

THE 13TH SABBATH PROJECT
IDEAS FOR DIVISION OFFERINGS

1. Blankets for children in schools where the weather is cold like Peru or Bolivia.
2. Bibles for children (One Bible One Child project).
3. Children's Center for child evangelism and children's activities (Bunga Soya project in Uganda).
4. Radio or TV stations for kids' programs.
5. Rural Mobile Libraries.
6. Prayer cards (contain photos of children within the division who have special needs and who need prayer from other children).
7. Internet evangelism website – to engage children in Bible studies, discipleship, etc.
8. Launching of Kids in Discipleship in every church – printing of kid's discipleship manual, training, etc.

Courtesy of Karen Holford Associate CHM Director South England Conference

TEN PROMISES FOR OUR CHILDREN

1. We will help you to understand how much God loves you by the way we care for you.
2. We will help you to feel welcome every time you come to our church.
3. We will listen to you and put you and your needs at the very heart of our church.
4. We will make sure you always feel safe, comfortable, and special.
5. We will be happy with you in your happy times and comfort you in your sad times.
6. We will welcome you when you use your special gifts in our worship services.
7. We will help you to learn that Jesus loves you, died for you, forgives you, and is making a special place for you in heaven.
8. We will be here when you wonder about life and God. We will listen to you and help you to find answers.
9. We will be here to guide and support you as you learn how to follow Jesus in your everyday life as a Christian.
10. We will encourage you as you discover your special way to serve God and share His love with others.

Children's Spirituality Conference
Concordia University, Chicago
JUNE 14-17, 2009
<http://childspirituality.org/conference>

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE
Geneva, Switzerland and Collonges-sous-Salève, France
July 6 to 11, 2009
Information:
www.healthlifestyleconf.com
Registration:
<http://www.plusline.org/eventdetail.php?id=10113>



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KidsNewsZone

YEAR OF THE CHILD-CHILDREN 1st

2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nation's **International Year of the Child**. It is an excellent opportunity for the Adventist Church to adopt 2009 as a year to celebrate children in our churches and in our community. Moreover, 2009 is also the **Year of Evangelism** for the Church, it is therefore important to put children as priority in our evangelistic outreach and in nurturing their faith.

As our theme we put **Children First** in our ministry at home and at church. Why? Let's check out the facts again:

- Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5
- This is the age when beliefs and values are formed. Future spirituality is determined by the quality of our discipleship of children.
- Children aged 5-14 are 5 times more likely to accept and follow Jesus Christ than any other comparable age – *George Barna Survey 2001*.
- 85% of all adult church attendees made a meaningful decision to have a relationship with Jesus Christ before the age of 16 – *Billy Graham Organization*.
- Fewer than 10% of parents who regularly attend church with their kids read the Bible together, pray together or participate in an act of service as a family unit – *George Barna Survey 2001*. So here is an acronym by Julie Weslake of SPD to help you put Children First in 2009!



Faith foundations built through GraceLink Sabbath School, family worship, and mentoring.

Involve children in worship, small groups, service and evangelistic ministries.

Reach out to community children through VBS, Kids Clubs and Kids Rallies.

Support and empower parents as disciple-makers through Kids In Discipleship.

Treasure children and ensure that they have a personal relationship with Jesus -- teaching them how to read the Bible and pray.



Division Directors

ESD	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	Miriam Andres
TED	Anne-May Wollan
WAD	Taiwo John Roberts



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

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

East-Russian Union Mission - Children's Sabbath School Teachers Congress



More than 50 delegates from 44 congregations gathered at the Children's Sabbath School Teachers Congress in Novosibirsk, August 23-24, 2008. With the theme "Tell me about Jesus," seminars were conducted by both mission and union CHM directors. Participants of the Congress had the opportunity to share their experiences of CHM work for the first six months of 2008, and at the end they also received a CD with CHM materials and programs for making their ministry more successful.

