



*Assisting
Children's
Evangelists
Worldwide*

Devotional

What is God like? What are His attributes or characteristics? Finding the answers to these questions and applying them to your life should be the top priority in your devotional life. The more you know about God, the more able you will be to worship Him, the more equipped you

will be to serve Him, and the more your life will be touched and changed by Him. Do you remember the five attributes we have studied and learned so far? He is sovereign; He

A JUST GOD AND A SAVIOUR

is wise; He is love; He is holy; and He is faithful. Has your understanding of these attributes been a help to you in your life and service. A correct understanding of this month's attribute is sure to bring peace to all believers, and bring fear to many who are not believers.

"That's not fair" shouted the crowd, when the referee awarded one team a penalty and refused to do so when the other team committed the same offence. Many of us do things which are not fair, and not right. But **GOD IS JUST**. He is always fair. He always does what is right. All His actions and all His judgements are fair, correct and honest. We have learned that God is **HOLY AND PURE IN WHAT HE IS --IN HIMSELF**. He is also **FAIR AND JUST IN WHAT HE DOES --IN HIS ACTIONS**. **GOD IS JUST!** He will always reward those who do good, and He will always punish those who sin.

That immediately raises a problem for every one of us. We have all sinned (Romans 3: 23) and our sin **MUST** be judged and punished by **a JUST GOD**. (John 3:18, 36.). But the great and wonderful gospel truth is that Jesus Christ, God's Son, took the punishment for our sin on the cross. He died "the **JUST** for the **UNJUST** that He might bring us to God." (1 Peter 3:18) God's justice has been satisfied and, when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we can be sure that we will never be punished for our sin because "**GOD IS JUST and the JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in Jesus**" (Romans 3: 26).

We are so pleased to welcome you to the 20th issue of Mini Mag and a very special WELCOME if you are with us for the first time. If you are, you are WELCOME to download the previous nineteen monthly issues. Our mini mag is a little magazine with a number of brief sections all related in some way to the life and the ministry of children's workers. As you read these different sections you may think of another subject or section related to children's work which you would like to see included in our Mini Mag? Do let us know. We want to help all our downloaders and we would WELCOME any of your suggestions by email to tfacew@aol.com. Thank you.

He is both a **JUST GOD** and **A SAVIOUR**. (Isaiah 45:21) Not only is God just but He now **SEES** believers in Jesus Christ as justified because He took the punishment for their sin when He died on the cross. We who have trusted Christ have nothing to fear; we will never be punished for our sin; we can enjoy perfect peace. But those who reject Him and don't trust Him will be judged and punished by a **JUST GOD**, and have every reason to fear.

As we rejoice in these great truths, we must surely see the need for us to evangelise the children. We want them to know that when they put their trust in Jesus Christ they will NEVER be condemned for their sin. (Romans 8:1)

In our previous issues we have been studying the teaching of the Lord Jesus about children, and our responsibility to them, in Matthew 18:1-14, and in Mark 10:13-16. We now turn our attention to the Old Testament, and especially to the book of Deuteronomy. We need to remember, first of all, the main reason this book was given to the Children of Israel. Their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness have ended. They are about to enter the Promised Land for the first time. God gave this book to them, through Moses, to outline what they should do when they entered that land. It is significant to see that God reminded them at least four times concerning their responsibility to **TEACH THEIR CHILDREN**, because their future in the land would depend **UPON THEM**. This basic truth about children is as vital to-day as it was then. Our future depends upon children and how we fulfil our responsibility towards them.

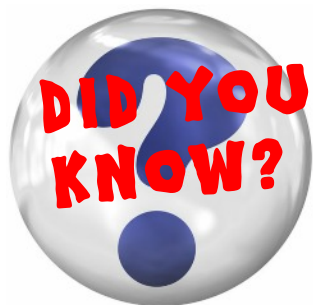
We look at our first passage in Deuteronomy 4: 9-10, (please read these verses). God in verse 9 commands His people, first of all, to examine themselves, to guard their own spiritual life and to remember what He has done for them. Their ministry to the children (and also our ministry to them) starts with, and depends upon, our own relationship to God. This verse also told them (and ourselves) what they were to teach:

Secondly, this verse also told them (and ourselves) that they were to teach their children (and their grandchildren) both **THE WORDS OF GOD** and **THE WORKS OF GOD**. Our responsibility to to-day's children is, and should be, similar.



