



Trans-European Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Children's Ministries



Winter 2008

Dear Friends,

Have you ever met anyone who desires a horrible New Year? Ever met anyone who resolves to make the New Year one in which they experience new levels of misery, loneliness, poverty, and hopelessness? Of course you haven't.

Every sane and rationally thinking person on the planet wants a great '08. They want their year to be prosperous and successful in all areas of life: physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, and financially. Did you know that God wants that for you and me too!! He used those words - "prosperous and success" - when speaking to Joshua about a new chapter in his life... a New Year, so to speak.

So how can we have a great year? As with Joshua, prosperity and success are not automatic. They are conditional blessings based on our relationship with one thing in particular...God's Word. What is the key to a great '08? The key is our response to the Word of God.

1. **Read His Word.** The Bible is the all time number one best seller... yet so many do not read it. Many people who call themselves Christians can't even find the Book of Matthew, well, that may be pushing it a little far, but you get the point. If you want a great '08, read His Word every day. Get up 15 minutes early to spend time with God in His Word.

2. **Meditate on His Word.** This is done by taking a verse of Scripture and mulling it over in your mind. Meditation is like a cow chewing the cud. A cow eats the grass... and then regurgitates it to chew on it some more. That is a good picture of meditating on God's Word. Scripture is filled with the juice of truth and power. When I meditate, I squeeze the juice out to get the full benefit.

3. **Speak His Word.** God told Joshua that His Word was not to depart from his mouth. Joshua was to speak it... he was to speak the very words of God. This is so important and something we so often fail to do. Whatever the situation, God has a Word for it. For example, when troubles come into your life like a flood, remember and speak His Word to it: *"No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper"* (Is. 54:17). And when fear engulfs you, remember his Word and speak to the fear: *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you,"* (Is. 26:3). And when discouragement fills your heart, then remember to speak His Word in that situation as well: *"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God"* (Ps. 42:11). *"Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."* (Ps. 30:5).

Obey His Word. Do you know how God tests to see if you really love Him? If you obey Him, that is how. Talk is cheap. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15). Remember, blessings from God comes not from merely knowing His Word, it comes from doing His Word - *"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them"* (Jn. 13:17).

My friends, do you really and truly want a great '08? If so, then start today with the Lord and His Word. The prosperity and success God wants for you and me this year is ours for the taking if we will just do what He asks. I have decided, I want a great '08, have you?



Love

Anne-May





ARTICLE by Mirta Samojluk
Children's Ministries Department, South American Division
ELDER'S DIGEST JANUARY | MARCH 2008



Children's Ministries

There are two biblical concepts that are the basis, the inspiration, and the goal of the Children's Ministries Department, whose objectives are "teaching to serve and serving to teach" the younger members of the Lord's flock.

We turn to the life of Christ for principles of working with children.

Jesus as a child. Even though the account of the first years of Jesus' life is short, Luke 2:52 describes the harmony of His growth during his childhood. In the book *Desire of Ages*, p. 70, there is this promise: "Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did. As we try to become acquainted with our heavenly Father through His word, angels will draw near, our minds will be strengthened, our characters will be elevated and refined."

Jesus as an adult, relating to children. Matthew 19:14 expresses the care Jesus had for the young ones: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." This represented a double blessing, for Jesus "planted in their minds the seeds of truth, which in after years would spring up" (*Desire of Ages*, p.515).

Children were also a blessing to Jesus, for the presence of the little ones "refreshed His spirit when oppressed" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 511).

What a privilege we have as leaders to follow these divine precepts! That is why the mission of the Children's Ministries in our church is "to help each Adventist child to develop a redemptive and permanent friendship with Jesus, preparing them for service and commitment to the church until His coming."

And as elders look at the various departments of the church, they will certainly ask, "How can I support, encourage and promote the Children's Ministries Department in my church?"

How can I involve it within total church planning?"

The elder can make it a point to know the activities of the CM and the dates of their events so that none of them are missing from the church's annual calendar. There are the traditional and familiar programs as well as other programs that are less familiar during the ecclesiastical year. Within the traditional ones, we encourage the following:

Children's Story. It is the time during the worship service when children participate and receive spiritual food according to their understanding. This helps children feel they are being included in the worship service. It values, recognizes and makes them feel a part of worship. The time dedicated to this activity should be short, perhaps no more than 5 to 7 minutes, because children's attention span is very short.

The children's story time need not be limited to just a story. We may include other activities, such as a child's testimony (thanksgiving, answered prayer, etc.), the dedication of a child, or a musical presentation by the children. This moment is also an educational opportunity, since many new members need orientation in ways to lead their children to the Lord.

The Voice of Youth. This is a program that allows children and teenagers to develop their gifts through preaching. Every year adequate and attractive material is prepared by some fields for this form of evangelism.

Vacation Bible School. This is a completely evangelistic program. The goal of the Children's Ministries Department is to have each Adventist church and school offer this program once a year, with many non-Adventist children from the community involved, since behind every child there is a family. Generally the duration of this program is five days, for three hours in the morning or in the evening.

Permanent Bible classes. These will include baptismal classes as well as post baptismal

classes for children. Some divisions, unions and conferences/mis-sions are preparing special materials for this church program.

