



Everything I needed to know, I learnt from Noah's Ark.



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float awhile.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Upcoming Conference:

NAD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 8-11, 2007

Loma Linda University,
Loma Linda, CA

Register online at:
www.seccyouth.com

PROMISELAND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONFERENCE
APRIL 23-25, 2008

Register online at:
www.willowcreek.com/events/children

CHILDREN'S PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

JANUARY 23 - 26, 2008 Orlando FL
MARCH 3 - 6, 2008 San Diego CA

Register online at:
www.incm.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

JANUARY 25 - 27, 2008
Eastbourne, UK

Register online at:
www.childrensministry.co.uk



KidsNewsZone Vol 4 #2 2007

is published triannually by the General Conference Department of Children's Ministries for the purpose of communicating news and information about Children's Ministries.

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KidsNewsZone

DISCIPLING CHILDREN

Have you read Deuteronomy 6:4-9? Maybe many of you have memorized it. God has clearly instructed parents that: "The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, and when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates."

So why are parents not discipling their children? Why are they looking for them to be disciplined? First of all, I believe many parents have never been disciplined themselves, and without any modeling and resources they really do not know how to go about this. Even for many of these parents who have been baptized for many years have never been disciplined as adults.

A second reason which is a rather sad one is that the church has taken over the primary responsibility of overseeing the spiritual development of children. It provides religious classes at schools and weekly Sabbath School for children of all levels. Thus, parents have gradually relinquished their duty and are dependent on the children's leaders to do the job. Many do not see themselves as God's chosen and anointed for this specific task.

A third reason is that many parents are too busy with their careers and have really never considered that their children need discipling. They are happy that their children have taken the step to be baptized and they are attending church regularly. Unfortunately, many parents have not understood the value of discipling, the Biblical command to pass the lifestyle that is based on God's values.

Children are special to the Lord! They have special gifts that need to be recognized, and they need someone who knows where they are in their relationship with Jesus and what problems they are facing; someone who will nurture them in their spirituality just as they do in every other area of their young lives.

That's what Kids in Discipleship is aiming to do—to inspire, stimulate, and motivate parents to rediscover this awesome task that God has given them—that of discipling their children to have a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. It is wonderful that the world field is catching this vision and casting it throughout their territory. Trans-European Division, South Pacific Division, North American Division, and Southern Asia-Pacific Division have launched this Tell the World initiative. Many churches are excited about sending teams to be trained so that they can return to their churches to motivate parents to be involved in discipling their children.

Keep this vision bright before your children's leaders, pastors, and parents. Help them see the value of taking on this solemn responsibility to disciple their children. It is God's desire that parents be the mentors of their children in this kingdom work.



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

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

East Congo Union Mission—CHM Leadership Certification



Over 60 CHM directors and coordinators of the East Congo Field gathered for their first CHM Leadership Certification training in Lubumbashi, June 1-3, 2007. It was well organized by Debbie Maloba, CHM Director of the East Congo Union. The seminars were conducted by Joy Gashaija, CHM director of ECD and Linda Koh, GC CHM director. All the leaders and teachers were so eager to learn how to work effectively with children. It was fully supported by the union leadership who also attended the seminar. Their greatest challenge is to find resources and materials for the children. There is definitely a great lack of French materials for the children in that field. On Sabbath afternoon family seminars were conducted for the church members who came from 5 different churches. Though the children's leaders work with few resources, but they became very creative in making devices for teaching the children.



Ethiopian Union Mission—CHM Leadership Certification

There was a great turnout of children's leaders who gathered at the Ethiopian Union headquarters at Addis Ababa for the CHM Leadership Certification training seminar on June 4-6, 2007 which was organized by Fanta Chaleabo, CHM Director of Ethiopian Union for the leaders in the territory. The intensive training seminar was conducted by Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Joy Gashaija, ECD CHM director. The participants were actively involved in many activities throughout the seminar.

Ethiopia Union Mission—Child Preachers

Children are trained regularly to be preachers. Gemechis Berhanu (Left photo - boy on the left of the adult leader) is a talented and dynamic preacher.



Another young and talented child preacher went with his friends to the country side. He preached to many children who gathered to listen to his sermons. (Right photo above)

Ethiopia Union Mission—Vacation Bible School at Akaki Church



Vacation Bible School is an excellent outreach program for children in the community. Children who attend the VBS especially enjoy the activities they can do and the crafts they can make to bring home to show their parents.

Rwanda Union Mission—CHM Leadership Certification

About 40 Children's Ministries directors and coordinators participated enthusiastically in the CHM Leadership Certification held June 7-9, 2007 at Kigali. Organized by Consolata Uwantege, CHM Director of the union, she invited Linda Koh, GC CHM Director to be the presenter for this certification program and she was assisted by Joy Gashaija, CHM Director of the East Central-Africa Division. They were able to visit many children's Sabbath Schools that weekend.



