



## *Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide*

### *Devotional:*

We saw, last month, that our salvation is like an umbrella, with its many spokes. Your salvation, purchased by God the Son, when He died on the Cross, consists of a number of key truths or divine operations. The first of these, we saw, was **JUSTIFICATION**. The moment you trusted God the Son as your Saviour, God the Father justified you and **DECLARED** you as righteous, because His Son had taken the punishment for your sin and His righteousness had been put "into your account." But justification is a **DECLARATION**. It is not an experience. Justification changes your position before God; but it does not change you. However, at the same moment you trusted Christ and were justified, the Bible says that God the Holy Spirit **REGENERATED** you. (Titus 3:5) **Through REGENERATION, He gave you new life and He made you a**

**new person.** You were now born again. This is what the Lord Jesus taught Nicodemus in John chapter 3. He told him that, to be saved and enter the Kingdom of Heaven, he needed to be "born again" or "born for the second time", and that this spiritual birth would happen when he trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. (John 3:16) If you have trusted Christ, you are, through the **EXPERIENCE** of regeneration, a new person with new life and a new nature. The old nature is still there but a mighty change has begun in you.

**What a wonderful salvation! You are JUSTIFIED with a new position before God and you are REGENERATED with a new life and a new nature.**



Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the ACEW Mini-Mag. (You can receive the first three copies on the internet to help you accumulate all the pages you need for your eventual "Maxi-Magazine for Children's Evangelists".)

The goal of ACEW during the last 25 years of our existence has been, as our title says, to assist children's evangelists and teachers all over the world in their ministry. We have done so by providing many thousands of children's workers with devotional manuals, training manuals, visualised doctrinal lessons and helpful booklets **FREE OF CHARGE** in their own language. Many of them are available for you on the internet at [www.cefbokministry.com](http://www.cefbokministry.com).



# *GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATED US*

### Bible Study:

We have seen, so far, from the Word of God, that ALL children are born spiritually DEAD, and they are ALL LOST in the sense of being outside the Kingdom of God. If, or when, they trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour they will receive spiritual life and they will enter God's Kingdom. We also saw that infants and little children, who have no understanding of sin and have not reached an age when they can knowingly trust (or reject) Jesus Christ, are not seen by God as accountable, and are not lost therefore in the sense of condemnation. **The Bible makes it clear that there is an AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY** --an age when a child comes to understand what sin is and is able to reject and disobey God; (Deut 1:39; Isaiah 7:16 Jonah 4:11) and we are sure that our God of love would never condemn a person who was NOT GUILTY. If a child dies before he reaches that age of accountability, he will therefore go to Heaven through a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. David, for example, was sure that his infant son who had just died was with the Lord and that he would see him again. (2 Samuel 12; 22, 23)

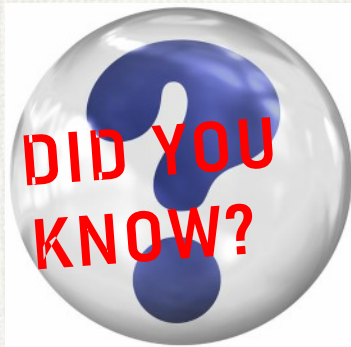
The problem is that we do not know when this age is. It varies from child to child. But we should certainly not set it at 13 or 14, as some do, or at any other age. It could be earlier than many believe. Experience shows us that children, even young children, can have real conviction of sin. Childhood is not always the period of innocence which many Christians feel it to be. **ALL children need to hear the Gospel message of salvation.** Those who have reached the age of accountability need to know how they can have their

## Understanding Children



sins forgiven and a changed life. Little ones need to be taught the message so they will know what to do when they reach that age. Many Scriptures like John 3:18, 19, show that ALL those who have not believed and have deliberately rejected Jesus Christ are condemned. If a child is old enough to be convicted of sin and deliberately rejects Jesus Christ, he/she is condemned and separated from God. That is why it is vital that we evangelize them and lead them to Jesus Christ. ALL children (accountable or not accountable) need to know that, and how, they can be saved from God's condemnation by trusting the Lord Jesus.

