It's that time of the year when stores are brightly decorated with red and gold ornaments on Christmas trees, twinkling lights, Christmas songs filling the air. For the children, those special packages and gifts that they look forward to each year will be under the Christmas tree soon.

Christmas provides an excellent opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas as we pour the truths of the gospel into the hearts of children. It is the most ideal time to show them that the greatest gift they could ever have is the gift of Jesus.

Let's seize this opportunity to teach these gospel truths at Christmas:

1. THE STORY OF REDEMPTION.

About a week or so before Christmas day, we can use family worship times to read together the book of Genesis and talk about the fall and sin of Adam and Eve, and the promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Then we can read about the promise to Abraham and discuss about Moses and the one who is greater than Moses will be coming (Hebrews 3:3-6). The family can continue to read the prophecies of Isaiah who identified the Lamb who will be coming and who will suffer for us (Isaiah 53:7).
COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)

Ellen White strongly advises parents that: “In celebrating Christmas, fathers, mothers, children, and friends are diverted from the great object to which the custom is attributed. They give their whole attention to the bestowal of gifts upon one another, and their minds are turned away from the contemplation of the Source of all their blessings both spiritual and temporal. In their attention to gifts and honors bestowed upon themselves or their friends, Jesus is unhonored and forgotten. Parents should seek to teach their children to honor Jesus. They should be instructed how He came to the world to bring light, to shine amid the moral darkness of the world. They should be impressed with the fact that “God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (The Bible Echo, December 15, 1892, par. 11).

2. THE HUMILITY OF JESUS CHRIST
For the world, the holiday season is about spending lots of money, buying gifts, or going on an expensive holiday. But the story of Jesus is one of humility. He was not born in a palace but in a humble stable. Everyone expected this King to conquer the Romans and overthrow them so that he could establish his new Kingdom. Read Philippines 2:1-11 with the children and show them the humility of Jesus. Show them how they can in turn be humble to serve the poor, the homeless, and the less fortunate.

3. GOD USES THE WEAK AND HUMBLE
It is also a great truth to teach our children that God uses weak and humble individuals to accomplish His plan of salvation in the Christmas story. God uses Mary, a simple, humble girl from an insignificant town to bear the Savior of the world. He uses humble shepherds to announce His birth. He works through ordinary fishermen like Peter to share the gospel of Jesus everywhere. God will continue to use us to finish his work.

4. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES
Another important truth to teach our children during this season is that God keeps His promises. We can study the first promise of a Savior after the fall and right through to Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross and His promise to redeem us culminating in His Second Coming to take us home to live with him in heaven.

5. JESUS HAS MANY NAMES
This is an excellent time to introduce our children to the different names of Jesus who was not only the Savior of the world, but he is Emmanuel, Lamb of God, Alpha and Omega, Rock of Salvation, Bread of Life, Prince of Peace and many others. Lead them to study the Bible and examine these names, showing how God’s promise was fulfilled in this little baby boy who was born on this earth to give us salvation. Yes, help our children see that Jesus is the greatest gift they could ever receive and the greatest gift they could share with others.

May this Christmas season be one with greater meaning as we teach our children about the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is a season to thank God for His greatest gift to us all; a season to share the wonderful blessings we have received; and a season to rejoice in the promise of the Coming King.

May each of you be filled with the Holy Spirit that gives you joy, peace, and love during this holiday season.

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children’s Ministries Director
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

North Colombia Union – Celebration of Fall Evangelism

It was an exciting weekend for the North Colombia Union Children's Ministries Department! Zoraida Perez, CHM Director organized “Celebrate Fall Evangelism 2019” on October 26, 2019 at the University Church in Medellin, Colombia. Children participated actively in these TCI (Total Children Involvement) evangelistic meetings. During the live program on October 26, Javier D. Rodriguez, an 11-year-old preacher from the South Colombia Union, was awarded a special medal for his evangelism efforts this year. Peter E. Díaz, 12, from El Salvador, was also awarded a medal for his commitment to preaching. Díaz reported that 68 were baptized, and several more will join the church next week. “I know God will continue to help us take more people to the feet of Jesus,” he said.

A total of 17 were baptized and each child received a children’s Bible. The day was filled with music, drama, and children preaching. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director presented a glimpse of children’s involvement in the mission of the church around the world divisions and Dinorah Rivera, IAD CHM director continued to motivate other children’s leaders to purchase the “Talking Backpack” for children so that they can share the love of Jesus with others. We praise the Lord for involving children in missions.

INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Division-wide People 7.0 Summit

This division-wide summit held September 18-22, 2019 in Lignano, Italy, was indeed a historical one. It was the first time the summit was hosted by the collaboration of the Children’s, Family, and Women’s Ministries departments. It was also historical because six world division CHM directors and one GC Attached Field director attended this summit together with their world CHM director Dr. Linda Koh. This summit aimed to bring together people from all EUD regions, to share ideas, experiences and challenges and to find inspiration, motivation and answers to questions they have about ministries. People 7.0 demonstrated very effectively the importance of collaboration as ministries work together to effectively respond to the needs and concerns of our present generation.
More than 500 participants attended this event. The many workshops were inspiring and highly beneficial. Every evening there were different testimonies which were so heartwarming that they brought tears to many eyes. One idea that many participants took away with them was the need to “think outside of the box.” It was a great summit!

More than five hundred Children’s Ministries leaders and teachers attended the SID Children’s Ministries Convention at Livingstone, Zambia, August 27-September 1, 2019. Drs. Linda Koh and Saustin Mfune busied themselves with plenary sessions and workshops throughout the week. Special guests included local dignitaries like the mayor and governor of the local area. Other overseas guests included Drs. Shirley and James Chang from the United States who also presented plenary sessions and workshops.

The opening ceremony was simply amazing with different union leaders wearing colorful national costumes and singing their special songs as they made their grand entrance. The highlight of each day was the lively singing by the “Joyful Melodies” from Zimbabwe. These children were excellent singers with great actions and expressions. They thrilled the entire audience with their portrayal of the “Musical Journal; Proactive Kids Adventures at the CELEBRATIONS Castle on Friday evening with this great musical drama.
The participants were happy with the workshops as well as receiving many resources. On Friday while the participants went off on a tour of the famous Victoria Falls, the children went out for community service. Led by their union directors and also Caroline Chola, SID CHM director, the children went out to distribute food and other household items to the needy families. It was indeed TCI—Total Children Involvement!

Indian Ocean Union Conference – City-Wide Vacation Bible Schools

Under the leadership of Margery Herinirina, CHM director of the Indian Ocean Union, 42 Vacation Bible Schools were running simultaneously throughout the capital city of Antananarivo from September 9-14, 2019 using the theme, The Armor of God. What a wonderful thrust in mission and

Botswana Union Conference – Kids In discipleship (KID) Training

Sonita Seligman, CHM director of the union reported that the Kids in discipleship initiative is growing steadily in Botswana with more churches conducting such training. Three (3) KID University trainings were conducted in 2019—two in South Botswana Conference and one in North Botswana Conference. Ten churches have implemented the ministry. The most recent is a church in Palapye. This was after an Elder attended the training in Sowa. Children from Philadelphia church’s first cycle have all been baptized. This was the church that ran the very first pilot KID ministry.

Vacation Bible School in one of the sites in Antananarivo, Madagascar.
evangelism in reaching out to many children in this huge city! The attendance was beyond expectation with a total of 3,705 children in attendance with 50% being non-Adventist children. The results were even more amazing with one-third of the children enrolled in Bible studies and are getting ready for baptism, while 5% of the parents are also attending worship services regularly. We praise God for His blessings and for the teachers who invested their time in nurturing these children.

**North-Eastern Angola Union Mission EUC – CHM Conference**

Bonginkosi Sibanda, Children Ministries Director of NEAU reports of a conference which was held in Luanda as from 24 to 26 October 2019.

The two major objectives were:

1. To cascade the Livingstone SID convention curriculum to CHM Directors, Pastors and church Elders in order to strengthen their resolve and capacity to involve Children.

2. To Advocate for recognition and changes that improve Children’s Involvement throughout NEAU.

The presenters included Church Administrators, Departmental Directors whose departments strongly impact the effectiveness and efficiency of CHM such as Family Life, Sabbath School and Evangelism, Child Psychologists and also a representative from the Government of Angola who is the Director of the Angola Institute of Children.

The Sabbath was dedicated to the official launch of the One Child One Bible campaign. Children received Bibles from their parents and together they put on the project promotional T-shirts.

