



## *Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide*

### **Devotional**

In the study of the Doctrine of God which we commenced last month, we were introduced to a wonderful truth about our Heavenly Father. **HE IS THE SOVEREIGN GOD.** This truth changes lives. When a Christian comes to see and really believe the truth that God is truly and absolutely sovereign and in complete control of **EVERY PERSON, EVERY THING AND EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**, his/her life and ministry will be changed. The Bible makes this truth very clear.

**"The Lord has established His throne in Heaven; and His kingdom rules over ALL."** (Psalm 103:19)

**"Our God is in Heaven; He does WHATEVER He pleases."** (Psalm 115:3)

**"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for ALL that is in Heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as HEAD OVER ALL"** (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Understanding and believing this great truth will have a number of vital applications for your life and ministry.

## **THE TRUTH WHICH CHANGES LIVES**

Nothing happens to you unless God **CAUSES IT** or **ALLOWS** it. There is no third possibility for a sovereign God. Every circumstance in your life—whether good or bad—is under His sovereign control. He **SENDS** difficult circumstances into your life as He sent the storm, the great fish and the sailors into Jonah's life. He **ALLOWS** difficult circumstances to come into your life as He

allowed the devil to attack Job. But **ALL** of these circumstances are part of His plan for you and are working **TOGETHER** and **FOR YOUR GOOD**, as we are told in Romans 8:28. Good cooks know that it is the combination of a

## Welcome

We welcome you to this special edition which marks 25 years of the book ministry as well as being the first monthly issue of Mini Mag's second year. The first twelve monthly issues have been downloaded by children's workers worldwide, and are all still available to anyone who wishes to download them. We will continue to issue them on the first day of each month. We trust that they will be a help and encouragement to you in your personal life and in your ministry to children. Do please let us know by email to

[TFACEW@aol.com](mailto:TFACEW@aol.com)

if you have found them helpful. Also let us know if you have a question about children or about a ministry to children and we will answer it in a future 'Mini Mag'.

number of ingredients which make a good meal. One ingredient on its own makes a poor meal. So you do not need to **WORRY** or **COMPLAIN** or **BE CONFUSED** about any such circumstance. The fact that God is sovereign and in complete control of every circumstance assures you of complete **PEACE** and **SECURITY**. He knows what He is doing (even if you don't).

**So, when you are in the darkness, put your hand into His hand and TRUST HIM.**

## Children in the Bible

In our study of Matthew 18:1-14, the main passage in the Bible about children, we saw, last month, a very serious warning from the Lord Jesus, in verse 6, that we should never cause a child who is a believer to stumble or sin. Verse 7 tells us that such offences will come but that we should not be guilty of them. The following two verses, 8 and 9, develop the theme of offences from verse 6, but they relate these offences to us and not to the children. In these two verses, the Lord Jesus warns His disciples not to offend nor cause THEMSELVES to stumble and sin. The disciples of the Lord Jesus should have nothing to do with anything which would cause them to stumble or sin. If my hand, my foot or my eye would cause me to stumble in my Christian life, it would be better to get rid of it --not literally of course. We need to get rid of the sinful desires of the eye, the sinful actions of the hand and the sinful situations into which our feet lead us NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT COSTS. The surgery must be radical!

Why, then, are these two verses, which warn us not to offend and cause ourselves to sin, included in this passage about children? We who minister to children need to be reminded that if we offend ourselves and cause ourselves to stumble, not only will we suffer



the consequences, but the children we minister to will also be gravely affected. James tells us in verse 1 of chapter 3 that those who are teachers have a higher standard of conduct to live up to.

These two verses also apply to those who profess to be Christians or disciples, but are not. They are unsaved. Judas Iscariot, one of the listeners to these words of the Lord Jesus, is an example. An unsaved person needs to know that true discipleship is entered by genuine repentance and faith. If his hand, his foot or his eye pull him away and in the wrong direction, it would be better for him, as an unsaved person, to lose these members than to lose his own soul.

## 25 YEARS AND STILL GOING AND GROWING

In this year of 2021 we are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide, and praising God for all that He has done in the foundation and the growth of this ministry Sam

Sam Doherty had been the regional director of European Child Evangelism Fellowship for 29 years. After his retirement in 1993, God laid a burden on his heart to start another ministry with CEF, a ministry which would help children's workers around the world in their lives and ministries by supplying them with two new series of teaching materials

- A series of training and devotional manuals specifically written for children's workers
- A series of sets of visualised doctrinal lessons to help them teach the great doctrines of the Bible to their children.

