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THE HAPPY PEOPLE
BEATITUDES for CHILDREN'S LEADERS

Happy are those who have concern for the individuality of each child; **Whoever receives one such child in my name will become a lively truth for them.**

Happy are those who help create a stimulating, challenging and loving environment for children in the Christian community; **For they will be stimulated, challenged and loved as well.**

Happy are those who are patient and tolerant when children lack understanding or sophistication or are mischievous; **They will be treated with respect and affection one day.**

Happy are those who love children as God loves his children; **They will discover with joy how the kingdom belongs to all.**

Happy are those who form particular friendships with children; **Their lives will be enhanced with the gifts of the Spirit.**

Happy are those who encourage children to worship; **A richer atmosphere of worship will be their reward.**

Happy are those who listen to their children and encourage the worth of their contributions; **For they will see the kingdom grow in their midst.**

Happy are those who view children as 'keys that can unlock unimagined riches'; **For they will share in that treasure.**

Happy are those who do not hinder the children to come; **For the Kingdom belongs to such as these.**

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Upcoming Conference:

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CONNECT & CONSPIRE
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
CONFERENCE
APRIL 23-25, 2008
 Register online at:
[www.willowcreek.com/
 events/children](http://www.willowcreek.com/events/children)

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CHILDREN'S
PASTOR'S
CONFERENCE
March 3-6, 2008
San Diego,
California
 Register online at:
www.incm.com



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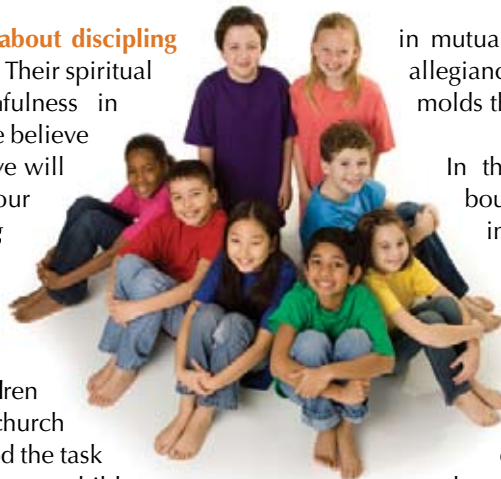
DISCIPLING Our Own CHILDREN

We ought to be concerned about discipling our own children and youth! Their spiritual lives depend on our faithfulness in molding them for Christ. If we believe in Matthew 28:18-20, then we will accept the command to win our children to Jesus, *teaching* them to observe all things. The Greek word means "to teach," or "to disciple" them!

With so many of our children and youth leaving the church today, we more than ever need the task of discipleship. More than ever, children and youth today need our intentional effort to lead and guide them for many are lacking stability and commitment. They have been disappointed by those they deeply trust as evident in broken homes and relationships. They see parents, teachers, and other adult figures opt out of marriage, school, or work when the going gets tough. Instead of weathering the storm, our children and youth are seeing adults opting for an easy way out for themselves.

Many of our churches are concentrating on discipling the outsider or new convert while we are neglecting our own children. The home is the most powerful institution for discipleship and parents the most effective agents. We should not depend upon the Sabbath School or church school to fulfill the task that God has intended for parents to do.

So how can parents do an effective job of discipling their children? According to the way Jesus, the Master Teacher has demonstrated, the discipler and the disciple are **bound together** in their lives, ministry and fellowship together. They are bound together



in mutual love and the disciple pledges allegiance to the Master as he shapes and molds the life of the disciple.

In the same way, parents must be bound together with their children in prayer, in studying the Word together, ministering to the community and reaching out together. We don't just show them how to do it; we do it together with them. Too long have we just supplied our children with materials, or sent them off to retreats and camps, or given them money to donate to the poor. We need to join them and work side by side with them, teaching them the kingdom values of being a disciple. Parents and children can serve in the soup kitchen together. They conduct weekly prayer groups together, or lead out in church worship together as parents teach them skills of leadership.

Parent, let's get serious about discipling our children and youth! Experience the discipleship process together with your children as you "walk and talk" your kingdom values with them, helping them to become a true disciple of Jesus. But always remember this: 1) It is the Holy Spirit who reaches inside your son or daughter and motivates him or her to action. We cannot force someone to do something. Only the Holy Spirit can give the young person the conviction and ideas that will mold his life. 2) It is exposure to God's Word that brings changes in lives. As you work and counsel with your child, always point him to Word of God. It is God who work in us "to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippines 2:13). It is a team effort with us parents functioning as coaches. Be a coach! Be a Discippler!



