



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

In our last issue we started a detailed study of the greatest and most important subject of all –the Doctrine of God. God wants us to KNOW what He is like, and He has, in His Word, revealed to us a number of His attributes or qualities, each of which emphasises truths about Himself which He wants us to KNOW. He wants us then to proceed on the basis of that KNOWLEDGE and come to KNOW HIM PERSONALLY. He gives us this amazing promise in Daniel 11:32 that “the people who KNOW their God shall be STRONG and CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS.” Do you want to be STRONG in your faith? Do you want to see GREAT BLESSINGS in your ministry? You will, if your goal and ambition is to KNOW GOD. So let us start this great adventure by studying the main attributes of God, one by one, asking God to show us how each one of them should influence our lives and ministries.

We will start this month with the truth or attribute of God which is most dominant right through the Old and New Testaments. The great truth that **GOD IS SOVEREIGN** is implied, stated, portrayed, described, explained or taught on practically every page of God's Word, and is presented everywhere as the foundational truth of all the acts of God. What does it mean? Why don't you just now open your Bible and read 1 Chronicles 29: 10-13 slowly and prayerfully, paying careful attention to verse 12. I have read this passage so many times, that my Bible often falls open at it.

We read over and over again, here and elsewhere, that God has absolute authority and rules over all His creation. He has the right and the ability to do as He alone chooses to do. (Psalm 135:6) He is on the throne of the universe and is working all things according to the counsel of His own will, (Ephesians 1:11), in accordance with the plan He has for the whole world and for mankind (including you and me). No-one or nothing can change or upset that plan.

This is an awesome truth, and the greatest truth you will ever learn, apart from the truth that Jesus Christ died for your sins. GOD IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN AND IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF EVERY PERSON, EVERY THING AND EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE. Do you REALLY believe this? If you do, it will enable you to trust a sovereign God in every situation and have complete PEACE.



A special welcome for all Mini Mag readers to our twelfth issue. This issue completes the first year of its publication. You could print out all twelve issues and put the 48 pages together in a ring binder to give you the first section of a **Maxi Mag**. This file could be a good resource for your ministry to children, and we trust that all 12 issues will be a great help in your life and ministry. The next 12 monthly issues of Mini Mag will provide you with another Maxi Mag; and our prayer is that you will continue to receive help and encouragement for your life and ministry from them.



Bible Study:

In our studies in previous issues we became convinced that the most important and detailed part of Scripture about children is Matthew 18:1-14. We discovered in our last issue that verse 6 answered our key question about children. "Whoever causes one of these LITTLE ONES who BELIEVE IN ME to sin it would be better for him that a millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea." Can a little child be saved? Yes!

This verse states that **little children, as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts, CAN truly trust Jesus Christ and be saved.** But you can see that this verse not only gives this WONDERFUL FACT about children; it also contains a very SERIOUS WARNING concerning children. The Lord Jesus warns us, His disciples, that we should never offend these believing children, or cause them to stumble and sin. And the words He uses to do so are very strong and serious. What a terrible thing it is to cause children, who are believers, to stumble. This is especially serious because, compared to adults, they are so weak and less able to help themselves. The awful truth is that these offences are often caused by believers. The last part of this verse reminds us that if **WE**, who are believers, offend believing children, we will not only harm them; we will leave ourselves open to God's chastisement. How can we, who are believers, cause believing children to stumble?

- WE CAN OFFEND believing children by setting them a WRONG EXAMPLE. They watch us and imitate us. They can so easily imitate and follow a bad example from an adult believer and be led astray and into sin.

- WE CAN OFFEND believing children by A WRONG ATTITUDE, and by expressing or showing doubt concerning their salvation. Those doubts can enter their hearts, especially if expressed by a believer, and cause them to stumble.

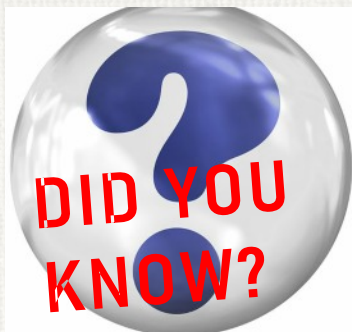


- WE CAN OFFEND believing children by WRONG TEACHING about Bible truths or by NEGLECTING to teach them truths which are essential for growth in their Christian lives. Errors and omissions both cause them to stumble.

