

# Kids NewsZONE

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Children's Ministries

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## Kids NewsZONE

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## MAKING A Difference

Children at the North Philippine Union Children's Congress sang the theme song with gusto and energy. "I Can Make a Difference wherever I may be; at home, at school, and in my community..." They sure mean every word of it! Can children really make a difference in their community, in the church, and in society? What can a child do to impact others?

John Kennedy once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." This resonates with the story I once read that tells of a man walking along the beach one day when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf.

Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for **that** one."



COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11, NKJV)



Yes, no matter how young or old we are, no matter where we are in our life, no matter how big our problems are, there is always a way to make a difference in somebody's life.

With their childlike faith, children and teens want to make a difference in their community especially during this pandemic. Many stories began popping up on the internet showing how children and teens use their imagination to change the world.

*A 5-year-old boy is a Superhero to the homeless with his Show Love campaign. Wearing a superhero cape, Austin, accompanied by his dad, spends his free time delivering food to the homeless.*

*9-year-old Kate Gilman Williams knew she had to do something to help endangered animals. She turned her passion for animals into a children's book that encourages kids all over the globe to be advocates for wild animals.*

<https://tinybeans.com/kids-changing-the-world-and-making-a-difference-right-now/>

10-year-old Jia's heart was touched when she met Mia, a poor girl whose home was destroyed by the typhoons and had to sell food on the streets to help the family. Jia decided to raise funds to help Mia, by selling "Young Living" products online. She hoped to raise enough money to help Mia's family build a small house.

Isn't it amazing what these pint-sized innovators are capable of achieving at such an early age? No wonder Jesus said that to enter the kingdom, we must be like a child who is joyful, humble, teachable, and trusting.

Let's lead our children in reaching out to others. Let's help them discover their gifts and talents so that they can use them to make a difference in the life of someone in their school, church, and community.

For of such is the kingdom of heaven!

*Linda Mei Lin Koh*  
GC Children's Ministries Director

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



## AROUND THE WORLD

### EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION Swahili Children's Songbook

ECD CHM initiated a project of producing a songbook for children in the Swahili language so that children can learn more about God and deepen their relationship with Jesus through songs.

On November 14, 2020, the first celebration was launched by children and church leaders of Northern Tanzania Union Conference. The union president, Dr. Lekundayo officiated the ceremony at Njiro SDA Church, Tanzania. The ceremony was climaxed by children's choirs and a powerful sermon given by Peter Cosmas, a child preacher. The song book in Swahili will serve all unions in the ECD territory where Swahili is spoken. More celebrations will be replicated in the other 13 unions as more translations of the Hymnal book into other languages will be completed.



▶ Children's leaders with children at the songbook dedication service.



▶ Union President, Dr. Lekundayo dedicating the Swahili songbook for children.



► Children in their ECD CHM uniforms rejoicing for their new songbook.

### Burundi Union Total Children Involvement Evangelism (TCI)

Following the ECD initiative of involving children in TCI evangelism, children's leaders, pastors, and church members worked hand in hand to organize evangelistic meetings throughout their union territory despite the COVID-19 pandemic. TCI evangelism and VBS were organized May 30 to June 30, and July 23 to August 7m 2021. Nothing could deter the enthusiasm of the children to participate in the Mission of the church. Children received some training and then led out in preaching, praise teams, running prayer sessions, and other responsibilities. Children were assigned different evangelistic sites, and many were actively involved. It was indeed a joy to see many children and adults accepting Jesus and were baptized making a total of 5,626 people new members in this union.

Apart from the evening evangelistic meetings, children also got involved in reaching out to the needy and sick children and families with their contributions of food, clothes, and money. They visited these homes, prayed with them, distributed literature, and invited people to their meetings. Yes, God can use children to be great witnesses for Him!



► Children reaching out to the needy and challenged children with their contributions.



► Prayer consecration by a child preacher.



► Burundi TCI baptismal candidates.

“ AND SAID, 'TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!' ”

(MATTHEW 18:3, NKJV)



► Children's choir performing during TCI Evangelism in Burundi.



