



KidsNewsZone

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CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

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

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Thankful for Christmas

It is that time of the year that Christmas carols are heard everywhere, store windows are festively decorated, and shoppers are seeking out gifts for family and loved ones. It is the joyous time for family reunions, particularly for children who are often longing for the gifts of their hearts' desires.

But in the midst of such celebrations, may we and our children focus our celebration on the *Ultimate Gift* that Christ gave to us through his birth, death, and resurrection. Let's take time to cultivate the spirit of gratitude and thankfulness for what God has done for us throughout this year. Let's involve

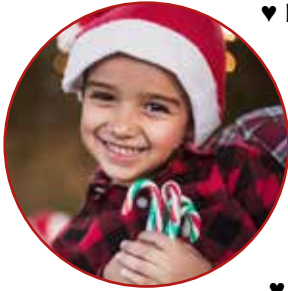
our children in being the hands and feet of Jesus during this festive season. Let's help our children step into others' shoes and see them through the eyes of Jesus.

In Matthew 25:31-46 when Christ separated the sheep from the goats, He clearly distinguished the sheep as those who took care of Him when he was sick, clothed Him when naked, gave Him a drink when He was thirsty, visited Him when He was in prison. We want our children to have this same compassion and same spirit to serve and help others. Instead of just the "Me, Me, Me" focus, we want to move their gaze from self-centered gratification to Christ-centered service. We want to foster the Christmas spirit of *Giving!* How about trying these ideas with the children and teens?



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

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



♥ Pack food baskets and deliver to the poor and elderly.

♥ Wrap gifts for children from low-income families and from the children's hospital.

♥ Donate their new shoes for children in the disaster-stricken countries.

♥ Write Christmas cards to cheer up the children in the hospital as well as the elderly.

♥ Join singing bands to visit the elderly and the children of prisoners to cheer them up with Christmas carols.

♥ Help bake cookies to distribute to refugee children.

♥ Help cook and host a meal for the homeless and the poor.



♥ Write and decorate a card to show appreciation to a special teacher or a friend to bring encouragement during this holiday season.

♥ Encourage your kids to start saving money to give to their selected charity. If you give them a commission, or if they're older and have a part-time job, they can start saving a small percentage to donate.

Finally, give our children the chance to experience sacrifice in order to give. Even a small sacrifice on their part will reinforce a lesson on giving more than any other factor. Children can choose to give up one week's pocket money to help refugee children; or a child can give up one of his Christmas gifts to share it with a needy child next door.

May this Christmas season be a joyous one for you and your children as they practise a greater spirit of *loving* and *giving*. In the words of Mark Twain, "Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the blind can see." In the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!"



♥ Participate in caroling to raise funds for needy children in Africa, Philippines, or other overseas countries.

♥ Parents can volunteer with your children at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, or even children's hospitals to help bring joy to people this holiday season.

Linda Mei Lin Koh

GC Children's Ministries Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



AROUND THE WORLD

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Total Children Involvement (TCI) 2018 ECD Report

In ECD, TCI is on fire. For ECD, TCI means:- (1) At all levels of the church, children are involved in child evangelism and this not limited only to children preaching. (2) Where ever a 'tent' is pitched for adult's meetings, there should also be a 'tent' for children's meetings where they are not entertained but are directed to Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29; Evangelism 582.1). The department realizes that if children are built on Jesus, the Rock of ages, the church's future is secured.

Some of the methods used to totally involve children in ministry are, distribution of literature which has been translated into most of the major languages of the Division, witness to their friends and parents, running prayer cells, preaching,

distribution of food and clothing, visiting people who are in prisons and hospitals.



► Some of the participants in the TCI Meetings



From August 2-11, 2018 a 14-year-old boy held a 10-day TCI campaign organized by Furaha Kihemba Irene, the Conference Children's Ministries Director, in Butembo, North Kivu in Congo. 213 participants attended the meetings. While the young preacher was giving his sermons, a team of three boys were giving Health talk, and two girls were presenting family life seminars. A children's choir blessed the meetings with their special songs from the beginning to the end of the campaign. The Campaign was also supported by other programs which involved children doing visitations and community services. God used these children, and six (6) precious souls got baptized. Reported by Debbie Maloba – ECD CHM Director



► *Moldova Union of Churches Delagates*



► *In the front row are the six candidates who got baptized*



► *Zhanna and her translator in action*



► *Children doing the outreach and community service*

East Russian Union Mission Holds CHM Leadership Training

To say that Natalya Frolova, CHM Director of East Russian Union, is energetic and creative is an understatement. She organized a very informative and educative CHM leader's training which was held in Norvibirisk, Russia, a town where the ERUM is located. As from 27th to 30th September, about 37 leaders gathered at the Union Office to get further training as to how they can continue to be effective leaders. Facilitators were Irina Zagladkina, Moscow Conference CHM Director who has unique skill of producing different kinds of games and crafts from paper, Zhanna Kamiskay, CHM Direc-



