

# iLIGHT



## EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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## See Clearly

Several years ago my granddaughter and I were standing side by side looking out the breakfast room window into the woods behind our house. We loved looking for all the different kinds of birds and little forest animals. Our binoculars were always handy with our bird book and we would look for the rabbits, the deer and sometimes we would even see a fox or a chubby round furry animal slowly meander into the woods.

This one time I saw a big burl on one of the trees and pointed it out to Autumn, "Look ... on that tree over there ... doesn't that look like a snake?" I asked. She looked and squinted her eyes, then tilted her head and said "no ... it looks like a squirrel!" A squirrel? I couldn't see it! I couldn't see a squirrel no matter how I tilted my head!

I am reminded of a time when my children were young ... and they were sick with fever. Every parent or grandparent has experienced this scenario at some time in their parenting journey or soon to be parents will experience it or maybe you are not even thinking about parenting but you may recognize the following story from your own childhood.

**This is the memory:** I was sitting in the waiting room of the doctor's office with

two forlorn and sick children cradled in my lap ... no smiles ... no giggles. Until my son saw the climbing cube ... and my daughter saw the stack of children's books! This was way before segregating the sick children from the yearly check-up kids.

My little daughter was looking at a 'Highlights Kid magazine' at the I Spy Hidden Object page. Some of you remember! We have several books of 'hidden objects' that we all enjoy. I looked over her shoulder and pointed to the words that listed what was to be found. She found at least 6 of them quickly but was stumped on the last 4 ... I searched with her ... looking all over for a 'frying pan.'

She went on to another book ... but I stayed concentrated on finding that 'frying pan!' I was determined!

Just when I was about to give up I saw it! It was right before my eyes the whole time! Hidden beside the table leg. Now I couldn't not see it!

There is a similar story in the Bible. Mark 8 ... the story of the blind man ... but it wasn't just the blind man ... look back a little further ...

I love *all* of this story with its many side stories going on at the same time! It is like one of those 'I spy' pictures! Just when

## Praying with and for our kids

**A habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian.**

The habit of intentional prayer cannot be overemphasized. It is essential to your children's future success and happiness. So teach them that true prayer is a way of life, not just something you do when you're in trouble. Your children's spiritual well-being, relational stability, moral fiber, and emerging faith are dependent upon it.

from: "Praying with & for your kids. The Pocket Guide for Parents" Bordon Books, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, 2006

## INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



### What worldview are you teaching your kids?

Every child has a worldview. And most children learn their worldview from their parents. Some children are taught a worldview of Materialism. Or humanism ... Or despair ... Our desire is to teach our children a biblical worldview; a worldview that looks at everything in life through the lens of what God says in His Word, the Bible. That includes what they watch on TV, the friends they choose, the parties they attend, the books they read, the classes they take, the words they use ... the list goes on. Paul wrote to Timothy: *and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings [Scripture], which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* (2 Timothy 3:15, ESV) Timothy learned Scripture and in doing so, learned wisdom—wisdom that affected all aspects of his life. Wisdom that enabled him to develop a biblical worldview. We don't want our kids to have a worldview of materialism, humanism or despair. We want to guide children toward developing a worldview of godly wisdom so that each word they say and each thing they do is aligned with God's Word. Whether you're a parent, a grandparent, or a children's ministries leader—the 10 key components to instilling a biblical worldview in kids we've presented throughout the year will help you in the task.

From: Weddle, L.: *10 Ways to Instill a Biblical Worldview in Your Kids*. Awana Clubs International, Streamwood, IL, USA, 2013

you think you have found THE object there is always another one to find.

Jesus was out on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. He had just performed an amazing miracle of feeding over four thousand people with seven loaves of bread and some small fish. You know the story! There were 7 baskets of bread left over... **there were baskets of bread left over** ... yet! ...somehow ... the disciples managed to get in their boat without enough bread for the trip!

When Jesus mentioned 'the leaven of the pharisees' Mark 8:15 ... they thought he was talking literally about bread and maybe they were a little hungry and tired. They answered, "we have no bread."

I know that Jesus probably didn't roll his eyes ... that would have been rude and disrespectful. But ... maybe he sighed.

He had just performed a miracle that **included the active involvement** of the disciples ...feeding all those people with bread and fish! AND said plainly to them "I am the bread of life" while standing right there before them but they could not see it. .... **Just like me looking for the frying pan!** When I read that story it seems clear that, like me, they blind at something that was right before their eyes!

But Jesus wasn't finished yet .... When they landed (and this is kind of funny) a crowd of people rushed over to Jesus **with a man who could not see** and begged him to touch the man and restore his sight.

**This is the way I imagine the scene:** Jesus looks over at his disciples ... maybe raising one eyebrow trying to give them a clue! Look up the story in Mark 8:22-25 ... Jesus spit on the man's eyes and he did it two times before the man exclaimed, "I CAN see clearly!"

Let's go back to my children at the doctor's office. The doctor prescribed medication and they bounced back to 'normal' very quickly.

**I learned** from the 'doctor's office visit' not to be consumed by the 'I Spy' book and that it's OK to put the magazine down.

But ... like the blind man in Mark 8 I beg God to touch my eyes so that I can see clearly His 'touch' all around me. In the sunsets, in the shapes of the burl on the tree trunk that looks like a snake! ... or a squirrel, in the fragile little flower coming up behind the rocks, in the sweet smile of a baby ...

I desperately want to **see** with wonder and awe... the magnificence of His touch, and through all these things, that my eyes will be open to **see clearly** that He loves and cherishes **me**.

**I encourage you** to look around you and see God with a childlike awe and wonder ... knowing YOU ... are ... loved and cherished! ♦

Sherri Uhrig

North American Division  
Children's Ministries Director



## Hugs from JESUS

### Saving Leftovers

*[This devotional is best done while cleaning up after a meal. Help the child put leftovers into containers and place in the refrigerator.]* Big crowds would often come to hear Jesus speak. One day Jesus told stories all day long. The people hadn't had any lunch. By evening they were very hungry. Using a little boy's lunch, Jesus did a miracle. He kept breaking the food into smaller and smaller pieces—and still there was more! He fed

the whole crowd of 5,000 people with one little boy's lunch!

Then Jesus said something important after everyone had eaten. He sent His disciples around with baskets to pick up all the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. The leftover food was shared with poor people who didn't have enough food to eat. We save our leftover food and eat it later. It pleases Jesus when we don't waste anything.

Dear Jesus, please help me to learn not to waste anything. Amen.

From: Dillon, Sally D.: *Hugs from Jesus*. Review and Herald, Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2001

# ADRA helping during Covid-19

## Roma Children in Serbia

The Roma minority is the single most vulnerable national group in Europe. According to the Serbian government's Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma, there are at least 250,000 Roma in Serbia, and the majority of them live in poverty.

