



SPD AND TED SEND OUT FIRST TEAMS FOR KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

South Pacific Division and Trans-European Division send out their first CHM teams to Southern Adventist University to attend the Kids in Discipleship (KID) training program, March 19-22, 2006. Led by Julie Weslake (SPD CHM Director) and Anne-May Wollan (TED CHM Director), the teams worked with Don MacLafferty, Director of KID University, on the various strategies of getting families involved in discipling their children. The highlights of the training involve learning how to coach and help parents interact with children using the *Footprints* manual, watching live demonstrations of how families work with their children using the discipleship materials, and practicing these skills on the spot.

It is the goal of the Children's Ministries Department to set up more "Kids in Discipleship" centers within each division territory so that many more families will participate in discipling their children. Please pray for this new initiative of disciple-making.



GRACELINK TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC

It has been a vision of Anne-May Wollan, Children's Ministries Director of Trans-European Division, to provide GraceLink lessons for Arabic speaking children within our churches. But the cost of launching such a project is way beyond her budget for the department. Her continued effort to work out a solution has finally paid off. With the support of her division administration and the financial assistance from Children's Ministries, Global Mission, and Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments of the General Conference, this project is well on its way to materializing.

We thank Anne-May for her leadership. Children will soon be able to access GraceLink lessons in Arabic.



4 TIPS FOR REACHING FAMILIES OF THE KIDS IN YOUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1. Focus on relationships. Unchurched people who decide to begin attending church—and who stick with it—usually do so because of relationships they've built with people in the church. Make the most of opportunities to get to know the parents of your unchurched kids. Consider setting out a snack table near the classrooms where the superintendent, teachers, or a designated "parent pal" can chat with parents when they drop off their children.

2. Create a list of topics. As you build relationships with class members, ask questions about their hobbies and interests, and listen as they talk about themselves. Many of the bits of news they share—from their soccer games to a sick puppy—can work as conversation starters with parents. Put these topics in a mental list or even on paper.

3. Talent Show. Rather than waiting for parents to come to you, invite them. One group does a talent show that parents love. They allow kids to present individual talents, if they want (singing, telling jokes, playing the flute, etc.). Each age-group also prepares a skit to present. Other ideas:

- Have families work together to present a talent or skit.
- Give a brief devotional based on Romans 12:4-5 about how we all have different things to contribute to the group.
- Serve refreshments.

4. Pray for families--and let them know it. Ideas:

- Prayer Pals. Find people in the church to serve as Prayer Pals for class members' families. These Pals can contact "their" families occasionally by phone or note to ask for requests and let them know they're being prayed for.
- Class prayer. Every week, have class members pray together for one or more of the kids' families. Get the kids to sign a postcard, and mail it to the prayed-for families. Ask them to send requests via their children.



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