

Kids NewsZONE

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- DIVISION DIRECTORS**
- ECD Debbie Maloba
 - ESD Zhanna Kaminskaya
 - EUD Elsa Cozzi
 - IAD Dinorah Rivera
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 - SUD Milly Lakra
 - TED Clair Sanches
 - WAD Omobonike Sessou

GC ATTACHED FIELDS:
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Middle East North Africa Union: Amal Fawzy
Israel Field: Svetlana Shchelkunov

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General Conference
Children's Ministries Department
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
(301) 680-6144
Fax (301) 680-6155
MugandaT@gc.adventist.org

www.faithfinders.com
www.children.adventist.org
Facebook: @gcchildrensministries

Linda Mei Lin Koh
Director
Tanya Muganda
Administrative Assistant
Erika Miike
Art Director

I AM JUST A CHILD, But I Will Go!

Are children too young to be involved in the mission of the church? Are they still "kids?" Too often church leaders hit the **PAUSE** button on children and teens, asking them to wait a little longer before they grow in knowledge and understanding; only then are they ready to serve. But have we forgotten that God also gives children and teens many gifts and talents to serve Him. God has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower every follower to

speak and witness for Him. God does not give children a junior Holy Spirit. Every believer is indwelt by the same Holy Spirit, and it is He who instructs, equips and teaches.

Paul encouraged young Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because he was young, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).





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

(PSALM 34:11, NKJV)



Scripture has identified God calling children to serve and to go on His mission. Do you remember Samuel? When he was just a child serving in the temple under Priest Eli, God called him to be a great prophet of his time. God chose David to be the future king of Israel. He empowered him to defeat Goliath even when it seemed impossible for just a young boy. How about Josiah? He was only eight years old when he began to reign in Judah. The Bible said that the Hebrew nation never had a king quite like him (2 Kings 23:25). Consider Ellen White, a sickly girl with little education and barely out of her teens, yet God called her to the prophetic ministry.

Children and teens are never too young to be involved in the mission of the church. Like Isaiah, they are ready to answer, "Here am I, Send me." Many are willing to say, "I Will Go!"

- **I Will Go** to help those in the neighborhood
- **I Will Go** to sing and cheer up the lonely and discouraged ones

It is time for our church to strategize how to train and involve our children and young people in the mission for the church. Ellen G. White points out that "in their early years children may be useful in God's work. . . He desires them to be His little missionaries, denying their own inclinations and desires for selfish pleasure to do service for Him; and this service is just as acceptable to God as is the service of grown-up children" (*Adventist Home*, pp. 486, 487).

Again, Ellen White reminds the church that "We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor" (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 29, 1893, p. 24).



Let's come alongside our children and teens and together **We Will Go** on God's mission. Lift the **PAUSE** button now and involve them in the mission of the church.

- **I Will Go** to tell our friends of Jesus' love
- **I Will Go** to preach, teach, and share what we know
- **I Will Go** to raise money for the needy and the poor



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IN THE MIDST OF THE *pandemic*

C OVID-19 has indeed changed our way of life in 2020. When it was declared a world pandemic, countries began to impose lockdowns immediately. Schools, shops, restaurants, churches, stadiums, cinemas, offices, and many other facilities were closed by mandates from state or federal governments. With kids staying home and parents working from home, life became more stressful as well as challenging.

Can the pandemic stop our ministry to children? Absolutely not! Can we still nurture their faith even though we don't meet them in person at church? Can we stay connected with our children and teens from Sabbath school? Definitely! Our Children's Ministries directors at the divisions started to work immediately with their union and conference counterparts to meet this challenge. Creativity blossomed as leaders began to think outside of the box, resulting in wonderful virtual programs for children and teens.



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, NKJV)

- ♥ Sabbath School
- ♥ Daily devotional
- ♥ Prayer animations and activities—100 Days of Prayers; 10 Days of Prayer; Week of Prayer
- ♥ Videos on helping children deal with COVID-19
- ♥ Family worship ideas
- ♥ Puppet programs
- ♥ Vacation Bible School
- ♥ Digital evangelism
- ♥ Story hour
- ♥ Learning fun crafts
- ♥ Games night

For training children's leaders and teachers, division and union directors organized virtual webinars and leadership certification training on zoom. Leaders were also connected through advisories and other zoom meetings. Thank God for giving our leaders brilliant ideas and a continued passion for children and teens.





Seven

TRENDS TO EXPECT IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES 2021

The year 2020 started out with many plans and resolutions for personal life goals and children's ministries. In the midst of all these plans, Covid-19, came and uprooted everything that we all thought we knew. There has been fear and uncertainty. Many churches had to find ways to be creative online leaving children's ministries leaders to scramble on having resources to teach children. Children had to quarantine with their families and resort to virtual school, Sabbath school including vacation bible school and have been affected mentally, emotionally, and physically. How will the pandemic affect children's ministries? Here are 7 trends to expect in Children's Ministries for 2021.