Division Directors

- EAD Svetlana Sirotkina
- ECD Joy Gashaija
- EUD Elsa Cozzi
- IAD Gloria Trotman
- NAD Phyllis Washington
- NSD Sally Phoon
- SAD Mirta Samojluk
- SID Caroline Chola
- SPD Julie Weslake
- SUD M. C. John
- SSD Octofien Sumendap
- TED Anne-May Wollan
- WAD Taiwo John Roberts



MISSION:
 To nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus.



EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

West Rwanda Association—Children's Sabbath



During the last quarter of the 2007, much attention was given to children. There were children's Bible studies during the holidays with attendance ranging from 40 to 60. The high-

light of their participation was the Children's Sabbath celebrated on September 22, 2007 when children were involved in every aspect of the worship program from the beginning to the end. The children preached and recited poems. One non-Adventist parent bought a special suit for her child who was one of the little preachers that morning. Everyone was blessed by the children's gifts and talents that day.

The children's bible study will continue during the holidays and beginning in November, children's weekly programs will be broadcasted on the Adventist Radio. Topics covered will be on spiritual growth, how to encourage children's involvement in spiritual activities; fight against violence, and children's rights.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Division-wide CHM Convention—"Go Fish"



Over 500 children's leaders, teachers, and pastors participated in this division-wide Children's Ministries Convention from November 8-11, 2007 at the Drayson Center, Loma Linda University campus. It was organized by Phyllis Washington, NAD CHM Director, who chose an exciting theme "Go Fish" as she desires children's

leaders to learn improved skills in fishing children for Jesus. Keynote speakers Criag Jutila, Shirani de Alwis-Chand, Wintley Phipps, and Chris Oberg inspired many to stronger commitment and greater passion for children. The more than 100 breakout workshops were excellent as well as the many resources that were available for purchase. The delegates find them helpful for their ministry. The evangelical comedy duo, Oz & Wilde were outstanding in emceeing each plenary session. If you missed this convention, don't forget to sign up for the next one.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

West Central Brazil Union Mission—Vacation Bible School for Indigenous Children



The first Vacation Bible School for the indigenous Indian children was organized July 25-28, 2007 by Luciano, Maura, Matheus and Marian from the Adventist Church of Águas Lindas de Goiás. They were to reach children who live in the villages of Hawalo, JK e Watau on the Bananal Island of central

Brazil. The objective of the event was to bring together the Adventist Indian Community and the non-Indian Christians to promote interchange of rich experiences which strengthens the Christian walk and life of the Iny Karaja Christian.

The children learned songs about nature, heard stories of animals of the Bible, had activities like paper folding, mask-making, and games about animals and much more...

At the closing event on Saturday morning, Pastor Matson presented Jesus as the great Shepherd of the sheep. The children presented music on lessons of nature" and everyone received a certificate of attendance and a small box containing three animals that had illustrated the activities of this special week. There had been very pleasant moments of integration and love!



A small and humble church, SANTA LUZIA organized a VBS even with few economic resources. The church is located in a small town, but it is filled with the Spirit of God as leaders reach out to children to tell them that God is love!

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Papua New Guinea Island Mission—Children's Ministries Expo; Tell a Child



400 children's leaders attended the Expo in Lae. It was organized by Judith Nagamisivo and her assistant Pauline Aturoro. Six delegates came from the SPD to support the Expo by taking workshops, music, devotions and plenary sessions. A total of 126 workshops and 12 plenary sessions were conducted over the week. These included Rob and Kimberly Houliston and Arnie from Abide Family ministries and Maye Porter from Norfolk Island. Everyone felt blessed coming to the Expo.



Papua New Guinea Union—Kokoda Kids Camp

A week long kids' camp was organized by Pastor and Mrs Yorio from the North East Papua Mission. Over 400 children plus their parents set up camp on the Kokoda SDA church property. The theme for the week was *Wild About God*, with Bible stories, scripture verses, singing, crafts and games. The guest speaker for the week was a 10 year old boy, Jordan Wesley who came with his father from the Eastern Highlands. Jordan preached each evening and morning with much confidence and skill. He inspired many children to work for God.

Trans-Pacific Union Mission—Fiji Kids in Discipleship Training



In preparation for TPUM KID University in May 2008, Julie and Litiana trained a group of four people from Suvavou church. The group included the church pastor, Wilisoni Dakua, church elder Jo Miliakere MacDonald (Fiji Mission CHM Director), and Marica Tokalau TPUM CHM Director). Since the training, Ane and Lusi have promoted K.I.D. vision to the church and it was received very favorably.