One of the key needs is helping Roma children complete their education. Surveys conducted by UNICEF, in conjunction with the Serbian government, show that fewer than two-thirds of children from Roma settlements complete primary school. With the advent of COVID-19, the likelihood of Roma children missing out on education drastically increased.

Serbia, like many other countries, closed schools and switched schooling to online/distance learning. However, most Roma children in Serbia lack the technology to participate. They have no smart devices and no stable Internet connection. Their families live in substandard settlements in overcrowded shacks with minimal space for learning. They receive little support from their families because their caregivers are often illiterate or are absent during the day while working.

ADRA was already supporting the education of about 100 Roma children in Serbia. Since March, these learning programs have been adapted to the circumstances of COVID-19.

- Online support. ADRA's Community Center in Belgrade, where Roma children receive tutoring from ADRA teachers, had to close during the lockdown. To maintain their students' progress, ADRA's staff teachers held online support sessions with the same children they had worked with during the pre-COVID-19 period. Four additional Adventist volunteers came on board to assist children while schools were shut down. The tutors connected with the children via video calls to help them with their schoolwork. This support was critical for 30 Roma children who managed to successfully complete school. They were lucky enough to have electronic devices and Internet access. Others did not share the same fortune. ADRA is fundraising with the business sector to obtain devices and Internet for the remaining children and is building a volunteer base of tutors to reach as many children as possible.
- School on Wheels. ADRA's School on Wheels is an adapted RV trailer turned into an attractive learning space. It is driven to the Roma communities, where ADRA teachers offer a fun and educational time for Roma children. By reading books in the School on Wheels, using its library and interacting with the teachers, students are getting better prepared for school. The School on Wheels suspended its operations during the peak of COVID-19 infections in April, but then resumed its work with additional precautionary measures.
- Summer school. ADRA's summer school takes place in the ADRA Community Center and in the Roma settlements. Teachers lead

out in fun recreational and educational activities to help minimize the drastic summer knowledge loss that occurs due to inactivity. The students are "warmed up" and prepared for the new school year starting in September. A total of 100 children took part in this year's summer school.

Investment in education is the only proven contributor to eliminating poverty and increasing chances for upward social mobility," observes Mitrovic. "ADRA is providing these students a way out of the vicious cycle of multigenerational poverty, even while the pandemic makes their situation more difficult."



Roma students have fun while learning with teacher Katarina Stankovic next to ADRA's School on Wheels trailer in Serbia.

## ADRA in Hungary

During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 560 low-income families received food packages and 24 families received laptops for online education thanks to projects sponsored by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Hungary.

ADRA's Quarantine Courier project provided nonperishable food, cleaning supplies and toiletries to low-income people who found themselves in crisis during the country's lockdown.

"We realized that many families were in trouble because at least one of the parents had lost their job because of the pandemic," says Zoltán Sitkei, country director for ADRA in Hungary. "We got requests for aid from other non-governmental organizations and local municipalities in various areas of the country. Seeing the great need, we started a fundraising campaign, and the financial resources of ADRA in Hungary were concentrated on this project."

ADRA recruited 32 volunteers, primarily from Seventh-day Adventist churches, to help purchase, transport, assemble and distribute the food packages. In the town of Nyírcsászári in eastern Hungary, for instance, volunteers from three Adventist churches as well as from the community gathered to pack 100 bags with essential supplies and deliver them to the homes of people in need. So far seven communities have received emergency aid from ADRA during the pandemic.

"Our volunteers in the Quarantine Courier program are real everyday heroes," says Sitkei. "If it wasn't for them, this program that helped hundreds of families couldn't have been created."

ADRA also focused on helping students

continue their education despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19. In mid-March, when



Tamás Nagy, an ADRA volunteer, helps prepare a shipment of food for ADRA's Quarantine Courier program.

all schools in Hungary closed and had to transition to digital education, ADRA recognized that low-income students would suffer. "Access to e-learning was a problem for many families because they had no suitable phone, tablet or computer to use," says Sitkei.

ADRA in Hungary immediately began raising funds to purchase laptops that students could use to participate in online education. By the end of the second week of the school shutdown, ADRA had shipped refurbished laptops to schools in three counties. The schools distributed the laptops to disadvantaged students, who used them throughout the school year and then returned them to the school.

After receiving further donations of funds and equipment, ADRA was able to provide a total of 24 laptops to students in six communities. In many families several children used the machine, multiplying the impact of the program.

One of the students who received a laptop was Jasmine, who has been battling cancer for three years and cannot attend school. Her parents had spent all their financial resources on Jasmine's medical care and were unable to afford a computer for her education. Now, thanks to ADRA's Learn at Home program, she can connect with her teachers and classmates more easily during her lengthy isolation.

"Building digital connectivity in education has long-term benefits, especially for students with chronic illnesses," says Sitkei. "ADRA's Learn at Home project will enrich each school's IT fleet and enable students to learn more effectively in future years, not just during the COVID-19 shutdown."



Jasmine, who has been out of school for much of the past three years during her battle with cancer, received a laptop from ADRA's Learn at Home program.

**And now...**

During these last few months, I have shared here my life, our life, I have shared with you what was in my heart and I sincerely hope that it has been able to make its way and help you in one way or another. I would also like to thank you for reading me and "listening" to my experience and reflections.

Before my son, I didn't know the world of hospitals, rehabilitation centers, specialized schools, specialists of all kinds. I discovered a world full of human beings who learn to live with people with special needs, the world of people with disabilities. It's a world that frightened me a little, this famous fear of the unknown, with questions like: how do I behave with this child who doesn't speak well? How do I deal with this person who doesn't see? With this parent who is so tired? Etc. It's an understandable fear, but all these people have taught me so many things! My son taught me so many things! Among other things, a more naive vision of life, perhaps, but centered on what is important. These people continue to offer me so much every day, because, in fact, these people have so much to offer, also in our churches.

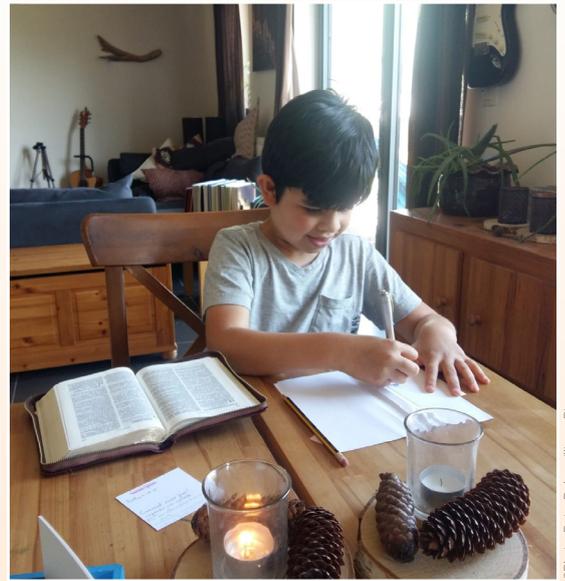
I sincerely believe that things can be done—beyond the most important thing of getting to know them—that

actions in their favor can find their place.

