



# KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES

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

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## KidsNewsZone

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## Keeping Christ in Christmas

Christmas today has become so commercialized that the true meaning of Christmas is missing. Children are asking for more and more gifts, while teenagers want more sophisticated gadgets. The whole spirit of Christmas is concentrated on "I" and "me." Parents are often pressured into fulfilling those desires.

It's time we put *CHRIST* back into the meaning of Christmas! It's time we help our children appreciate the true *CHRIST*, the greatest Gift of all. Christmas helps to remind us that God gave His greatest gift to all people on earth by sending His only son, Jesus to this earth to be born as a little baby and to live and die for us in order to redeem us.

This is the time of the year that parents can make Christmas more meaningful by teaching our children the spirit of *Giving* rather than *Receiving*. Set up family traditions like having the children help put food baskets together to distribute to some needy families. Or they can help bake cookies to give away to the less fortunate. In my family as I was growing up, each Christmas my dad would ask us to open





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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



our piggy banks and give a donation to buy gifts for the poor children in our neighborhood. We could give five, ten, or fifteen dollars—it's up to us—no pressure. Dad always reminded us that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). This is a tradition that has stayed with me till I grew up.

Children can make Christmas cards and write greetings and messages for the elderly and homeless. Engage the whole family in distributing food and other goods, and children can offer prayers at each of the homes they visit. They can also sing Christmas carols or play musical instruments for the seniors.

Another interesting tradition is that the family members can be given red or golden hearts on which each person will list down one reason why he or she is thankful for Jesus. Each person can write as many reasons as possible, using up as many hearts as possible. Then hang the hearts onto the Christmas tree. Read and discuss a few each night at family worship.

Yes, Christmas is most meaningful when *CHRIST* is at the center of our celebration. Let's be more of a *GIVER* for Jesus Christ gave Himself for us that we may receive salvation. May you all have a Happy, Christ-centered Christmas!

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

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



## AROUND THE WORLD

### EURO-ASIA DIVISION

#### East Russia Union – CHM Leadership Training

Natalia Frolova, CHM director brought together about 60 children's leaders and teachers from around the union for leadership certification training on September 7-10, 2017 at the union headquarters in the city of Novosibirsk. In-

vited guests Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Zhanna Kamiskaya, ESD CHM director presented several topics on At Risk Affluent Youth, Infant Child Health, Communication, and others. The lecture hall was beautifully decorated by the creative director. All the leaders went home happy with the many resources they were given to enhance their ministry.



► East Russian Union leadership training



### **Belarus Union – CHM Leadership Training**

Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Zhanna Kamiskaya, ESD CHM director flew to Minsk, the capital of Belarus to conduct the next leadership training which was held in a Catholic retreat center, September 14-17, 2017. About one hundred children's leaders and directors came from all over the union to receive the training. Both the GC and the division director provided training in working with at risk children. On Sabbath, the program was moved to the central church where children and teens participated in the worship program with some playing musical instruments while others sang. It was a wonderful experience to see how enthusiastic the children's leaders were in learning new ideas and methods to work with children. They too left the meeting with lots of resources.

Infants," "Why Kids in Discipleship?" and "Philosophies Challenging Christian Parenting." In the afternoons, the departments met separately to discuss issues pertinent to their individual departments. We praise the Lord in the way He led the meetings.



▶ *Belarus Union's leadership training.*



▶ *Leaders in Session*



▶ *Listening attentively*

### **Ukraine Union Conference Holds a Leader's Retreat**

Svetlana Sirotkina, CHM and Family Ministries' Director of Ukraine Union Conference together with ESD Family, Women and CHM Directors namely Aksenia and Pavel Liberanskaya, Raisa Ostrovskaya, and Zhanna Kamiskaya respectively held a meeting modeled after the Budapest Meetings. Thirty-seven Family, Women and CHM leaders met on November 6 and 7 in Bucha at Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Learning. Though the weather was cold to the bone and people were clad in their heavy winter gear, the keynote address by Pastor Stanislav Nosov, the Union President, warmed the atmosphere and set the tone for the meetings. In the mornings, there were plenary sessions. The three ESD Directors and Saustin Sampson Mfune, the GC CHM Associate Director were the main facilitators. Topics covered included "At Risk: Affluent Children and Youth," "Drug Endangered Children," "Strategies for 2015 to 2020," "Interventions for