New South Wales Union—Kids Reach Rally

Around 400 kids and adults turned up on November 10, 2007 to Memorial Church's Kids Reach Rally (KRR) outreach held in the Church's multipurpose centre. The theme for the day was *God's Plan for You*, with the lessons from Simon-Peter's life reviewed in a 'This is Your Life' format. Compare was special guest Spike Munro (AKA Pr Adrian Craig) and Simon-Peter (AKA Des Vaughn). The children heard about how Jesus transformed Simon-Peter's life from a fisherman to a great leader within the Christian church who fished for men and women.



At the end of the program the children were invited to make a public commitment to following God's plan for their life by writing their name in a large book – around two hundred children signed their names in the book. The program concluded with words of encouragement from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".



SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

SUD Quinquennium Advisory



The division held its Children's Ministries Advisory on November 14-17, 2007 at Hyderabad, India. Dr. M. C. John, CHM Director, invited children's directors from both the unions and the sections (equivalent of missions/conferences) to attend. A total of over 40 leaders came from all over the division fields with one

coming all the way from Nepal. Leadership training was provided by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director, who taught five certification courses to the children's leaders. Dr. John provided the leaders with lots of resources and many were challenged to plan good programs for children and to help them grow spiritually. Many leaders expressed their gratitude for attending such an advisory which was a first for many of the section leaders.

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Sabah Mission—Children's Congress & Adventurers Fair

The first Mission-wide Children's Congress cum Adventurer Fair was organized August 23-26, 2007. at Sabah Adventist Secondary School Campus in Tamparuli. A total of 1, 236 children participated



in this event. The theme chosen was "I Can Make a Difference". The guest speakers were Simon Siew, union Youth Director and Sim Siew Moi, union CHM Director. The thrust of the congress was to nurture children in establishing their own prayer and devotional life; training them to lead out in church and community; and understanding the concept of stewardship. Thus all the seminars and activities involved the children in Bible study and prayer, songs and music, and good stewardship drama, storytelling, preaching, singing, chorale speaking, puppet shows, games, treasure hunt, etc.



South Philippine Union Conference—Child Evangelism Training

A regular child evangelism program called **Little Trumpets**, has been successfully training hundreds of Adventist children to become little evangelists and missionaries for the Lord. Workshops conducted by Pastor Edgard Inglis trained children in giving Bible studies to their classmates and friends at school, reaching out to the community, and in preaching at evangelistic meetings.

Little Trumpets training were conducted in the local churches and in the schools in Northeastern Mindanao Mission and Northern Mindanao Conference.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Middle East Union Mission—Children's Ministries is Alive!



The Middle East Union which composes the Gulf countries, some countries in the Middle East and others in Africa, can be appropriately described as one of "diversity and great challenges." While we have thousands of members in Sudan, that covers one part of our Union territory, in several countries of the Middle East there are no members at all or just a few of them.

While you may not hear a great deal of what's happening in our union, Children's Ministries is still very much alive! In Amman, the capital of Jordan, there are two churches, one for the Arab speaking and the other for the English speaking people. The first Sabbath in November 2007 was dedicated to Children's Ministries seminars. GraceLink curriculum training was conducted by our new Union CHM director, Aranka Bajic.

In Lebanon, CHM and WM are actively involved in regular community outreach activities, preparing food baskets for poor families at Christmas, and collecting toys and sweets for children in orphanages and special gifts to the ladies in the prison.



The Middle East University church in Beirut is reaping its first fruits of Bible studies initiated and organized by WM for our teenagers. Our goal is not just to baptize them but to help our youth find their place in the church and to use their talents to serve and to glorify God's name.

First Union Kid's in Discipleship Training Site

On May 22 - 25, 2008 the first Union-run Kid's In Discipleship training event will be held at Lillehammer, Norway. The KID teams from Mysen Church and Lillehammer Church are working together with the Children's Ministries Director of TED, Anne-May Wollan and Gry Beate Marley from the Norwegian Union to start this training site for the Norwegian churches as well as for any church team in the Scandinavian countries of Sweden and Denmark. The Norwegian KID team can accept 8 church teams this first time and there are already churches from both Denmark and Sweden that has voiced their interest in coming. In the beginning of February the two church teams came together for coach and trainers training, some came to refresh the training they got in England last May and some came to learn how to become coaches and trainers for the KID Movement. "It was an inspiring weekend," says Anne-May Wollan, "the teams are so on fire for KID and are so eager to share the KID ministry with their sister churches. They have found something that has made them personally a more dedicated disciple of Jesus and at the same time having an impact on the families and children that they are working with. We know this is going to be hard work, but we are looking forward to it and we know that God will bless us."



