

EURO-AFRICA DIVISION

Northern France Conference—Children's Congress and Leadership Training Workshops



It was indeed a very inspiring experience for approximately 200 children, ages 6-12, together with 60 teachers, helpers and leaders, who attended the Children's Congress in Paris on January 20, 2007, organized by Northern France Conference. About 100 parents were allowed to attend, too so as to help them understand and see for themselves how young children were able to worship and share their faith.

Children participated in a special worship service in the morning which included songs, skits, activities and devotional. In the afternoon the children had the choice of attending 2 out of 6 different mini workshops that taught them how to share their faith.

2 Parents also had the opportunity to attend 2 workshops on Child Development of 6-12 year-olds and Raising Children to Adore God.

On January 21 & 22, a training course was organized for leaders and teachers and one with the pastors from that area. Elsa Cozzi, CHM Director of EUD spoke to the leaders, inspiring them to understand the importance of the church for children and vice versa.

One pastor's son commented that the children's congress had been the best Sabbath of his life. Praise the Lord! Let's pray that children will continue to feel accepted and welcomed at church.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Highland View Church—Christmas VBS



The Highland View Church in Hagerstown, Maryland wanted to do something different to draw in the Christmas crowd, so they planned a VBS on the second week in December, 2006. More than 64 children registered and 10 adults came along too. The Bethlehem Village Vacation Bible School program was a great success with the kids!

The children not only learned Jewish customs such as the purpose of the mezuzah and the lighting of the oil lamp, but they also heard "firsthand" the wondrous event that took place at Christ's birth. At the closing program on Sabbath morning, the children taught the congregation the songs they had learned as well as the customs they practiced every day.

Pastor Corea, the pastor of the church, who played the role of the Roman centurion said, "Holding a VBS during the Christmas season was unusual, but led to one of the most rewarding Christmases our church has encountered. A young family decided to join our church because of this program. We are anxious to find new opportunities to share the gospel in such a unique way."

Illiana ACMA Chapter—Summer Program Outreach

Last summer members of several churches in the southern Indiana area organized a summer outreach program in a low-income, drug-infested neighborhood to reach children at risk in Indianapolis. NAD CHM provided some funds to help with a 4-week program.