



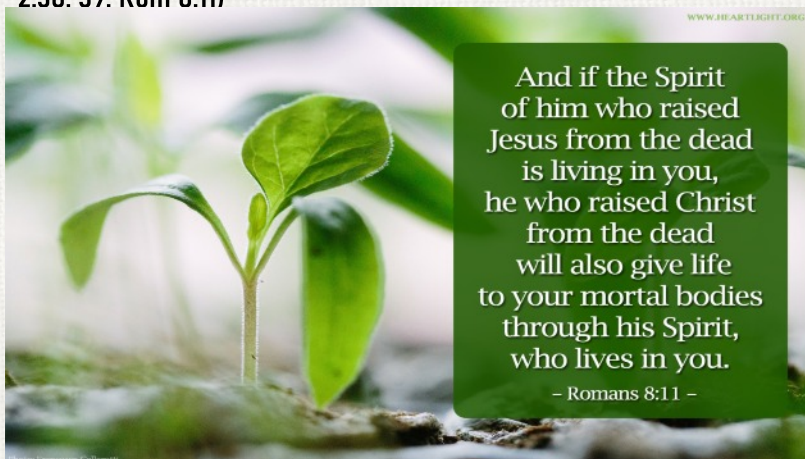
Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

SALVATION=JUSTIFICATION+REGENERATION+ADOPTION is a very wonderful and a very true biblical equation. We have seen that all three of these divine operations happened to you, the moment you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour. As a result of all three, God has forgiven you and sees you as righteous, you have new life and a new nature, and you are a child and heir of God. But the list of what happened to you at your conversion does not stop there, because when you trusted the Lord Jesus you also received a **very** special gift. God the Holy Spirit, the third Member of the Trinity, came to live in you!!! You received the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Bible tells us that everyone who repents and believes, receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. (John 7:39, Acts 2:38. 39. Rom 8:11)

He, the Holy Spirit, is a love-gift to you from God the Father and God the Son. (John 14:16, 17, 26) The Lord Jesus knows your weaknesses and failings, and He says in these verses that the Holy Spirit has come to be your **HELPER**. You are not on your own any more. **You have a divine Helper within you Who is ready and willing to HELP you, to give you strength in your weakness, guidance in your confusion, victory over your temptations, power in your service, and, most important of all, the desire and the ability to be holy.**

His main goal and ministry is to help you become more and more like the Lord Jesus in all you do. (2 Cor. 3:18)



Welcome to the 6th issue of the ACEW Mini-Mag. The members of the ACEW Board trust that the monthly Mini-Mags have been, and will be, a help to you in your ministry to children. Our main goal is that children, all over the world, will be evangelized in a biblical and proper way, and that many of them will be saved. Many Christians do not believe that children can be saved and, as a result, they do not evangelize them. We do believe that they can be saved, and we trust that you do, and that you are reaching them with the wonderful Gospel message.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO LIVE IN US

Bible Study:

In our last five issues we have discovered and outlined two major truths which the Bible teaches about children.

- **Children NEED to be saved.** They are, by nature, spiritually dead, lost and outside God's Kingdom, and, when they become accountable, they are lost and under God's condemnation.
- **Children CAN be saved.** In response to the Gospel message and the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, they can put their trust in Jesus Christ, become spiritually alive, enter God's Kingdom and be free from God's condemnation..

As a basis to all we have learned, we find that the Bible teaches us that children are important and valuable to God.

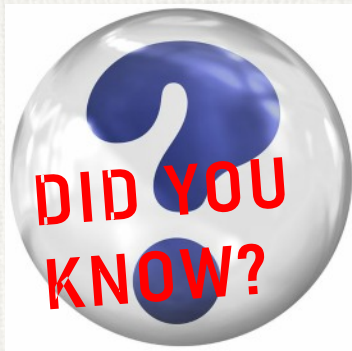
- **God the Father exalted childhood** by planning, in creation, that childhood would be a necessary and initial step for every human being to experience and pass through. (Genesis 1:27, 28)
- **God the Son exalted and hallowed childhood** by becoming, Himself, a child, and by doing so He demonstrated the great value of childhood to Him and His Father. (John 1:14)
- **God the Father loves children** and it is specifically stated in the Bible that "it is not His will that that one of these little ones should perish." (Matthew 18:14)

Understanding Children



- **God the Son loves children** and it is specifically stated in the Bible that "He came to save those (children in the context) who were lost" (Matthew 18:11), and that He wants them to come to Him. (Matthew. 19: 14) He also encouraged us to receive children (Matthew 18:5) and not to despise them. (Matthew 18:10).