West Siberian Mission - Prayer service for children



A prayer service was held for the children by the department leaders. After a sermon the children were invited to pray. Prayer cards

and pens were given to the children. The prayer service at these tables included such things as world maps, dry leaves, different colored chocolates, a poster with hearts, representation of the Church, pictures of catastrophes, poster with "I am the Vine" (children ate grapes), and a broken bowl. All these different items dealt with people who are physically, intellectually, or spiritually weak. Prayer activities included praying about religious freedom for Christians in other countries, thanking God for all blessings; appropriate behavior in church; praying for victims of catastrophes; thinking of how to serve God with their gifts; and writing down problems on paper to put in a prayer box.

The children felt blessed as they lighted the candle and ended with a commitment prayer. During this prayer session, the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt. Every one left that place with only one wish which was to lead such a service again.

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Grenada Conference - Annual Children in Praise Program



On October 20, The Children Ministries department hosted the annual "Children in Praise" where children had the opportunity to sing, recite and use their talents to glorify God. The children enjoyed this annual event which was also held at four different venues.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Hawaii Conference - Leadership Summit Provides Training for Youth and Children's Ministries



Youth and children's leaders from around the H a w a i i Conference gathered at Honolulu Central

church to launch "Hand 'n Hand," a weekend of leadership training for Sabbath School division leaders and teachers, Vacation Bible School directors, and Pathfinder/Adventurer coordinators. Presenters included NAD Director of Youth Ministries, James Black; NAD's Children's Ministries Director Phyllis Washington, and many others. Delia Talley added her expertise to the clown ministry segment and taught participants how to prepare craft supplies with the die-cut machine donated to Hawaii Conference by NAD Children's Ministries.

Four general sessions included "Training Kids to be Leaders," "Inroads of Spiritualism," "Hand-Picked...The Value of being a Mentor," a panel discussion, and 20 breakout seminars. Hawaiian Mission Elementary students and the Kailua church praise team provided music during the conference. Kailua children gave registrants a sampling of the music and drama written for the NAD's 2008 Vacation Bible School program, "Castles and Crowns."

One central message surfaced over and over again during the weekend - the plea for individuals to make a commitment to be God's ambassadors to youth and children.

Division-wide Ministries Convention - CHM Advisory



North American Division organized its biannual ministries convention on January 18-21, 2009 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was well attended by several hundreds of ministries leaders, teachers, and pastors from all over the division territory. Many were blessed by the numerous workshops provided, outstanding keynote speakers like George Barna and great worships. One important highlight of the convention was the 2009 Children's Ministries Advisory organized by Phyllis Washington, CHM Director. A total of about 40 CHM directors and leaders attended the advisory and interesting reports were given. Linda Koh, GC CHM director introduced the 2009 Year of the Child initiative with materials like Follow the Bible Reading Guide that would be distributed to the children to encourage them to ready the Bible daily. The leaders made several recommendations and resolutions and they left the advisory not only with many resource tools, but with determination to evangelize children and to nurture their faith.

Southeastern California Conference - Fallbrook VBS has Evangelism Emphasis

Fallbrook church members placed evangelism at the heart of their planning for this year's Vacation Bible School, and the results were inspirational for both members and guests. Each evening, VBS leader Sonja Hulst and youth coordinator Alex Martinez led the children in songs and skits that emphasized helping their neighbors.

The children made gifts, stuffed 50 cloth bears made by church member Araxy Moosa. Once the bears were completed and hand-made gift tags had been attached, the children delivered them to local fire departments, where they would be handed out to children victimized by fires and other tragedies. Some of the firefighters returned the favor by attending the VBS and demonstrating how their firefighting efforts save lives. Lisa Willis, mother of four young children, shared some of her favorite family worship resources while she outlined how she encouraged her children to practice reverence and taught them how to accept leadership positions.



NORTH ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Mongolia Mission Field - Mongolia Children's Camp meeting, Abuse Emphasis Day 2008



At the Mongolia camp meeting, CHM director, Cleidi Kuhn organized special programs for the children with emphasis on teaching kids how to protect themselves against abuse. With copyright-free materials from Australia translated into Mongolian, the children were taught how to say "No" to predators and abusers, how to tell the difference between a good and bad touch, and how to tell an adult they can trust when they experience a bad touch from someone. In a country where abuse of children and women is higher than average, starting this type of education early among children is crucial to keeping them safe. In addition, Cleidi and her able assistant, Purev have been working on translating a series of sex education books called, "God's Design for Sex" which will be ready for publication in 2009 after copyright has been obtained. Another set of videotapes on teaching sex education to children from ages 3 to 14 have also been dubbed into Mongolian.

