Union

North New Zealand Conference (Auckland & Palmerston North)

Litiania Turner, SPD CHM conducted training on April 5, 2017 to inspire and equip Children's Ministries Leaders, parents and pastors in their Discipleship of Children through the Gracelink Curriculum, and also to reiterate to the leaders of children that we exist to support the parents as the Primary Spiritual Disciplers of their kids. She also taught and encouraged parents to focus on raising missional children and what is involved in this. There were two separate training venues:

Workshops included topics like "How to Be Missional with Our Kids and Teach them to Serve," and Shaping Children's Faith with Faithshaper. This training event was an opportunity for leaders of



► SPD Training

children from across the Northern Region of Auckland to get together, learn from each other, pray and be equipped to serve the children in their midst.



► SPD Training

## Australian Union Conference – Victoria Conference

Australian Union Conference Super Advisory was held in Melbourne bringing together all the Children, Women, Family, Youth, Education, ADRA, Media Team Leaders in the AUC to vision and dream together of what a truly collaborative and spirit led leadership team would look like.



► Children's Ministries Director with AUC and SPD CHM Leaders/ Directors.



► Pr Jorge Munoz President of AUC welcoming delegates above to the first ever collaborative SUPER Advisory for the AUC

“ 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

### Division-wide Children's Ministries Retreat & Advisory

The new year kicked off for NAD Children's Ministries with a fun-packed CHM retreat at Tulson, Arizona, January 5-7, 2017 for about 35 union and conference CHM directors. Highly interactive workshops were presented and the highlight was the launching of the new VBS, Catusville. It was showcased at a large local church with all the leaders participating in the experience firsthand. GC CHM director, Linda Koh was invited by Sherri Uhrig, NAD CHM director to participate with them.

The CHM group then met on January 10 for their annual advisory. New plans and initiatives for the division were presented, as well as the launching of the new CHM logo. Jackie Smith from GC Sabbath School/Personal Ministries showcased samples of the new children's curriculum, My Bible Guides to the children's leaders. Every leader went home with many resources for their ministry. They were simply elated!



► NAD CHM Retreat



► VBS fun

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

### Global Children's Day – March 18, 2017

Caroline Chola, CHM Director of SID, reports Global Children's Day activities which happened in her Division. Here is the Report in pictures.



► Mozambique Children and their leaders helping the needy

### North Zambia Union – Children Actively Involved in Global Children's Day

Children in North Zambia Union were actively involved in distributing food at Ndola hospital. They visited the hospital and sang for the patients, prayed with them, and gave them food. They were indeed the hands and feet of Jesus.



► Global Children's Day in N. Zambia Union



► Malawi Union Children of Area 3 District in Central Malawi Conference helping a granny.



► NZU children distributing food



## South Africa Union – Global Children's Day Ministry to Children with Special Needs

It was exciting to see many children serving those children with special needs in a hospice in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Led by its union director, Zodwa Kunene, the children spent time helping out in the hospice for these special needs children. They distributed food, helped in the kitchen and also sang for them. It was an unforgettable experience for the children in red T-shirts to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



► South African children serving Special Needs Kids



► In Bloemfontein, South Africa, children went to serve children with special needs



► Cleaning a street in Lilongwe City.

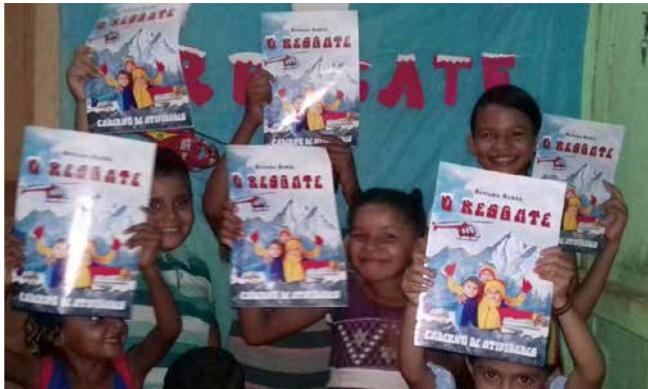
## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### 20,000 Evangelistic centers during Passion Week

A division-wide special evangelistic week was inaugurated during the Passion Week Easter weekend. Around 80,000 Evangelistic groups were formed and special materials The Rescue (El rescate, in Spanish) were developed for the children during this evangelistic endeavor. There will be about 20,000 centers for sharing with children the message of the gospel. The teacher and leaders did a great job! Praise the Lord!

COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
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(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



► Passion Week Evangelism



► SAD Evangelistic Center



► SAD Evangelistic Center

## TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

### Adriatic Union Conference – Ministry to Refugees in Greece

Under the leadership of Bobo Marceta, AUC Children's and Youth Ministries director, 15 young people and teens went on a special project to Greece from 26th of December, 2016 to 8th of January, 2017 to serve the children at the refugee camps in Greece. There were about 300 children at the camp and the AUC group played with them and tried to make this New Year time better and happier for them by helping them and encouraging them in their difficult circumstances.

It was wonderful to have a dental student teach them how to maintain oral hygiene. Both the director and his wife also provided counseling for the young people and their families at the camp. The children and young people who went with the group were greatly motivated to reach out to such families in need. It was indeed a well worth venture and experience for everyone who participated!



► Ministry to refugee children in Greece

### Adriatic Union Conference – Children's Ministries Leadership Training

About 100 children's leaders and their families enjoyed the weekend leadership training at a retreat center in Crivenica, Croatia, March 31-April 2, 2017. It was a beautiful center right by the Adriatic Sea. Bobo Marceta, AUC CHM director organized such teacher training once every two years. Participants came from Croatia, Slovenia, and Albania. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Clair Sanches, TED CHM director presented interesting seminars and worship talks as well. The weather was perfect for swimming and simply sitting by the sea, but the leaders were faithfully attending these seminars and workshops for they were eager to learn as much as they can. One has to take your hats off to children's leaders who were so dedicated to ministry to children. Praise God for them!



► Adriatic Union Children's leadership training

## Polish Union Conference – Children's Ministries Leadership Training

About forty children's leaders and teachers from all over the union gathered at the beautiful campus of the Polish College of Theology and Humanities, outside of Warsaw at Podkowa Lesna, March 24-26, 2017, for CHM leadership training. Halina Jankowska, the union CHM director did a wonderful job in organizing this training. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Clair Sanches, TED CHM director engaged the leaders in some fun activities in their presentations. Many appreciated the great resources they were given and they left with much satisfaction for the training



► Polish Union leadership training

## TED Children's Ministries Consultation

Clair Sanches, TED CHM director called a one-day consultation with all her Children's Ministries directors, March 30, 2017, to discuss their strategic plans, share ideas of what really worked in their unions, and to strengthen the network among the leaders. It was such an excellent idea to have each union director share one effective idea that has worked for them. They also share the resources they have produced with one another. Linda Koh, GC CHM director was also present to share information about children's ministries around the world and the forthcoming new Sabbath School curriculum, My Bible Guides, for children.



► TED CHM Consultation

“ 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)

### Messy Church in the South-East European Union

We are very glad that finally we have a Messy Church in Belgrade, Serbia. We started in March 2016, and now we are one year old.

We live in an orthodox country and it's really hard for us to share our beliefs. But children from the Belgrade SDA church wanted to share invitations for the Messy Church meeting in their school. Surprisingly, the teachers allowed them to share invitations to their classmates. That was a real miracle, and at that Messy Church meeting we had 13 new children. But the next Monday, one of our children who shared invitations, was pub-



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► Messy Church in Belgrade



lically accused of not being a proper Christian for advertising the meeting, and the parents of the invited Orthodox children were very angry. The teacher was obliged to stop sharing the Messy Church invitations. We had to stop the inviting activity among the classmates but we have never stopped praying and at the very next Messy church meeting we had over 100 people (children with their parents) and 20 new children. Our God is great!

