

KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

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

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Serving Like Jesus



The Global Children's Day has just been celebrated throughout the world on March 17. Children everywhere throughout the world church were enthusiastically involved in serving the needy, the homeless, those in prison, and the elderly. It was indeed a wonderful experience to engage the children and the teens in serving the less fortunate in the community! However, this once-a-year event needs to do more than garner the energies of the young of this generation to serve like Jesus.

Service to others must become a lifestyle in the life of the follower of Jesus. Similarly, we want our children and teens to be imbued with a heart for service and mission all the time. However, we

must not involve children in service and mission apart from their families. Studies clearly show that "serving together as a family" is vitally important in growing the faith of a child. Researchers have found that there are strong connections between young people getting involved in service and modeling their parents' service involvement.

In a 1990 study by Peter Benson and Carolyn Eklin as reported in their book, *Effective Christian Education: A National Study of Protestant Congregation*, shows clearly that family service is one of three critical factors that help children and youth grow deeper in faith. For example, 66 percent of young people who strongly agree that their parents "spend a lot of time helping other people" also say they do at least one hour of volunteer work in an average week.



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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



What makes service empowering for children and youth? Researchers have found that it is essential that children and young people:

- Do the actual work and don't just observe
- Work with accepting adults who don't criticize their efforts
- Have important responsibilities'
- Have a sense that they can make a contribution
- Have the freedom to explore their own interests and develop their own ideas
- Have opportunities to reflect about the meaning of the activity

Children's leaders, be intentional about planning a service project to involve children in every program or activity whenever you can. One excellent example is North

American Division's Vacation Bible School project. After each VBS program, all the children are invited to participate in the mission project related to the VBS. One year it was donating shoes for the children in the Navajo reservation; another year was donating blankets for the poor families, etc. The impact is outstanding! Children's hearts were moved to take action to help the less fortunate.

Don't forget to involve the families of your children in reaching out to serve like Jesus. Parents and teachers together with the children will make an army of missionary volunteers for Jesus! They can be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children's Ministries Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Uganda Union – Children's Day's Outreach

Sunday, April 15 was an exhilarating day for about 300 children who gathered at the Forest Park for a full day of fun activities. They had games and learning activities that utilized all their energies and curiosities. Out of this large group of children, about thirty of them got involved in a community outreach project. Together with Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director, they visited the women's prison and provided food and supplies for the women inmates who were there with their children who

were allowed to live in another section close by. The children sang songs and recited poems and Bible verses. Then the special guests went to Forest Park to join the other children where they were treated to colorful and excellent songs and cultural dances. The final messages were presented by Dr. Koh and Mrs. Maloba for the the children, teachers, and parents. Two huge cakes were presented and were cut by Dr. Koh and Mrs. Maloba. It was a day to highlight the theme: "Total Children Involvement!"



▶ Children ministering to mothers in prison.



▶ Children's Day Activities in Forest Park.



Uganda Union – Children’s Ministries Leadership Training

Leadership training was provided for several hundred children’s leaders and teachers in several places from April 16-19, 2018. The theme was “Total Children Involvement—Win One, Loose None, Grow a Disciple Annually.” Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Mrs. Debbie Maloba, ECD CHM Director were the special guests who provided the training, first in the town of Jinja and then at the Kampala Central Church. They presented topics greatly needed by the leaders, especially a large group of pastors and local church elders who could make changes in their churches to prioritize children. Topics like Intergenerational Worship, Preparing Children for Baptism, Involving Children in Mission and Service, and Teaching Children to Witness generated much interest and much discussions.

We thank Esther Waiswa, CHM Director of Uganda Union for an outstanding job in organizing this children’s ministries event.

West Kenyan Union – Children’s Leadership Training & VBX

The launching of the 2018 Vacation Bible eXperience (VBX) held on the grounds of the new union office began on April 17-19, 2018, spearheaded by the dynamic WKU CHM Director, Roselyn Ayayo. Facilitators from Nairobi came to assist with the training and running of the VBX which was attended by about one hundred children. On Sabbath, the children presented special musical numbers and many recited heart-warming poems. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director delivered a powerful sermon, at the end of which many children and teens came forward to give their lives to Jesus when the appeal was made. In the afternoon leadership training was provided by the GC director for children’s leaders and teachers. The highlight of the last day was the baptism of 18 children and teens between the ages of 9-14. We praise God that these young ones have surrendered their lives to Jesus and have decided to make Jesus their Forever Friend!