► *ERUM Leaders pause for a picture*

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

Moldova Union of Churches' Training

From September 21-23 a CHM training for leaders and interested church members was organized by Svetlana Belaya, the CHM Director of Moldova Union of Churches and her husband Dmitriy Belyi. Facilitators were Zhanna Kamiskay, ESD CHM Director and Saustin Mfune, GC CHM Associate director. What was unique about this training is that children and youth participated in the training and they provided most of the music. It was very inspiring to see youth and children fully involved in the training. A very inspiring model.



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)



tor of ESD and Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director. The spirit of the meetings was cordial, and many leaders returned to their homes feeling blessed.



▶ Natalya Frolova in action



▶ Irina Zagladkina doing what she knows best

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

South Western Venezuela Association (SWVA)

Karina Alexandria Castillo de Palicio, CHM Director of SWVA is thanking the Lord for what He has done for the Association. She reports that after all the i's were dotted and the t's were crossed, the final count of children and adolescents ages 8 to 14 baptized in 2018, is 680. We join Karina in praising the Lord for the bumper harvest.

And another exciting news from SWVA is that children and adolescents distributed 7,637 booklets during the VBS period. This is a great improvement since the previous year they distributed only 300 booklets. Though the country is going through a lot of economic challenges, Karina states that they thank the Lord for multiplying the little they have to help minister to many children.



▶ Venezuela VBS in action

Jamaica Union Conference – Year of the Child Celebration

Dr. Lorraine Vernal, CHM/Adolescents director of the union invited Dinorah Rivera, CHM director of IAD and Linda Koh, GC CHM director for a quick weekend to Montego Bay to participate in the Year of the Child Evangelism celebration on September 28-29, 2018. The highlight of the event was the "Sabbath Praise" program when the church was filled to capacity and even overflowed to the outside. Dr. Koh preached at the worship hour followed by a heartwarming baptism of children and teens who gave their lives to Jesus. There was joy in heaven that day!

The afternoon was filled with an exciting children's program with songs, preaching, and mimes. Children were at the center of the entire weekend, following Jesus' calling to "suffer the children to come to Him."



▶ Jamaica Union Year of the Child celebration



▶ Jamaica Union Year of the Child Baptism Celebration

INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Bulgaria Union of Churches Conference – CHM Leadership Training and Children's Outreach

Emanuela Staneva, CHM director of Bulgaria Union organized a leadership training for the children's leaders as



well as a creative excellent children's outreach program on November 9-11, 2018 at their union headquarters in Sofia. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director provided the leadership training for more than 80 leaders, covering topics such as Evangelizing Modern Teens, Teaching Sexuality to Children, Intergenerational Worship, Creative Object Lessons, and others. The children's leaders also received many resources for their ministry.

Sunday was the highlight of the weekend with about 100 children and teens attending the interesting children's outreach program called "The City of Promises." The first one was for the younger children while the second one was for the primaries and teens. There was a puppet show followed by the participation of children and teens at different stations such as the Health station, Fire Safety, Thinking and observation, etc. The children and teens were engaged in interactive activities that not only teach information, but they experienced it. It was a delight and the children and teens enjoyed it thoroughly. This was the third year they have done such outreach.



► Bulgaria Leadership Training



► Bulgarian Children Enjoying the "City of Promise" Outreach Activities

Portuguese Union of Churches Conference– Leadership Training/Children's Program/Pastors' Convention

Paula Amorim, CHM Director of the union organized a fully packed weekend of activities for the children and the children's leaders on November 16-18, 2018 in Lisbon. Special guests invited were Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director. Linda Koh presented a seminar for the children's leaders on Friday evening regarding spiritual parenting. Sabbath was definitely for children! Children and teens participated actively in the worship program which was based on the theme, "I will go and serve." Children portrayed several Bible characters like Jonah, Zacchaeus, Peter, Isaiah, etc., highlighting how they answer God's call to go and serve. The sermon culminated in the "The Call" by Dr. Koh who asked children to write down on the handprints distributed to them earlier on the different gifts and talents they have. Then each child went up to stick the handprint onto the beautiful banner of being the hands of Jesus in going out to serve. Then a dedicatory prayer was offered for the children by Elsa Cozzi, EUD CHM Director. It was a moving experience! The day ended with the children presenting a beautiful musical concert. At the end, a boy with visual impairment prayed for everyone. It was a heartwarming experience!

On Sunday, all three directors travelled to a city outside of Lisbon to attend the Pastors' Retreat where Linda Koh spoke to the pastors and their spouses about the importance of "Discipling Children." They greatly appreciated that. It was a great weekend!