Child Preachers preached in many of the churches in Luanda. The theme was the Bible. The Sabbath speaker at the event venue was the NEAU executive Secretary Pastor Vinte who spoke strongly for involvement of parents in support of children’s involvement at home, school in church and community. The preamble to his sermon was given by a child preacher. The afternoon was a celebration on the Bible with a Bible quiz.

The overall objectives were met. The pastors and elders who participated during the first two days were not many, however we pray they will make a difference.

**Southern Africa Union Conference Aims at Nurturing and Evangelizing Adventist Children**

The Children’s Ministries Department of the Southern Africa Union Conference, led by Mrs. Zodwa Kunene, Children’s Ministries’ director decided to nurture and evangelize Seventh-day Adventist children whom we ignore many times, assuming they know it all.

When contacted, Mrs. Kunene said, “The objective was to target our own Adventist children and teens; to Intentionally teach them our doctrines and after that conduct 2 weeks reaping Evangelistic Campaigns in each church that would lead to baptism. We discovered that many teens leave the church without baptism.”
From April to June 2019 Bible studies were conducted in all local churches. This report shows the impact of studies done in 15 local churches in Lesotho. The children were taught using the book ‘Be Like Jesus’.

In Lesotho alone, the reaping campaigns started 1st July to 14th July 2019 and 20th July was the day for baptism. 96 children have been baptized so far and more reports from other local churches and conferences are still forthcoming. Mrs. Kunene further reports that pastors, elders and Children Ministries Coordinators worked together to achieve the goal.

**Southern Malagasy Conference – Regional Children’s Congress**

Can you imagine 359 excited happy children attended the regional congress organized by the CHM director of the South Malagasy Conference. The opening ceremony saw dignitaries from the region who came in full support of the congress. The Mayor, the Deputy of Fianarantsoa, and the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development were all very happy that the Adventist Church was taking care of their children.

The children participated actively in training seminars on Stewardship, “My Place in Space”; making creative crafts, preaching, musical concert, cultural and recreational activities, and community outreach. The children brought their own gift packages of clothes and shoes to distribute to the less fortunate children in the neighborhood. In the afternoon all the children climbed up the mountain to catch a view of the city. Many children went home rejoicing in what they have learned and the friendships they have made.
COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.  

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)

Southern Zambia Union Conference – Chipata Evangelistic Campaign for Children

Beatrice Bondo, CHM director of SZUC organized a 2-week evangelistic campaign for children in Chipata, East Zambia Field. Six child preachers were chosen to speak in the evening while the other children participated in the door-to-door visits in the day time to speak to the people in the villages. Mrs. Bondo believes in Total Child Involvement and so all the children were encouraged to go out with her and other leaders to invite the people to the meetings. At the end 31 children were baptized during the first week and 20 more were baptized the second week. Praise God for children’s leaders who reached out to children in bringing them to Jesus!

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

School of Evangelism for Children – A Pilot Initiative

Glaucia Korkischko, CHM director of SAD together with Pastors Luis Gonçalves, Tiago Ferreira, and Sergio Alan, and Leila Fiouza launched the School of Evangelism initiative in Manaus, Brazil, on October 18-19, 2019. It was greatly supported by a special team of coordinators from the Children’s Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sabbath School parents and teachers who enrolled and accompanied their children and students until the training ended.

On the first day of training, over 600 participants children and teens participated. The meeting on Saturday was in the auditorium of Manaus Plaza Shopping, with about 1,700 people, including tutors and children. Each child received a personalized backpack, with materials to invite friends to small groups, some encouragement to intercessory prayer, leaflets, and cards to work in missionary pairs, among other materials.

Since Friday night excitement was in the air, because the children work in pairs, three’s, or missionary quartets, or even alone, taking their friends to Jesus, as was the case of Dafne, a 7-year-old girl. She was not even baptized yet but has already studied the Bible with friends who were baptized at the event. And through their children, some parents accepted the appeal of Pastor Luis in the Evangelism for Kids program. These were incredible moments of victory and overcoming, as when 11-year-old Alice, leader of a small group, sang into the baptismal tank the song “My World Is Not Here” and after her baptism delivered a box to her mother with a very special present: a bathrobe for her to be baptized too. At the end of the program Fernanda, Alice’s mother, accepted her daughter’s invitation and was baptized.