▶ Children’s leaders training in Jinja.



▶ VBX children having a wonderful time.



▶ Children’s leadership training in Kampala.



▶ Baptism of children at the end of VBX.

“ 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)

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

French Guiana Union – CHM Leadership Training

Many Children’s Ministries leaders gathered on March 31 at a beautiful hotel for a full day of training conducted by Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Dinorah Rivera, CHM Director of Inter-American Division.

The leaders were reminded again of the importance of children and the ministry to them. IAD CHM Director introduced many new resources produced for the children in her territory. The most recent program for IAD is the “Talking Backpack.” Children were given pins, resources, etc. to share the gospel with their friends and classmates. It was well received!



► French Guiana CHM Training.

Haiti Union – CHM Leadership Training and Children’s Event

Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM Director were treated to a colorful and vibrant children’s program on April 3. There were beautiful songs, preaching, and poetry recitation presented by over one hundred children. What a lovely treat!



► Haiti CHM Training.

On the second day, the leaders were introduced to the workings of the department as the IAD director shared many resources with them. Many questions were raised when the topic of Enditnow was emphasized.

In spite of the disasters caused by the earthquake and hurricanes in recent years, the union is going strong in nurturing children in their walk with Jesus. Though not completely recovered from its economic strain due to the disasters, the church is moving along fine. It was wonderful to see how active the children’s leaders were.



► Haiti Children’s Concert.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Hawaii Conference – CHM Leadership Training & Mini Week of Prayer

Training sessions for children’s leaders on different islands were organized by Madonna Taueu, CHM director of the conference for Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Dr. Saustin



► Kauai Leaders.



Mfune, Associate CHM Director. It was the whale-watching season and all accommodations were fully booked. But God always provide! Dr. Koh was sent to Maui Island to conduct a mini week of prayer at the Kahului Church, and then conduct CHM training on Sabbath. She introduced interesting ideas to teach children how to witness for Jesus.

Dr. Mfune did a week of prayer for students in our Adventist school on Kauai Island and then a CHM training on the weekend for children's leaders and teachers. Dr Kay Kuzma, a native of Kauai Island, and a reknown children's educator, author and for a long time a presenter on 3 ABN, wished the seminars were more patronized. The participants loved the presentations!

Then the two GC directors flew over to Honolulu on February 18 to conduct a full day of training for CHM leaders on the island of Oahu. It was a fruitful and wonderful experience to be able to serve leaders on different islands who seldom had the chance to attend training held in Honolulu. We thank Madonna for her great insight in spreading out the training in wider areas to meet the needs of many.

Director who gave the devotionals and two seminars in the Level 4 Leadership Certification program. The leaders were so happy to receive many of the resources given by the GC director.



► Washington Conference VBX (Vacation Bible eXperience).



► Hawaii Conference leadership training.

Washington Conference – VBX and CHM Training

Abigail Pozo organized an excellent VBX and CHM training for her children's leaders around the conference. One side of the hall was transformed into the Sea of Galilee with boats, fishing nets, bread, etc. It was like being in the time of Jesus when He was there with his disciples. Yes, the new VBX is the "Sea of Miracles."

On the other side of the hall the leaders walked right into the palace of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. Huge columns and the hanging gardens provided a scene of grandeur. Yes, this was the "Babylon" VBS. The training was in Spanish as well as in English. Special guest includes Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

Global Children's Day

Children at the Adventist school in KGF actively participated in the Global Children's and Youth Day celebration on March 17, 2018. Children and young people were involved in visiting the Sunshine Orphanage where they led out in singing and distributing food to them. Then they had a puppet show for the children. The highlight was introducing the children to arts and crafts. Everyone enjoyed this day of service. The leaders hope that it would not be just one day of service, but an ongoing lifestyle of reaching out to serve others in the community.



► KGF students marching to serve the community.



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)



SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

North Philippine Union – Tri-Mission Leadership Certification

A tri-mission Level IV Leadership Certification training program was held at Mountain Provinces Mission Headquarters in Baguio City where many CHM leaders congregated. Dr Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director and veteran Dr Miram Andres, retired SSD CHM Director, together with Norlin Cadapan, CHM Director of NPUC travelled 8 hours by road to Baguio City to provide the training. Under the theme *Leadership for the Master*, the leaders were inspired to embrace the philosophy that good is not good enough where best is expected.