This ministry began in 1996 with the formation of a charitable trust named "Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide" and as the work grew it became known as "CEF Specialized Book Ministry" with the goal of helping mainly CEF workers around the world. A team of volunteers based in Lisburn, N Ireland handled the correspondence, produced the visuals, typed the manuscripts, edited each publication, packaged and dispatched loads of books and visuals around the world. The ministry was governed by three principles:

- All the books and lessons we printed in English would be distributed free of charge or at little cost, to those who could use them.
- All translations and publications in other languages would be mostly financed by us.
- We would only translate and print books, if all the necessary finance was available to do so.

God has blessed our ministry on the basis of these principles and has graciously supplied all the finance needed

The work really grew and we were given a suite of offices rent free. After ten years we were sending training manuals and series of visualised doctrinal lessons, in English, to over 6000 children's workers in 140 countries, free of charge. A number of CEFs around the world wanted the manuals and doctrinal lessons in their own language, and, in the years which followed, we were able to fulfil their requests in 73 languages, and supply over 25000 children's workers with the "tools" to help them teach the children. The printing of all these materials was mainly financed by us as God supplied. For example, CEF of the Philippines have requested a large quantity of our visualized doctrinal lessons to be used by hundreds of CEF workers and volunteers to teach these great Bible truths in the public schools all over the country. We also developed major projects for China, India, Russia and South America.

For example, we produced a complete five year teaching cycle totalling 225000 packs of visual materials in six Indian languages, with each pack containing enough materials for one year of teaching. These packs were distributed and used all over India

We praise God that, during these last 25 years, He has enabled us to print 2,300,000 training manuals and series of doctrinal lessons. More recently we have, in addition, produced 2 million copies of fifty two booklets, each with 8 pages, in many languages, (to help children's workers in specific situations) and we have started to produce the monthly 'Mini Mag' which you are now reading.

**PRAISE GOD WITH US FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE DURING THESE LAST 25 YEARS**





In this issue of Mini Mag we are starting a series of studies which will, we trust, help you to

become a better teacher. Teaching is an art like cooking or playing a musical instrument. Like other arts, it is governed by a number of principles, which we should know and follow. In previous issues, we have already studied a number of these principles, which guide us in our PREPARATION OF A LESSON. We now need to discover, and understand the principles which will help us in our PRESENTATION OF A LESSON. Preparing a lesson on paper is of little value if we do not know how to present it. We teach children the gospel message because God has called us to do so. But we still need to learn how to teach. There are basic rules or principles which, if understood and followed, will help you to do so. Rules, principles or techniques are simply “the best way of doing things.” When the Holy Spirit calls you to teach, He wants you to do it in the best possible way, and He is ready to help you and give you the ability to do so.

The first challenge every teacher of children faces is **getting the children to listen**. If they don't listen, they don't learn; and your teaching is not effective. Someone has said that good and effective teaching is the result of **“an attractive person presenting an attractive subject in an attractive way”**.

## Teaching Children

Our first principle therefore is **THE PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION**. The word “attraction” comes from the combination of two Latin words “ad” and “tracto.” Tracto means “to pull” (as in the English word “tractor”) and “ad” means towards. So an attractive teacher is one “who pulls children towards him/her.” Not literally of course! Are you a person who pulls children's affections and attention towards you? Are you an attractive teacher? If you are attractive your teaching will be more effective.

**AN ATTRACTIVE TEACHER IS A FIRM PERSON.** Children appreciate firmness and are attracted by it. Children should know that you mean what you say, and they should learn to do what you say. If firmness is administered in the right way and in love, the children will be attracted by it and respond to it. But they will not be attracted by harshness!

**AN ATTRACTIVE TEACHER IS A HAPPY PERSON.** Children are attracted to people who are joyful rather than gloomy, people with a sense of humour, a twinkle in the eye and the ability to smile and laugh.

**AN ATTRACTIVE TEACHER IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON.** Sunday school teaching should not be seen as a chore or something you just have to do. We need to look forward to it, and enjoy it. Enthusiasm is contagious. Children will not be interested and enthusiastic if you are not.

**AN ATTRACTIVE TEACHER IS AN INTERESTED PERSON** – interested in the daily lives of the children and not just in their salvation. This interest will lead to a good relationship with the children and could lead to their conversion.