In our Union we have had 2 Messy Church training programmes so far with Clair Sanches in Novi Sad, Serbia and in Banja Luka, Bosnia. We will have the third training programme in July 2017 in Kanjiza, Serbia.

### The Plan of Salvation in 3D for Children – Report from Poland

The “Plan of Salvation in 3D for Children” was launched in August 2016 at the family camp of the “Three Angels” Mission Group. The aim of this exhibition is to familiarize children with the history of salvation and the Lord Jesus, their Saviour. The title of this project for the people outside of the church is “A Journey Through Time”. It is intended for children around 5-12 years of age.

During this exhibition, children go from one station to another and learn the basic steps of the plan of salvation: a rebellion in heaven, creation of the world, the appearance of sin, the flood, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and His second coming.



► The Plan of Salvation in 3D for Children



The exhibition is accompanied by fun and games involving all senses, experiments which are of great interest to children, while teaching them about controlling the emotions, the prayer for confession of sins to God and seeking help from Him, and that Jesus is their best friend.

At the end the children meet with a person dressed as Jesus, who takes them to his kingdom, and puts on their heads crowns and gives them gifts in the form of books speaking about God. Parents and carers receive the book "Steps to Christ".

The project is implemented mainly in the open air: in parks, playgrounds, etc. So far we held five exhibitions, which was attended by a total of about 400 children and their parents.

## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

### Northern Nigeria Union Conference holds training for CHM Leaders

From February 15-18, Pastor Ibrahim Maigadi, CHM director of NNUC brought together 173 CHM Ministries' leaders from the entire Union for level IV training. The meetings which were dubbed 'Reach the Child. Reach the World,' were hosted by Nyanya SDA Church in Abuja. Omobonike Sessou, CHM Director of WAD and Pastor Saustin Mfune, GC Associate Children's Ministries Director were the main facilitators.

Mr Godwin Emorotu, representative from the Secondary Education Department of Abuja, represented the Government on the opening day and commended the SDA Church for bringing lead-

ers who work with children. "This is one of the ways, if not the only way, Nigeria can raise responsible children," said Mr Emorotu.

Mrs Mercy Irokwendu, a teacher by profession and two secondary schools gave a powerful seminar on how to teach children. The lecture included the power of puppets on children. Praise be to God for visionary leaders like Pastor Ibrahim Maigadi.

### Western Nigerian Union Conference (WNUC) trains 270 CHM Leaders

Alvina's Model School owned by an Adventist Family in Warri Delta State in Nigeria was the place which hosted 270 CHM leaders. The meetings ran from 22-25 February. Mrs Ikechi Chinwenmeri Nneoma, the CHM Director of WNUC organized an eclectic program which took topics from various certification levels. The theme "Reaching the Child for Jesus" served as a great umbrella linking the chosen topics. The meetings were held in Delta region. And hence, Pastor Joshua Arebun, the President of Delta Conference gave a keynote address. He gave history of Delta Conference and how the CHM Department is playing a vital role in knitting together Delta Conference. A child preacher and a Children's singing group ignited the afternoon of February 23rd. Omobonike Sessou, WAD CHM Director and Pastor Saustin Mfune, the GC Associate CHM Director were the main facilitators of the meetings. The excessive heat of Warri did not dampen the spirits of the participants.

Mfune and Sessou were supposed to fly to Warri airport on the afternoon 21st. Even though they had confirmed their tickets, they were shocked when they arrived at the airport to learn that the airline they were booked on had discontinued flying to Warri a month or so ago. Frustrated, they had to drive back to Abuja City, some forty minutes away. The following day, they took another airline which took them to Benin town, about two hours away from Warri.

WNUC has a membership of 50, 468 members and the population of children under the age of 15 is 7,682. Sister Nneoma told the delegates that they are a small Union and every person counts. And that being the case, they cannot afford to treat children carelessly. God bless WNUC CHM department.