1 URGENT NEED

Children's ministry is more important now than ever. Though we hear a lot about our senior citizens right now, our children are silently suffering in ways we did not imagine a couple of years ago. After months of closed schools and stay-at-home orders, today's kids feel unprecedented mental and spiritual suffocation. They feel isolated, abandoned, and hopeless. They desperately need the hope and love that is found in Jesus and his people.



2 HIGH DEMAND

Though some churches have lost a focus on children since COVID, families with children have felt a heightened desire for support

from their churches. Many parents have stepped up to bolster their spiritual guidance for their kids, but they're exhausted. They want help. They want the quality, energetic, child-friendly, Jesus-centered touch that a good children's ministry brings.



3 IN-PERSON EXPERIENCE

Parents, and society in general, are showing a growing acceptance—and demand—for in-person learning for children. Meanwhile the deficits of confining children are mounting. Everyone from psychologists to the Centers for Disease Control confirm that in-person learning is much better for children, and it can be conducted safely. So, it's time for Sunday schools and vacation Bible schools to do what's best for kids, while following recommended safety protocols.



4 KID'S SAFETY

Even as the vaccines are rolling out, health officials advise that the population needs to continue to take precautions. For many months to come, we can expect to see mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent hand-washing. Even though last year some people predicted that children will never comply with these safety measures, kids generally adapted very well. In fact, children often complied better than many adults. So, prepared children's ministries will stock hand cleaner and kid-sized masks, and will adapt activities to enhance social distancing.



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, NKJV)



5

FASTER RETURN

The kids will come back to your children’s ministries. And they’ll return faster than the adults will return to church services. Researchers report that between 25 and 50 percent of former church-going adults will not return after the pandemic passes. Over the past year they’ve formed different weekend habits that will become indelible. But as children return to school and re-connect with their friends and teachers, they will also yearn to return to your children’s ministries. And their parents will expect churches to follow the example of the local schools. As they find comfort in sending their kids to school, they will do likewise with church.

6

GROWING NUMBERS

Since the beginning of the pandemic, some churches have closed altogether. Some have curtailed their children’s ministries. And some will continue to resist restoring critical programs, such as children’s ministry. This will cause those churches’ families to look elsewhere for the

kids’ best interests. They’ll migrate to the churches that are ready to meet their kids’ needs. This will lead to growing participation at the churches that open their doors. So, a proactive church that offers VBS every year may see increased attendance this summer if other churches in the community hold back.



7

UN-CROWDING

The COVID quarantine mentality has elevated the desire and need for human interaction, fellowship, and participation. Passively sitting and watching others has lost its patina. And wedging into a crowd to passively watch the person at the microphone has really lost favor during these contagious times. Plus, kids today want to be noticed, named, and known, according to research. If you’re primarily a spectator show, expect steady decline. Churches and children’s ministries that rely on stage performances will weaken. Hands-on, participatory experiences will reign, along with breaking crowds into smaller relational groups. Even children’s ministries that continue to offer on-line sessions will need to incorporate active, participatory, relational, hands-on elements.

In the midst of this ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Bible reminds us to, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (Romans 12:12). “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:3)

While we navigate through the uncertainty of this pandemic, God will provide the resources to continue empowering, and equipping children along with their families in this “new” normal.

Adapted by Tanya Muganda

<https://holysoup.com/7-trends-to-expect-in-2021-childrens-ministry/> (viewed on 11th February 2021).





witnessing IDEAS FROM home

According to David Boyd of AGKidMin, during this COVID-19 crisis, kids are stuck at home. One good thing about this crisis is that many people for the first time are considering heaven, hell, and their own mortality. This is the perfect time for kids who have all this time at home to find ways to tell the world about Jesus. Here are a few ways:

Online Cards: Kids can use the online card companies and send cards to their relatives and friends and leave a message about God loving

them. There are several online sites from where these cards can be sent inexpensively or free. Kids would also love opening an animated card from their Sabbath School teacher or children's leaders showing they are missed.

Make a Homemade Card and Take a Picture: Kids can make a homemade card for their loved ones, take a picture of it, and text or email it to their loved ones. The card can have a message on it about God's love for them.





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Phone Call: Kids can call their friends and loved ones, and as part of the call, they can ask if they know Jesus as their Savior. Often a child's question can get through the tough skin of someone's heart.

Chalk Art: Kids are drawing gospel messages and verses on their sidewalks. As people walk by, they can't help but read these messages deposited there by a child.

Facebook Post: Kids can share their testimony and post it on their parent's Facebook page, with approval of the parent.

Facebook Prayer: Kids can record themselves praying for Iran or Italy or China or America. It could perhaps be posted in such a way that maybe people in those countries who are searching will come across "a child praying for Iran," etc.

Facebook Object Lessons: Kids can record themselves teaching with an object lesson, sharing their faith in a creative way, and posted it on Facebook for people to find.