- We are to teach them what God has **SAID** in His Word, the Bible, about Himself and about them and their sin.
- We are to teach them what God has **DONE** through His Son Jesus Christ to save them and change them. Then the 10th verse tells them, and tells us, what our two goals should be;
- That the children we teach will not just learn, but that they will have a heart experience with the Lord and fear Him.
- That the children, when they become adults, will be so well taught that they will, in turn, teach their children.

These two verses in Deuteronomy remind us that children can respond in their hearts to God and His Word, that our future depends on them and their response, and that it is our responsibility to teach them how to respond.



- That children learn more in the first five years of their lives than any other 5-year period. Some people say that when a child is seven years old he has learned 50% of all he will ever learn.
- That a person's character traits are set by the time he is seven years old.
- That the Communists saw the importance of indoctrinating the children from their earliest years,
- That the Jesuits launched their Counter Revolution by concentrating on the children.
- That the philosophy of to-day's advertisers directs much of their promotion towards the children.
- They all saw that the future depends on the children. They all learned the lesson "Get them when they are young and we will have them for their whole lives".
- **That God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to "teach their children His Word" (Deut 11:19) so that "they would be multiplied" (Deut 11:21) "and blessed" (Deut 11: 22-25) in the land they were about to enter.**
- **That many of our churches don't see the need to reach the children, who live and play close to the church, with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They need to understand that the children of to-day are "the church of to-morrow."**



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: Should I, or could I, include other items such as handwork or games into my 60 minute teaching programme?

A: It depends on the time available. If your meeting lasts 60 minutes I would say "No". If you have only one hour each week, you want to make the best use of it and use every minute to teach God's Word in one way or another. But if you have more time available—in, say, a camping programme or a Holiday Bible Club -- other items could be included but, even then, you should try to make them profitable and linked in with what you are teaching that day



Teaching Children

attractive, interesting and, most of all, spiritually helpful. 4) You should start your planning by choosing the Bible passage on which your Bible lesson will be based. Then decide the central truth you want to teach. You will also want to include this truth in other parts of the programme. You will now plan your programme to include the following activities.

YOUR PROGRAMME

- 1) **SINGING** Sing choruses with the children for 15 minutes. These could be spread throughout your programme.
 - 2) **PRAYING** Open and close the meeting with a short prayer. Later, you will encourage the children to pray.
 - 3) **MEMORISING** Choose a Bible verse, related to the lesson, explain it and have the children repeat it many times together.
 - 4) **MISSIONS** Explain its importance and select a country and missionary the children can support and pray for. At a later date include missionary stories.
 - 5) **TEACHING THE BIBLE LESSON.** Allow at least 20 minutes for this vital part of your programme.
 - 6) **REVISING** In future programmes include a short time to remind the children of what you have taught.
- You should assemble the visual aids you will use, especially when teaching the Bible lesson.
 - Be sure to leave sufficient free time after the meeting in case children want to come for counselling.

We will look at and examine, in detail, each of these activities in future issues of Mini Mag.

Action Stations!!! Let's go!!! We have learned so much from the previous issues of Mini Mag about how to reach, teach and evangelise children. Now is the time to put what you have learned into practice. Let's find out, for example, how you (or anyone else) could reach the children in your neighbourhood with the Gospel.

FIRST STEPS

- 1) First of all you need a place where you could have a weekly meeting with the local children, most of whom have no connection with a local church. It could be a room in your own home, or someone else's home, or a room in a church or in a school. Then choose a day and time which will be suitable for yourself and the children.
- 2) Invite the local children to come to the first meeting by personal contact with them. You should also visit their homes and explain to the parents what you are doing. You should then invite them to allow their children to come.
- 3) Plan the 60-minute programme you will follow in your meeting and write it down. It should be varied with a number of activities which, blended together, make it



Comments from those who have used our publications

"Thank you for the excellent resources you sent free of charge. We organised a children's Bible club in our back garden and 19 children came. Your resources have been invaluable. Thank you very much." (From N. Ireland)

"Thank you so much. We are a medium sized centre city church with very limited funds. We are rebuilding and restoring after a devastating fire, and these teaching supplies will go a long way to building up our children's department." (From USA)

"I just want to thank CEF for all the much needed books they sent me to teach the Bible and Salvation to my kids in my preschool. God bless your organization and the workers involved in getting the Gospel of God out." (From USA)



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

If you still have questions about the local church's responsibility towards the children, both inside and outside the church, we would recommend you download our book "100 Questions and Answers Concerning a Ministry to Children." You will find it on our website at www.cefbookministry.com and you should study the questions and answers numbered 52-60 in section IV. This book will also give you answers to any questions you have about the many ways to minister to children, with emphasis on their evangelism and on their spiritual growth.