► North Nigeria Union Conference CHM leaders



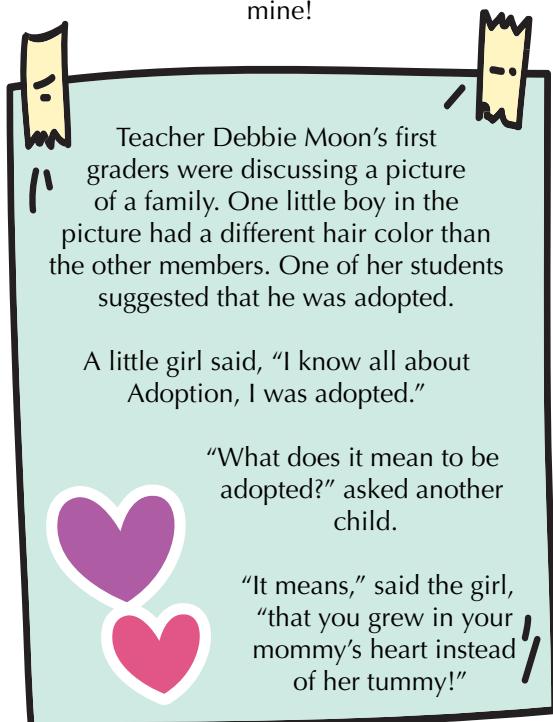
► Some of the West Nigerian Union Conference CHM leaders at the convention

“ 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)

## From the Mouth of Babes

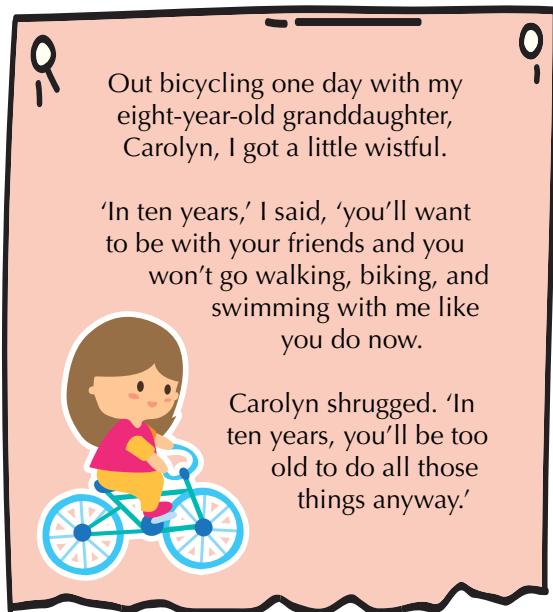
To all who love and care for children, I hope this put a smile on your face, it Sure did mine!



A little girl said, "I know all about Adoption, I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means," said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!"



Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, I got a little wistful.

'In ten years,' I said, 'you'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now.'

Carolyn shrugged. 'In ten years, you'll be too old to do all those things anyway.'

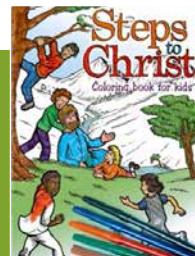
### NEW RESOURCES



SAY NO TO DRUGS  
By Saustin Mfune

A musical drama with the Pro-Active Kids adventure in fighting drugs in the community. Mfune gives a refreshing and positive prevention message through original songs and a skit.

Available at your local Adventist book stores.



STEPS TO CHRIST  
Coloring Book

Your children will treasure the insights from Ellen White's book, Steps to Christ, briefly summarized here in simple words that they can easily understand, and accompanied by vivid pictures for them to color in. Includes pointers for discussion and prayer.

Available at your local Adventist book stores.

### CACTUSVILLE- Vacation Bible Experience 2017



Kids will experience a rip roarin' good time while learning that they are CALLED by God. They are CALLED to be unconditionally loved and accepted. God's CALLING includes a revelation of His unique purpose for each and every child. Each day your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will discover a special way in which God has CALLED them. They will learn how they can accept and live out this CALLING while enjoying Bible treasure-huntin' Cactusville adventures!

Check with your division or union directors.

### REACH THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST



MAY 10 TO 13, 2017 - BUDAPEST