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Dakota Conference—Ministry to Native American Children

The NAD Children's Ministry and the Dakota Conference Native Ministry co-sponsored a Christian Basketball Camp on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Basketball players from Walla Walla College along with Ty Hicks and Sam Key provided a skills camp for about 80 reservation students grades 4-12. The Walla Walla players (assistant coaches) conducted worship with the children each day. Children's Ministry also provided a basketball for each player and Dakota Native Ministries provided a camp t-shirt for each player who completed the 3-day camp. The children were excited to participate and many came from different "districts" that took an hour to drive to the gym!

NAD Children's Ministries and representatives from several Indian nations will be meeting at the end of August to plan a curriculum that will be used during the school year in many public schools on the reservations across America and also a VBS that is targeted just for Native American children. What a great outreach opportunity!

New York Conference—First Diabetes Awareness Camp



NAD Children's Ministries helped to fund the first Diabetes Awareness Camp held at Camp Cherokee, July 15-22, organized by the New York Conference of Native Ministries. Diabetes is the number 1 killer of Native Americans in the United States.

A total of 11 attendees, three adult counselors, and three Camp Cherokee counselors attended the lectures. One highlight was a testimony / question and answer session with Stephanie, a Cherokee counselor and diabetic from childhood, who injects insulin four times daily.

Jolene and Brianna, two young teenagers from traditional Native religious background enjoyed learning about Jesus for the first time. Their questions revealed their desire to know the Savior as other attendees do. Only in heaven will we know the true influence this camp has had. Everyone developed a commitment to live a healthier lifestyle knowing that the Creator made us for His purpose and loves us.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

NSD Funding for Translation & Printing of GraceLink Sabbath School Quarterlies

After more than a year's deliberation on getting funding for this major project for the children, the division finally voted to create an allocated fund for translating and printing GraceLink Sabbath School quarterlies into Chinese. NSD together with GC Sabbath School Department and GC Children's Ministries will fund this special project. We thank Dr. Sally Phoon for her untiring effort in getting this project approved.



Japan Union Conference—GraceLink Works Wonders For Kids!

Fuki Tabuchi attended the GraceLink training conducted last year by Sally Phoon (NSD) and Linda Koh (GC). It was the first time teachers were introduced to this new method of active learning in teaching children's Sabbath School. After getting home to her local church, Ms Fuki decided to try this method in teaching the children. The children were excited and interested. Even her son who attended the GraceLink was excited about it. When she asked him if he would like Sabbath School to be like this, he closed his eyes and said, "Oh! I would love Sabbath School!"

Fuki then worked with Ms Morishita to teach GraceLink in her Bible class in school. GraceLink works for kids! Children are excited; they get involved and are challenged to think and ask questions. We need to use GraceLink in Japan!





Chinese Union Mission—Abuse Consultancy

“Crossing Boundaries” was the theme for the Abuse Consultancy held at Hong Kong Adventist College May 14-16. Organized by the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM), this important consultation touched on a topic that is seldom addressed in church circles. Out of the 62 participants, 42 came from CHUM (Hong Kong and Taiwan), 3 from Japan, 9 from Korea, and 4 from Mongolia. Four Northern Asia-Pacific department directors also attended the meetings.



Dr Bryan Craig, Family Ministries Director of the South Pacific Division (SPD), and David Robertson, Director of Adventist Support of the SPD, were the seminar facilitators. Although this was an initiative from the women's and family ministries departments, other departments such as education, children's ministries, and ministerial were also represented.

All those attending became more aware of the issue of sexual abuse, the warning signs for ministerial misconduct, guidelines for maintaining ministerial boundaries, arenas of safety, and how to handle the situation after sexual abuse has been uncovered. It is hoped that the leaders who attended will return to their home fields to set in place policies that will keep our churches and institutions safe from abuse.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Paraguay Mission—Children's Convention for Teens

At Asuncion, Paraguay, 250 juniors and earliteens gathered at a government public facility on May 12, 2007 for a mission-wide Children's Convention. Litiana, Associate CHM Director of South Pacific, Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Mirta Samoljuk, SAD CHM Director presented seminars and sermons through active learning. There were many other Bible activities that involved all the teens. The kids participated with great enthusiasm!



Paraguay Mission—CHM Leadership Training Seminars

The following day on May 13, a leadership training seminar was organized for the children's leaders in a beautiful lecture hall in a shopping mall. More than two hundred attended the full day seminar. Children were also present to present special songs and testimonies. Then more seminars were conducted on May 14 in Ciudad del Este where another big group of children's leaders attended the seminars.