### **Trans-Caucasus Union of Churches hosts CHM Leader's Retreat**

Trans-Caucasus Union of Churches whose offices are located in Tbilisi, Georgia, held a CHM Leaders' Conference where twenty-six leaders, six from Armenia and twenty from Georgia gathered from November 10 to 12 to sharpen their leadership skills. Tea Dekanoidze, the energetic CHM leader of the Union was assisted by Zhanna Kamiskaya, ESD CHM Director and Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director. In his keynote address, Pastor Vadim Kovtiuk, the Union President, reminded the participants of the importance of their calling. He mentioned that though we talk that children are important, when it comes to implementation, we still maintain the status quo. He encouraged leaders to



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)



help the church to put children at their rightful place. Topics presented by Zhanna included "Understanding Grace link," "Kids in Discipleship," and "Children and Violence Protection." Mfune's Topics included, "How to run a vibrant Children's Sabbath School: Step by Step," "Whole-Brain Teaching", and "Anointed Leadership".



► *Jubilant Georgia Leaders.*

these catastrophes, they chose the theme, "Restored by the Redeemer" and Dr John Sanchez, a Forensic Psychologist was the principal speaker. He was requested to speak on Mental and Emotional Health. Dr Sanchez, a Surinamese by birth, who has not been back to home country since he left for Holland many years ago, and his wife Claire Sanchez, CHM Director of TED, teamed up in an amazing way to deliver the messages to some 600 women who attended the Congress. The meetings were held in Torrarica Hotel in the city of Paramaribo, the Capital of Suriname. Dinorah Rivera, Women and CHM Director of IAD and Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director were also in attendance. Mfune attended the Congress with the job description of speaking to children; helping them understand the times they are living in. Suriname being a Dutch Speaking country, Valeriano Ranfys a fluent Dutch speaker, a Pastor hailing from Curacao, one of the islands in the Caribbean teamed with Mfune in working with the children. Dian Telget, Suriname Mission CHM and Women Ministries Director,



► *They seem to say, "We got our certificates."*



► *Congress participants.*

## INTER AMERICA DIVISION

### Suriname Mission hosts Caribbean Union Conference (CUC) Women's Congress

As from June to September this year, the Caribbean Union Conference territory was heavily battered by hurricanes, causing extensive damage to property and loss of lives. When the Women and CHM Director of CUC, Debra Ann Henry saw the devastation, though a Women's Congress to be held in Suriname Mission running from October 13-15 had been planned much earlier, she changed the focus of the meetings to be on healing people's devastated emotions. To address



► *Dr John Sanchez with his wife Claire together with other participants enjoy the cultural night.*



coordinated extremely well the various activities which kept everyone busy. People from Suriname were happy to have a meeting held in their territory because as one participant said, "Meetings are rarely held in our territory."

On the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> October, after a powerful Sabbath message on *Loss and Grief* by Dr Sanchez, 25 leaders went to visit a home which houses HIV and AIDS children. The leaders delivered to this facility rice, powdered milk, Sugar and many goodies to help the children. It was encouraging to see that the leaders left smiles adorning the faces of these children.



► Children enjoying their activities.