**MAY GOD CHALLENGE US AND HELP US TO OBEY HIS SON'S COMMAND TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE (MARK 16:15)**



- That ACEW has produced a series of fifty two 8-page booklets entitled Biblical Principles for Life and Service.
- That each of these booklets deals with ONE subject which is of great importance to all workers among children.
- That the subjects include "Feed My Lambs" "Children and Evangelism" and "Why Pray When You Can Worry."
- That you can view all these booklets on the Internet at [www.cefbookministry.com](http://www.cefbookministry.com), and download those you can use.
- That they have already been translated and printed in other languages. CEF of Cambodia has printed all 52!



### ACEW CAN HELP YOU

- ▶ If you want to study the Bible's teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration in more detail, go to "How to Teach Bible Doctrines to Children" and read pages 113-115.
- ▶ If you want more information about the age of accountability and the death of infants and little children, read pages 64-85 in the book "U can Understand God's Plan for Children"
- ▶ A detailed study of how to apply a central truth to children can be found in pages 64-77 of "U-can Teach a Bible Lesson to Children"

All these are available to download from the Internet at

**[www.CEFBookMinistry.com](http://www.CEFBookMinistry.com)**

## Your ministry:



God calls us, and commands us, to teach His Word to the children. We do so in several ways. We teach it, for example, through singing, through memorising Bible verses, and through Bible quizzes. But our teaching ministry must centre and focus upon the 15/20 minute teaching of a Bible lesson. Our lessons are generally based on a passage or a story from the Word of God. But our goal is not just to tell a story; it is to teach truth. So, first of all, we study or **EXEGETE** the Bible passage or story to find, and decide on, its central truth. "Why is this passage or story in God's Word? What does He want us (and the children) to learn from it?" We now want to use the passage or story to **TEACH** this truth to the children. We want every child in our meeting to understand and get hold of this one truth. So we **CONCENTRATE** our teaching on this central truth throughout the story, and **MENTION** other truths which help us to teach it more thoroughly.

In our last two issues of Mini-Mag, we dealt with, and explained, these two basic principles of teaching – **EXEGESIS** and **CONCENTRATION**. We have learned that we should **exegete** the Bible passage and that we

## Teaching Children

should **concentrate** our teaching on its central truth. We proceed now to the third basic principle of teaching – **THE PRINCIPLE OF APPLICATION**. Truth does not just need to be taught; it needs to be **APPLIED**. So, when you have decided on your central truth and can write it down in one simple sentence, you need to ask yourself the question "How can I apply this truth to the lives and concerns of my children? What practical help can this truth give them in their everyday life?" and your answer is complicated by the fact that you have (probably) two kinds of children in your group. Both groups need to be taught and understand this one truth, but each group needs a different application of that truth.

► You need to decide on an application which will help the **UNSAVED CHILDREN** to see the need and way of salvation.

► You need to decide on an application which will help the **SAVED CHILDREN** to grow spiritually.

You should then write down each of the two applications in a simple sentence.

You now have three simple sentences which will form the "bones" of your lesson.

■ For example: Lesson: The story of Noah and the flood.

■ Central truth: "God is just and must punish sin."

■ Application to unsaved children: "Come to Christ and you will be safe from God's punishment."

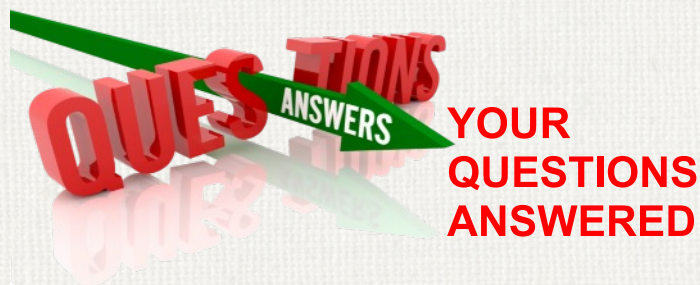
■ Application to saved children: "You are safe and can be sure you will never be punished for your sin".