History of Children's Evangelism

We have concluded that the two best PLACES for a spiritual ministry to children to-day, as in biblical times, are the CHRISTIAN HOME and the LOCAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The ideal situation is that this ministry is, or should be, carried on by the PARENTS, on the one hand, and by the PASTOR and CHURCH LEADERS on the other hand. As a result, the children of the church members should be adequately catered for spiritually. But what about the much larger group of children in the locality who do not have Christian parents and do not attend church or Sunday School. The church has a responsibility to do what it can to reach and teach these children. How can they do so?

It is necessary, first of all, that the pastor and leaders of the local church have a burden for the children in the locality and their salvation, and that, as a result, they are seeking and praying for ways to reach them with the gospel, evangelise them and eventually bring them into the church.

■ Some churches have developed their Sunday School as an evangelistic outreach, invited the local children to come, provided transport for them, and plan an attractive programme with a clear evangelical emphasis. Charles Spurgeon did this in the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London in the 19th century and his church members brought in hundreds of children each week. But such churches are very few, and find it difficult to-day to attract children on a Sunday.

■ Some churches have started week-day activities for both local and church children—such as Boy's Brigade. But many of these are directed towards older children and teen-agers, and may not give much time to evangelism.

■ Some churches have organised week-day meetings and evangelistic missions for children held in the church, and have found them to be quite fruitful.

■ Some churches conduct Holiday Bible Clubs both for the church children and the local children, and these



have been blessed. Child Evangelism Fellowship has produced good programmes and teaching materials for these. A number of these activities have met with a degree of success. Local children have been saved, and some have eventually joined the local church.

I believe that Dr. Armin Mauerhofer, who was the pastor, for fifteen years, of one of the largest free churches in Switzerland, found a wonderful solution. When his church was still small, he saw the great potential of the children in Langenthal and decided to build the future of his church on them. He and his church planned and built up two types of ministry to the children of the town and its surroundings.

■ A Sunday School was started for the children of the church members.

■ Up to 17 week day Bible clubs were conducted by church members in their homes for the children outside the church.

The pastor and a full-time children's worker trained the teachers and supplied the teaching materials. These two large groups of children were kept quite separate until they reached teen age years when they were united in a church based youth ministry. Dr Mauerhofer says that his church was built on this evangelistic ministry to the children and that many of those in the church to-day were saved through the 17 week day Bible clubs. His investment in the children was a fruitful one.

DR MAUERHOFER WE WELCOME YOU INTO THE MINI MAG HALL OF FAME. WHAT A WONDERFUL PLAN!!

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal advice from the Author

I believe that the local church is the centre of God's plan for evangelism in the New Testament and that it should still be to-day. Therefore a ministry to children should be, ideally, an outreach of the local church and under its control and supervision. At the same time I believe that there is an important place in this outreach for an organisation like Child Evangelism Fellowship, the Mission I have worked with for many years. The organisation's goal should be to help and work with the local church in their outreach to the children. The church provides the personnel to minister to the children; the organisation provides the training, the teaching materials and the supervision of a trained worker. The resulting programme could include home based weekly Good News Clubs taught by church members, open air

5 Day Clubs in nearby housing areas led and taught by the church's young people, and church based Holiday Bible Schools. As a result the church will reach out to many unreached children, see a number of them trust Jesus Christ, and extend a welcome to them and their parents to come into the church, and those church members who take part will be greatly blessed and helped in their lives and ministry. At the same time the organisation will have fulfilled their vision to reach children with the gospel.

However, if there are no evangelical churches in a needy area, or if the churches, which are there, do not want, or feel they need, such help, the organisation should go ahead and launch its own programme to reach those 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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