### Suriname Mission Hosts Caribbean Union Conference (CUC) Advisory

Knowing that most of the leaders from CUC would attend the Women's Congress, Debbie Ann Henry, CHM Director of CUC, planned a one-day CHM Advisory which was held



► Leaders who participated in the one-day Advisory.

on October 17 at the Suriname Mission Offices. Ten leaders from the Union participated in the advisory. Claire Sanchez, TED CHM Director introduced to the participants the Messy Church Program which has worked effectively in TED and has led some souls to the church. Debbie Ann Henry, CUC CHM Director spoke on CUC goals for 2015 to 2020. Dinorah Rivera, the IAD CHM Director reminded the leaders of the Talking Back Pack initiative which most of the leaders had already heard of when it was introduced during the CHM IAD Advisory. Talking Back Pack, a brain child of the dynamic and creative Dinorah, is a program which will effectively help our children and early teens get involved in the TMI initiative. Saustin Sampson Mfune talked on how musical dramas can be used as a tool in reaching kids in our communities. He dwelt on his new musical drama – *Say no to Drugs*.

## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### North Pacific Union Conference – Children's Ministries Convention

This union-wide convention was held in Portland, Oregon at the Holiday Inn Hotel by the Portland airport, October 12-15, 2017. It was a fun-packed weekend with about 300 children's leaders, children's Sabbath School teachers, Adventurers and Pathfinder leaders in attendance. The theme was a catchy and excellent one – **God's Construction Zone; Building Leaders for Today's Kids!** The theme song had such a catchy tune that it was easy to learn, especially when it was led out by the God's Construction Zone Singers.



► God's Construction Zone CHM convention



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)

There were many workshops with many outstanding presenters. Participants were glad for the many workshops they can choose from. The coordinating committee did



► *God's Construction Zone CHM convention*

Union Conference (SZUC), North Zambia Union Conference (NZUC), and Botswana Union Conference (BUC). Speakers included Mrs Chola, SID CHM Director, Silas Muabsa, SID PAKIA Director, Dr Kenaope Kenaope, the president of BUC, Dr Harrington Akombwa, President SZUC, Pastor Fred Muloongo, Copperbelt Conference Ministerial and PAKIA Director, Joseph Mushalika, a motivation speaker and author who runs a number of businesses and is based in the city of Lusaka, Zambia and Saustin Sampson Mfune, CHM GC Associate Director who took all devotions which came during mid-morning and in the evening.

Mfune, while he worked at the former Eastern Africa Division (EAD) as Youth and CHM Director was inspired by a group of Pastor's children in Uganda who were passionate in helping each other. Taking a nod from this, Mfune, in the mid 90's, developed an elaborate Pastors' Kids Constitution known as Pastor's Kids Association (PAKIA) which was voted by the Executive Committee of EAD and established as a department. PAKIA has functioned as a department ever since. During the Kasane Congress, Mfune challenged the PKs to continue living the Faith of their Fathers. PKs were challenged to unite, knowing that we are almost home. Quoting from the PKs anthem which Mfune wrote with his son Dumisani, Mfune said, "For our parents' sake, for the Gospel's sake, and for Salvation's sake, Pastor's Kids unite."

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

### Inter-Union Pastor's Kids (PKs) Congress hosted by Botswana Union Conference.

One hundred and ten PKs gathered from December 5 – 9 in Kasane, a tourist town located North of the country of Botswana. The theme of the Congress was Almost Home. The Unions which brought their PKs together were South Zambia

On Friday, 8th December, PKs went out to distribute books in the community. They softly sang "Faith of our Fathers living still..." as they went in groups while carrying in their hands the book "Great Hope." The youngest PK in attendance, Tehillah Muabsa, was 4 years old while the oldest was 73 years. It was a memorable PKs congress.



► *PKs on a Mission: Going to Distribute books in the community.*



► *Some PKs are listening attentively, and others are taking notes.*



► The oldest and youngest PKs and others in between.

### Trans-Orange Conference (TOC) holds a Children's Rally at Kwa-Thema Church in Springs

All roads on the Sabbath of December 2 led to Kwa-Thema SDA Church in Springs where about 500 energy-packed children congregated in Kwa-Thema church to enjoy their day. Charles Sibenke, the TOC CHM Director, the ever energy-filled CHM Director of Southern Union Conference, Zodwa Kunene, Dr David Spencer, the Union President of Southern Union Conference and his wife, Caroline Chola, the level headed SID CHM Director and GC Associate CHM Director, Saustin Mfuné, were all present at this rally.