Missionary Emails: Have kids send emails to missionaries and have kids of missionaries to tell them they are praying for them as they serve overseas,

Letters: Kids could write letters and mail them to loved ones. These letters should invite loved ones to know Christ while sharing love, concern, and prayers for their health.

Nursing Homes: Almost every city has a nursing home. Right now, these people cannot receive any visitors, and many are getting lonely. Have kids make cards or write letters to the people in a nursing home and mail it. They can also share about Jesus and how much God loves them. The residents will enjoy receiving some encouraging mail.

There are so many great ideas to allow kids to share their faith from home. Keep your kids sharing their faith.

Adapted from article by David Boyd from
AGKidmin, April 9, 2020





PRINCIPLES OF MINISTRY FOR

Leaders

The foundation of ministry is character.

The nature of ministry is service.

The motive for ministry is love.

The measure of ministry is sacrifice.

The authority of ministry is submission.

The purpose of ministry is the glory of God.

The tools of ministry are the Word and prayer.

The privilege of ministry is growth.

The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit.

The model for ministry is Jesus Christ.

By Larry G. Hess



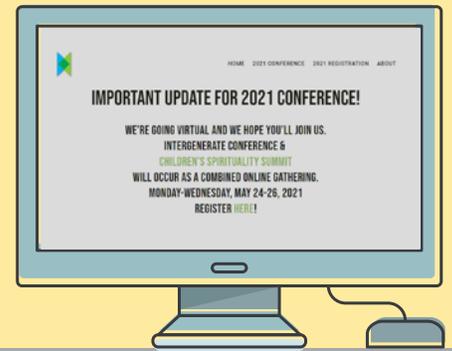
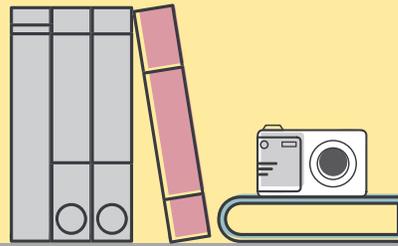
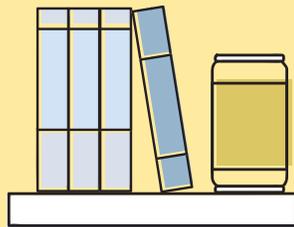
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(MATTHEW 18:3, NKJV)



FORTHCOMING

Conferences



D6 CONFERENCE

April 7-9, 2021

Register:
<https://d6family.com/d6conference/>

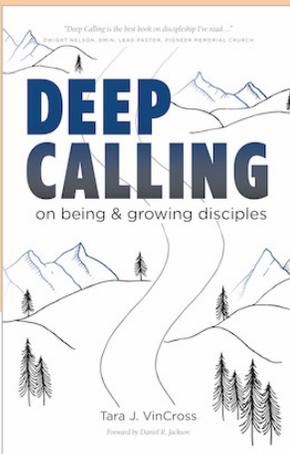
THE INTERGENERATE CONFERENCE & CHILD SPIRITUALITY SUMMIT (VIRTUAL)

May 20-25, 2021

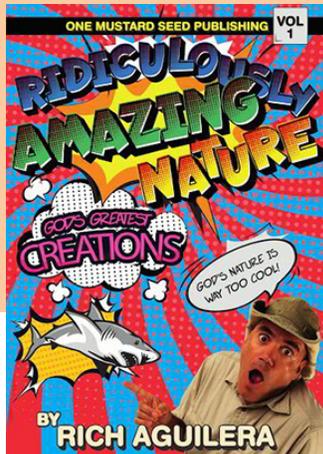
Register at:
<http://www.intergenerateconference.com/>

Look Out

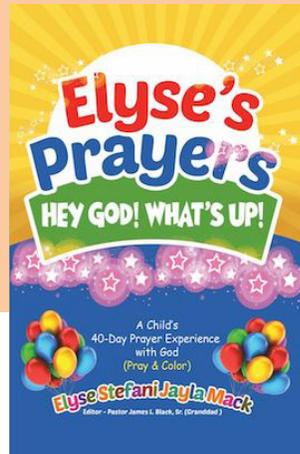
FOR NEW RESOURCES



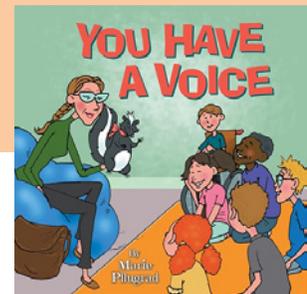
1. DEEP CALLING
ON BEING &
GROWING
DISCIPLES BY
TARA VINCROSS



2. RIDICUOUSLY
AMAZING
NATURE BY
RICHARD
AGUILERA



3. ELYSE'S
PRAYERS;
10-YEAR-OLD
GIRL'S PRAY &
COLOR BOOK



4. YOU HAVE
A VOICE
BY MARIE
PFLUGRAD



5. GEN-Z VOL 2, CARING
FOR YOUNG SOULS AND
CULTIVATING RESILIENCE