"For the new series of 52 booklets. They will be a great help to us and our ministry to the children." (CEF Philippines)

"These new exciting materials will be of immeasurable help to us and our ministry." (CEF Ghana)

"Thank you for the booklets. We will decide how to translate and publish them." (CEF of Taiwan)



Q: "Where, in the lesson, should I apply the central truth?"

A:

- Keep the two applications apart and make them at different times.
- Do not apply truth until you have taught it.
- Finish your lesson with an application directed to the group which is more numerous.
- Always make it clear to which group you are addressing your application.

## History of Children's Evangelism:

Our hero this month was not a children's evangelist but he made it possible for hundreds of others to become children's evangelists and to be greatly helped and blessed in their ministry in a very needy part of the world.

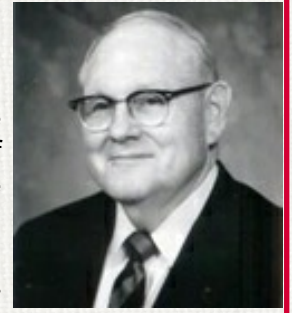
Back in the early 1980s, I received a telephone call in my European CEF office and a voice said "My name is **GENE WARR**. I have a burden for the children in Communist Europe. Do you and your co-workers in CEF reach these children with the Gospel?" When I answered "Yes," he said "I want to help you in your ministry. Come and visit me when you get the chance." This was exciting news. Our small European CEF Outreach team were working behind the Iron Curtain, especially

in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania—training small groups of teachers and mainly supplying teaching aids; but funds for the literature were very low. We visited Gene in one of USA's largest cities, and discovered he was a very wealthy man. He felt that the ministry of CEF to children in Communist Europe was a key ministry, and he invested several really large sums of money to make it possible for us to print and deliver large quantities of training materials and visual aids to teachers there in their own language, and to support a small number of national workers evangelizing children in difficult circumstances. When the Iron Curtain fell, he took on a large part of the financial support for many full time national children's workers in these lands. Because this dear man, who is now with His Lord,

invested generously in literature and workers, the ministry of CEF in the formerly Communist countries has grown

remarkably, and has resulted in many children all over Eastern Europe trusting Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

**WE PRAISE GOD FOR GENE WARR AND WE WELCOME HIM INTO OUR HALL OF FAME**



## The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

### Personal Advice from the Author:

One of the first lessons I learned as a young children's evangelist was that children know more, and experience more, than we think they can, and that this includes younger children.

- After a children's meeting I had been conducting, a boy of about nine years old was waiting to talk to me. "I would like to be saved" he said to me. I explained carefully how he could be saved and he immediately said that was what he wanted to do. We knelt at the pew where we had been sitting, and I will never forget that nine-year old's prayer. "Dear Lord Jesus" he prayed, "I am bad..." and then he started to cry. For perhaps a minute, he sobbed and then he continued "...come into my heart and make me good". What a wonderful prayer and what good theology!
- I was preaching at a Sunday morning church service, and, during the service, I gave a 10 minute talk to the children using the wordless book. I also said that if any boy or girl wanted to be saved, I would be ready to speak with them after the service. When the service was over a little girl came to me, grasping her father's hand firmly. She said quietly "Could I speak with you? I would like to ask the Lord Jesus into my heart". Two of the questions I asked her, while I was

### DON'T UNDER-RATE THE UNDER EIGHTS

counselling her, were "How old are you" and she proudly answered "Six and a half," and then I asked her why she wanted to ask the Lord Jesus into her heart, and she replied with deep sincerity and conviction "Because I have sinned and I want Him to forgive me." What a joy it was to see her come to Jesus Christ for salvation—even at six and a half.

I was learning that it was possible for children, even younger children, to be convicted of sin and to be able to trust the Lord Jesus. Please don't underrate them and the work the Holy Spirit which can do in them.

# 8



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](http://www.CEFBookMinistry.com).

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