- WE CAN OFFEND believing children by WRONG EXPECTATION. We can easily overlook the fact that they are children who need to grow, and we can offend them by criticising them if they do not live up to our adult standards.

Our believing children need to be encouraged, not discouraged. Are we STEPPING STONES OR STUMBLING BLOCKS?

Understanding Children



- That ACEW has written and produced 37 major publications –8 devotional books, 16 training manuals and 13 series of visualised doctrinal lessons. That the first publication was a 50 page devotional book outlining how a knowledge of, and belief in, the Doctrine of God, brings unlimited blessings to the life and ministry of a children's worker. It is entitled "The Problems of a Children's Worker and God's Solution." It was published in 1995 and, because of its popularity, it has had two further reprints. You can download it at www.cefbookministry.com.

- Mr. Reese Kauffman, President of Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. wrote in the foreword of this book: "As you read this book, you'll be challenged to view yourself differently, as you look to God in every situation. You'll perceive your circumstances in a new way as you ponder who God is and you'll very likely become different as you answer the challenges in these chapters."

This book could help you find the solution to your problems.



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

Some children's workers hesitate to counsel a child and lead him or her personally to Jesus Christ, primarily because they do not know how to do so. We at ACEW believe that, by having and using a simple step by step outline, this problem can be overcome. Therefore we have included such an outline in this issue of Mini Mag. We trust it will help you in your counselling ministry. It could also help other children's workers overcome their fear and hesitation. You could reproduce it and make it available to them. You could even reduce it a little in size, so it could fit perfectly into a Bible.

You can get much more help and information about leading a child to Christ in our manual "U can Lead Children to Christ" at www.cefbookministry.com You can request a hard copy to be sent to you or download a copy for immediate use.

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

We have seen in our previous issues that children's workers have four responsibilities in their ministry to children.

1) We must **EVANGELISE** the children. Evangelism involves the **TEACHING** of gospel truths (usually through the telling of a Bible story), and also the **CHALLENGING** of the children to trust Jesus Christ.

2) We must **MAKE OURSELVES AVAILABLE** to concerned children, who need information about how to trust Christ.

3) We must be ready to **COUNSEL**, and give personal help to, these concerned children, and lead them to Christ.

4) We must help saved children to grow. If they have trusted Jesus Christ, it is our responsibility to **NURTURE** them.

We have dealt in previous issues with the first two responsibilities, and we will deal with the fourth in future issues. But I would like to give you in this issue the ten steps to follow if a child has come and asked for help in trusting Christ.



10 STEPS TO HELP A CHILD TRUST IN CHRIST

1: Set the child at ease by asking him casual introductory questions like: What is your name? Is anyone waiting for you? Do you go to church?

2: Identify the child's problem by asking him key questions like: Why do you want to talk with me? Have you ever sinned? Have you ever trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour before?

3: Make sure the child understands the Gospel.

Use the wordless book to ask him questions about God, (gold page) emphasising His holiness and love; about sin, (dark page) what it is, if he has sinned, and what God thinks of sin; about Jesus Christ, (red page) who He is and what He has done for us; and about salvation, (white page) showing him how God will see him clean and pure if he turns from sin and trusts Jesus Christ. Don't spend too much time on this step.

4: Show him one Bible verse like Acts 16:31, John 3:16, Romans 10:13 or Revelation 3:20.

Use a verse which shows him 1) What **GOD TELLS HIM TO DO** if he wants to be saved. 2) What **GOD WILL THEN DO**.

5: Ask him if he wants to trust Christ now, or if he would rather go home and think about it.

Remind him that if he does, the Lord Jesus will expect him to turn from sin and show a change in his life; but emphasise that He has promised to help him to do so.

6: Suggest that he ask the Lord Jesus to save him, if you feel he is ready to do so.

Encourage him to do this audibly. Or, if he is shy, you may feel it is better to lead him in prayer.

7: Speak about assurance of salvation.

Go back over God's promise in the Bible verse used, and tell him that God always keeps His promises. Explain also that the little changes which come in his life will help to make him sure he is saved.

8: Suggest that he prays audibly and thanks the Lord Jesus for having saved him.

And you could briefly ask God to bless him and help him.

9: Give him a Bible promise.

