



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

So far we have discovered that the salvation we received, when we trusted Jesus Christ as our Saviour, included four great blessings: justification, regeneration, adoption and we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. These four salvation blessings were all instantaneous (they happened at one moment of time); they were all complete (we could not receive any more of them); they were all final (they do not need to be repeated); and they were all permanent (they cannot be lost). But that is not all that happened at that wonderful moment. At the very moment we trusted Jesus Christ, He, God the Son, baptised us, not with water (which is a physical act performed later by a man when we publicly confess our faith in Jesus Christ), but with the Holy Spirit (which is a spiritual act performed by the Lord Jesus at the very moment of our conversion). What is the result? We all became members of the human race when we were born.

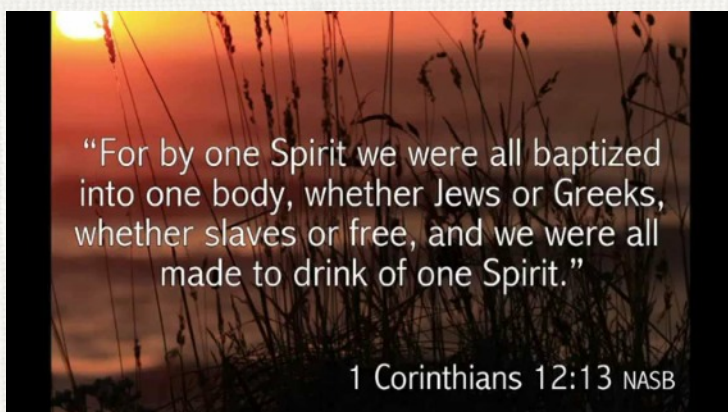
We were, by birth and nature, the Bible says, "in Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:22); but when we trust the Lord Jesus, He baptises us (with the Holy Spirit) into His Body – His Church. As a result, we are no longer "in Adam," we are now part of Christ's Body and part of the universal church of which He is the Head. We are now **IN CHRIST** because of this baptism, and you can see how Paul rejoices in this great truth that we are **IN CHRIST**, when he refers to it eight times in his first chapter of Ephesians, and he also writes about our position **IN HIS BODY**, with the privileges and responsibilities of that position, in the following 4 chapters of Ephesians and in chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians.

"For by (or with) one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slave or free, and have ALL been made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13)



A warm welcome to all our Mini-Mag readers. This is the seventh in our series of Mini-Mags. If you have not received the previous issues you can download from our 'Mini Mag' web pages at www.cefbbookministry.com.

We are writing all of the issues in a simple logical order; so the best and most helpful way to read them, or study them, is to do so chronologically. They will all fit together, one day, into a Maxi-Mag which should, we trust, prove helpful to you in your life and ministry.



GOD THE SON BAPTISED US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Bible Study:

We have established the two main biblical truths about children:

► **Children are spiritually dead**, outside God's kingdom, and, if accountable, under the condemnation of God.

► **Children can trust the Lord Jesus** and receive spiritual life, entrance into God's Kingdom, and a wonderful salvation.

► **The Bible also teaches**, thirdly, that **children are OPEN TO THE GOSPEL**—much more open than adults are.

***The Lord Jesus tells us** in Matthew 18:3 and Mark 10:15 that an adult must become like a child before he can be saved. But a child already is a child. He is, by nature, simple, humble, tender hearted and trustful. However an adult is, by nature, complicated, proud, hard hearted and sceptical. Before he can be saved, he must become like a child. But a child already is a child and possesses the characteristics mentioned above. He is of course spiritually dead, but the Holy Spirit can use these characteristics, which he already possesses, to lead him to Christ.

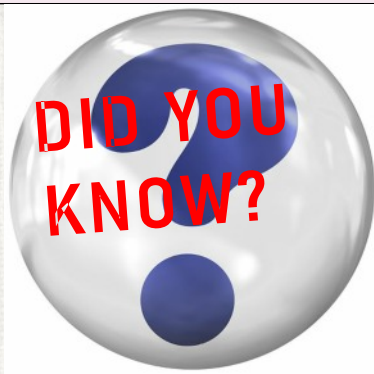
A simple illustration could be used to help us understand this. You could use a wooden door 1 metre high to represent the door of salvation. Is it possible for an adult to go through this door? Yes! But he must "bend" and become like a child first of all. He must, for example, become trustful like a child. Can the child go through this door? Yes, it is necessary for him to do so to be saved. But it is simpler for him than an adult. He is, for example,

already trustful by nature, and the Holy Spirit can use that trustfulness and direct it, savingly, to the Lord Jesus. The child, unlike the adult, does not have to become like a child; he already is one.