- Taking turns to let a parent listen to a preaching from time to time, or to keep an eye on the child as he or she leaves the church.
- Organize prayer groups for all children/youth in the church and thus also for people with special needs.
- Ask what kind of help these people need because, in the end, they are in the best position to tell you.
- Talk groups so that these families can express themselves about their different experiences of life, of this world that we hardly see if we are not in it.
- Creating materials for older children who can't read
- Etc...

*There are neither Jews nor non-Jews, there are neither slaves nor free men, there are neither men nor women. United with Jesus Christ, you are all united. (Galatians 3:28)*

I would add neither handicapped nor sick, all united in Jesus Christ, all



©Photo: Daisy Delameillieure Rivero

equal in Jesus and in our church! Isn't that wonderful? All wonderful people as Psalm 139:14 says. Jesus is a wonderful example of respect for others, tolerance, empathy, altruism, and love. Let us, as Jesus' messengers, pass on this love to all, truly to all in our church!

Daisy Delameillieure Rivero  
Belgium  
Pastor's wife



Not only on birthdays should parents and children remember the mercies of the Lord in a special way, but Christmas and New Year's should also be seasons when every household should remember their Creator and Redeemer. Instead of bestowing gifts and offerings in such abundance on human objects, reverence, honor, and gratitude should be rendered to God, and gifts and offerings should be caused to flow in the divine channel. Would not the Lord be pleased with such a remembrance of Him? O how God has been forgotten on these occasions!

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 296



Bible Passage

Read Isaiah 11 with this devotional.

The beautiful description of happiness and peace between people and animals given in this reading could have been fulfilled on this earth for the children of Israel if they had been true and faithful to God. Now it can be fulfilled only in the new earth. However, even now we can find many instances of love and kindness between people and animals that help us understand what it will be like when "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, ... and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

As Tom was playing in a field one day he saw Bob going toward the river, carrying a sack. Something in the sack seemed to be moving, so Tom asked Bob what he had. "Aw, it's just a mongrel pup. We got too many, so I'm going to drown it."

"Oh, don't drown it," pleaded Tom. "Let me have him."

"OK, but ya better make sure it doesn't

get back to our place," Bob warned.

"I'll make sure!" said Tom as he raced home. Soon he opened the sack and lifted out a little black puppy. "You're beautiful! And if I hadn't seen Bob, you would've been cold and wet and dead by now." The little pup yipped and yipped and licked Tom's hands, just as if he understood and was trying to say thank you. "I'm going to call you Soot," said Tom, "because you are so very black." And from that moment Tom and Soot were fast friends, and everywhere that Tommy went, Soot was sure to go.

Two years went by. By now, Soot was quite a big dog. One day when Tom was crossing the river on a footbridge, he tripped and fell into the water. Tom couldn't swim, but Soot could—and into the river he jumped. He grabbed Tom by his coat collar and swam with him to the nearest bank. Tom was a bit frightened and very wet, but he hugged Soot and said, "Well, Soot, that makes us even. I saved your life once, and now you've saved mine. You shall have a new collar; I'll build you a new house: and what else would you like?" Soot just said *Bow-wow-BOW-WOW*, which, everyone knows, means "I just want to stay with you forever."



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Are you looking forward to the time all animals and people will be kind to one another? Then remember to be kind to your pets and to everyone you meet today and every day.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:9

From: Hare, Eric B.: *Skyscrapers. Daily Devotions for Juniors*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2009

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Is Santa Claus real? What about the Easter Bunny?

Preschooler

Some people avoid imaginary characters like Santa and the Easter Bunny while others embrace them. Regardless of your preference, the focus of Christmas and Easter is the birth and resurrection of Christ. If your child asks a direct question, tell the truth: They're pretend ways to bring love and joy. Even if your child is upset or angry, or you feel that you're spoiling the fun, your long-term credibility is more important than your child's short-term sadness.

Elementary Age

Children who've experienced Santa and the Bunny will begin questioning practical matters like fitting down chimneys. Friends will share the truth, so do so yourself. Let your child know

that the idea of Santa Claus is based on a real man, Saint Nicholas, who gave presents to people in his village. Most children will say, "I knew Santa wasn't real!" while others may be disappointed. Caution your children to let others find out the truth themselves.

Preteen

Most preteens don't believe, but they may enjoy playing along and helping—especially with younger siblings. Playing Santa or the Easter Bunny is an opportunity to show Jesus' love. Encourage your preteen to think of ways to keep Jesus the focus of these holidays. You may also help your preteen research the history of Santa and the Easter Bunny, and talk about how these characters were rooted in showing love.

Related

Scriptures

Matthew 1:18-25 tells about the birth of Jesus; Deuteronomy 6:6-9 addresses your responsibility for training and truth.



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From: *Trust Us... They'll Ask. Answers to your kids' toughest and most awkward questions*. Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2011

# Good Ideas for Bad Behavior: Holidays

**Question:** I fear I'll be slugging it out alone again this year on Christmas morning when the kids are at their craziest. Other volunteers won't show, and the kids will be out of control. What should I do?

**Answer:** While it's difficult to run a class without help, many people have other obligations on holidays. It's often true that there are fewer adults and a higher energy level in kids. Consider making holidays at your church different this year. Try these ideas—and share them with your church leadership.

- Ask an adult class to sponsor children's ministry for the holiday, providing volunteers for the morning rather than attending their regular class.
- Have a multi-age celebration where volunteers and kids of all ages celebrate and study together. Teachers can

share teaching responsibilities, and older kids can serve as small group leaders and helpers.

- Create a family class where multiple generations share a breakfast or celebrate together.
- Have a family worship service where everyone attends the regular service. Get families involved in serving (collecting the offering, greeting...), and shorten the services to accommodate shorter attention spans.
- Call off classes. Provide your families with a pack of instructions for creating a special time of worship at home.

## What you should do

- Plan ahead for how you'll handle high-energy kids and a smaller adult team. Have plenty of options for kids,

such as crafts, games, and more to keep them engaged.

- Strongly consider an alternative plan if you know you'll be overwhelmed.
- Ask for help. Often just asking will result in more help than you need.