Eleven baptisms with incredible stories occurred. The ultimate goal of this training is to motivate and develop talents for the mission from an early age. Such was the enthusiasm that a small group was formed the day after the Evangelism for Kids, such as Maylla Oliveira’ small group. Another story is that of Benicio, 4-year-old, who went to a birthday party and took his backpack with Bible studies called “Missionary Postman”. He invited his friends to his house, said his mother, a lawyer at the Adventist Hospital in Manaus. There was also Joao Gabriel who prepared his sermon for the oratory contest on Sunday, October 20, as instructed by Pastor Luis Gonçalves, says teacher Ursola, from the Monte das Oliveira’s Church.
It was a blessed meeting and could soon be a reality in your field, district or church. Just remember that parents and teachers are being observed and followed by children. The church family has an important and fundamental role in healthy and balanced discipleship, based on communion and relationship with Jesus, says Glauceia Korkischko, SAD CHM director. Let us pray for this project that many more blessings will come.

GC CHM director, Litiana Turner, SPD CHM Specialist of the Discipleship Team from the SPD, and Daron Pratt, CHM director of the North New South Wales Conference presented topics such as Helping Children grow spiritually, how to spend time with God’s Word, the dangers of media, etc. The Participants participated enthusiastically in group activities and small group discussions.

Then on Monday evening training was conducted in Brisbane and over ten leaders came to learn about best practices of discipling children, Gracelink and the Faith Shaper evangelism program. Linda Koh GC CHM director and Litiana Turner gave away many new resources to the leaders. Although the number was small, but it was a fruitful meeting.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Children’s Ministries Leadership Training in Australia

The first training event took place in the Brighton Church, August 2-3, 2019. The CHM leadership training event, Refuel Rego, started on Sabbath afternoon with about eighty leaders coming from all over the conference to attend. Linda Koh, GC CHM director, Litiana Turner, SPD CHM Specialist of the Discipleship Team from the SPD, and Daron Pratt, CHM director of the North New South Wales Conference presented topics such as Helping Children grow spiritually, how to spend time with God’s Word, the dangers of media, etc. The Participants participated enthusiastically in group activities and small group discussions.

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New Caledonia Mission – CHM Leadership Certification

It was the first visit for Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director to New Caledonia Mission. After arrival on August 8, 2019, she and Litiana Turner, SPD CHM specialist and Ruth Roko, CHM director of the Mission flew straight to Marae, a smaller island, to visit the Lamb Shelter that was built with the CHM funds given a year ago. It was a beautiful and spacious little building behind the church for the children. It was also right by the sea. We thank the church for getting this lamb shelter ready for children to have their Sabbath Schools and other activities.

A Kids’ Rally was planned on Sabbath for the whole mission on the campgrounds of the mission headquarters in Noumea. About fifty children participated in the Sabbath program, singing, collecting offering and participating in other worship activities. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director challenged the children with her worship talk, “Give Jesus What’s in Your Hands.” At the end, the children were given handprints to write down the talents and gifts they have that they want to give to Jesus, and then each child pinned it on the colorful board.

A Touching Moment! Alice who got baptized invited her mother to be baptized, too.

Litiana Turner, SPD CHM Leader talking about Faithshaper.
Then leadership training was provided for children’s leaders from August 11-14. About twenty-two children’s leaders attended the leadership certification training provided by Linda Koh and Litiana Turner. The leaders had lots of fun participating in active learning and also learning how to teach with Gracelink. They were so grateful for such training since all of them had never been to any CHM training. They took an action to recommend to the Mission that the CHM department provide yearly leadership training for them.

Vanuatu Mission – CHM Leadership Training

Litiana Turner, SPD CHM specialist together Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director left New Caledonia and traveled to the north of Vanuatu Mission to the island of Santo where they were joined by Pastor Nasoni, CHM director of the Trans-Pacific Union to conduct leadership certification for about 337 children’s leaders, Sabbath School teachers, and other church members of that region. It was a historical occasion to have all the Children’s Ministries directors from all levels of the church present as trainers. In the past, most training events were conducted at the Mission office in Port Vila and few leaders from Santo ever made it to the events. Hence, this was indeed a rare treat for them.