Small groups for children and/or led by children and teenagers. This activity has enriched the church's spiritual life. It helps children to grow in Christ by sharing their faith with others.

The Adventist Child's World Day. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends and interests along with their children to a special Sabbath event with an attractive child-centered program and sermon. Check your conference calendar for the date.

Sabbath School Leadership Seminar. It is important to post on the announcement board the dates in which these seminars are being held so that teachers may attend and become more competent to guide the little lambs to the Good Shepherd, thus getting the Sabbath School divisions to supply the needs of each age group. It is an enriching experience, for many new ideas and resources may be shared in these seminars.

Children's Stewardship Week. It is important to create a generation of faithful stewards. When a church has a week of prayer about stewardship at the same time a similar program should be prepared for children.

Community outreach projects. A loving church is interested in its surroundings and its neighborhood. With the help of the children, the church may address local needs and establish friendly contacts.

Each elder should feel part of this vital department. With God's help and wisdom, they may influence, by precept and example, the children in their church, the future of the church. As we are reminded, "When Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him, He was speaking to His followers in all ages, to officers of the church, to ministers, helpers, and all Christians" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 517).



On March 6 - 9, 2008 another Kids In Discipleship Training event is happening, and we will as before be at Stanborough Centre in Watford, England. This time we have received eight applications. Two teams from Hungary, one team from Lithuania, one team from Lebanon and four teams from the UK have applied to attend. This will be the first time that the TED and the British Union will do this training event without the help of the K.I.D Centre in the US, but we believe that the team is ready for the challenge and we are looking forward to a rewarding and spirit filled training event. If a church in your union would like to attend a K.I.D. training event then start planning and get a dedicated team together. The next K.I.D. Training date will be advertised sometime in March.



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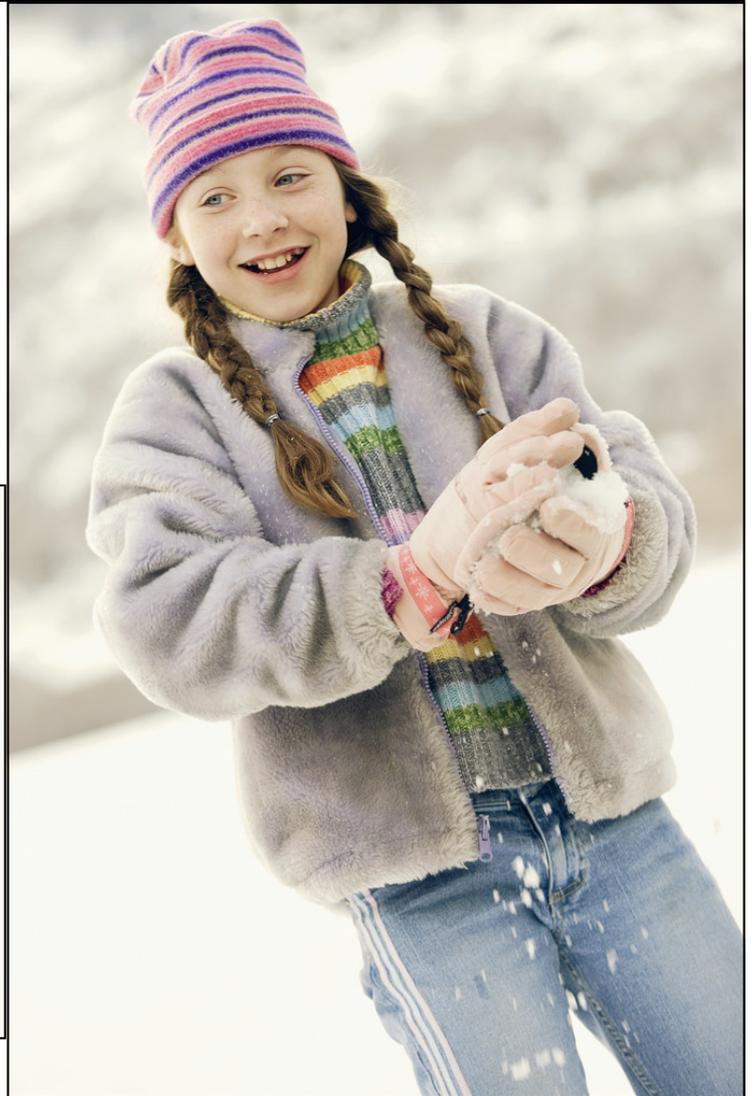
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Please send stories and ideas
you want to share to:
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This newsletter is addressed to the Children's Ministry Directors of the Unions in The Trans-European Division. Some other people have asked to receive it as well, and of course we like to share.

If you know somebody who would like to be on our mailing list the e-mail address can be sent to skrusholm@ted-adventist.org and we will add them to our list.



The Funny Side of Parenting...

A mother with two young children put them to bed and went to prepare herself for bed. She put on some old clothes and went to the bathroom. She washed her hair and wrapped a towel around her head to dry her hair. She applied cold cream on her face to remove her makeup. Just as she was about to wipe off the cream, she heard the noise of her children playing in their room. She stormed into the room, forced her two small children back into bed, reminded them that it was time to sleep, turned out the light and slammed the door. As she left the room, one of the children asked the other, "Who was that?"