Buenos Aires—Leadership Training Seminars

A one-evening training seminar was organized for children's coordinators and leaders in the City Central Church in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Litiana, Linda and Mirta did another round of presentations at a fully-packed church. Many were thankful for the training.

Uruguay Mission—Children's Convention

On May 18, 2007 more than 200 children attended the one-day mission-wide convention held at the seminary in Montevideo. Linda Koh, GC CHM, Litiana Qiosese, SPD CHM, and Mirta Samoljuk, SAD CHM presented seminars for the children. Their theme was “Big like David.” The children participated enthusiastically in all the activities.

The highlight of the children's program was the reports and testimonies of children who organized regular small groups in their homes. They ranged from ages 8 to 13. They invited kids in the neighborhood to their home and ran a Sabbath school program for them. They taught them songs and told stories of Jesus. It was simply heartwarming to see children on fire for the Lord. There are now many small groups operating every week. They are real missionaries for the Lord!



Uruguay Mission—CHM Leadership Training Seminar

The last day on May 19 was a CHM Leadership training seminar for the children's leaders in the Central Church in Montevideo. Although the church was icy cold and not heated, but it was packed with several hundreds of children's leaders who warmed our hearts with joy at seeing how they have motivated the children in active involvement in the Lord's work. Just imagine how many children's leaders work with children to run small groups.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Trans Pacific Union Mission—Tsunami Child Counseling

Judith Nagamisovo from Papua New Guinea Union Mission spent 2 weeks in the Solomon Islands helping children affected by the trauma of the Tsunami, in conjunction with “Safe Space” designed to promote psychological support and rehabilitation through games

and activities. She helped train 68 participants and set up 8 safe places—one for each camp on the island of Gizo and then 60 participants and 4 safe places on Simbo.



Greater Sydney Conference—Rock-Solid Kids Workshop at Parramatta & Fox-Valley

A series of workshops was taken by Keryn McCutcheon on how to raise children with rock-solid faith. On Sabbath kids at Fox-Valley Church led out in “God the Builder” kid's church.



South Queensland Conference—Eight Mile Plains Church Easter Services

On March 31, the church was blessed by a special Easter Service conducted by the children of the Kindergarten and Primary Sabbath Schools. The children led out in the song service and then performed a play called “Benjamin's Box”, based on a book by Melody Carlson. Benjamin is a boy who meets and follows Jesus up to the moment of his crucifixion, collecting things along the way – coin, thorn, leather strip, hay, and white cloth – to put in a box where he keeps precious things. Beautiful costumes and props set the stage for an exciting and moving story – a huge stone was rolled away for Jesus' resurrection and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem was reenacted with Jesus riding on a (wheeled) donkey and children waving palm branches. Book marks with Matthew 18:2-5 were specially made for the occasion and distributed by the children.

The church warmly congratulated the children and their teachers. As for the children, they are very keen to do another program.



Avondale College—Ministry to Children Elective

Theology students at Avondale College have the opportunity to take a new elective course, Ministry to Children in the Local Church. Special thanks go to the Greater Sydney Conference for providing a scholarship for this subject. As part of their practical requirements, students spent a day helping to run the Serengeti Trek VBS at the Wellsend Church.



SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

South Philippine Union—Little Trumpets Training



“Tell a child, Tell the World.” This thrust of the Children’s Ministries Department of the General Conference got a laudable support from the members of the Iligan City Seventh-day Adventist Central Church (ICSADACC) Iligan City, Philippines. The whole idea of creating an association of children evangelists was first introduced by Mr. Edgard S. Engles, Training-director of the Little Trumpets of the South Philippines Union Conference, who believes that God has ordained children as special instruments to do a special work in the last days. Hence, leaders of the church need to train them to be effective and dedicated little missionaries for the Lord.

This movement of the children evangelists’ association is to train children to be involved in evangelistic programs in the rural and urban sectors of the society. A Trainers’ Seminar was held April 5-7, 2007 at the church with the goal of cultivating a pool of trainers who can then train children to use their talents for future evangelistic endeavors.

It was then followed by the actual children’s training from April 23 – May 12, 2007 with 56 children participating. The first two weeks involved lectures on Bible study and reading, Bible markings, sermon making, public speaking, sermon delivery, preaching, and learning new songs. The 3rd week involved the children in holding evangelistic meetings at Rosario. About 100 non-SDA kids attended every afternoon. Mothers and guardians who regularly accompanied their kids were impressed with the trumpeters’ intense enthusiasm to preach the gospel and their knowledge of Biblical truths. Gradually, the non – SDA kids learned and enjoyed listening to Bible stories told by the Little Trumpets’ kids. Children can preach the gospel!