**Comments from those who have used our publications**

*“I am the coordinator of the entire Sunday school ministry of the African Evangelical Church here in Swaziland. We are using your books in our training courses for our Sunday school teachers. A big door has been opened for us and we are willing to go through it once we are now well equipped with your books. Our teachers need so much help and your books are in great demand all over the country. Thank you! Thank you! Our God knows how much you have helped my people.” (Swaziland)*

*“I am so grateful to God and to your ministry for providing me with these materials. I hope to use them and share with other colleagues in the ministry of evangelising and disciplining boys and girls. I pray that the Lord Himself will stir up love and passion in our hearts more and more for Himself and His people (particularly boys and girls) in Jesus name.” (Nigeria)*



### ACEW CAN HELP YOU

If you are starting to teach a group of children, especially if they know little about the Bible, we recommend you start by teaching our series of ten short visualised lessons (entitled “Who is God?”) which explain, for children, the existence, nature and works of God. You could follow this series with our series of ten short visualised lessons on the attributes of God entitled “What is God Like?” These two series will lay a good foundation for your future lessons. These series could also be used to give good and systematic teaching to children in a week-long camp or summer Bible school or in a weekly ministry to children in public schools. You can get more information about them on our web site [www.cefbookministry.com](http://www.cefbookministry.com).

## History of Children's Evangelism

The two countries which have played a major role in the evangelism of children worldwide, in recent years, are England (mostly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) and USA (mostly in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries). USA has sent out more children's missionaries than any other country. We also saw in the eleventh issue of Mini Mag that South Korea plays an increasing role in the evangelism of children worldwide. But there is another country, a very small country, which has played a significant part in the history of children's evangelism during the last 70 years. Northern Ireland has a population of less than 2 million. (the population of an average city in many other countries.) A branch of Child Evangelism Fellowship was started in this, my native country, in 1950. During the following 14 years, good solid foundations were laid for the work. Committees were formed, over 100 Good News Clubs were started, hundreds of open air meetings for children were conducted all over the country, a training programme was established and a Radio Good News Club was broadcast each week. Amazingly, all of these were staffed by hundreds of volunteer workers under a volunteer national director, and many children were reached with the gospel. In 1964 the Irish CEF national committee appointed **DAVID AND MOLLIE MCQUILKEN** to be the first full-time national directors of the work.

**DAVID MCQUILKEN** is our hero and member of the Hall of Fame for this

month. David and his wife Mollie had served, as volunteer assistants to the volunteer national director of Irish



CEF, for most of the previous 14 years; and now, under David's full-time leadership, and for the next 30 years, the work grew enormously. Full-time workers were appointed for every area in Northern Ireland. The number of children reached in Good News Clubs, in 5 day Clubs and in many other ministries, multiplied, two conference centres were built to provide camping facilities, a Youth Challenge ministry was developed, and a large office complex and literature centre was opened in the capital city Belfast. As a result, many more children were reached and many more teachers were trained. This ministry was a national ministry completely financed from Northern Ireland itself. In addition, Irish CEF sent missionaries to countries like France, Spain, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Romania, Moldova, Zimbabwe, Scotland, England and even USA. Many of them in leadership positions. They were supported financially, almost completely, from Northern Ireland. Today this little country has 73 fulltime CEF workers at home and abroad, and has helped the ministry in other

countries by the production of good teaching materials.

God blessed David and his leadership during all those 30 years of expansion and until his home call in 1994. The work has continued to grow, since then, under other leaders. He was a wonderful leader who loved and cared for those he led, a good preacher and teacher, a gifted recruiter of young people for the ministry, a good organiser and a man who worked ceaselessly. Above all he was a godly man and a man of vision who imparted this vision to many in his native land. Together, they established a ministry which has reached, and is still reaching, a countless number of children with the gospel both in his native Northern Ireland and in many other countries. We will always remember David's repeated exhortation to everyone:

**"DON'T LOSE THE VISION."**

(I count it a great privilege to have been a very close friend of, and co-worker with, David for over 40 years.)

**WE WELCOME YOU DAVID, AND MOLLIE, INTO OUR MINI MAG HALL OF FAME, AND WE PRAISE GOD THAT HE USED YOU TO PLAY A MAJOR PART IN THE HISTORY OF CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM.**

## The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

### Personal advice from the Author

During the first thirty years of my Christian life and of my ministry, I had always believed in the sovereignty of God. I now see that I believed in it in a theoretical and qualified sense, and not in an absolute sense. God, at that time, initiated a process in my life which led me to an absolute, complete and very practical belief in His sovereignty. This was the truth about God which was to change my life and

### THIS TRUTH CHANGED MY LIFE AND MY MINISTRY

change my ministry, and I have been rejoicing in it ever since. I doubt if I could have continued in my ministry without my belief in this truth. I was now able to see that, with God in complete control of EVERY circumstance in my life and ministry, I did not need to complain, to worry, to be confused, or to even think of quitting my ministry. The truth of His full control assured me that I could

have COMPLETE PEACE AND SECURITY in every situation. The greatest truth you will ever learn (apart from the plan of your salvation) is that God is sovereign and in complete control of everyone, everything and every circumstance. Do you really believe this truth? If you do, it will enable you to trust God completely when problems come and enjoy His peace. **TRUST HIM AT ALL TIMES!**

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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