► Empowered Leaders in Baguio City.

of Southeast Asia Union Mission, graced the occasion. Apart from the excellent seminars presented which included, Sabbath School Classroom Methods and Ideas, Dealing with Adolescents and many more, Dr. Mfune wrote two dramas entitled, “I Married a Stranger,” and “Fashion.” The dramas were sent well in advance and were acted by the youth, I Married a Stranger being acted in a shadow puppet drama style as suggested by Mfune. The youth did a great job and the audience loved it. We thank Christine for her dedication and hardworking spirit.



► Fashion drama by youth.

Peninsular Malaysia Mission – Children’s Ministries Training

Christine Tan, a young lady who is holding the fort as Peninsular Malaysia Mission is scouting for a CHM Director, coordinated an excellent program which was held at Petaling Jaya English Church in Kuala Lumpur from March 9-11. Dr Saustin Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director, Dr Orathai, SSD CHM Director and Debbie Saul-Chan, CHM Director



► “I Married a Stranger” Shadow drama in action.



► CHM Leaders who attended meetings at Petaling Jaya English Speaking Church.



A Visit to Siamsin Myanmar Learning Center

On the afternoon of Sunday, 11th March, Madam Goh Cheng Siew, who is a worker at Peninsular Malaysia Mission, took Dr Saustin Mfunne, GC Associate CHM Director and Debbie Saul-Chan, Southeast Asia Union Mission CHM Director to Siamsin Myanmar Learning Center, a place which works with children whose parents are refugees from Myanmar. Apart from her fulltime job at the Mission Office, Madam Siew has taken upon herself an additional responsibility of raising money to meet the needs of the Center.

As Siew, Mfunne and Chun disembarked from the car, they could hear children singing from the second floor. When they walked into the room, they were moved to see beautiful faces of children pouring out their hearts in song, accompanied by their head master on bass guitar and one of the teachers on rhythm guitar. One could detect in the children's eyes that they knew that Malaysia was not their country. Their home was Myanmar. When Mfunne talked to one of the kids through a translator, the kid expressed a longing to one day go back to their home country.

We thank the Lord for dedicated teachers who worked hard to meet the needs of these children. And God bless Madam Siew who struggles to raise money every month so that the teachers can receive their stipend and children can have

food. When Sister Goh Cheng Siew explain how she spends her after-office work time in making phone calls and writing letters to raise money, Matthew 25:34-40 comes to one's mind. ". . . I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I needed clothes and you clothed me . . . Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, . . . thirsty, . . . needing clothes . . .' Then the King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Kids at this Center needs your support. Can Jesus count on you?



► Siamsin Myanmar Learning Center.

Dr Saustin Mfunne, GC Associate CHM Director talks to students training to be Bible workers

A Pastor in Kuala Lumpur, in addition to pastoring his churches, has a passion to train students who have a burning desire to be Bible workers. During school holidays, a group of Secondary School and College age students meet at the Peninsular Malaysia Mission office every morning for

lessons. Mfunne was requested to speak to these students on the 12th and 13th of March for one hour each day. He found the students amazingly dedicated and eager to learn more about Jesus. God bless these young people and the Pastor for his dedication.



► Mfunne together with Bible Students.



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Kuala Lumpur Pastors Meet with Dr Saustin Mfune

Leadership of Peninsular Malaysia Mission requested Pastor Saustin Mfune to address Pastors who work in the City of Kuala Lumpur on any topic which Mfune deemed would help Pastors in their ministry. Mfune met Pastors for 2 hours. There were nine of them including the Executive Secretary of

the Mission. Though Mfune briefly talked on the importance of children, mentioning the fact that if we fail to minister to children today, we will have no church tomorrow, the main focus of his talk was on the prayer life of a Pastor. He pointed out that while education is important, what empowers a Pastor to succeed in Ministry is a life of prayer.