## What you should not do

- Don't waste your time getting angry with people who aren't there to help you.
- Don't assume that everything's going to go wrong. Instead, plan to have an enjoyable time with kids, and let them know upfront that you expect their best behavior on this special day.
- Don't assemble a team of extra help and then not utilize those people. Doing so will make it difficult in the future to get help because people will assume you don't really need it.

From: *The Quick Guide to Discipline for Children's Ministry. 101 Good Ideas for Bad Behavior.* Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2009

## KIDS & FAMILY

BY RAINER WANITSCHKE,  
EUD FAMILY MINISTRIES



### Our family gates—The 10<sup>th</sup> gate: The Miphkad Gate

With this article, we close our journey along the wall of Jerusalem, along the 10 gates mentioned during the year. Gates that describe a walk through our entire spiritual and family life until the return of Jesus Christ.

The last of our gates is the Miphkad Gate, also called the "Gate of Retribution," which wants to remind us of the reward we will receive when Jesus returns. God has promised us a reward: eternal life in God's new world—at His return. However, the gate should already now remind us of God's generosity and mercy: He wants to give us presents again and again!

But the gate also reminds us that it will only be given to the one who has completely entrusted his life to God (through my personal handing over to him during his lifetime). Whoever has not done so, will not only end up empty-handed, but will literally lose everything. It is the same in our family life: through all the before mentioned gates with their symbolic power, Jesus wants to give us a successful family life. If we practice the "Gates", our homes will be a place where we can meet with pleasure and receive strength, comfort and joy. Thus, family is a real home in the sense of our Creator.

A transfer into our family life in the sense of the Miphkad Gate, we have gladly made with our children on Friday evenings to begin the Sabbath. After the family worship and prayer together, there was always a little something, a "Sabbath surprise": sometimes something sweet, or a game, or something self-made, etc. Since we did this every Sabbath, this moment was already longed for during the week by us as a family. The anticipation was a great encouragement for everyone—and still is.

This brings us to the end of our transmission of the gates of Jerusalem from the time of Nehemiah for our family life: First, we looked at the Sheep Gate (through the sacrificial death of Jesus we are reconciled with God - grace marks our togetherness in the family). The fish gate opened our eyes to everyone in the family. The Old Gate made us love God's Word and gives us the basis for our future togetherness. Valley Gate, Dung Gate, Spring Gate, Water Gate and Horse Gate help us to maintain and nurture our relationships in our daily interaction. East Gate and Retribution Gate help us to keep our eyes on Jesus.

One more thought: If you read the story in the book of Nehemiah, you will

notice that it does not simply say: "and many people repaired the wall". No, every person who worked on the wall is listed there. God had all the names written down to tell us that it depends on everyone in the family! Just as God cared about every single person back then, every single person in the family is equally important today - because we care about God: No matter if big or small, dad or mom, boy or girl, everyone in the family is needed for a successful togetherness. Nothing is done in vain. So don't lose courage to let family members be more important than anything else.

And finally: Nehemiah was ready when God opened the door. He gave up his high position in the royal court and took great risks. And his mission was successful: after 52 days the wall was rebuilt (Neh. 6:15).

Is there a broken wall in your family life? Are you alone trying to repair this wall again? Like Nehemiah, you will need help. First, ask God for help. Then find your family members, present your life together to God in prayer and ask Jesus for help. And if everyone participates ... your family life will be a safe place. And remember: "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)



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## KNOWING YOUR WHY

Endurance requires clarity. If you plan to be used by God to advance His kingdom, it's necessary to have a clear understanding of not only what you do, but also why you do it..

From: Bealer, J. & McClain, G.: "Don't Quit." Orange, Cumming, GA, USA, 2017

## QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

### A nativity picture box

#### Bible Story

- The birth of Jesus—Luke 2:1-40

#### Things you need:

- A shoe box
- A pile of old Christmas cards
- Double sided adhesive tape
- Adhesive tape
- Scissors
- Yellow drinking straws or real straw

#### Worship activities

1. Tell your child the story of the birth of Jesus.
2. Cut down two adjacent corners of the shoe box so that one long side of the box becomes a flap. Fold this flap in half lengthways to form a long roof.
3. Lay the box down on its uncut long side and trim the two short sides at an angle toward the roof.
4. If any of this cutting has destabilized the box, restick it with adhesive tape.
5. Lay double-sided adhesive tape non the roof section and cover it with straw or yellow drinking straws, cut to size, to make a thatched roof.
6. Cut figures out of the Christmas cards to create your own nativity scene. Be sure to cut an inch-long flap at the base of the figures to

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

Luke 2:10-12

that it can be glued on position with the double-sided tape.

7. Arrange the figures in the box and glue them in place.
8. Thank God for sending Jesus as a special present to the earth.

#### Another option:

Use a purchased nativity set and let your child add one figure a day. As each figure is added, tell your child about the role of that character in the Bible story.



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#### Just for you

Think about the nativity story from the perspective of the different characters. What new insights does that offer you?

## Experiment #9: Reconnected through the cross

But now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

This simple experiment can be used as a powerful illustration of the role of Jesus to bring sinners back to God, re-establishing the connection that was lost because of sin.

**Materials:** a soft graphite pencil, a sheet of white paper, a 9-volt battery, a 5mm LED mini lamp, tape.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Safety gear:** This experiment does not require using any dangerous substances.

**Values:** Christ is the bridge that reunites us with God.

**Procedure:**

Tell your audience that you are going to illustrate the story of salvation using a battery and a LED mini lamp.

1. Take the 9-volt battery in one hand and the 5mm LED mini lamp in the other hand. Explain: *This battery represents God. He is the source of all life. When He created Adam and Eve, represented by this lamp, He planned for them to be always connected to Him, so they could enjoy life and happiness forever.*
2. Connect the legs of the LED mini lamp to the terminals of the battery. The lamp will start glowing. Keep explaining: *For a while, Adam and Eve stayed connected to God and enjoyed His light in their lives. But one day, after being tempted by the serpent, they stopped trusting God and decided to leave Him and go on their own.*
3. Separate the LED lamp from the battery. The light will go off. Explain: *Since then, humanity lived away from God and their lives were sad and dark. They got so used to the darkness that did not know what*

*the light looked like or how to go back. But God loved his children very much and did not give up on them. He designed a plan to reconnect with them.*

4. On the paper sheet, draw the shape of a cross, but with gaps at the base and at the top. The base of the cross should be as wide as the two terminals of the battery. Make the lines thick. While drawing, you can keep talking: *God's plan was risky and involved a huge sacrifice. He himself would come to Earth in human form to show people the way back to the light. He would live and die as a human to be able to reconnect with them.*
5. Keep drawing the cross shape until you have thick, strong, shiny black lines. Then, open the legs of the LED mini lamp and tape them in place, touching the two sides of the top of the cross. The longer leg is "+", the shorter is "-". Place the battery at the base of the cross, making sure that the "+" and "-" terminals match the LED legs. The light should shine, although the brightness will be much lower than before. Finish your explanation: *The life and death of Jesus allows us to reconnect with God. When we have faith in Jesus we can enjoy his company and reflect his light, yet imperfectly. But this is not all, the plan is still in progress. Soon Jesus will come back to take us with him so we can go back to the original connection and fully shine as we were meant to.*



**The Science Behind The Experiment:**

The battery supplies an electrical current to light up the LED mini lamp but only if they are connected through a conductive material. Metals like copper are good conductors and that is why most wires are made of metal. But there are other conductive materials, such as graphite, which makes up the lead of the pencil. That is the reason why the electricity from the battery can travel through the cross drawing and reach the LED lamp. Because graphite is not a great conductor, the light is not too bright.

Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute  
Director of the European  
Branch Office



## Children's Declarations



## CORENTIN (7 YEARS)

Mummy, is God the Santa Claus for adults?

From: Perles d'enfants 2010. Editions 365, Paris, France, 2009



# From the HANDBOOK

## on Children's Ministries

### Teacher Appreciation

Martyrdom is an enduring tradition among Christians. In the old days it was done by branding iron, thumbscrew, and the rack. Today, many church ministries martyr their own workers by lack of encouragement, no training, and nonexistent support. (...)

One problem that many workers face is the lack of importance that a congregation attaches to the children's ministry. Even parents are inclined to view children's programs as mere baby-sitting. The adult classes seem to be where the action is in Christian education. If the status of the children's ministry was raised in the eyes of administrators and members, it would be easier to attract and retain qualified workers. (...)

Other reasons for the low status of children's workers are, first, the typical recruitment procedure ("It's just for today—you're my last hope!") and, second, the typical training program ("It's just baby-sitting—anybody can

do it!"). Ministry leaders need to know that a worker will perform at the same level of professionalism with which he or she was recruited. (...)

Yearly reviews tell the worker that he or she is accountable for performance of an important ministry. Continuing support and encouragement tell the worker he or she is appreciated.

The annual teacher appreciation dinner is certainly a nice touch—but it is not enough. A church that truly appreciates its children's workers finds ways to recognize their contributions and support their efforts throughout the year:

- Teacher appreciation dinners must not be potluck meals. Honorees shouldn't be expected to bring their own casseroles.
- Awards should be tangible. Certificates, pins, and plaques are nice, but a gift certificate for dinner at a local restaurant is better.

- Length of service should be agreed upon at the point of recruitment. Nobody likes to feel chained to a job for life.
- Curriculum materials and other resources must be provided by the church. Administrators who attest to the importance of the children's ministry must put their money where their mouths are.
- Workers should be included in decision making.

Churches that want to attract and retain qualified workers do well to offer their recruits and mainstays a helping hand, a word of encouragement, and a pat on the back. Even workers who glean tremendous satisfaction from serving children can resent being taken advantage of by a ministry that puts them in a position and forgets about them until they quit. No person should take on a ministry because of the recognition and status it will bestow; but everyone needs a little appreciation now and then.

From: Choun, R. & Lawson, M.: *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 2002

### PARENTING TEENS

#### Rules for parents ...

**Provide security, love and acceptance.** Teens need security in a relationship that doesn't change with circumstances. Teens need to know that even through misunderstandings and differences, their relationships with their parents are never broken—no matter what.

**Letting go.** Mature love for a teenager means that Mother and Father are ready to share in the life and growth of their child and to release that growing person into an ever-enlarging sphere of existence.

#### Rules for parents ...

**Provide a model of a happy marriage.** Teens need to see parents expressing their love for one another—daily. During the tumultuous years of adolescence, a teen needs the attention of both a mother and a father.

#### Parental rights vs. teen privileges

**Parents have the right to dissuade their teen from associating with questionable friends.** Nevertheless, irrational

disapproval will make forbidden friends even more desirable.

**Parents have the right to refuse their teen the use of the family car when the parental needs supersede his, or for any other logical reason.** Your teen will have unlimited rights to a car only when he or she has bought his or her own.

**Parents have the right to control all incoming and outgoing phone calls from all telephones installed and maintained at their expense.** Consistently enforced ground rules are needed.

**Parents have the right to deprive their teen of privileges he or she has not earned.** Teens must keep their side of the bargain!

**Parents have the right to expect their teen to do his or her best in school.** On the other hand, parents have no right to inflict unrealistic expectations on their teens.

**Parents have the right to set standards concerning their teen's appearance.** Parents must realize, however, that any campaign designed to thwart the teen who is bent on looking like everyone else is most assuredly doomed.



Parents must understand that an adolescent changes the way he or she looks and dresses in order to differ from their parents, to be conspicuous, and then to fade into the crowd of his or her peers.

**If there is a moral issue....** Take a firm stand. For example, a suggestive dress or a lack of underclothing. Teen girls do not yet have the knowledge and wisdom to understand how their clothing affects males. They are not stimulated by the appearance of men, so they cannot fathom how men are affected.

**Parents have the right to monitor the type of music being played in the home.** But the word is *monitor*. Accept as a fact that if you try to restrict a teen from listening to the music of his or her generation, he or she is going to break loose.

From: Van Pelt, N.: *Parenting Teens*. Autumn House Publications, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK, 2009



# SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



## Season's Recipes to enjoy with children

### Christmas banana bread (vegan)



#### Ingredients

- 175 g soft light brown sugar
- 250 g plain flour
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 100 ml water
- 100 ml maple syrup
- 100 ml sunflower oil
- 2 very ripe bananas mashed
- 50 g mixed dried fruit
- 50 g dried cranberries

#### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (fan)/200°C/gas mark 6. Grease and base line a 1kg loaf tin with a sheet of baking parchment.
2. Add 175g soft brown sugar, 250g plain flour, 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda, 1 tsp mixed spice and 1 tsp ground cinnamon to a large bowl. Whisk gently until thoroughly combined.
3. Place 100ml water, 100ml maple syrup and 100ml sunflower oil into a small saucepan and bring to the boil, stirring constantly so that it doesn't burn. As soon as it's just boiling pour it over the dry ingredients and stir well until combined.
4. Stir in the 2 mashed bananas, 50g mixed dried fruit and 50g dried cranberries
5. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes turning the tin around halfway until well risen and firm to the touch.
6. Allow to cool in the tin.