Kwa-Thema church which is known for its power-packed and Spirit filled children and Youth programs started the day by children waving balloons as they sang "We welcome You,"

ushering the leaders into the church which probably sits 1500 people. Sabbath School program was led by children and Mrs Zodwa Kunene. They performed a musical drama, "Say No to Drugs" written by Saustin Mfuné. They did an impeccable job. Dr Spencer, quoting George Banner's research, spoke on the importance of introducing Jesus early in children's lives. Mrs Chola talked on bullying. This being the Sabbath they were ending the children's week of prayer, one girl gave a summary of what they learned during the meetings. Then there were the children's preachers. They were just amazing. The word eloquent does not do justice to express what these children did. God used them in a mighty way. Dwelling on Psalm 23:5, Mfuné spoke on the importance of everyone, regardless of age, receiving God's anointing. He pointed out that there is no big Holy Spirit for big people and small Holy Spirit for children. The writer will not be doing justice if the delicious lunch enjoyed is not mentioned. It was a meal befitting the occasion. In the afternoon, there were various activities which included Child Preachers graduating after successfully completing the Child's preaching training program using a training manual produced by SID CHM Department, different leaders receiving their certificates for completing various levels of the certification program, puppet show, reciting poems and Bible verses. Since a month earlier the local Pastor had conducted an evangelistic meeting just for children, one girl summarized all the topics they had learned.

Though the meetings ended very late in the afternoon, one could hear people speaking amongst themselves wishing such programs happened frequently. The local Pastor of Kwa-Thema Church and his leaders ought to be commended for the great work done.



► Children acting 'Keep Your City Clean' scene from 'Say no to Drugs' musical drama



► Child preacher's graduation.



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



## SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

### South Andhra Section – Children’s Ministries Leadership Training

On September 11, 2017, 35 children’s leaders and children’s Sabbath School teachers gathered at the Children’s leadership seminar was held in the South Andhra Section. It was an exciting day as this was the first of its kind meeting held at the Vijayawada Central Church. Delegates came from six circles in Krishna District, 24 different churches from these circles were represented. We had both men and women from various churches. The main presenter was Mrs. Mridula Lakra, SUD CHM director and Mrs. Krupa John Victor, ECIU CHM director.

First session was taken up by Mrs. Mridula on the topic: Children a challenge not a chore. Take care of our children with tenderness, kindness and gentleness. They are God’s property. Many wonderful illustrations on small children were brought out. Children watch everything that happens around them and want to do it and sometimes they take the wrong conclusion.

Three factors of the child’s outer environment that affect the child are:

1. Family atmosphere - parents have to set a pattern...
2. Family Constellation – Be united in the family otherwise the child is affected.
3. Methods of training – teach them how to do things, pray with the child....



▶ Children’s Seminar Vijayawada

## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

### Singapore Conference – Children’s & Family Training

On November 11, 2017, Cynthia Low Teo, CHM director of Singapore Conference organized a conference-wide Children’s and Family Ministries training event at the Jurong Church. The morning program was a musical worship with many children participating in the different choirs. In the afternoon, the Touch Cyber Wellness Team presented an ex-

cellent workshop to help parents be aware of pornography, social media, gaming, etc. and its impact on their children. After this, Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director conducted seminars to acquaint parents with the importance of Ellen White and how to introduce Ellen White to their children. Then she introduced the families to fun ways of having family worships through object lessons, paper cutting, stories, etc. At the end, Linda Koh gave away many resources for the families to use with their children.