West Central Korean Conference - Children's singing group performed musical "Zacchaeus"



The Children's Singing Group, *Jesus-i* of the West Central Korean Conference (WCKC) presented the musical "Zacchaeus" drawing an audience of about 4,000 on June 21, 2008. This musical, planned as a part of the cultural ministries for children, highlighted the touching story of Zacchaeus who although a very short man in stature stood brave and tall in faith. With the exception of the role of Jesus all members of the cast were children. They were trained by actors and professional singers for the musical. Adopted children, children with disabilities, and orphans were invited to enjoy the performance. Pastor YoungKi Jang, director of the conference CHM department said, "It is a happy occasion to invite children who not only have weaknesses like Zacchaeus, but also have God's special plan for them." This touching story with its wonderful message can move non-Christian audiences as well as *Jesus-i*. The *Jesus-i* group has contributed to ministries for children through singing and musicals for 7 years now.



eleven teams from the churches around the union headquarters at Lae gathered for four days of intensive training at. They were led by Julie Weslake, SPD CHM director and Litiana, SPD Associate CHM director using *Footprints in the Sand* for parents, and then *Footprints for Kids*. Every team was given opportunity to participate in the interactive activities and to watch a video as the model team demonstrates. Then the mission CHM directors spent the entire Friday in "train the trainers" seminars when Julie and Linda Koh gave them the skills they need to run their own KID U next year. It was wonderful to see the full support of the union leadership with this initiative. They indicated the importance of training families to disciple their kids and they are behind this with financial support as well as moral support. It's their target to get all the several hundred churches trained by 2010.

Papua New Guinea Union Mission—Kids Rally



Sabbath, September 27, 2008 was the highlight of the Kids in Discipleship training week. A Kids Rally was held for the entire day at a public hall in Lae with about a thousand children in attendance. The rally started with children preaching, special musical renditions, telling stories, drama, etc. The sermon was presented by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director. In the afternoon the children had a sacred talent program with different groups singing, doing mimes, dramas, reader's theater, and poetry reading. The children have many gifts and talents as they displayed them at this event. They enjoyed this rally thoroughly and many were asking for another one again.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Division-wide Project—"Impacto Eperanza"



Children as well as adults all over the division participated in this division-wide project called *Impacto Esperanza*, whereby they go out in groups to distribute millions of literature with the message of hope for the community. The children in many churches participated with great enthusiasm. In one church, 50 children went to the IASD Industrial Park in São José dos Campos and distributed 800 magazines in the square and the marketplace. Many children carried colorful balloons as they go about this community outreach to bring the gospel hope to millions who have not heard of Jesus in big cities like Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, etc. God can use little children too!

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Papua New Guinea Union Mission—Kids in Discipleship Training September 21-27, 2008

Papua New Guinea Union Mission launched its first Kids in Discipleship training for the entire union on September 22-26. A total of

SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

Botswana Union Mission – Tshabong VBS



Tshabong is a very remote little village deep in the Kalahari Desert on the border with South Africa, where sand dunes could engulf people and homes. Pastor Simankane and his wife, Lesang, are responsible for 1 church and 3 branches in this vast, arid, sparsely populated part of Botswana. Lesang, a teacher by profession, conducted the very first VBS this year. 149 children (mostly non-SDA) attended the 10-day program. 6 Shepherdesses, CHM director and associate, traveled more than 1000 km each way to spend the joyous weekend with these folks. Many parents from the community attended the graduation celebration on Sabbath. We partnered with Woman's Ministries and the local chapter of Shepherdess, who distributed clothing and toys donated by members in Australia. Colgate Botswana donated a toothbrush, toothpaste and a facecloth to each child. A Branch Sabbath School was subsequently established and is still going strong. Lesang is already planning another VBS for early 2009. She believes that Children's Ministries is very effective in promoting church growth.

SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Sabah Mission—Children's Nature Camp



God gave 296 children a bright and sunny weekend as they attended the first mission-wide children's nature camp, November 28-30, 2008 at the Sabah Adventist Retreat Camp in Dantai.

Dr. Linda Koh, the Children's Ministries director of GC and Sim Sew Moi from SAUM were also present to grace the nature camp. Dr. Koh not only fed the campers spiritually with interesting devotional talks, but also energized the young and old with some action songs.

The children ages 7-12 were divided into thirteen groups under the supervision of efficient facilitators and their assistants who led them through hands-on discovery and playful adventure about nature. The beach camp provided an excellent way to develop nature awareness skills as they learnt from objects and sounds from the surroundings. One of the most exciting nature activities was "The Sounds of the Night" whereby the children and their group facilitators learnt as they peered into the vast beautiful starry sky and explored deep in the dark. The children had opportunities to connect with God's nature and at the same time given knowledge and skills to understand how to love and care for the earth. With that, they fulfilled their goals and objectives *To Tell the World to Love and Care for Nature*.

Beside nature learning activities, the children had fun-time activities like Bible nature games, ballooning and sandcastle building on their last day at camp. The children are looking forward to another camp like this next year. Many thanks to Jupitah Lim, CHM director who organized this wonderful nature camp!

Peninsular Malaysia Mission—Children's Ministries Leadership Training



How can we control our active primaries? How can we make our teaching effective and interesting? How can we help children understand and participate meaningfully in the church's service experiences? What activities can keep younger children occupied during adult worships? These were some nagging questions that led to a two-day Mission-wide "Empowering Children's Ministries Leadership seminar" organized by the CHM Director, Tam Man Lin on November 23-24, 2008. A total of ninety CHM coordinators, Sabbath School leaders/teachers and parents from 27 churches successfully completed the course.

The main resource speaker was Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director who shared her expertise on Effective Christian Teaching, Disciplining Primary aged Children, Being Good Managers for Jesus, Kids:

Are they Coming or Going, and Safety & Emergency procedures for Kids. Her occasional amusing anecdotes about her two sons and other children not only injected a note of humor, but also kept the participants attentive during the long training sessions. Another topic *We Can Keep Our Kids in Church* by Mrs Sim Sew Moi, the Children's Ministries director of Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM), suggested effective ways to include children in worship and ideas for keeping the younger ones quiet during church. The participants had a quick look at the display of quiet books, soft toys, craft, and other Bible-related activity books and children's worship bulletins.

At the end of the seminar the participants felt better equipped to deal and discipline active children and 'disciple' them for Jesus.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

East Mediterranean Field - Lebanese Kids' Peace Camp



The Lebanese Kid's Peace Camp was held at the Seventh-day Adventist owned, Middle East University with over 30 children. The theme of the weekend camp was, "Peacemakers" based on the Bible verse found in Matthew 5: 9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." "A wonderful exclamation of worship and praise filled the air," says Susan Barsamian, one of the several Sabbath School leaders supervising the camp. After vespers the children went back to their tent area and learned the theme song, "Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me".

On Sabbath morning the children started the day with their morning drill and devotional. The devotionals were designed to enhance the camp theme by exploring different Bible characters; Abigail, Amos, and Micah, who had wisdom, hospitality, and justice; making way for the world's greatest peacemaker, Jesus Christ. The children learned that ordinary people were needed and called to service, to focus on peace, and keep hold of it. "The selection of the 'peacemaker' theme is not at all surprising," says Aranka Bajic, children's ministries director for the Adventist Church's Middle East Region. "It is a poignant reflection of what is foremost in the minds of the resilient people living in Lebanon, a country with a sad history of violence and ethnic division. It is my earnest prayer that these kids will now become young 'peace ambassadors' as they return to their homes, schools and communities."

