



*Assisting
Children's
Evangelists
Worldwide*

Devotional

Devotionals help us grow spiritually. First of all we meditate on a Bible verse, passage or truth; and then we apply that meditation to our everyday life and service. For several months we have been meditating, in our devotionals, on the attributes of God and seeking to discover what He is like. As we have studied and meditated on the wonderful truth that God is sovereign, we can see, at least, two possible results of these meditations in our lives.

- Our meditation on the truth that God controls the universe, and all in it, leads us to **WORSHIP HIM**.
- Our meditation on the truth that God controls all the circumstances in our lives gives us **PEACE AND SECURITY**.
- Our meditation, this month, on the truth that God controls our ministry to the children enables us to have **CONFIDENCE** and **TRUST IN HIM** for the results of that ministry.

The salvation and spiritual growth of the children are in His hands. The Bible teaches us that it is God Who takes the first steps in the conversion of a child. ALL sinners are spiritually dead and unable to take any step towards God unless God in His sovereignty convicts them of sin, opens their hearts and understanding, and draws them to Himself. The Lord Jesus tells us that "no one can

come to Me unless the Father draws him" (John 6:44, 65) and we read that it was the Lord Who opened Lydia's heart in Acts 16:14 so she could understand what Paul was preaching and lead to her conversion. That is why our personal prayers are such an important part of our evangelism. "Oh God," we pray, "open the children's eyes and help them trust You". You pray and you do all you can to help the children understand and believe, BUT you depend upon God for the results. ALL is under His control. "Without Me" the Lord Jesus says "you can do nothing." (John 15:5). A belief in the sovereignty of God will give you confidence in your evangelism because you know the results are in His Hands. This truth will encourage you to have patience when waiting, or looking for results; it will remove, in the meantime,

THE PATH TO WORSHIP, PEACE AND CONFIDENCE

draws them to Himself. The Lord Jesus tells us that "no one can



**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL
OUR DOWNLOADERS**

HELP!!!

The purpose of Mini Mag is to HELP you in your ministry. We in Mini Mag would like you to HELP us in our ministry.

HOW???

We would like to discover how many people are reading and downloading Mini Mag and the name of the country where they work. Could you e-mail us at TFACEW@aol.com with the words "Mini Mag received here in (name of country)." You could, if you wish, add your name, something about your ministry to children, and your comments on Mini Mag. This information would HELP us and encourage us.

**THANKS, IN ANTICIPATION, FOR
YOUR HELP!!!**

any frustration you may feel; and it will prevent you from trying to achieve results by putting pressure on the children to respond.

**"HELP ME, OH GOD, TO SEE THAT YOU
ARE A SOVEREIGN GOD WHO RULES
THE UNIVERSE, INSPIRES WORSHIP,
CONTROLS CIRCUMSTANCES, AND DE-
TERMINES THE RESULTS OF OUR MIN-
ISTRY."**

Children in the Bible

The last four verses of Matthew 18:1-14 (the Bible passage we have been studying concerning children) are linked together in a story told by the Lord Jesus. (Read these verses in your Bible.) We know that this story is about children because the opening word "For" links it with the preceding verses which, we saw, are about children, and the closing words "Even so" and "little ones" in verse 14 confirm this is so. Verse 11 is the introduction to the story, verses 12 and 13 the story, and verse 14 the conclusion. These verses together teach us three truths about children.

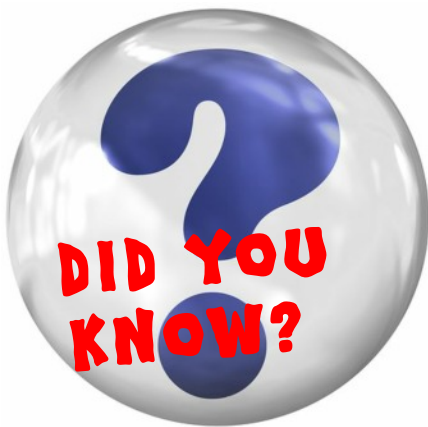
The first truth is that **CHILDREN ARE LOST**. We don't like to think of children, especially little children, as being lost eternally, but the Lord Jesus uses the words "lost" and "perish" with regard to children in verses 11 and 14. In what way are children, little children, lost? These words are primarily used in Scripture to describe the condition of the person who has rejected Jesus Christ and His salvation, is under God's condemnation and will be separated from Him for all eternity. If a child is old enough to understand the way of salvation and old enough to reject Jesus Christ consciously, he is lost in this sense and will perish according to Scripture (like ALL who reject Christ). That is the reason we evangelize children. We want them to trust Jesus Christ so they will not perish or be lost eternally.