I will never leave you." (Hebrews 13:5)

10: (If time allows) Start follow up teaching

Read and obey the Bible every day; Talk to God your Father; Tell others what you have done; Ask God to forgive you if you sin.



Q; "What should I do if several children wait behind and want to be saved?"

A: The ideal situation is to ask your co-workers to help, and allocate a child to each of them. If this is not possible, you should, first of all, divide the children into two groups by asking each of them questions to determine, as best you can, if they are saved or unsaved. If all the children are unsaved you can counsel them together using the ten steps above. If any of them are already saved and have doubts or questions, you could ask them to wait until you have counselled the unsaved group, assuring them you will help them then. It will also be good for them to listen to you while you counsel the unsaved group.



"Thank you so much ACEW for sending your book "U can Lead Children to Christ." We appreciate it very much. It is the best book we have read on the subject. We would like to order 10 copies of the book. We will be teaching a class at a conference on leading a child to Christ and would like to make your book available after class" (From a CEF director in USA)

"I just wanted to let you know that the books are really appreciated and were a great encouragement to all who received them over the past months. One of the teachers said, "These books are a treasure for me" (CEF Romania)

History of Children's Evangelism:

Gus Matero was born in U.S.A. into a Finnish Lutheran pastor's family. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp. He served with them for over 20 years. He received the Bronze Star for valour during the Korean war. He trusted Christ when he was 24 through the witness of fellow marines. He retired from the Marines in 1964 and felt that God was leading him and his wife Ruth to be missionaries. God especially laid a burden on his heart for the children of Finland, and two years later he and his wife arrived in Finland to start the work of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Finland. (I had the privilege of meeting them and welcoming them to Europe and working with them for many years.) During the years which followed they built up a good work in Finland and reached many Finnish children with the gospel.

But in 1969, while still living in Finland, Gus began making trips into the Soviet Union to conduct underground and secret training classes for Russian believers (who generally did not believe that

children could be saved until they were 18.) He was to make over 150 such trips into this rigidly controlled Communist country (as it was then), where the evangelism of children was forbidden, and any ministry exercised by the little churches for their children had to be done secretly. Consequently, the training classes and children's meetings conducted by Gus had to be secret and hidden from the dreaded secret police. Gus himself



had to watch his every step. His ministry was both difficult and dangerous and it took a man of great faith and wonderful courage to carry it on for so long. His years and service in the Marine Corp must have been a great preparation. He seemed to have no fear of the secret police. As a result

of these visits, thousands of Russian believers were taught that children could be saved and how to lead them to Christ and many of them did so. In addition, Gus, himself, was able to lead many Russian children and young people to Christ.

When freedom came to Russia in 1991, Gus could travel freely on bus trips and later by boat on Russia's great rivers. He was now able to conduct many children's meetings and reach more children than ever before. Gus and Ruth are now retired and living in USA.

GUS, WE WELCOME YOU, AND YOUR WIFE RUTH, INTO OUR HALL OF FAME AND SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND TEACHERS IN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

THE SWEETEST MUSIC OF ALL

"Do you like music?" I personally am very fond of good music, music that brings joy to my heart.

The open-air meeting had just finished and the children were dispersing in different directions. I had presented the gospel to them as faithfully as I could and, in my presentation, I had encouraged the children to trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. About halfway through my presentation, I had told the children that I would be ready, and available afterwards, to speak with any of them who felt they needed help in knowing how to trust the Lord Jesus.

I was collecting my teaching materials when I felt a tug at my jacket. I looked around and there stood a little boy who was reaching up to pull my coat and get my attention. "Yes, son" I said "Did you want something?"

"Yes, Uncle Sam" he replied "I want to ask the Lord Jesus into my heart. Could you please help me?"

Surely these words are" the sweetest music this side of Heaven." I cannot think of any music I would prefer to hear than this "sweet music" What a joy it was to sit down with him and use the ten steps on the previous page to lead him to the Saviour. We trust and pray that we will all hear this music over and over again.

The former national director of CEF of Slovakia writes "These ten steps are excellent. We teach them in all our level one training courses here in Slovakia, and also in Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia. We also teach them in the Theological Seminary in Bratislava. These steps help us so much in our teaching and all our students have told us they are spiritual, logical and do not put pressure upon the 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.

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