By Mandy Mazliah

on: <https://www.sneakyveg.com/christmas-spiced-cranberry-banana-loaf-vegan/>

### 3 ingredient Christmas cake



#### Ingredients

- 1 kg mixed dried fruit
- 3 cups chocolate flavoured milk
- 2 cups self-raising flour

#### Instructions

1. Place dried fruit in a bowl and pour over chocolate milk. Cover with cling

film and place in the refrigerator overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a 20cm round cake tin with baking paper and set aside. Sift self-raising flour over the soaked fruit and stir the mixture until combined.
3. Pour mixture into lined tin and place in the oven for 2 1/2 hours.
4. Check the oven each hour to make sure that the top isn't burning. If you think it will burn then make a cartouche (ring of baking paper) and place on top of the cake. Continue to cook until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/3-ingredient-christmas-cake-recipe/13v3l8ny?r=collection/christmasrecipesforkids&c=nf61ss9l/Christmas%20recipes%20for%20kids>

### Mini fruit mince pies



#### Ingredients

- 175g butter, softened
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 1 egg, plus 1 extra egg, beaten
- 2 cups plain flour
- 410g fruit mince
- 1 small green apple, peeled and grated
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp cinnamon sugar

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan forced. Grease a 12-hole mini-muffin pan. Place butter and icing sugar in a food processor and process for 2-3 minutes, until combined.
2. Add egg and process for 30 seconds. Add flour and process in short bursts until mixture comes together, scraping down the sides of the bowl.
3. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and bring together, kneading lightly.

Divide pastry into two. Roll out one portion of dough on a lightly floured surface till 3mm thick, cut 12 x 7½ cm circles.

4. Ease into muffin pan. Work quickly with the pastry so it doesn't become soft and hard to handle. If the weather is warm, chill the pastry for 10 mins before rolling it out.
5. In a medium bowl, combine fruit mince with apple and cinnamon. Fill each pastry case with fruit mince mixture, piling it high.
6. Roll out remaining pastry on a lightly floured surface until 3mm thick. Cut out 12 x 6cm rounds. Place the rounds onto the filled tarts, securing the edges. Chill for 10 mins.
7. Brush tops with extra beaten egg, sprinkle with cinnamon sugar, then bake for 25 mins until tops are golden.

#### Notes

- Work quickly with the pastry so it doesn't become soft and hard to handle. If the weather is warm, chill the pastry for 10 mins before rolling it out.
- This is already a really easy mince pie recipe to make – but if you're short on time, you could make it even easier by using frozen shortcrust pastry sheets.

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/mini-christmas-fruit-mince-pies-recipe/cg59ep-dg?r=collection/christmasrecipesforkids&c=nf61ss9l/Christmas%20recipes%20for%20kids>



# SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



Season's Recipes to enjoy with children

## Winter morning glory muffin



### Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 1/4 cup wheat bran
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1/3 cup coconut palm sugar OR brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/4 cup oil (mild flavoured)
- 1/2 cup milk (dairy or unsweetened alternative)
- 2 T orange juice
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup pepitas (hulled pumpkin seeds) or nuts, chopped small
- 1 cup mandarin orange 'tidbits' (about 2 large or 3 small mandarin oranges)
- 1 cup finely shredded carrots

### Instructions

1. Mix all dry ingredients in medium bowl.
2. Mix wet ingredients in small bowl.
3. Create a well in the middle of the dry ingredients and pour wet ingredients into it.
4. Stir until just combined.
5. Fold in raisins, seeds, orange tidbits, and carrots.
6. Fill muffin tins nearly to the top (makes approximately 16 muffins).
7. Bake at 200 degrees in lined or greased regular size muffin tins for 18 – 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

By Kendra

on: <http://www.simplyputmama.com/kids-healthy-morning-glory-muffins-winter-edition/>

## Coconut & banana fudge



### Ingredients

- 3 cups coconut flakes
- 1 medium banana
- 2 ounces of sprinkles (optional)

### Instructions

1. Place the shredded coconut in a high speed blender and blitz until it reaches a butter consistency. If you are having difficulty getting it to blend try adding a small dash of coconut milk or melted coconut oil to get it moving.
2. Add the banana and blitz again until combined.
3. Spoon the mixture into a small dish lined with parchment paper. Top with sprinkles if desired and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours or until the fudge has hardened.
4. Serve immediately or store in the fridge for up to 5 days in an airtight container.

By Ciara Attwell

on: <https://www.myfussyeater.com/healthy-coconut-banana-christmas-fudge/>

## Chocolate mint fudge



### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups milk chocolate melts
- 1 1/2 cups white chocolate melts
- 1 tin sweetened condensed milk
- 3 drops peppermint essence
- 2 drops green food colouring (liquid)

### Instructions

1. Line a square slice tin with foil.
2. Put the milk chocolate melts in a glass bowl and add half the tin of sweetened condensed milk. Melt it all in the microwave in 30 second bursts, stirring in between.
3. Now put the white chocolate melts in a glass bowl and add the remaining half of the sweetened condensed milk. Melt it all in the microwave in 30 second bursts, stirring in between.

4. Add a few drops of peppermint essence and a few drops of green food colouring to the white chocolate mix. Stir until it is all well combined.
5. Now get the slice tin and place alternate blobs of the green peppermint mixture and the milk chocolate mixture into the base of the tin until it's all covered. Keep going, alternately blobbing the mixtures into the tin until you've used it all up.
6. Shake the tin to distribute the mixture more evenly across the base. Use a butter knife to create swirling patterns throughout the mixture until it's all combined and swirly.
7. Refrigerate for three hours or overnight.
8. Cut into small squares and serve.

### Notes

- You can use dark chocolate melts if you want a richer choc mint taste.
- Cut this into small squares as it is quite rich.
- Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to one week.

By Penny Flanagan

on: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/chocolate-mint-fudge-recipe/ojpp95r3?r=collection/christmasrecipesforkids&c=nf61ss9l/Christmas%20recipes%20for%20kids>



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News from the Bulgarian Union

### Noah and Covid-19



#### What does Patriarch Noah have in common with the pandemic and the children?

When we talk about Noah, there are some things which always come to our minds - the ship, the rain, the animals going into in pairs, Noah's family, the storm ... Maybe such a storm is the pandemic we are suffering from at the moment. I will try to tell you about the common things between Noah, the pandemic and the children from Bulgaria.

To us, the people in Bulgaria, God often gives long and warm autumns. This autumn was not an exception; we enjoyed cloudless and sunny days when we could go out. Life went on like there was no pandemic. Then the girls from the Children's Ministries Department had the idea to use this series of good days and to host the Children's Conference postponed from the spring. Taking advantage of the fact that people were not afraid at that time, we decided to gather the children and parents for another unforgettable children's event. All the necessary materials were available, and the place was familiar to all who traditionally participate in these children's conferences. So, on a sunny morning of October 24, 2020, mums and dads, kids and friends set off from all over Bulgaria for another, probably the last for this year, Sabbath event. The children from Kyustendil arrived by bus that was rented for that occasion. You can imagine how happy and excited the children were on the bus, knowing what awaits them in the town of Pazardzhik!