The leaders were excited to learn about active learning, and how the Gracelink curriculum works. They also had a chance to practice their skills as they got involved in teaching small groups. Every leader of each church received free resources. At the same occasion CHM launched the world-wide project spearheaded by ADRA on “Every Child Everywhere In School” and all the delegates signed the petition. It was a wonderful weekend! Everyone left the place with great joy and satisfaction!
Children’s Ministries World News

This year children’s Ministries director, Karolina Poland of the union decided to try something new and different. Because many of the churches were very far from each other in Sweden, it was hard for the kids to meet in one place over a weekend. Hence, the CHM director decided to have an online Bible competition. She sent out the book of the Bible to study in advance, which was the book of Esther. Then the teams registered and met online at a special time. They live streamed a worship service and then the competition with questions over Kahoot. After that the Youth Department sponsored pizzas for the teams. The winning team was Finland!

A total of 12 teams from 8 different places competed. The children had studied the Bible very well. The children in the church met regularly for this special event with many adults attending to cheer the children on.

The first online Bible competition was launched in January and a second one just in October. This time there were 15 teams from 9 different places. The children enjoyed it as it was a fun way to study the Bible and to get together even though they were far apart.
Swedish Union – Children’s Sabbath
The first Saturday in October we celebrate Children’s Sabbath in Sweden. There are quite a few churches that join in this celebration. This year Borås church had a 7-year-old, a 9-year-old and an 11-year-old to preach. Another child had the children’s story. It was a great blessing to the whole congregation.

Southern Ghana Union Conference (SGUC)
In SGUC, children look forward to the months of August and September because of Vacation Bible Schools. To the satisfaction of the children, 2019 was not different. One territory held its VBS activities from 16th to 26th April. The other area held theirs from 19th to 24th August while the last center conducted its VBS activities from 1st to 7th September. Many children attended these events and participated actively. And we praise God because they invited their non-Adventist friends.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION
Eastern Nigeria Union (ENCU)
From August 18-October 20, ENCU was a beehive of activities. Children from different territories of ENUC were involved in evangelism in kind by distributing food, clothes, helping the orphans and old people but and also in preaching. At the end of the evangelism period thrust 43 people were baptized. Pastors Francis Aja, Steven Ubi, Oshimiri, Nweke, and Hilary Nwosu helped with the baptism. When children are involved in the mission of the church in fulfilling the great commission as stipulated in Matthew 28, an indelible seed of mission is planted in them. We thank God for ENUC leadership for helping children live the gospel commission.
**Western Nigerian Union**

Children of Western Nigeria Union, using the model of Jesus, went out into the community and met people’s needs by distributing mosquito nets, clothes and giving out food to the orphans before sharing the good news of salvation. The children made a great impact in the community.

![Children with their gifts ready to ‘invade’ their community](image1)

![Adorned in their ‘Doing Good’ T-shirts, children are ready to impact the community](image2)

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**NEW RESOURCES**

**STEPS TO CHRIST**

**ACTIVITY BOOK + MUSIC CD**

By Saustin Mfune

This resource is based on the book, *Steps to Christ* by Ellen G. White. It is filled with interesting activities and songs that emphasize the themes of each of the chapters of Ellen White’s book. It is suitable for family worship, schools, Sabbath activities, children’s camps, and other settings. You can also enjoy the songs sung by children in the companion music CD.

**UNLOCKING CHILDREN’S HEARTS FOR INTIMACY WITH GOD**

A GUIDE FOR ORGANIZING CHILDREN’S PRAYER CONFERENCES

By Linda Mei Lin Koh

A guidebook for children’s leaders who want ideas for organizing prayer conferences for children. Try out the prayer stations with the kids. Get them excited about the prayer walks. Inspire them to have TAG (Time Alone with God) every day.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CHILDREN’S PASTORS CONFERENCE**

January 14-16, 2020

Caribe Royale Orlando, 8101 World Center Dr

Orlando, FL

Register: [https://www.childrenspastorsconference.com](https://www.childrenspastorsconference.com)
It was early October in 2004. I was on my way from Malawi, Africa, to Silver Spring in Maryland, USA, for the Annual Council meetings. As the massive 747 Jumbo Jet feather-touched at Dulles International Airport runway in Virginia, USA, a confident sounding voice of the pilot came through the intercom as he proudly said, “Science has overcome gravity and we have safely landed at Dulles airport on autopilot.” We all put our hands together as we cheered both the pilot and the technology which made the plane land on autopilot.

As the plane meandered to the terminal building, a thought on children came into my mind. While technology enabled the pilot to program the plane to land on autopilot, we cannot do the same for our children. We cannot safely land them on the sea-of-glass-runway on auto parenting. Preparing children for heaven doesn’t have a hands-free technology. It is never on ‘autopilot.’ You are always engaged.