Do we love children? Are we willing to do all we can to tell them they NEED to be saved and they CAN be saved?



- That ACEW has printed a book entitled "Why Evangelize Children" which deals with this subject in much detail, and that it is available at www.cefbookministry.com.
- That ACEW has printed two 8-page booklets entitled "Children and Evangelism" and "Children, the Gospel and Evangelism" which you can request for distribution to those who have questions about the salvation of children.
- That ACEW has printed a series of 20 visualised lessons for children on "Salvation - the Gift of God". They are also available on the Internet.



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

- ▶ ACEW has produced a major volume of 335 pages entitled "Children: A Biblical Perspective" which will give you much more information on what the Bible teaches about children.
- ▶ A shorter version "U Can Know God's Plan for Children" is also available.

All these are available to download from the Internet at

www.CEFBookMinistry.com

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

In our last five issues, we have seen three steps we should take when preparing our Bible lesson for the children.

Step 1—**EXEGETE** the Bible passage and find its central truth.

Step 2—**CONCENTRATE** your teaching in the lesson on that one central truth, weaving it into the narrative of your story whenever possible. Mention other truths which help the children to understand this central truth.

Step 3—**APPLY** the central truth in two ways. Apply it to the unsaved children to show them their need and the way of salvation. Apply it to the saved children to show them how to grow spiritually.

For example: If your story is "The flight from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea," your central truth could be "God is powerful and can do anything." You could apply this truth to the unsaved children: (Therefore) "He can save and forgive you, no matter how bad you have been"; and you could apply it to the saved children: (Therefore) "He can help you with your bad temper."

Application should always include a challenge or invitation to respond to the truth which has been taught and applied.

It is therefore vital that you include a challenge with each of your two applications, urging the children to respond to the application and **DO SOMETHING**. But you must be sure not to put any pressure upon them by long emotional

appeals, or by asking them to make a physical response like standing up or raising their hands.

The challenge to the unsaved children is to respond to Christ's invitation to come to Him and trust Him. This challenge is addressed to the heart and will of the unsaved children and it is responded to when he, in his heart, says "Lord Jesus I trust you. Please save me." or "Come into my heart Lord Jesus and save me." This response is something which takes place between the child and the Lord, and can happen during the meeting, or after the meeting, or at any other time. The saved children also need to be challenged directly on the basis of the central truth they have been taught: "Are you willing to...?" or "Tell the Lord Jesus just now that you are ready to..."

Our prayer and goal should be that the children will respond **IN THEIR HEARTS** to what the Holy Spirit is saying to them. The response of the unsaved children to the application and the challenge to come to Christ and trust Him, takes place in their hearts, and it will be worked out in their lives. I would, of course, let the children know that if they have questions, or want help, they should come and speak with me after the meeting.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: When teaching my Bible story/lesson, I have followed the four steps you have given me. I found the central truth, I taught it throughout the lesson, I applied it two ways to the saved and unsaved children, and I included in my applications clear challenges and invitations to the children to make a response. Is there anything else I need to do?

A: The answer is "Yes and No".

The first answer is "NO". **You have faithfully delivered your MESSAGE.** It is complete. Nothing needs to be added to it. You are praying that the Holy Spirit has spoken, or that He will speak, to the children through what you have taught, and that He will lead them to respond to it.

The second answer is "YES". There might be unsaved children in your meeting who want to trust the Lord Jesus but are not yet sure what they need to do, or saved children who have questions or problems. They all need personal help and counselling. **Therefore you should, somewhere in your presentation, MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE to both groups of children** by informing them that, if they wait behind after the meeting, you will be glad to speak with them and help them. You need to inform these unsaved children that you are ready to speak with them and explain what they should do if they want to be saved. MYA is not part of your MESSAGE. It is part of

your METHODOLOGY. It is not teaching or challenge. You are only giving the children information. No pressure is involved. If an unsaved child wants help he knows now that he can come and speak with you after the meeting and receive that help.



