



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

What does it mean to be saved? We have seen that, when we trust the Lord Jesus, the first result is that we are now JUSTIFIED. ALL our sin has been forgiven, and God the Father has DECLARED that we are righteous in His sight. At the same time, and instantaneously, God the Holy Spirit REGENERATED us, and gave us new life and a new nature. How wonderful!!! But, there was also, still at the same time, another result or divine operation, when we trusted Jesus Christ, another "spoke" in the "salvation umbrella," and the well-known theologian, Dr. Packer, has described this result as the best result of all. **At the very moment we trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, God the Father also ADOPTED us into His family,** (Galatians 4:4, 5) and made us His "heirs". (Romans 8:17) He is now "Our Father in

Heaven" (Matthew 6:9) and we are His children. We can pray to Him at any time, knowing that He listens to us and is ready to answer our prayers. As our Father, He speaks to us and guides us through His Word, He cares for us, and wants to take away all worry and stress in our lives. (Matthew 6:25-34) JUSTIFICATION gave us a new position before God; REGENERATION gave us new life and a new nature; but ADOPTION gave us a new and permanent relationship with God, and according to Dr Packer, that is the greatest result and blessing of all in our salvation. How wonderful to be part of the great family of God and to have a heavenly Father who loves and cares for each one.



We trust that these monthly Mini-Mags have been, and will be, a help to you in your ministry to children. It could be helpful for you to collect and assemble all the issues together as they appear, because they link into each other and will eventually provide you with a Maxi-Mag.

Perhaps you could let other children's workers know about them. You could also print a number and distribute them to your co-workers in CEF or to the Sunday School teachers in your church.

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
Galatians 4:4-5



GOD THE FATHER ADOPTED US

Bible Study:

The first key biblical truth we have learned about children is that they have a great spiritual NEED. They are spiritually dead, lost sheep who are outside the kingdom of God, and, if they have reached the age of accountability, they are lost and condemned if they have not trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. But the second key biblical truth to be clearly understood is that **it is possible for children, even little children, to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour and receive His forgiveness and salvation.**

- How do we know that children, even little children, can truly trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and be saved? **The Lord Jesus says that they could!** He made it very clear that little ones could truly believe in Him and be saved when, with His arms around a child, He said to His disciples in Matthew 18: 6 “whoever causes one of THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME to sin...” That is answer enough.

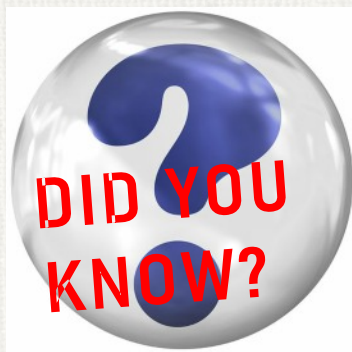
- There are many verses in Scripture which show us that children can be believers (Titus 1:6); that they can fear the Lord (Deut 31:12); that they can set their hope (trust) in God (Psalm 78:7); that they can hear the voice of the Lord and respond to it (1 Samuel 3:10); and that they can do what is right in the sight of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 4:1 and 34:1-3)

Understanding Children



- There are many verses like Acts 16:31 and John 3:16 which make it clear that ANY person who believes is saved. No restrictions are given concerning race, sex, OR AGE. The only qualification required is to trust Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the goal of every children's worker should be the salvation of their children NOW when they are children.



- That the ministry of ACEW was founded by veteran CEF missionaries in 1994 as an offshoot of, and “child” of its parent body Child Evangelism Fellowship, the largest Mission to children in the world and provides help to children's workers around the world.
- That our main work is known as “CEF Specialised Book Ministry”, and that our goal is to write, print and supply teaching materials (free of charge) to children's workers worldwide.
- That we in ACEW continue to translate and print our teaching materials in over 70 languages, and supply them to CEF groups and other groups, who request them. Contact us at www.cefbookministry.com to enquire about these materials.



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

- ▶ *You can learn much more about the Bible's teaching on adoption in our manual “Voyage of Discovery” in the daily devotionals from May 17th to May 24th.
- ▶ More detailed evidence that little children can be saved is available on pages 161-175 of “Children – A Biblical Perspective” and in the 8 page booklet “The Vital Question for Children's Workers”.

All these are available to download from the Internet at
www.CEFBookMinistry.com

Your ministry:



In our last four issues we have learned three of the basic principles of

teaching a Bible lesson—that we should **EXEGETE** our Bible passage to find its central truth, that we should **CONCENTRATE** our teaching on this one truth to ALL the children and that we should then **APPLY** this truth in TWO ways—firstly to evangelise the children who are unsaved, and secondly to help the saved children to grow. We must remember that there are these two types of children in our group—not one. **But the first question to arise is “What does it mean to evangelize?”** Evangelism is simply the teaching and application of the Gospel message to the children. To evangelize unsaved children through your Bible lesson, you need to teach a Gospel truth which is found in the Bible passage on which your story or lesson is based, mention other Gospel truths which will help you teach that central truth, and apply it to the unsaved children. Over a period of time you will teach and apply more and more of these wonderful truths. **The second question to arise is “What is the Gospel message?”** This message consists of five areas of truth

1. Teaching about God —**the source of salvation**. We need to teach about His Character and His Work. An understanding of sin and the need of salvation begins with a clear understanding of God.
2. Teaching about sin —**the need of salvation**. We need to teach that sin is against a holy God, that we are ALL sinners, and that a just God must punish sin.