► One TCI evangelistic site.

made in sharing God's word with those who attended night after night. At the end of the meetings, 71 people made their decision to be baptized. May God continue to bless these children who are using their gifts and talents for the Lord.

At another site, two siblings preached every night while another boy was signing the message for the deaf. Yes, even the deaf could hear the message of Jesus. Indeed, Children are using their gifts and talents to answer the call "I Will Go" to share the gospel with others.



► Candidates baptized at the Keumbu site.

### South Kenya Conference TCI Evangelism

Like others throughout ECD, South Kenya Conference launched its TCI evangelism in several sites involving children in preaching, prayer, leading song service, and others. The sites were well attended by many. The evangelism site in the town of Keumbu, two girls did something interesting.

Patience, aged 10, preached throughout the evangelistic meetings, while her friend Prispine, aged 11, did the running translation into Swahili. What a dynamic pair they



► Tabby & Jeff preaching during TCI evangelism.



► Patience and Prispine in TCI Evangelism.

### North-East Congo Union TCI Evangelism

TCI meetings were held from June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 26, 2021. The main speakers were children who really did a great job by allowing God to use them. God blessed the program even though meetings were done only in few parts of the country, the reasons being restrictions from the government because of COVID-19 Pandemic and the Nyiragongo volcano eruption that displaced many people and destabilized the population in Northeast Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In areas they managed to have TCI Evangelism, children were ready to preach, invite people and friends to attend



meetings, visit people in the neighborhood, sing at the meetings, and distribute literatures and other items. Results: 29 people got baptized.



► *NECUM TCI Evangelism – baptismal candidates.*

### World Orphans & Vulnerable Children’s Day in Local Churches

Local churches throughout ECD highlighted the importance of World Orphans & Vulnerable Children’s Day on November 20, 2021. Children packed food to distribute to orphans and other needy families. It was a great opportunity to involve children in reaching out to the less fortunate!



► *ECD children on world orphans day.*

## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION Jamaica Union Observes World Day of Prayer for Children At-Risk



► *Anique Bailey preaching a sermon in her church.*



► *Dr. Vernal, Jamaica Union CHM director offering a prayer.*

On May 22, 2021, all conferences in the Jamaica Union joined forces to observe the World Day of Prayer for Children At-Risk. This is a special day of prayer scheduled annually in May but has not been given the attention it deserves, according to Dr. Lorraine Vernal, Director of Children & Adolescent Ministries. So this year she and her leaders were intentional in highlighting this important Sabbath.

The Seventh-day Adventist church recognizes children are precious gifts from God entrusted to us to care and guide, but unfortunately, many of them are negatively impacted by many factors in their homes, communities, and societies. According to Dave Scott (2014) children-at-risk are persons under 18 who experience an intense and/or chronic risk factor, or a combination of risk factors in personal, environmental and/or relational domains that prevent them from pursuing and fulfilling their God-given potential.



► *Praise Team by children and adolescents.*

Under the theme “I will go with Jesus” the celebration was a mixture of praise and worship, education, bible study, preaching, panel discussion punctuated by prayers for children affected by various issues. Children and adolescents from across Jamaica hosted segments, used their talents for Jesus, preached the word and helped to create awareness of the ills affecting their peers. Special guests included divine hour speaker, Dr. Linda Koh, General Conference CHM director, Mrs. Dinorah Rivera IAD CHM director; Pastor Everett Brown (President) and Dr. Orlean Brown-Earle who presented on how children are impacted by factors which put them at risk.

The day was a resounding success and though virtual the membership was encouraged to pray in their homes and on the various platforms. The greatest thing that we can all do is to be intentional about praying, but more importantly, everyone must join forces to seek ways to relieve the plight of these children at risk.



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES. FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.



(MATTHEW 18:10, NKJV)

## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Glauca Clara reported that their work with children has not stopped during the pandemic. At SAD they just changed their services to virtual and social networks. But the mission continues intensely.

