

South American Division

Austral Union Conference—Argentina—Children's Ministries Advisory

For the first time, Children's Ministries directors were appointed to serve in each of the seven conferences/missions. They gathered at Los Quenbrachos, their union retreat center near Cordoba, for their first advisory, August 3-4, 2004. Raquel Arrais, CHM director of SAD and Linda Koh, GC CHM director, presented training seminars for these new directors. They also spent time making plans for nurturing children and involving them in their ministry. Raquel presented lots of Spanish resources for the leaders who were very excited about their availability. They went home fully inspired with a deepening passion to work for children.



Rio Grande Do Sul Conference—Porto Alegre, Brazil

Children's Small Groups

Children of the Rio Grande Do Sul Conference are actively involved in small groups throughout the city. They gathered weekly for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship in many homes designated as small group meeting places.

On August 12, 2004 at the special children's program, one 13 year-old was baptized as a result of his attending a small group meeting regularly. This is a wonderful avenue for children to introduce their non-Christian friends to Jesus.



Continued

Did you know?



More than 20 million families in the United States have a child with special needs—that's nearly one in three families.

Tween Ages, January/ February 2004, "Special Kind of Love," p. 4



Youngsters with rich spiritual lives are less likely to have mental-health problems, a new report suggests. "Participation in communities of faith seems to provide protection against depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders," says Kathleen Kovner Kline, MD., an investigator for the Commission on Children at Risk.

Parents, April 2004, "The Benefits of Faith," p. 151



Divorce takes a tremendous toll on kids. Children from fatherless homes are:

- Almost 7 times more likely to drop out of school.
- Over 4 1/2 times more likely to commit suicide.
- Over 6 1/2 times more likely to become teenage mothers.
- Over 24 times more likely to run away.
- 15 times more likely to have behavior disorders.

www.connectwithkids.com/tipsheet/2004/167_mar10/divo.html

"Divorce Anger Lasts"



According to Mark Shriver, vice president and managing director of Save the Children's U.S. Programs, "Improving a child's ability to read is the single most important way to help a child gain the skills and confidence they need to break the cycle of poverty and make a better life for themselves."

www.savethechildren.org/usa/war_on_poverty.asp

"War on Poverty Update: Helping Children Break the Cycle of Poverty," 3/26/2004

Evangelizing Today's Child
July/August 2004

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