### The atmosphere

#### The town of Pazardzhik, the small park in front of the church



I always feel deep and extraordinary joy when I see brothers and sisters gathered together, especially while sharing the peace and comfort of the Sabbath. And when these brothers and sisters are young mums and dads and little kids waiting for new adventures, my joy is complete. When we arrived, I found exactly this picture in front of my eyes. The sun was shining, it was quiet and it smelt of autumn leaves. The children were jumping around us and the organizers were rushing around until the last moment, wanting to make everything perfectly well.



### The beginning

#### This year's motto was "An adventure with Noah."

These conferences are always marked by an interesting biblical topic, which the organizers unfold in various activities and games aimed at leaving a mark in the minds of children. This time they were in-



vited to the church hall to learn more about Noah's story and prepare for the upcoming experience. The good thing about the local church in Pazardzhik is its well-arranged hall and that it is near to a small park, which the team of the Children's Ministry Department uses for the games.



### Let's not forget we are in a time of pandemic.

When it is warm and pleasant outside, we are healthy and see friends and relatives, it is the day for rest and we lack nothing, we can very easily forget that there is a virus around, an invisible enemy that enters our homes and bodies and causes severe damage. Fortunately, the organizers of the Children's Conference had taken care of our safety and everything was there—the disinfectants, the sanitary materials and most importantly, wonderfully made masks for children. Each mask featured an animal representing the ones that entered the ark with Noah. An interesting idea for the masks was that they could serve as "marks" according which the children were divided into teams. All the teams went around to meet the posts of the game.



### The games

If a story is not presented to children as a game, they understand only a small part of the message. Fortunately, this time they had the opportunity to participate in the so-called track - a game with



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News from the Bulgarian Union

different posts, where children listen to an interesting story, play a team game or make a souvenir. I will never stop admiring the enthusiasm of the volunteers and girls from the Children's ministry department team. This time we had eleven posts with different challenges! I asked several mothers, children and teenagers what they liked the most and what they will remember from this year's games.



*Joanna from Sofia:* "My daughter had a lot of fun, she is an only child and when she plays in a team she feels really good. So, the games in which the kids have to help each other and be together are our favourite."



*Victoria, 12 years old:* "I love children's conferences very much, but this year I felt a little grown up for the games and I didn't want to participate. However, I was immediately invited to help with one of the posts. This helped me to realize that I can do something positive and that it is not a problem to grow up and not be interested in children's activities. For the first time I was on the other side."



*Bogdan, 10 years old:* "Mum and Dad always take me to conferences. I like everything, both to make things and to play games with the other kids. This year I liked the interview the most. I was sitting in a chair answering questions."



Eleven posts made the story of Noah, the flood, the animals, the rainbow, and God's promises accessible and understandable to children. Messages such as "Together we will resist", "Don't give up!", "Let's be precise!", "Don't procrastinate", "Do what you are assigned!" were set up as team games in which the children participated personally. God's promise that we would never experience the flood again was illustrated by making a rainbow out of different coloured hands.



### Endless surprises

After the most delicious lunch for a child - an apple and a pizza, of course - I thought that we could now thank a lot and go to our hometowns. I was surprised to see that there were some more activities planned for the whole afternoon. The weather was great and this allowed the children to visit the small zoo near the city. A new game awaited them there, this time to get a closer look at some of the animals found in Noah's Ark. A bunch of gifts and souvenirs filled the hands of the little ones and their parents. In the late afternoon, it was time to say goodbye. We were a little tired, but happy after the unforgettable experiences.

### To sum up...

As I have already mentioned, children's games and participation in the experience of stories touch their minds and hearts most deeply. This principle is well known to all who work with children. However, the preparation of games of this type, with many posts and activities, requires excellent organization, many volunteers and a huge amount of materials for manual work. We are glad that we have all this and we are grateful to our God. We would also like to thank the team of the Children's Ministries Department for the courage, despite the conditions of a pandemic, to use the favourable time and to hold this children's conference. May God reward them richly!



Virginia Chirpanlieva  
Bulgarian Union





# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News from the Bulgarian Union

### Advent Calendars

*In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:14)*



It all started with the lockdown in March 2020 when everything was closed including the churches. For an adult it is not a problem to sanctify the Sabbath day by reading, listening and contemplating over God's word. But it is not the same with children. It is not easy for them to stay home and keep the Sabbath while overflowing with energy. Having in mind that not all parents had teaching skills or proper materials, CHM Bulgaria decided to make videos with Sabbath school lessons for every Sabbath of the lockdown period. The lessons followed the Gracelink pattern and consisted of readiness activities, Bible story, lesson application and craft. Few families took part in videoing the lessons. The video lessons helped the little ones not to miss the Sabbath school and not to lose their connection with the church and with God accordingly.

Here is what Tanya, an English teacher and a CHM teacher shares about her experience:

"My husband I together with our two daughters (9 and 6) were having a family worship one evening. The topic was serving God. At the end, I tried to motivate my children to serve God when surprisingly they asked me how this could happen when we were locked at home. I tried to convince them as well as myself that God would send somebody to knock on the door and ask for help if it was necessary. The very next day we didn't get a knock on the door as

we expected but we received a phone call from the Bulgarian CHM leader, Emi, asking my family to make one of the video lessons. We took the task so much to heart and we made much more than one video. We used puppets, costumes and decoration in order to make the lessons become alive before the children's eyes and so that the little viewers felt part of the story. We decided to share the videos not only with the children from the church but also with our Facebook friends. We did this only to find out that the videos were watched not only by children but by adults as well. After the lockdown, we continued recording short moral stories focused on the Bible truths. We used to post one video each Sabbath morning. Relatives, colleagues, friends and even people we did not know watched, liked, and commented our posts. Then a non-church friend advised us to create a YouTube channel so more people could watch our videos. And we did it.

It never occurred to me that I could preach God's truths to hundreds of people. We as a family have found a successful way to serve God by spreading the gospel via Facebook and YouTube."