Sabbath School, some programs and events, and daily Bible reading (Revived by His Word) were all put on their social media for teachers, parents and kids (Facebook and Instagram). All programs were in Spanish and Portuguese.



▶ SAD videos.



▶ SAD Sabbath School Lesson.



▶ SAD Leadership training.

## SSD Children on God's Mission in Pandemic Times

During the pandemic, children in SSD were enthusiastic about reaching out to encourage and inspire other children for Jesus. Four of these children have set up their own online ministry.

Joatham and Joie from Philippines love preaching and speaking, and they participate in many conference and division online virtual programs. Joie especially appeared in many of the division videos to promote Enditnow, Stop Child Abuse, Global Children's Day, and Prayers for At-Risk Children campaigns.

Rhoda Pau from Myanmar loves singing and preaching, while Mia from Malaysia is simply passionate about conducting SS story telling. These children continue to reach other children through their online ministry.



▶ Joatham Grant Tigley (child preacher)



▶ Joie Mattias (speaker for virtual programs)



▶ Rhoda Pau (singer and preacher)



▶ Mia Allysandra (storyteller)

## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

### Central Philippine Union Launched Virtual VBS & Other Programs

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing was required in the Philippines, it did not prevent the CHM directors from planning virtual programs for children throughout their territory. Having witnessed the successful online VBS training conducted by North American Division's CHM in 2020, the leaders were inspired to replicate that in their union. So Central Philippine Union launched their first virtual VBS training on July 19, 23 and 24, 2021 using resource package *Cactusville: Called to Shine for Jesus*. It was a great success! They also celebrated Children's Sabbath on July 24, 2021 with special guest speaker, Brenda Walsh. Virtual training seems to be the order of the day.

### Division-wide 3P'S Online Training

Southern Asia-Pacific Division launched a two-day online 3P's training for pastors and children's leaders on August 26-27, 2021. This 3P's training is a children's protection program that stands for **Prepare, Protect, Preserve!** SSD Adventist Children's Ministries director, Orathai Chureson, joined forces with Ministerial Association and Adventist Risk Management to bring this important training to pastors and children's directors on the union and conference/mission levels of the church. Many resource speakers from the General Conference, North



American Division, South Pacific Division, and Adventist Risk Management were invited to present interesting and valuable topics on child abuse prevention. It was well attended by about two hundred leaders.



► SSD Division-wide 3P's Online Training for Pastors & Children's Leaders

### NPUK Leadership Certification

North Philippine Union Conference CHM director, Norlin Cadapan organized a union-wide virtual leadership certification program for all her children's leaders on October 1-2, 2021. It was well attended by about 200 leaders. Guest presenters were Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director, Dr. Orathai Chureson, SSD CHM director and retired SSD CHM director Dr. Miriam Andres. After each presentation there was a great deal of interaction during the Q & A time. There was beautiful music by the children from different conferences and missions. An excellent program which ended with a commitment service and the graduation. The graduates were proud of their achievement and training.



► NPUK Certification.



► Girls' trio from SLC.

### SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION Children's Sabbath Celebration

July 24, 2021 was a special day for children throughout the Southern Asia Division territory. All unions celebrated Children's Sabbath in their various churches. This is a special day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of highlighting and affirming the talents and gifts of children in our midst. It is a day set aside to celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. Children participated in the worship service preaching, singing, reading Scripture, and performing dramas. It was wonderful to witness how children are using their gifts and talents for Jesus.



► North East Indian Union.



► South Central India Union



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(PSALM 34:11, NKJV)



► South East India Union



► Western India Union

## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION Division-wide Leadership Certification

Omobonike Sessou, CHM director of the division organized two 3-day Leadership Certification training, August 26-28 and September 21-23, 2021, for her Children's Ministries leaders of the division. Courses from Level 9 and Level 10 were presented. Over two hundred children's leaders participated in these two virtual training programs, and they asked many good questions after each presentation. Presenters for Level 9 were Linda Koh General Conference CHM director, Sherri Uhrig (North American Division CHM director), two recently retired Children's Ministries directors, Dinorah Rivera (Inter-American Division), and Elsa Cozzi (Inter-European Division), and Tanya Muganda, administrative assistant to GC Children's Ministries.

