



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

James Young Simpson, Professor of Surgery at Edinburgh University, made one of the greatest medical discoveries of all time when he discovered chloroform which could render patients unconscious before surgery. The pain and extreme agony of surgery would no longer be necessary. Later on, when he was asked to name the greatest discovery he had ever made, he replied "My greatest discovery was to discover that I was a sinner and that Jesus Christ is mighty to SAVE." **The two greatest words in a Christian's vocabulary are JESUS SAVES.**

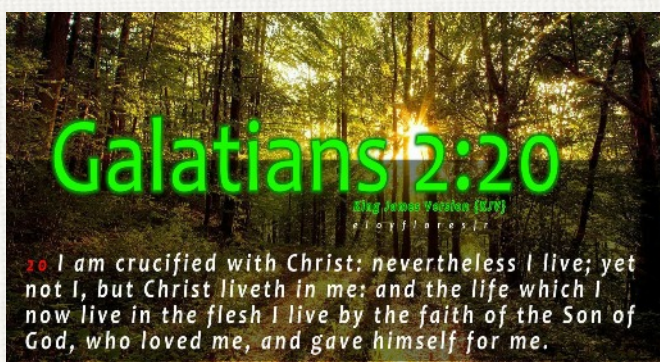
The Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, speaks to us, as we saw last month, and wants us to love Him and serve Him. To make this possible for us, He came to our earth to RECONCILE US (or bring us) to God (Colossians 1:20) and He did so by taking the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. (Colossians 1:21,22) When we put our trust in Him as our Saviour and Lord, **HE SAVES US** from God's punishment, because He has taken it, and we now

love Him, and serve Him. Like Paul, we know that "the Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20) **However, we are not qualified to serve Him unless we have, first of all, trusted Him.** Everyone who wants to teach the Word of God to children should ask themselves the question; "Have I personally trusted the Lord Jesus and asked Him to be my Saviour and Lord?"

I became a schoolteacher when I was 22 years old. One of my responsibilities was to teach the Bible to my students and I did my best. But how could I really teach God's Word if I did not really know it or the One of Whom it spoke? But, three months later, I heard the Gospel message clearly explained, and I discovered like James Simpson that I was a sinner and needed salvation, and I trusted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. The next morning, I shared with my class what I had done. Having believed and accepted the Good News I now felt qualified to share it with the children.



Welcome to the second issue of Mini-Mag –the four-page mini-magazine produced by ACEW to help children's workers around the world in their ministry to the boys and girls. If you retain each monthly issue as it appears and, at later date, put them all together, you will, we feel, have a storehouse of teaching, ideas, challenges, devotionals and information which, we trust, will help you in your ministry to children. You may want to print out copies to give your fellow-workers. We believe that there are many children's workers around the world (including CEF workers) who need, and would value, help and encouragement in their ministry to children; and we, in ACEW, want to provide these.



GOD THE SON SAVES US



Bible Study:

Last month we learned that, because the first man sinned, the whole human race is born DEAD - born physically and mentally alive but spiritually DEAD - and, as a result, separated by their sinful nature from a holy God.. We must remember that this includes, and is true of, children of all ages. They are ALL spiritually DEAD and will remain so, unless or until they receive new, spiritual life by trusting the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. That is why they need people like you and me to come to them and tell them how they can do this and be BORN AGAIN.

ALL children are born spiritually DEAD. But the Lord Jesus also speaks of them in Matthew 18:11-14 as LOST and describes them as sheep who have gone ASTRAY. The Lord Jesus is the Shepherd in these four verses; the sheepfold is, here, a picture of the Kingdom of God; and the lost sheep is a picture of a child.

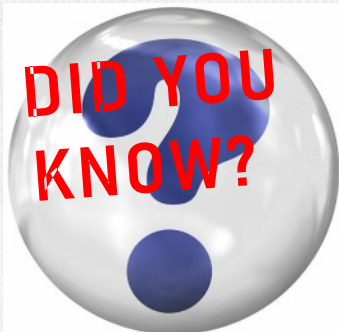
ALL children are LOST in the sense that they are born OUTSIDE that Kingdom and separated from God. Just as a child can be lost to-day, and far from his earthly home, ALL children are LOST spiritually and far from their Heavenly home. The Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who goes out onto the mountains to look for them, find