The date is 27 November 2020 and Bulgaria is in a second lockdown. This time CHM came with the brilliant idea to make a video advent calendar. During this time of the year, children are so eager for Christmas to come. They cannot accept that Christmas is in lockdown. And they simply love advent calendars. But the CHM video calendar is far different from an ordinary advent calendar. It gives much more than a few grams of chocolate. It provides Jesus and quality time with the loved ones. Each video comprises of a Bible text related to the first coming of Jesus on the earth, a short explanation of the verses and a task to be completed by the whole family. The Bible verses reveal the story of Jesus starting from the prophecies about Him reaching to His birth. They are presented in a way that is appealing and easy to understand by children and people who have never opened the Bible. The tasks range from serious to funny – narrating or acting the nativity story, reading a Christ-

mas moral story, watching a movie for Jesus, singing a Christmas song, making a Christmas craft or card for someone, preparing a gift for a neighbor or a person in need, taking crazy photos with Christmas socks or masks, a night walk in town to see the Christmas decoration, baking cookies, drinking hot chocolate, ice skating, etc.

The Mavrodinov family (Tanya, Ilia, Raya and Christiana) accepted the opportunity to make the videos.

"We had just been wondering what Christmas stories to prepare for our non-believing friends – continues Tanya – when the CHM leader proposed us to make the video advent calendar. A few days before the beginning of December, we had to make twenty-four videos being the windows of an advent calendar. We had very short time but we had a passion to serve God. It was a great challenge for us. Although my husband is an IT specialist, he had to learn how to work with special video processing programs. Despite the many technical problems we had, including the burn out of a flash memory stick and a SD card with videos that had to be taken again, the work was also an abundant blessing. God gave us many experiences that showed us we had to do it in order to present our friend Jesus to families that don't know him. Moreover, this was an opportunity to teach our own children to live an unselfish life and to serve others."

December is a month when people are on Christmas tune. Notwithstanding the virus and all its negative consequences, people are looking for the holidays anyway. The video advent calendar is a wonderful opportunity to help them get to know the One whose birthday we are celebrating and to find out that Christmas is more than food and presents. And they can do all this while having fun as a family.

Jesus himself has instructed us: "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15. Jesus has a mission for us, "to go into all the world". However, how this can be achieved when all the world is locked? There isn't a better way to accomplish Jesus' command than to preach via video channels and social networks where the gospel is available just at a click.





# SEASON'S GREETINGS



Season's Greetings from the EUD CHM Team



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:13

*At the end of this year, we have experienced how fast things can change, even things we took for granted.*

*Many of us have struggled with the pandemic in one way or another, and are still struggling, especially during these special days.*

*Lets put our trust in God, who's able and willing to give us hope for every single day of this coming year 2021!*

Elsa & Regina

Your EUD Children's Ministries Team



## Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

# 2021



### January 6-16

#### 10 Days of Prayer

Join us in this prayer initiative - material is being prepared - contact your CHM Division Director

### March 20

#### Global Youth and Children's Day

DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS ALL PLANNED EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED. WE OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND INFORM ABOUT EVENTS AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

HELP US PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE AFFECTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BY THIS EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION.



# We Need to Create Online Content for Families

**Note of the editors:** *We are experiencing the second wave of Covid-19 with all the restrictions and limitations we already dealt with earlier this year. Many of our churches are probably closed, and we are faced with the challenge of dropping attention to Online events that might not be considered as relevant. The following article can help to get some hints and ideas for a different focus on preparing Online material and events in order to keep families connected.*

New research has revealed that parents and kids are spending more time watching content together at home.

Of course, a big part of this is due to Covid-19, but the research is showing that even after the virus passes, families are going to be spending more time viewing Online content together.

Over 3,000 parents were interviewed about watching content with their children. Over 75% of the parents surveyed said they watch Online content with their children several times a week.

Once the pandemic ends, 66% of parents expect the time they spend watching content with their kids will either stay the same or increase. More than half of parents (62%) said the most popular device for co-viewing are smart TVs.

YouTube Kids, Disney+ and PBS Kids are the most popular viewing channels. Here are the big platforms families are watching on together.

- YouTube Kids – 95%
- Disney+ – 75%
- PBS kids – 46%
- Kidstream – 22%
- Noggin – 21%
- Boomerang – 15%
- DreamWorks TV – 15%
- Hoopla – 15%

The families surveyed said that the kids are usually the deciding voice in what the family watches. As usual in most aspects of family life, the kids have great power when the family is making a decision.

Due to Covid-19, many ministries have started offering Online content for kids. The content is created specifically for kids. Which is a good thing...but what if someone decided to make the content geared not just for the kiddos, but for the parents and their kids to watch together?

We often talk about ways to help kids and parents grow together spiritually. I believe this would be a great way to help accomplish this. At this time, I am not aware of any churches or ministries that are doing this.

Here is what I envision for this:

- A format where kids and parents both actively participate. One intertwined with the other.
- Content where one is dependent on the other. Example—have kids say a key verse, then have parent say

the key verse and then both say it together.

- Icebreakers where kids and parents work together to deepen their relationships.
- Activities that parents and kids do together. Hands on and participatory.
- Promote it as a family activity. Parents must participate for it to work for their family.
- Lead kids and parents in a time of prayer where they pray for each other and other requests they may have.
- Make the videos 10 minutes or so.
- Have them do a project or activity during the week that ties into the lesson. Kids and parents would do this together.
- Make it live, but then also put it on demand so families are not just limited to one time slot.
- Use platforms like YouTube, Facebook, Zoom and others.

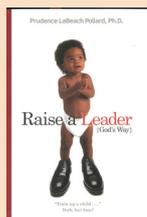
The entertainment world has been doing this for decades. Companies like Disney create movies that are aimed at kids and parents watching it together. Some of the best selling movies of all time have been movies aimed at kids and parents watching together.

I see so many possibilities with this. It might be a great way to really engage kids and parents together.

*Your turn.*

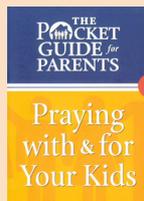
Taken from: Dale Hudson, <https://churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-articles/386609-we-need-to-create-online-content-for-families.html>

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



### RAISE A LEADER [GOD'S WAY] Prudence LaBeach Pollard, Ph.D.

Children require little more than food, water, and air to grow physically. But what are the ingredients necessary to nurture spiritual growth? to cultivate inborn qualities of leadership? to foster a living connection with God? Is there a formula, an equation, a checklist ... anything that spells out exactly what is needed and in what dosage? The principles found within these pages serve as reference points as you endeavor to raise your child to be all that God designed him or her to be.



### PRAYING WITH & FOR OUR KIDS Bethany House Publishers

Give your children the gift of prayer! As a parent, you have a great desire to make sure you give your children everything they need to succeed. One of the best ways you can do that is to pray for them regularly. Another great way is to teach them how to develop their own relationship with God through prayer. With this life skill, they will be able to navigate all the twists and turns that the future will surely bring their way! This book was designed to help you and your child in this task.



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