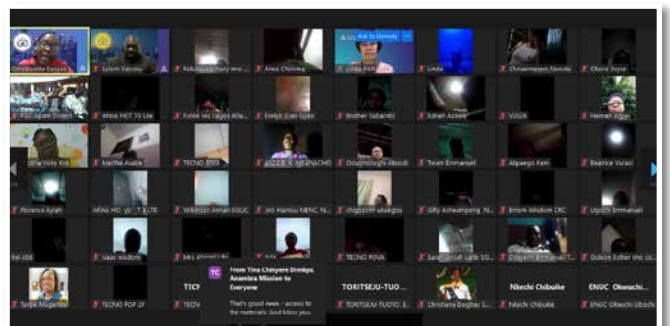
For Level 10 certification, presenters were Linda Koh, Saustin Mfunne (GC retired Associate CHM director), Clair Sanches (Trans-European Division retired CHM director, Amal Fawzy (Middle East & North Africa Union CHM liaison), Gerry Lopez (North American Division Associate CHM director). It was a wonderful experience for the participants to learn from leaders of other divisions. It was a well-organized training event!



► Nepal



► Surat – Bhatar Telegu Church



► Children's leaders attending the virtual certification program.





## 7 WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD OVERCOME SOCIAL ANXIETY

Children have been experiencing social anxiety at high levels. With an ongoing pandemic and social media, children have been exposed to many distractions. Sometimes children might not understand why they feel a certain way. It helps to be emotionally aware and to talk to them while helping them sort through their emotions.

Here are 7 ways to help your child overcome social anxiety as suggested by Ashley Cullins from the BigLifeJournal.

- 1. Connect with your child** – Use the PACE method: Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, and Empathy. These four reactions can help your child release some of the anxiety they have.
- 2. Teach your child about social anxiety** – Have open conversations with them about the reason anxiety exists – to keep us safe. Admit when you're nervous about something, do that thing (maybe even in front of your child), and report back to them how it went.
- 3. Prepare your child** – if you know a situation is coming up that could cause your child anxiety, prepare them. Detail what will happen, when, how people might respond, and what you'll be doing in the situation.
- 4. Focus on progress not perfection** – Help your child to focus on the process instead of the goal. Show them your own mistakes, and how much more you've learned from your mistakes than from achieving the goal. Remind them of the power of "YET." You're not an expert YET! So practice is the goal.
- 5. Learn when to step in and when to step back** – When a parent hovers an anxious child, it can make them more anxious – because they feel the parent's worry. Step back, but always be close by if they need you.
- 6. Teach coping techniques** – Teach your child some techniques that you can do together, and some that they can do when they don't have you. Example: deep breathing, drawing or counting.
- 7. Set aside a "worry time"** – Allow the child a "worry time". Set a timer for ten minutes, and let the worrying commence. At the end of "worrying time," work to find a coping technique to help your child through the scary experience they're anticipating.

In times of anxiety, children need God's word to help them overcome the disappointments of this world. In Philippians 4:6-7, it says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." God is the solution to anxiety and He gives peace to guard over our hearts and minds.

*"The only person you  
need to compare yourself  
with is who you were  
Yesterday."*

—Rushton Hurley

Accessed August 5, 2021 ([https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/help-children-overcome-social-anxiety-failure?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=3276d24e1&\\_ss=r&fbclid=IwAR3YrXFAA40wyQQcKxkcad7I-9M08Cuw7fjzu3soPZWUQr\\_5eJg-g4-e34Q](https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/help-children-overcome-social-anxiety-failure?_pos=1&_sid=3276d24e1&_ss=r&fbclid=IwAR3YrXFAA40wyQQcKxkcad7I-9M08Cuw7fjzu3soPZWUQr_5eJg-g4-e34Q))

Adapted by Tanya Muganda





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stirring up the heart of a child towards God

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