Understanding Children



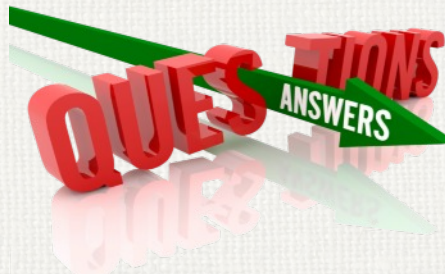
them, and bring them into His Kingdom, and He uses us, as His under-shepherds, to show these LOST sheep, who have gone ASTRAY, how they can, by trusting Him as Saviour, enter God's Kingdom and God's family, and, one day, their Heavenly home.

If you would like to study in more detail what the Bible teaches about children being lost and astray, and about their entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven, read pages 64-74 of "U can Know God's Plan for Children" and the eight page booklet on "God, Children and the Kingdom of Heaven! These are all available on the Internet at www.cefbookministry.com



- That ACEW have published a mini-library of six basic training manuals for children's workers, each with 100-120 pages, and that they have been translated and printed in a number of languages, including Burmese, French, Russian, Portuguese. Etc. They have been produced to help teachers of children (especially those who are less experienced) to be effective in their ministry to children. The six titles are "U-Can Know God's Plan for Children," "U-Can Evangelize Children," "U-Can Teach a Bible Lesson," "U-Can Lead Children to Christ," "U-Can Help Christian Children to Grow," and "U-Can Counsel a Christian Child."

They are available in English to you on the Internet at www.cefbookministry.com



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. "Could you show me how to find the central truth of the Bible passage or story on which my lesson is based?"

A. "I would suggest you study the passage and then write down the answers to the following five questions:

- Is there a truth which appears several times in the passage?
- Why has God put this passage in the Bible?
- What does the Holy Spirit especially TEACH YOU through this passage?
- What are the needs of your children?
- What truths have you previously taught?

Your answers should help you establish the central truth of the passage or story and the one which will be of greatest help to the children."

Your ministry:



Teaching Children

number of truths in a 15-minute lesson based on a Bible passage or story. You can say or state several truths; but saying and stating are not the same as teaching. Also it is equally difficult, and equally impossible, for children to understand a number of truths all being “taught” at the same time; and this is especially true of many children today who have little or no acquaintance with such truths.

QUESTION: “Is the teaching of children a gift we receive from God, or is it an ability we need to develop?”

ANSWER: “It is both. It is God Who calls us and guides us into this ministry (Ephesians 4:11, 12), and it is God Who gives us the ability for it. However it is our responsibility to study, train and prepare ourselves for this ministry—and to “stir up” the gift we have received.” (2 Timothy 1:6)

Teaching is an art, like playing a musical instrument, which needs to be learned and developed, and we who are called to teach must learn how to master that art. Like any other art, teaching is governed by a number of principles and it is our responsibility, with God’s help and guidance, to know these principles and put them into practice. One of the most important of those principles is the **PRINCIPLE OF CONCENTRATION**. However, it is probably the most neglected of all the principles. If you neglect it or disobey it, I believe that your teaching of the children could suffer. **The more you try to teach at any one time, the less you will teach.** It is better to teach one truth and teach it well. It is difficult, even impossible, for you, as a teacher, to TEACH a

It is obvious, therefore, that what you can TEACH in one relatively short Bible lesson is limited. Therefore, if you want your teaching to be effective, **you should concentrate your teaching on ONE SPECIFIC TRUTH, and teach it and apply it thoroughly TO ALL THE CHILDREN in your group.** First of all, you need to study, carefully and prayerfully, the Bible passage on which your lesson or story is based and ask yourself “What is the most important fact or truth which God wants us to understand from this passage?” and “What is the central truth of this passage?” You want the children to understand THAT truth; therefore, your lesson will be based on it. You will, of course, MENTION and include other truths if they help you teach this one central truth, but you are not trying to teach these other truths.

However, there may be teachers who, with the best intent and purpose, still try to teach 3, 4, 5, or even 6, truths in a Bible lesson. Their zeal is good, their motives and goals are good, but I believe that their teaching could be much more effective, if they based it on the PRINCIPLE OF CONCENTRATION, and taught one truth really well.