East Indonesia Union Conference—Children’s Nature Camp
Desy LuMowa, CHM Director of the union organized the largest nature camp for children at Manado, June 27-July 1, 2007. A total of 1,200 excited children, armed with their tents, gathered on the campus of UNKLAB, the Adventist University of the Union for this wonderful weekend. The children spent five days together learning to appreciate more of the Creator God through nature. Fien Sumendap, SSD CHM Director and Linda Koh, GC CHM Director led out in many of the nature activities that involved children to become more sensitive to the beauty of Creation. The children also sang songs about creation and the Creator God as well as sampled many other topics like astronomy, flora and fauna, etc. The highlight of the nature camp was a campfire conducted on Saturday evening. It was heartwarming to have children come up front to say words of thanks and appreciation for what the church has done for them. Many testimonies were given too.

East Indonesia Union Conference—CHM Leadership Certification
Right after the nature camp, Linda Koh and Fien Sumendap spent the next two days, July 2 & 3 training the children’s leaders of South Minahasa Mission, About 70 leaders from the various churches at-



tended the seminars. Courses included Positive Discipline, Faith Development of Children, Understanding Child Development, and Protecting Children from Abuse. The participants enjoyed the lectures as well as learning new songs.

West Indonesia Union Mission—CHM Leadership Certification



Nelly Sihotang, CHM Director of WIUM organized a four-day CHM Leadership Certification seminar at the union office in Jakarta, June 22-24, 2007. Over 350 children’s leaders participated in the training seminar led out by Linda Koh, GC CHM Director and Fien Sumendap, SSD CHM Director. The teachers and leaders were taught many new songs from the new Gracelink songbook, *Little Voices Praise Him*, and everyone was so eager to learn. Many went away satisfied that they have learned lots of information and received many resources to help them in their ministry.

West Kalimantan Mission—Children’s Congress
Two hundred children, including some non-Adventists attended a mission-wide children’s congress organized by Ancelia Wangania, CHM Director, in the town of Singkawang. The children enjoyed the various seminars presented such as, Growing like Jesus, Sharing God’s Love, Guidelines for choosing good television programs, Getting involved in witnessing and services, Dental Health, Effective Table Manners, and Story Telling. An extra blessing came when their military neighbors across the street very graciously provided four big military trucks to take the children and the volunteers for a tour in town and to the beach.



Yes, the investment they have spent will bear fruits in five to ten years because these children will grow and become faithful church members. Many Chinese students attended the congress too.

WEST CENTRAL-AFRICA DIVISION

Central African Union—Children’s Ministries Training



June 4-10 was a historical moment! Many French-speaking children’s leaders from around the union gathered for the Gracelink training seminar in Yaounde, Cameroon, organized by Joao Ballais, CHM Director of the union. Elsa Cozzi, Children’s Ministries Director of Euro-Africa Division, who is fluent in the French language was the resource person sent by GC Children’s Ministries to provide the training. The leaders expressed appreciation for this training and the opportunity to network with each other to discuss the needs of the field. The greatest challenge they face is the accessibility of French resources for both the children and the teachers. The highlight of the weekend was a children’s talent night where children had the opportunity to display their many talents in music, drama, etc. We thank Elsa for her service to the French-speaking territories.

Sahel Union Mission—Children’s Ministries Advisory
Under the leadership of Enyde Roger, CHM director of the Union, all the children’s leaders gathered for the CHM advisory in Lome, Togo, June 12-14. As many of the French-speaking territories have not been given sufficient assistance, Elsa Cozzi, Children’s Ministries Director of Euro-Africa Division, who is fluent in the

French language was the resource person sent by GC Children’s Ministries to provide Gracelink training for the leaders. It was a great meeting where leaders had the opportunity to network with each other to discuss the needs of the field. The greatest challenge they face is also the accessibility of French resources for both the children and the teachers. But plans were discussed to obtain picture rolls and also the contextualized Gracelink lessons from SPD. We thank Elsa for her service to the French-speaking territories.



TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Stanborough Center--KID University Training



The Kids in Discipleship initiative has really caught on fire throughout the division territory. In May this year, Anne-May Wollan, TED CHM Director organized a second training workshop for coaches and trainers, with Don MacLafferty from KID University as the lead resource person. A total of 18 volunteer leadership teams gathered at Stanborough Center to learn how to lead families and children into a discipleship relationship with Jesus Christ. These KID teams came from Croatia, Cypress, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Poland, and United Kingdom

At first, many were not too sure if they want to be part of this ministry while others have skeptical attitudes. But praise the Lord! After three days of training, the group was highly inspired and motivated to lead KID ministry in their own local churches.