► Mfune and the Pastors in Kuala Lumpur

Sarawak Mission – Teen Camp and Global Children’s Day

Dr Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director and Dr Orathai, SSD CHM Director enjoyed a spirit-filled camp where 109 teens and 57 leaders of Sarawak Mission territory congregated for three days, 15th to 17th of March at *Apar Borneo Tribal Village* in Bau, Malaysia. Yvonne Suhartini Jabeng, CHM Director of Sarawak Mission, did a magnificent job in putting the camp program together. And she received great support from the local leadership. The camp was filled with many activities. When Mfune made an appeal on Sabbath for those who wanted to be baptized, 27 young people gave their lives to Jesus.

On Sunday, vehicles transported campers to a village not very far from the campsite where the leadership had identified a dilapidated house belonging to an old couple which needed



► Children who gave their lives to be baptized.



► Sarawak Mission Global Children’s Day 1.



► *Sarawak Mission Global Children's Day 2.*

repair. The youth participated in the first Global Children's and Youth Day in the Union. They put a new roof, repaired some cracks in the walls and painted the whole house. The young people were excited to be involved in service for the community. From this first initiative, we believe that many will continue to be involved in the community.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Taiwan Conference -- Children's Sabbath School Teacher Training

With enthusiasm and commitment, a group of children's Sabbath School teachers met March 2-4, 2018, at the Sanyu Health Center, Taiwan, for a weekend of training, team work and encouragement. During the Level Two training by Nilde Lust, NSD Associate CHM Director, a new opportunity to support and affirm teachers was organized by the conference's Children's Ministries department. It provided for sharing time together throughout the weekend. Away from their

busy church and family life, the participants recharged their energies, and were filled with power from the Holy Spirit to continue with their multiple responsibilities. They were able to enhance their skills and knowledge through several workshop and talks, such as interactive storytelling, class management, and how to ask questions. They also learned new songs and crafts, and shared ideas on how to prepare for the new Sabbath School quarter.

Plans for the year were presented and teachers were challenged and assigned to be in charge of the monthly sharing of ideas and suggestions throughout the year. They left the place with their mission bags full of experiences, friendships, and challenges. They were inspired to continue "Walking with Jesus" in their service for God, ministering to the youngest disciples and missionaries of God's family, the precious children of Taiwan—reported by Celeste Sha,, CHM Director of Taiwan Conference.



► *Children's Sabbath School Training.*



► *Children's Sabbath School Training B*

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Adriatic Union Conference – Refugee Children Outreach

The new year started out with 14 young people from AUC spending 14 days in Greece serving in the refugee camp. This had been very exciting and encouraging for our young people as well as for the refugees.

Some worked with adults teaching the German and English language. They played football with teenagers and young adults as well as educating them in hygiene and how to use the washing machine. Ministering to 100 children, with 40 of them around 0-2 years, was most challenging and satisfying. When it was a time for them to go home, both adults and children were very grateful, but also very sad because they realized that this group would not come again. In their bro-



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ken English, they said: "Teacher, no go!" They followed the young people around and held their hands.

Working with children was always rewarding because they learned fast and were enthusiastic in whatever they were given to do. This great experience for our young people motivated them to greater service to their neighbors in their environment. —Reported by Bobo Marceta, CHM Director of Adriatic Union.



▶ AUC Refugee Outreach.

Adriatic Union Conference holds CHM meetings in Albania Mission

On Thursday, 12th April, Dr Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director arrived in Tirana, the capital of Albania for a series of meetings. Bobo Marceta CHM Director of Adriatic Union drove with his family from Croatia where the Union Office is based. Clair Sanchez, TED CHM Director, failed to travel due to a last-minute emergency.

On Friday, the day began with Mfune and Marceta meeting the Children's Ministries Director in Albanian Mission, Clarisa Espana. Pastor Leo Espana, the President of the Mission was also in attendance. The discussions centered on the challenges the Mission faced when it came to children's activities. Clarissa briefed Mfune and Marceta of the Sabbath program which was dubbed *Children's Festival of Talents* under the theme *I am God's Gift*. Children would lead all Sabbath morning activities showcasing their God-given talents. After the discussion, Mfune and Marceta were taken to a construction site where Albania Mission is putting final touches to a building they remodeled and are starting a school in September this year. They are planning to have 45 children.



▶ Mfune and the children in church.



▶ Leaders pose for a photo after the Sunday Meeting.



On Sabbath, the meetings were held at Tirana SDA Central Church. Children gathered from all SDA churches in Albania. The church was a beehive of activities with children doing all kinds of activities which included songs, plays, recitations, and many more. Mfuné gave a story encouraging children to know that God knows what is best for them.