But the word "lost" can also be used with regard to the child's "position", and in the sense of him being "outside".



We often use it in this way. A child goes for a walk and gets "lost". He is not where he should be. He is "outside." All children, including children who have not yet reached the age of accountability, are lost in this sense. They are ALL outside God's kingdom and will remain there unless, or until, they trust Jesus Christ and enter His kingdom. Those children who have not reached the age of accountability are outside the Kingdom and are lost positionally. But because they are not old enough to reject the Lord Jesus and His salvation, they are not yet lost eternally like those who have rejected Christ. But they will be if, and when, they deliberately and consciously reject Christ. The problem is that we do not know if a child has reached the age of accountability or not. That age varies from child to child.

THEREFORE WE MUST EVANGELIZE ALL CHILDREN AND LEAVE THE RESULTS IN THE HANDS OF GOD.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

CEF has workers in almost all countries of the world. They are willing and ready to help you in reaching children with the gospel. If you are not already in contact with the CEF organization in your country we suggest that it would be helpful to make contact. You can find details by either searching online for Child Evangelism Fellowship (country) or by logging on to <https://www.cefonline.com/location-finder/>

Question: I want to reach children with the Gospel. What can I do? Where do I start?

Answer: I would make the following suggestions:

- Spend time in **prayer** and ask God to guide you as to what you should do.
- Ask your pastor or the Sunday School superintendent if there would be a possibility for you to **teach a group of children in your church's Sunday School**. This would also give you good experience that would help you, at a later date, to "move outside" and reach children who are unreached and more needy.
- Look for the possibility to **teach a Good News Club**. This is a weekly, week-day, meeting for local children, usually held in a home. It could be held in your own home for the children who live around you, or, if this is not possible, it could be held in someone else's home. If there is a branch of Child Evangelism Fellowship in your area, you could ask your local CEF workers if there would be an opportunity for you to teach a club, or help teach a club. They would also help you in your ministry by providing you with training and good teaching materials. You could also obtain teaching materials from our web site.
- When summer time comes, you could explore the possibility of going out into **the open-air to conduct meetings** to evangelise children. These meetings could be held on a weekly basis in one place throughout the summer, or they could be five-day clubs meeting on a daily basis for five consecutive days. The local CEF workers could give you guidance and help.
- You could **distribute attractive gospel tracts** to children. CEF have produced many of these.



Teaching Children

Teaching is an art or ability governed by a series of principles to follow. One of these is the PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION. If a teacher is an attractive person, teaching an attractive subject in an attractive way, the children will listen and learn. **How can you teach in an attractive way?**

- **PREPARE YOUR LESSON WELL:** So much depends upon your study of your Bible passage, your identification of the truth you want to teach, and the creation of the plan you will follow. Thorough preparation ensures you can speak freely, without hesitation, and without needing to look too much at your written plan. Some teachers even like to rehearse their lesson before a mirror!
- **LIVE YOUR LESSON:** You cannot teach or speak to children as you speak to adults. Children are different and need a different kind of presentation. **You need to make your message live** which means that you need to put life into your presentation. If your story has no life in it, your teaching will not be attractive or interesting and you risk it being wasted.

As you teach, “get into” your lesson. Do not teach in a detached matter of fact way. Feel for the main characters in your story and try to “get into each of them” and make them live. One little boy was watching as his teacher showed how David used his sling and ducked when she “let the stone go.” That’s the kind of response we are looking for!

Don’t have a frozen face. Change the expressions on your face as you teach in accordance with what is happening—sad, joyful, angry, prayerful. Keep the lesson moving and **don’t be afraid to move** your body or your head or your hands or your feet or even your eyebrows. All in a natural way as, and if, they illustrate your story. But don’t exaggerate your movements too much as they might appear ridiculous.

- **ENJOY YOUR LESSON:** Teaching a Bible lesson should be an enjoyable experience. The more you work at it and the more you enjoy it, the more the children will enjoy it. Don’t become so tied to method and plans that you lose the joy your presentation needs. Don’t feel guilty if you leave out something you planned to include. This often happens and God still works. **Do your best and leave the results in God’s hands.**

Next month we will examine the use of voice and the use of words when teaching your Bible lesson; and we will show you a way to back up your teaching and make it more attractive.