***Other Bible verses clearly indicate** that the longer a person lives and rejects Christ, the harder he becomes spiritually (Psalm 95:8, Proverbs 29:1, Hebrews 4:7); and there are verses like Psalm 78: 7, 8 which tell us that if children grow up unsaved, they will become "like their fathers a stubborn and rebellious generation."

***Experience shows us** that children are the most open and responsive group to the Gospel, and statistics indicate clearly that most Christians are saved as children or teenagers rather than as adults. **DOES IT NOT MAKE SENSE THEREFORE TO EVANGELIZE CHILDREN BEFORE THEY REACH THE YEARS OF DOUBT, HARDNESS AND SCEPTICISM?**

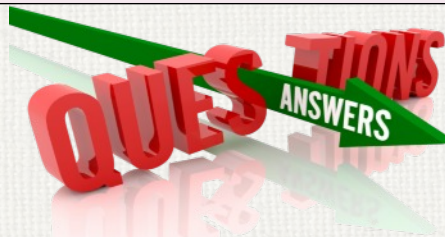
Understanding Children



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**YOUR
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED**

Question: "What is meant by 'the invitation'?"

Answer: The biblical invitation is the invitation from Jesus Christ to **COME TO HIM** and trust Him for salvation. This invitation is an essential part of your **GOSPEL MESSAGE**. You have not evangelized the children if you have not conveyed to them what Jesus Christ wants them to do. He invites the children to come to Him; you are only the bearer of that invitation. Your responsibility is to tell the children that Jesus Christ wants them to come to Him, to show them how they can come to Him, and challenge them to do so. The biblical invitation is, therefore, not something to be added on after you have taught the Gospel message; it is part of it. The biblical invitation is not a request by the evangelist to ask the children to respond physically by raising hands or coming to the front or waiting behind. It is responded to spiritually in the hearts of the children as the evangelist challenges them to do so **IN HIS GOSPEL MESSAGE**. The evangelistic ministry of the apostles in Acts always included this challenge or invitation in their message, and they never demanded a physical response to it afterwards.

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

In the last six issues of Mini-Mag we have been studying the basic principles of teaching a Bible lesson to children. As you think back, or look back, over these issues, what do you feel would be the most difficult part of the lesson you are going to teach, and the part with which you would need most help?

- With prayer and study **you should be able** to find the central truth of the passage and be able to write it down in a short simple sentence.
- With prayer and study **you should be able** to write down, one by one, the main events of your story, and you should be able, on the basis of that outline, to relate your story well.
- **You should be able** to find several places in your story where you can introduce the central truth quite naturally, and teach what it means. If your passage is Acts 16:11-34 and the central truth is "Jesus Christ changes people," you have four opportunities to teach it when referring successively to Lydia, the slave girl, the jailer and his family.
- **You might find it difficult** to apply this central truth to the saved children. Would you consider "If you are saved and the Lord Jesus has changed you, He wants you to live in a way which will encourage your unsaved friends to trust Him."? You could include this application when speaking about Lydia whose household were also saved.

■ **You might find it difficult** to apply this central truth to the unsaved children.

I would suggest "If you have never trusted the Lord Jesus as this jailer did, the Lord Jesus is speaking to you right now and inviting you to come to Him, trust Him and ask Him to save you and change you, and He will. You can do this now as you sit there, or at your bedside or any other time." You can bring this invitation in your message, as you speak about the jailer's conversion.

■ **You might find it difficult** to make yourself available to the unsaved children. Here is a possibility "If you are not saved and would like to be, but do not know what to do, I would be glad to help you. Just remain seated after the meeting and I will come and speak with you." This is only information and you can give it anywhere in your lesson or even in some other part of your programme. You just want the children to know that you are available to help them.

Well done! You have told your story; you have taught your central truth; you have showed both groups of children what that truth means for them in their everyday life; and you have challenged both groups to respond to that truth. Now, be ready to speak with any child who wants you to help them.