On Sunday, Children's teachers met for five hours in the Albanian Mission Office where Mfuné dealt with several topics including Parenting and the Media Challenge and Communication that Raises Spiritual Giants. On Monday Pastors and their wives and were reminded that Albania is fortunate to have many children. Pastors should invest their time in these children. Pastors were also reminded of the importance of their personal relationship with God. We would like to thank Clarisa and her team for a job well done.

Plans were laid to hold more training in other countries around the union territory as many caught the vision of the urgency of training families to disciple their children.



► *Doing the Trust Walk in KID Training*



► *Albania Pastoral Families.*



► *KID Training in MENA*

MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA ATTACHED UNION (MENA)

Union-wide Kids in Discipleship Training

Nancy Colegado, CHM Director of the Gulf Field organized the first 'Kids in Discipleship' training event in Ras al-Khaimah, January 18-20, 2018. The main trainer was Pastor Don MacLafferty, president of the InDiscipleship Ministry, assisted by Dr.Linda Koh, GC CHM Director. Children's leaders, teachers and their families came from all over the union, even as far as Iraq. They were eager to learn how to disciple their children and participated enthusiastically in all the activities. The leaders not only gained knowledge, but also caught the vision and the energies to train other family groups in their local churches.

WEST AFRICA DIVISION

Cote D'Ivoire Conference holds Level 3 Certification training.

March 8-11, 2018 witnessed 45 CHM leaders going through Level 3 leadership certification program which was held in Divo town in Cote D'Ivoire Conference. On Sabbath, the training was open to all church members. "The Ten Commandments for Parenting " made a great impact on all present to the extent that a local radio station requested the seminar to be presented on the radio. The radio program being of a nature where people



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call in ask questions and make comments, many people commended the SDA church for such practical topics. We thank God for the blessings the CHM leaders are getting through the certification courses. —*Reported by Omobonike Sessou*



► Cote D'Ivoire Conference holds Level 3 Certification Training

West Sahel Union Mission holds a Bible Seminar in Guinea Bissau

West Sahel Union Mission held a Bible Seminar for children in Guinea Bissau from March 4-17, 2018. Every evening more than 100 children attended the training. At the end of the program, 80 children received a certificate of participation. Enyde, the CHM Director of West Sahel Union Mission and the brain child behind this Bible Seminar, was all smiles when at the end of the training, 3 children got baptized. To God be the glory. —*Reported by Omobonike Sessou (Omobonike Sessou gives a bird's eye view of various Global Children's Day activities in West Africa Division).*



► Enyde and some of the kids who received Bible Seminar Participation Certificate



► Part of the children during the Bible Seminar in West Sahel Union Mission

Eastern Nigeria Union Conference (ENUC)

ENUC children, not wanting to be spectators as the other children busied themselves in the world-wide global Youth and Children's Day activities, they raised money, bought assorted items and visited an orphanage home. The ENUC children were greatly touched when they saw smiles on the faces of the children after each one of them had received a gift. And they can't wait for Global Youth and Children's day next year to go make more people smile.



► ENCU Children visit an Orphanage.

ESUM Children in Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire children in Divo, San Pedro, Bouaké and Abidjan visited various facilities with gifts of love and prayed for the people they met.



► Sanpedro Children.

300 Children Visit Yopougon Teaching Hospital in Abidjan

In Abidjan, about 300 Adventist children ministered to mothers and babies at the Yopougon Teaching Hospital. They distributed about 500 kits containing food, diapers, baby milk, feeding bottles, detergents, etc.



► Part of the 300 Children who visited Yopougon Teaching Hospital.



Gaoua City Children

Thirteen children and their teachers in Gaoua, a city about 390 km from Ouagadougou, cleaned a public health center compound in the area of the city known as Sector 2.



► Gaoua City Children in Sector 2.

Tsevié Suburb Children in Lome, Togo

Fifty children from Tsevié suburb in Lome, Togo, contributed money and bought assorted gifts for 37 children who live in an orphanage known in French – *Jésus le Bon Berger* which means Jesus the Good Shepherd. The children were accompanied by six adults, Togo and ESUM CHM Directors. The orphaned children were very thankful for what they had received.



► Tsevié Suburb Children in Lome.

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND LEADERS

Positive Discipline

Ten ways suggested by Bridget Bentz Sizer as to how you can discipline positively.