Comments from those who have used our publications

- “Your books have been a great encouragement and blessing to us in CEF and have been used to train about 1000 teachers. and to provide them with free teaching material which they would not be able to buy” (From CEF Thailand)
- “We want to thank you for your valuable books and teaching materials which have been translated into Spanish. They have enriched our teaching of the children” (From CEF Paraguay)
- “Once I have offered the book Obedience to the Heavenly Vision to a youth to read and the good thing is after reading the book now, he is voluntarily working with us for the children. Thank you once again for sending me the resources.” (Bangladesh)



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

Many of us have questions about children and our ministry to them. So, a number of years ago, we wrote and published a book entitled “100 Questions and Answers Concerning a Ministry to Children.” Its goal is to answer many of your questions biblically and simply. You can download this book at our web



site

www.cefbookministry.com.

We believe it will help you find the answers to your questions.

History, Heroes and Heroines of Children's Evangelism

A large number of those who have played a significant part in the history of children's evangelism have been **WOMEN**. Women have always played a key role in a ministry to children. Many mothers and grandmothers have taught and evangelized their own children. Paul reminded Timothy of the faithful ministry of his mother and grandmother, and their use of the Word of God, in his early years, to lay the foundations for his later conversion (2 Tim.1:5, 3:15). The majority of those who teach and evangelise children in Sunday Schools and Good News clubs are women. Women have also played a major role in the evangelism of children on the mission field. Many of them were missionary wives. But a significant number were **SINGLE WOMEN** who were called by God to step out in faith and minister to children in other countries. It is those single women we honour this month in our Hall of Fame. It is not easy for a single woman to go **ALONE** into a far-off country where she knows no one, and where a different language is spoken, to begin a ministry to the children there, and teach others how to do it. Initially they may have no contacts or help, no friends or co-workers, and possibly be regarded with suspicion (even by Christians). Much patience and hardship is involved; but God has honoured and blessed these **PIONEER WOMEN** and used them to build a ministry which is reaching many boys and girls with the gospel.

■ **KAY BELLONI** left her native USA after the end of World War 2 to start a ministry to children in war-torn France. In the years that followed, through her ministry, many French children have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

■ **THEDA KRIEGER** started a nationwide ministry to children in her native Argentina and continued in that



ministry, in one way or another, until she was 100 years old. She also started ministries to children in Bolivia and Peru.

■ **VIOLET LOPES** left her home in California in response to God's call to start a ministry to children in Portugal, the land of her fathers, and God used her to reach many Portuguese children with the gospel and train many teachers.

■ **IDA JOHNSTON** left her native land of Northern Ireland because she knew that God wanted her to reach the children of Lapland with the gospel. She is still teaching and evangelising them many years later.

■ **MARGARET BASH** was guided by God to leave her home in USA and start a ministry to children in what was then Communist Hungary, and has rejoiced to see that work grow, under her leadership, and many children saved.

All these single women also recruited and trained national workers who would continue their ministry after they left. **We honour these FIVE PIONEER**

MISSIONARIES to children as representatives of **MANY SINGLE WOMEN** who obeyed God's call to leave home to reach children with the Gospel. **WE WELCOME ALL OF THEM INTO OUR HALL OF FAME**

We should remember and appreciate the many single women who stayed at home and began a ministry to the local children by starting Good News Clubs. They are also pioneer missionaries to children.

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal advice from the Author

Soon after I had commenced my ministry as a young child evangelist, I read that Five Day Clubs were a good way to reach children. So I decided to conduct my first Five Day Club in a housing estate in a nearby town. I arrived Monday morning, selected a grassy area in the middle of the estate, and invited the children from the housing estate to come to my meeting. About 25 came, and for one hour, I taught choruses, and a memory verse, and then gave a visualised evangelistic Bible lesson challenging the children to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. I also made myself available to children who wanted help in trusting the Lord Jesus. The children listened well, but there was no response. I came back the following four mornings and continued to evangelize them, but there were no results. I was sad and disappointed. I was convinced that God had led me to do this and that He would save children.

Ten years later, I was speaking in a church in that same town. After the service, I was invited for lunch in the

LEAVE THE RESULTS IN HIS HANDS

home of one of the elders. When I arrived at his home, I realised that I had conducted that first five day club in this same estate ten years earlier; but I said nothing. During lunch the elder told me of something sad which had happened in the estate that week. A young lady, 18 or 19 years old, had died after a long illness. I asked him if she was a Christian and he replied that she was a fine Christian, and was saved as a child. He said that about ten years ago someone came to this estate and conducted children's meetings each morning. She could not go to them because of her illness but she listened each morning through an opened window, and lying on her bed she trusted Jesus Christ. "Isn't that an interesting story?" he said, and I replied "You have no idea how interesting it is. I was that young evangelist and I thought that nothing had happened that week" **How good it was for me to realise that GOD IS SOVEREIGN and that, as we evangelize the children, we can trust Him for the results.**

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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