► Portuguese Children singing their hearts out!



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)



SOUTHER AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Pastor Saustin Mfune and his son Dumisani holds an Evangelistic meeting at Phola Park Church in East Rand, Gauteng

From October 20 to November 3, Saustin Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director and his son Dumisani Mfune conducted a two-week evangelistic campaign at Phola Park SDA Church in East Rand, Gauteng, in the Johannesburg area in South Africa. Dumisani, who is a Mathematician by profession, a pianist and composer, was a great blessing as he used his God-given talents of preaching as well as playing the piano to inspire the audience. Though Phola Park is a very small church with a membership of about 70, the people are very dedicated, and supported the meetings wholeheartedly. They have vibrant Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs which were fully involved in inviting people to the nightly meetings. God knowing that the meetings were running on a shoestring budget, He performed one miracle after another to fund the meetings until they were completed. Being the time when SID year-end meetings were in progress, Caroline Cho-

la, SID CHM Director, could only visit the site occasionally accompanied by her colleagues in the names of Dr Michael Ngwaru, the dynamic Personal Ministries Director of SID and Dr Kagelo Henry Rakwena Family Ministries Director of SID. According to the partial report received by Mfune on 23rd November from Pastor Brian Mundiya, the Personal Ministries Director of Southern Africa Union Conference, Gauteng for Christ had 162 sites and 1,862 souls were baptized from these sites. At Phola Park, God brought 26 souls to His fold.



► Pastor Saustin Mfune and Dumisani Mfune wrapped in their gift blankets pause with the baptized candidates at Phola Park SDA Church

Adventist University of Africa (AUA) – Dr Saustin Mfune Teaches for AUA

AUA, is GC graduate school on the continent of Africa. It has several campuses on the African continent, but it is headquartered on the Advent Hill in Ronghai, Kenya, a settlement about 25 kilometers South of Nairobi City. Several degree programs are offered under the auspices of this University. And in all these disciplines, the University endeavors to help its learners know the principles and philosophy of dealing with children and youth. One of the programs offered is a

Masters' Degree in Chaplaincy. And one of the courses offered to these Chaplains is a course helping them to understand the principles and guidelines of working with children and youth. Dr Saustin Mfune who is one of the Adjunct Professors for the University was on the Advent Hill campus from 4th to 20th November equipping chaplains on how to be best suited to deal with children and youth.

It is hoped that the Chaplains who went through the course are now better prepared to have some understanding in dealing with children and youth.



► MA in Chaplaincy Students at AUA together with some of their Professors and Staff



Tips for Parents and Teachers



The Western Cape, one of the nine provinces of South Africa, the home of Cape Town, South Africa's oldest city, is situated on the South Western tip of the African continent. The Education Department of this province from time to time remind parents their duties regarding their children. Here are some of the points they write to parents:

- We would like to remind you that magic words such as hello, please, you're welcome, I'm sorry, and thank you, all begin to be learned at home.
- It's also at home where children learn to be honest, to be on time, diligent, show friends sympathy, as well as show utmost respect for their elders and all teachers.
- Home is also where they learn to be clean, not talk with their mouths full, and how/where to properly dispose garbage.
- Home is where they learn to be organized, to take good care of their belongings, and that it's not ok to touch others.
- Here at school, on the other hand, we teach language, math, history, geography, physics, sciences, and physical education. We only reinforce the education that children receive at home from their parents.

When I read these statements, I was reminded of what Ellen White says in her book *Child Guidance* on page 26. She says "Parents send their children to school; and when they have done this, they think they have educated them. But education is a matter of greater breadth than many realize: it comprises the whole process by which the child is instructed from babyhood to childhood, from childhood to youth, and from youth to manhood. As soon a child is capable of forming an idea, his education

should begin." Then she continues, "The work of education and training should commence with babyhood of the child; for then the mind is the most impressible, and the lessons given are remembered."

Teachers, we have a responsibility to help parents know their sacred responsibility and that is of developing a child's road map which will help them walk in the ways of righteousness and ultimately lead them to eternity.

Saustin Sampson Mfune
Associate Director

UPCOMING EVENTS



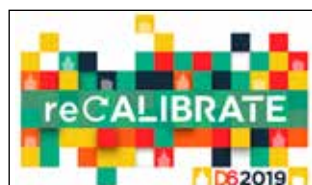
CHILDREN'S PASTORS CONFERENCE (CPC19)

January 15-17, 2019
Orlando, Florida
Register: childrenspastorsconference.com



THE ORANGE CONFERENCE

May 1-3, 2019
Atlanta, Georgia
Register: theorangeconference.com



D6 CONFERENCE

September 26-28, 2019
Orlando, Florida
Register: d6family.com