Naturally, one would ask, ‘When does this engaging begin?’ Literature indicates that it begins during pregnancy. During our retention summits where we discussed why our youth leave the church in droves, we hardly discuss the fact that we could be losing them, as suggested by the Bible, research and the Spirit of Prophecy, because we did not ‘engage’ them while they were still babies. What we see during teen age years is only a manifestation of what may not have happened when they were babies.

Ellen White in her book Mind, Character and Personality (Volume 1, pp 131-141) points out that a pregnant mother can pass on to the foetus both her negative and positive qualities. She states that right from pregnancy, through the behavior of mothers, the devil is already winning many children away from God’s kingdom (emphasis supplied). Moth- ers’ thoughts and actions during pregnancy are either influencing the child’s character for good or for destruction. The word character comes from the Greek word kharakter which means ‘engraved mark’ or ‘symbol or imprint on the soul’. All those things which preoccupy and worry a pregnant mother’s mind – one’s job-security, mortgage payments, family stresses – are forming your child’s character and personality. What are you engraving on your child?

Concurring with Ellen White, researchers say that a mother’s positive emotions advance the health of the unborn child. When a mother feels joyful, her body produces natural plea-
sure chemicals called endorphins and encephalin. When she is relaxed and peaceful, the chemicals she releases are similar to prescription tranquilizers. Without stress, the baby’s nervous system works smoothly. When a mother is calm . . . her baby is able to grow peacefully. But children born to mothers who had intensely stressful pregnancies, they are more likely to have behavioral problems later in life.  

Developmental psychologists use a term called imprinting. This term refers to the vital window-period during pregnancy when the baby begins to recognize the voices of his or her mother and father. Researchers report that it is at the age of seven months when a foetus is able to recognize the voice of the parents.  

Ruthie Jacobsen in her book Teaching Children to Pray: Putting their hands in His hands, on page 43 writes an experience of Edwina Neely, a Pastor’s wife living in Maryland, USA. When Edwina was pregnant, her husband, Bill, would read the book Child Guidance aloud. Then they would pray together. When the baby was born, it was crying loudly until Bill spoke. Immediately the baby kept quiet as the little eyes opened and began to look around. The baby had recognized his voice.  

If a foetus at 7 month’s old of pregnancy can hear and recognize the voice of parents, it simply means that it can hear your arguments, and if the music and conversations from your radio and TV are constant, they can hear them as well. This means that right from pregnancy, the environment is making an impression on your baby and hence forming your child’s character. What are they hearing? Is the devil getting your child right from the womb or are they being directed to follow Jesus?  

That is why the idea that a child is born tabula rasa, a ‘blank slate’ without being influenced by anything while in the womb, long ceased to be the acceptable belief. Research continues to show that a child is born with a great amount of predetermined direction.  

And the Bible does point out to the importance of the pregnancy period. In Judges 13:3, the parents of Samson were told to be careful of what Samson’s mother should consume while pregnant. The angel instructed them that the mother should not take any wine or eat anything unclean. These would have a negative bearing on baby Samson.

With this information, what ought we to do?  

- A pregnant mother should be careful of what she watches on TV and the kind of music she listens to. These will influence her emotional state and hence influence the upcoming baby. Music and programs that stimulate aggressive, angry or fearful feelings should be avoided.  

- A husband who continually shouts at his wife, should stop doing so. The shouting will affect the woman in many ways. She is likely to have worried thoughts, anxiety, mood-swings and stress. These negative emotions have the potential of affecting the unborn baby.  

- A well-known children’s song asks the question, “Why worry when you can pray?” Mothers, take your concerns to God and ask Him to fill you with His peace. Also, take heed of Paul’s advice in Philippians 4:8. On a daily basis, think about “…whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and whatever is admirable; if anything is excellent or praiseworthy.” In so doing you are strengthening your child’s character against Satan’s efforts.  

- Read aloud the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy books and other character building stories’ books while you are pregnant. You are helping your-upcoming baby to be predisposed to the word of God.  

In Jeremiah 1:5, NIV, the Bible says, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” If God appointed Jeremiah to become a prophet while still in the mother’s womb, it tells us that we can engage our children into the path of Christianity while they are still in the womb.

Saustin Sampson Mfune  
Associate Director