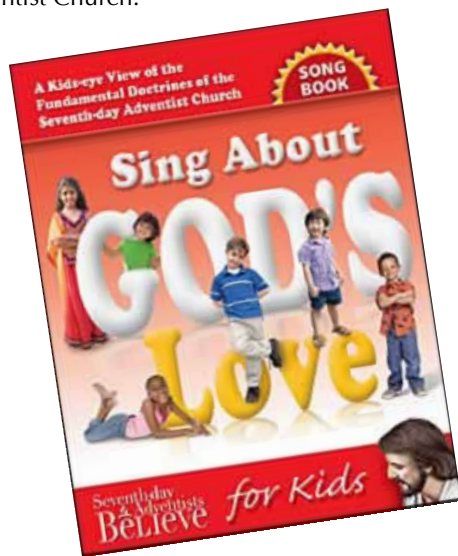
STEP UP the NEW YEAR... with NEW GC RESOURCES COMING YOUR WAY



THE NEW SING ABOUT GOD'S LOVE SONG BOOK

The New Sing about God's Love Song Book Children love to sing! Learning songs is one effective ways of teaching children. Sing about God's Love contains songs to help young children understand the twenty eight fundamental beliefs of our Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Available from your local ABC Order from GC CHM for subsidized rates.



ELLEN G. WHITE VISIONARY for KIDS

Get the word out about *Ellen White Visionary for Kids* (Ve.Z), an electronic magazine focused on youth aged 9-14. Encourage your pastors to place the link in their church bulletins.

In this quarter's issue the focus is on kids' relationships with God, friends and family. A new special feature in this issue is the first chapter from one of Ellen White's books, titled *The Story of Jesus*. It is rewritten into kid-friendly language, plus a really great Adventist artist illustrates each new installment of the story. So--in each upcoming issue of Ve.Z look for a new chapter from *Jesus—His Story*.

You can click on the following link to download in PDF your latest Ve.Z: http://www.whiteestate.org/vez/jan08/VeZ_Relationships.pdf (Past issues are archived and available online.) Or to view and print from the web version, visit <http://www.whiteestate.org/vez/vez.html>.

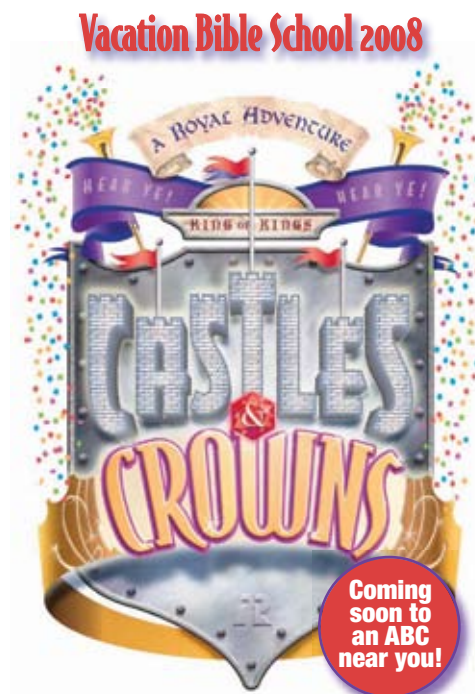


CASTLES & CROWNS - NEW 2008 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A new VBS program is being produced by the Review and Herald in cooperation with the North American Division. Castles and Crowns: A Royal Adventure, is a five-day program teaching the character of God through kings and queens of the Bible. The outline for the program is as follows:

- Day 1: King Josiah, God has a plan
- Day 2: Queen of Sheba, God is wise
- Day 3: King David, God is Powerful
- Day 4: Queen Esther, God helps me
- Day 5: King Jesus, God is Victorious

This program will be in a new format and will include a music DVD, and a music leader's CD, including one set of tracks with vocals and one set of tracks with just accompaniment. The downloadable written materials—leader manuals, activity pages, decorating stencils, clip art, etc., will all be on another CD. All of the materials can be printed and duplicated. Once the original kit is purchased, the only other costs will be for craft supplies and snacks. We are including a list of craft supplies that can be purchased through Oriental Trading, as well as alternatives that can be made with an Accucut machine. Cost US\$129.99.



This exciting five-day program teaches the character of God through stories of the kings and queens of the Bible.



DO YOU NEED PRAYERS?

North America Division adopted the program "Praying for Our Children" in 2007 which was started by Debra Harris from Atlanta. You may want to try this idea for your territory.

Go to:

www.prayingforourchildren.com

PATHWAYS of the PIONEERS

Stories of the Men and Women Who Founded the Adventist Church

The creative team of *Your Story Hour* brings to life the stories of the men and women who were led by God to spread the gospel and establish the Adventist Church. With 116 stories, this series begins with God's call to William Miller, concludes with the death of Ellen G. White, and tells of the wonderful and difficult years in between. Sure to be enjoyed by all ages, this collection will inspire, delight, and educate.

Total Running Time: 23 hours 25 minutes.

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