The weekend ended with everyone singing both the Lebanese national anthem and the camp theme song. It's everyone's prayer that there be peace on earth, and that peace begin with each and every one as everyone looks forward to the Second Coming of the utmost Peacemaker, Jesus Christ!"

Sudan: Revival Seminars for Children & Women's Ministries

The children's and women's ministries leaders from eight churches in Khartoum gathered for a series of revival seminars which taught them how to be effective leaders, how to increase their self esteem, and, ultimately, how to utilize their talents for effective evangelism across all age groups. During her early October visit, Aranka Bajic, children's and women's ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Middle East, toured the vast northern and southern regions of Sudan and led out in a variety of seminars which trained the participants in how to apply the principles of church programmes, such as the Gracelink curriculum. "Gracelink helps us teach [Bible and moral principles] to children with different learning styles and intelligences," says Sarah Napagi, women's and children's ministries leader for the northern regions of Sudan. "In the beginning, some years ago, it was difficult for us to understand this [programme] but as we became involved in practical teaching we understood better," she adds.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



Sahel Union Mission - Vacation Bible School

From July 7 - 13 2008, at Cotonou in Bénin, 115 children led by 18 teachers and 3 pastors experienced the extraordinary adventure of "the wonders of Creation" during the Vacation Bible School. In that group, 56 non-Adventist children participated in all the activities including the Sabbath. At the end, about thirty non-Adventist parents came to express their joy and gratitude to the team.

We thank God for that experience in that area, where the neighbors were reluctant to go through the gates of our church. Further, the church members of the area established some contacts with the parents and continue to visit them.

Cotonou has been chosen by our Division (West Central Africa Division) as "target" city for our evangelistic efforts in 2009. We hope by the grace of the Lord, that this experience will be an open door so that the parents who entrusted their children to our care may assist the evangelistic campaigns that will be held.

Biblical Seminar for Children



The children of Adidogomé Church and the neighborhood in Togo enjoyed the study of 15 Bible heroes and particularly the "Hero of the Heroes": Jesus! During 14 evenings and 2 Sabbaths, while their parents were assisting "The prophetic Seminar", the children were praising God for the examples of Daniel, Ruth, Joseph, Esther, etc. We noticed their enthusiasm to come on time to follow the program, as well as their consecration

at the end of the studies to become heroes for God. We thank the Lord for that evangelistic experience for children in this end time. Many of them manifested the desire to get baptized. Pastors were advised to organize a baptismal class to prepare the children in fulfilling their commitment.

OBJECTIVES FOR CELEBRATING CHILDREN IN 2009

- To **mobilize** the Adventist community to support fully the important work of evangelizing children
- To **raise** the profile of children, their needs, and value
- To celebrate the contribution of children to the life of the Adventist Church and to society
- To **elevate** the importance of children's workers and to create awareness of their ministries, programs, and resource needs
- To **challenge** the Adventist Church to new and fresh vision of investing in children first.
- To **facilitate** new initiatives for implementing effective long-term discipleship for children
- To **strengthen** families within the Adventist Church by providing training and resources for healthy parent-child relationships

FOLLOW THE BIBLE



"Follow the Bible" is an initiative sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and its world divisions to stimulate a deeper interest in reading the Bible. It features a multi-language Bible traveling through countries around the world to large international gatherings inviting and inspiring people to recommit to studying God's word.

Now we have "Follow the Bible for Kids"! It'll be exciting to inspire and motivate the children to make 2009 a special year of studying God's Word, the Bible, on a daily basis. The Bible is God's message to us and it can help them live a happy and healthy life.

Children will be uniting with other children around the world as well as with the adults as they begin a new journey with daily Bible study using the **Follow the Bible** reading guide. The Holy Spirit will touch them as they open God's Word each day.

Encourage children to ask Jesus to reveal His will for their lives as they read. They will feel His presence and experience His love in new and wondrous ways. Pray for them and ask them to pray too.

You will be receiving colorful Bible reading guides for the children of your division field. Have a special launching day and give them out to the children. Print more if you need to because we want to give every child a reading guide to help them follow a consistent reading plan. So let's **Follow the Bible** every day!

<http://www.followthebible.net/links.htm>