**thank
ACEW you!**

Comments from those who
have used our publications

“Thank you for your partnership in making these books available. Many teachers have been blessed, children’s lives have been changed, and God has been glorified.” (Poland)

“Thank you for the teaching materials which God has blessed, and used to change children’s lives.” (Kenya)

“Through your valuable literature we have reached several thousands of children in our area.” (India)

“Thank you for your books. They have been a great help for me and for the children.” (From a city in China)

**HELP
WANTED?**

ACEW CAN HELP YOU

Gain further insight on the subject of teaching one truth well by downloading the booklet “Top Tip for Teachers” and the training manual “The Principles of Teaching” in chapter 9.

All these are available to download from
the Internet at

www.CEFBookMinistry.com

History of Children's Evangelism:

J. IRVIN OVERHOLTZER was the middle-aged pastor of a small church in California in the early years of the 20th century. He purchased a 24 volume set of Charles Spurgeons's sermons and, when reading them, came across a sentence which read "A child of five, if properly instructed, can as readily believe and be regenerated as an adult." He read it in unbelief; but, at the same time, he was challenged by it, and he started to evangelize children to see if such a statement could be true. He discovered, after some time, that it was true; and God led him to leave the pastorate and concentrate on evangelizing children of all ages. He challenged others to join him and he started "Home Bible Classes" for children and training

programmes for their teachers. Mr O (as he became known) then travelled all over USA and shared his vision with many. In 1937 he founded the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. He next travelled to South America and started the work there. In the years which followed, the ministry of CEF spread all over the world and has over 3000 full time workers to-day (including us in the ACEW team for many years) reaching over 25 million children each year with the Gospel. And it all started when God called a 60-year-old man, who was not a gifted preacher and had no degree in theology, to reach the world's children.

WE SALUTE YOU MR O AND WELCOME YOU INTO OUR HALL OF FAME. WHAT AN EXAMPLE YOU HAVE BEEN FOR US



The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

Teaching is the greatest, most exciting and most rewarding occupation and ministry in the world. And it is a special privilege and joy when we get the opportunity to teach the Word of God to children. We all want to be the very best teachers we can be. We should always be learning and improving, and, if necessary, we should be willing and ready to change how we are teaching if we can find a better way to do so. **So, make it your goal to be a BETTER TEACHER by moving onward and upward.**

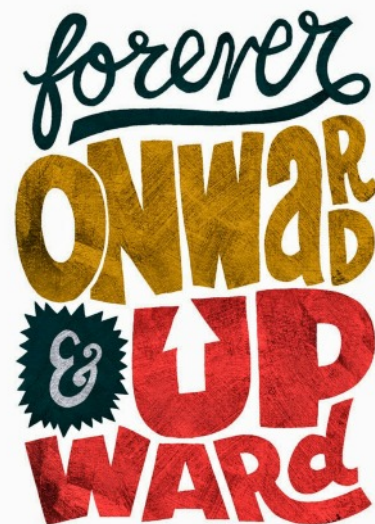
I have taught God's Word to children for many years. I have always wanted to teach them as much as I could in every Bible lesson I taught. As a result, during many of those years, my aim was to teach the children seven truths in every lesson – six Gospel truths for the unsaved children and one quite separate truth for the saved children. It was a simple and easy method to follow because the six Gospel truths were the same in every lesson, and God did bless its use. But I began to see and recognize two problems. Firstly, it was difficult for me to TEACH six or seven truths in one lesson. Saying truths is not teaching them. Secondly, it was difficult for children to learn and absorb a number of truths in one lesson, especially when they had no Bible background or knowledge. Over a period of months, I prayed and thought about a solution, and I finally concluded that I should teach ONE TRUTH in each lesson,

teach that truth really well, and apply IT to the unsaved children and also to the saved children.

ONE TRUTH-- TWO APPLICATIONS.

I found this method to be based on good teaching principles, that it avoided the two problems above, that it was an

effective way to evangelize the unsaved children and help the saved children to grow, that it ensured that each lesson was unified around the teaching of one truth, and that it enabled me to mention other truths if they helped me teach or apply the one central truth. I am glad that I identified, what was for me, a better and more effective way to teach a Bible lesson and that I was willing to make the necessary changes to enable me to do so. I have since found many others who have come to the same conclusion and made the same changes.



The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Director of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.

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