▶ Singapore Conference CHM/FM Training



### East Java Conference – Reaping Campaign Evangelistic Meetings

Under the able leadership of Anneke Wagiran, CHM director of the conference, a reaping campaign was organized in Malang, Indonesia from November 13-18, 2017. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Orathai Chureson, SSD CHM director were the main speakers for the evangelistic series. Each morning both speakers conducted an evangelistic series for over three hundred students in our Adventist school in Malang. In

the evening, Dr. Linda presented the evangelistic topics such as Amazing Discoveries Prove the Bible Truth, A Formula for a Crime-free Society, etc.; while Dr. Orathai presented family topics on how to enrich our marriage and family life.

The highlight of the reaping campaign was Sabbath when 18 were baptized, and with 5-6 others who chose to be baptized in their local church. About half of the number were young people. We praise God for the working of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of the people.



► Baptism at the Malang Evangelistic Meeting.



► Malang Evangelism

#### TIPS FOR PARENTS AND LEADERS

## Mind What Activities Your Children Are Exposed To

In our minds, we have what is called *Critical Filter*. Some researchers call it *Conscious Critical Faculty*. The critical filter is situated between the conscious and the subconscious mind. The purpose of the critical filter, as the name suggests, is to filter what goes from the conscious mind which is critical and logical into the subconscious mind which is non-critical and non-logical. A skilled hypnotist is able to manipulate the critical filter, by-pass it, thus increasing someone's suggestibility to accept ideas which the person would not have accepted if they were in normal levels of consciousness. Researchers in this field of study tell us that once information and ideas have bypassed the critical filter and

have gone into the subconscious mind, the received information will definitely be acted upon. (<http://www.selfhypnosis.com/the-conscious-critical-faculty/> by Terence Watts. Viewed on November 29, 2017).

While a hypnotist has been trained to bypass the critical filter, one can end up being self-hypnotized. And one thing which has been studied and has shown that it can lead to self-induced hypnosis, is music. This is why music has been used effectively by industrial psychologists in creating adverts. Organizations such as Hollywood and Disney which create movies have also effectively used music in manipulating a person's emotions and

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(MATTHEW 18:3 NASB)

planting ideologies in one’s subconscious mind. And since music or sounds bypasses the critical filter and does not need a medium because music is in itself a medium, the message embedded in the music will effectively be deposited in one’s subconscious mind. And the message planted in the subconscious mind which is non-logical, and non-critical, will end up charting the destiny of the recipient at some point in time in one way or another.

As I write this short article, many things come in my mind in relation with our children. Lots of gadgets have been created which our children play with. And most

of children’s games use all kinds of music and sounds. Cartoons and children’s movies employ all kinds of music and sound which our children are innocently exposed to. At some point in time as our children get older, the things they have grown seeing and hearing as they played those videos games, watched cartoons and movies, the messages deposited in their subconscious minds will, and don’t doubt it, become their character. If they are watching Christian character-building activities and playing with educative video games, praise be to God. But if they are spending their time playing video games where people are continually involved in violent activities, continually planting evil suggestions in their minds, as caregivers, you will live to regret.

As the rising rays of 2018 are right before us, parents and leaders, analyze the media activities your children are involved in. Remember, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.” Galatians 6:7 (*English Standard Version*). Will your children in 2018 keep on sowing media activities which will deprive their spiritual growth, or you will decide to help them ‘sow’ activities which will help them build a strong spiritual foundation? Many times, we like to blame circumstances for our failure to do what we know is right. But failure to act begins by failing to choose to do what is right. May the Lord help each one of us that in 2018, for the sake of our children and our salvation, we will choose to do what is right.

*Saustin Sampson Mfune*



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Children’s Pastors Conference  
CPC18  
*Made for this*  
January 16-18, 2018 Orlando, FL  
Register: [childrenspastorsconference.com](http://childrenspastorsconference.com)

 International Conference  
on Children’s Spirituality  
  
JULY 24-27, 2018 QUEBEC CITY, CANADA  
Register: [chaire-spiritualities.ulaval.ca](http://chaire-spiritualities.ulaval.ca)