"I have just finished reading your book "Obedience to the Heavenly Vision" and God has graciously blessed me through it and renewed my vision for the children. Thank you for writing it and making it available to us all over the world" (South Africa)

"This manual (First Steps) has helped me to assist one of the many Assemblies in the Central region of Ghana to revive their dying children service to life and even increase in population" (Church worker in Ghana)

Please let us know if our publications have helped you in your ministry to boys and girls.



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

To study 'the invitation' in detail, read chapter 7 in the book "U-Can Evangelize Children". You can learn more about 'the invitation' by reading the answer to question 37 ("What does it mean to give 'the invitation' to children.") in our book "100 Questions and Answers Concerning a Ministry to Children."

All these are available to download from the Internet at

www.CEFBookMinistry.com

History of Children's Evangelism:

When we list our heroes in the field of children's evangelism, we usually think of pastors and theologians who encouraged it, or evangelists and missionaries who engaged in it. But we must remember the millions of unknown heroes who were 'ordinary' people with limited ability and experience, but who devoted themselves to the evangelism of children. **JIMMY WALKER** was one of them, and he represents all of them in this Hall of Fame.

I had put an advertisement in a local newspaper inviting people who were interested in the evangelism of children to contact me. Jimmy was the only one to do so, and, in his letter, he wrote that he would like to reach children with the Gospel. It was a short note, not very well written, with spelling mistakes. And when I met him I discovered that he

had a pronounced limp and did not speak clearly. But it was obvious that he had a burden for children and wanted to reach them. So I invited him to come with me to all my children's meetings, as my assistant, and little by little, he took part in these meetings. He then started to go out on the streets of his local town with



his wordless book to evangelize the children. He became a really fruitful children's evangelist despite his limitations. He had a great love for children and a burden for their salvation and God used him to lead many boys and girls to Jesus Christ. One day, he came to one of our Good News Clubs with a beautiful selection of flannelgraph backgrounds, which he used in his lesson. I was surprised because I knew he did not have much money. After persistent enquiry, I learned

that he had been saving his money for his annual holiday, but when he thought of the children and their need, he decided to use the money to buy the flannelgraph backgrounds instead. That was typical of Jimmy. Jimmy is now with his Lord and has received his well deserved "Well done good and faithful servant." **JIMMY WALKER WE SALUTE YOU AND WELCOME YOU AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MILLIONS INTO OUR HALL OF FAME**

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

I started my ministry to children just over 70 years ago. I had no training, no experience and little knowledge of the Bible. BUT I KNEW I WAS SAVED AND I WANTED TO SHOW CHILDREN HOW THEY COULD BE SAVED. So, each time I spoke to children, I told them a Bible story and, as best I could, I used the story to do two things. I used it, firstly, to tell them that Jesus Christ is ready and willing to save them from their sin, and, secondly, to challenge them to come to Him and trust Him. That was my MESSAGE. Then, later, I realised that there were often children who wanted to be saved but did not know how to be. So, somewhere in my programme, I told them I would be willing to help them do so, if they waited behind. And God was pleased to bless this ministry, simple as it was, and children were saved.

During the years which followed I continued to believe that my simple

method was correct. However, I moved away from this simple method and, for some time, I used a more complicated and more elaborate method of lesson presentation. But eventually I saw weaknesses in it and I returned, basically, to my old system. It needed a lot of "polishing" and some more organisation, but the basic plan of **TCI** -Teach-Challenge-Inform--was, for me, the best way to teach a Bible lesson.

- **TEACH** the facts of the gospel in your lesson so the children can **LEARN** how to be saved. Teaching comes first.
- **CHALLENGE** them to respond to Christ's invitation to come to, and trust, Him, so they can **ACT**. Application follows.
- **INFORM** the children you are ready to help them if they wait behind afterwards, so they can **KNOW** what to do.



The **T** and the **C** take place in your lesson. They are your message. Your challenge to the children to respond to Christ's invitation is not something to be added after your message. It is an essential part of it. The children respond to it in their hearts and not by responding to a request for some kind of physical movement.

The **I** can be given at any time during your lesson or your programme. It is not part of your MESSAGE, not part of your **T** or of your **C**. It is just your METHOD of giving helpful information to concerned children.

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.