"For sending us 20,000 evangelistic packs each with three training manuals and 20 visualised lessons which we have distributed all over the country." (CEF Russia).

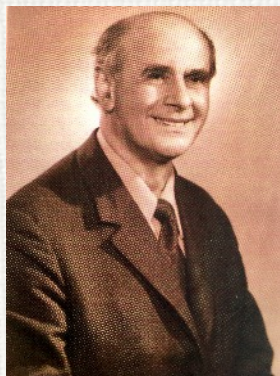
"For your book 'How to Teach Doctrine to Children.' It is the first book on doctrine printed in the Macedonian language –for children and adults alike." (CEF Macedonia)

"I promise to make good use of the profound lessons I have received to bring the children closer to God through better exposition of the Word of God." (Nigeria)

History of Children's Evangelism:

During the 60s, 70s and 80s, Eastern Europe was still under the godless control of Communism and the evangelism of children was opposed and often forbidden. God burdened my heart for the children of communist Poland in 1968, and, in my first visit, I met Jozef Prower, a Professor of Music, a gifted writer of hymns, a well known Christian leader in Poland, and under constant supervision from the communist police. He was my interpreter when I spoke at a series of small churches about a ministry to children. Afterwards we went to his home in Bielska Biala and he suggested we pray together before my departure. We knelt together on the floor of his living room and, after I prayed, Jozef started to pray, and

weep, for the children of Poland. I don't know how long our prayer meeting lasted; but when he rose to his feet he said "God has called me to reach the children of Poland with the Gospel, and I am ready." That was the beginning of a wonderful



ministry. He translated all our CEF lessons and manuals into Polish, and was able, somehow, to get them printed in Poland. These were distributed to pastors, children's workers and teachers all over communist Poland. He organised the first week-long training course for 30 key children's workers and all was

done quietly and secretly, with us as teachers. A second course in Warsaw followed with over 100 present, and was repeated annually. This was done without regard to his own security. Through his life and ministry, many Polish Christians began to evangelise the children and many children were saved. When freedom from Communism came to Poland in 1990, several organisations to reach children were started.

JOZEF PROWER, WE SALUTE YOU AND HONOUR YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY TO POLISH CHILDREN IN A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION.

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

NO PRESSURE!

One of the greatest blessings of working with children is also one of the greatest dangers. It is wonderful to see and experience the openness of children to our teaching. They listen well, believe instantly and respond quickly. That's good. But there always is a danger that if we challenge or invite them to respond or to do something, they will do so quickly and without thinking about it. This is especially true if we make a very emotional appeal, or if we use some kind of pressure. That is why I have learned two lessons about challenging children to respond to the Gospel message.

Firstly, I would try to help them to see what is involved if they do so. This is a big step for them to take. They need to understand, beforehand, for example, that God will expect to see a change in their lives.

Secondly, when challenging unsaved children to respond to Christ's invitation to come to Him and trust Him, I would not ask them to make a physical response like raising their hands or standing up.

Coming to Christ is a spiritual response and not a physical response. We want them to see that their response to the Gospel message, and the invitation from Jesus Christ to come to Him and trust Him, takes place when they come to Him **IN THEIR HEARTS**, speak to Him and ask Him to save

them and change them. This is a personal matter between them and the Lord Jesus; and we should let them know that they can come to Him and speak to Him now, as they sit there; and we

should urge them in our Gospel message to do so. But we can also tell them that they can come to Him after the meeting or at their bedside at home. The important factor is not where they come to Him—but that they do so. **It is absolutely vital that we depend upon the work of the Holy Spirit. If we are faithful in our teaching, in our application and in our challenge or invitation, we can trust Him to work in the hearts of the children and lead them to Christ.**



Be sure, now, immediately, to read carefully my answer to the question in the Q&A section.

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.