FIND OUT WHAT CAUSES THE BEHAVIOR

Sizer, quoting Naomi Aldort, the author of the book *"Raising our Children, Raising Ourselves,"* says that children want to behave well. If they fail to do so, usually there is a valid reason for their missing the mark. It's a parent's duty to find out what makes the child behave that way. Aldort explains that many times, once the cause is identified and removed, the child behaves differently. For example, sometimes the child will keep slapping his sibling in order to get your attention because you may have been busy with other things for a long time. The tendency is to scream, "Stop hitting your sister." But Aldort says, if you "correct your own behavior, that will satisfy the child's need" and the behavior will disappear.





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WHEN/THEN – ABUSE IT/LOSE IT PRINCIPLE

Let's say your child likes watching cartoons on TV than doing his/her home work. Experts advise not to say to your child, "Do your homework. Don't just watch TV." Discipline positively, Kersey writes, and say something like this; "When you have finished your homework, then you may watch TV." She observes that this approach has three advantages. It teaches children to be responsible, accountable and obedient.

INCOMPATIBLE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPLE – THE PRINCIPLE OF REDIRECTING

A child is redirected to do something that he can't do while misbehaving. For example, you are shopping in a grocery shop and your child keeps running all over. The thing many parents do naturally is to shout something like this; "Stop. You are going to hurt yourself." But this principle suggests that you redirect the energy of your child by offering two alternative positives that are not compatible with the inappropriate behavior. For example, say to your child, "On that shelf there are cereals and over there are apples. Would you like to help mummy by choosing cereals or apples?" The suggested behavior is not compatible to running around.

TALK ABOUT THEM POSITIVELY TO OTHERS

Let's say you had taken your child to a dentist, when you return home report to the family how positively the child behaved. "Mary has really grown up. I felt proud of her. She sat proud and tall on the dentist's chair and she even had a conversation with the dentist."

DON'T BRIBE

Some parents when a child is misbehaving, they bribe the child. The bribing may be like this; "If you stop running around, I will buy you ice cream." This approach sends a wrong message to the child. The message you are sending to the child is that if you are good, you get nothing, but if you trouble mom a little, you are offered a reward.

FOCUSING ON CONTROLLING YOURSELF-NOT YOUR CHILD

Dr Katherine C. Kersey, in her book "The 101s: A Guide to Positive Discipline," states that model the behavior you want to see in your child. She explains that it is advisable not to do anything in front of children that you don't want them to imitate. Children are copy cats. You will sometimes notice when they are playing, one will say, "I will be daddy and the other will say I will be mommy." To your shock, you will hear the child who is imitating you scream, "Stop

it or else..." Parents should remember that screaming at the child will beget a screaming child. It is important to model the behavior you want in your child. If you want your child to be patient, model patience. And be a consistent model. Inconsistency confuses a child.

GIVE ATTENTION TO THE BEHAVIOR YOU LIKE - NOT THE BEHAVIOR YOU DON'T

Again, making reference to Kersey, Sizer writes that sometimes children misbehave because they want attention. Hence, it is advisable to sometimes give a cold shoulder to those actions you don't approve. This is what Kersey refers to as "Rain on the grass, not on the weeds" principle. If your child likes to throw tantrums and whine, ignore the behavior. You could even walk away. Your child will soon learn that this style of communicating is not acceptable.

PRIVACY PRINCIPLE

When your child misbehaves in public, take her aside and talk to her privately. Don't embarrass her in public.

TALK WITH THEM, NOT TO THEM PRINCIPLE

Don't preach to children. Focus on two-way communication. Listen to your child as well as talk. Don't confuse your child by saying, "Answer me when I talk. Don't just stand there looking at me as if I am an alien from space." Then when your child talks back you end up shouting, "Don't answer me when I am talking." This will totally confuse your child.

POSITIVE CLOSURE PRINCIPLE

As you put your child to bed, tell her that she is special and very much loved. Remind her the good things she did during the day and that you are looking forward to another good day tomorrow. And with your face smiling, give her a 'good-night-and-sleep-tight' kiss.

Saustin Sampson Mfune
GC Children's Ministries Associate Director



International Conference
on Children's Spirituality



JULY 24-27, 2018 QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

Register: chaire-spiritualities.ulaval.ca