Teaching Children

3. Teaching about Jesus Christ —**the way of salvation**. We need to teach that He is the only One Who can save us and forgive us because He is God, and because He took the punishment for our sin and rose again.

4. Teaching about repentance and faith —**the appropriation of salvation**. We need to teach that Jesus Christ invites sinners who want to turn from their sin to come to Him and trust Him as their Lord and Saviour. When you apply the central truth to unsaved children you need to challenge them to do so. “Come to Him and trust Him.”

5. Teaching about the Holy Spirit —**the results of salvation**. They should know that they will receive a new nature and God will expect to see a change in their lives.

To evangelize children, then, through your Bible lesson, your plan and prayer is to find a central truth in the passage which is one of these many Gospel truths. You will, then, teach it and apply it, through your lesson, to the unsaved children; but you will mention other Gospel truths (which do not need to appear in the passage) to help you to do so. . Incidentally, when your central truth is one of these Gospel truths, you will invariably find applications of it for both unsaved and saved children. For example, if your central truth is “The Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sins” you could apply it to the unsaved children as “Trust Him” and to the saved children as “Thank Him.”

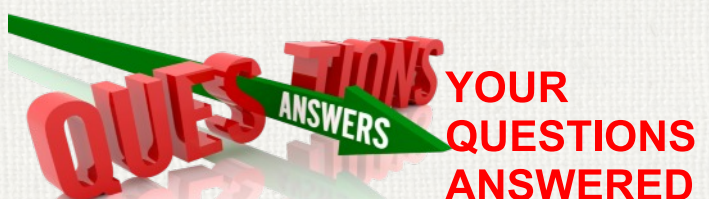


“I have been receiving the books you have written and they have been a great help. Could you please send us 30 copies of each of your books in English for the students in our three-month CEF Leadership Institute.”

(This is a request from CEF India, one of many requests from CEFs worldwide)

A Sunday School teacher in Vietnam writes: “I will read it* carefully and apply it to life then I will introduce this book my co workers” (*Obedience to the Heavenly Vision Book)

“The knowledge I will acquire from these books will help me to be a more effective Sunday School teacher and I will also share the knowledge with my fellow teachers” (Kenya)



- Q: Could you give me an example of a lesson/story with a Gospel truth as its central truth, and how I could apply it.

•A:

Bible passage: Acts 16:13-40

Central Truth: God changes lives.

Application to unsaved children: Trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and God will change you.

Application to saved children: Your changed life should show others what God can do for them

History of Children's Evangelism:

Hudson Pope was born in England in 1879. He trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour in his teens and at a later date God laid a burden on his heart for children and their salvation. As a result, in 1906, he joined CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission), as a children's evangelist. This was the mission which, we saw last month, was founded through the ministry of Payson Hammond. For over 50 years he devoted his life to the evangelism of children and became known as the "prince of children's evangelists." He concentrated especially on the leading and conducting of seaside missions to holidaying children. Under his simple, attractive and well illustrated gospel ministry he

saw thousands of children trust the Lord Jesus; and he sent and received many thousands of letters to and from these children, all written personally by hand. He was a wonderful model and example for us younger children's evangelists.

I came to know about him and his wonderful ministry through one of the books he had written, and I had the privilege to see him and hear him in action, several times,



at Ballyholme beach in Northern Ireland. He was an old man at the time, but he had the fascinated attention of hundreds of children as he proclaimed and presented the Gospel in his simple, attractive but biblical way. I was privileged to sit under his ministry, see an "expert" at work and learn from him.

HUDSON POPE SET US A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF A CHILDREN'S EVANGELIST AND WE SALUTE HIM TO-DAY IN OUR HALL OF FAME.

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

The Bible's teaching that children, even little children, can truly believe and be saved is, of course, reflected and demonstrated in experience, and I have seen this happen many times. **The fact that the Holy Spirit can regenerate children can be witnessed in the lives and testimonies of many who trusted Jesus Christ as children;** and this happened despite the fact that many Christians did not believe that it was possible and did not expect it to happen.

► All statistical surveys of the age of conversion have showed that childhood is the age when MANY have put their trust in Jesus Christ. A number of these surveys show that a MAJORITY of believers did so when they were children.

► It is interesting that many Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries --both past and present--were converted as children. The list includes Matthew Henry, Isaac Watts, Jonathan Edwards, Mary Slessor, Amy Carmichael, Corrie Ten Boom, Jim Elliott, Mrs Billy Graham and many more.

► Also, many well known pastors, preachers and evangelists---past and present- --have testified to the reality of child conversion based upon what they have seen in their own ministry. These include D.L. Moody, Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, George Whitfield, Luis Palau and Billy Graham. Charles Spurgeon, for example, not only believed children

could be saved; he ensured that the children in his church were evangelized.

The tragedy is that, in many of our churches and Sunday Schools, the children are not being evangelised. They know many Bible stories, and have heard many exhortations to live good lives and do good deeds, but they are not being taught that they are sinners, that they need a Saviour, and that they can trust Jesus Christ, be born again, have their sins forgiven and have the strength to live a life pleasing to God --now when they are young.

MAY GOD HELP ALL OF US TO SEE THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF THE CHILDREN AND TEACH THEM THE MESSAGE OF A SAVIOUR WHO WILL MEET ALL THEIR NEEDS IF THEY PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM

EXPERIENCE GIVES

THE SAME ANSWER

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.