



# Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

## Devotional

In the last six issues of Mini Mag we have been studying the Knowledge of God. The greatest desire in the life of a believer should be to know God –not just intellectually but personally. We have seen that, to do so, we need to **learn** about Him, **see** Him as He really is, **listen** to Him, **talk** to Him and, above all, to **love** Him, **commune** with Him and **worship** Him. We have also seen the importance of using the Bible as our guidebook in our pilgrimage to know Him, and the value of meeting with God in our Quiet Time each day.

The more we know Him, the more we will know His will and His desires for us. God's master plan for the world is to choose an innumerable multitude of men, women, boys and girls, and to conform everyone of them to the image of His Son Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). The agent of that transformation is the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18) God starts off with people like you and me who are sinners by nature and by practice, people who have NO RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST, and absolutely no resemblance to Him. Then, and through a number of

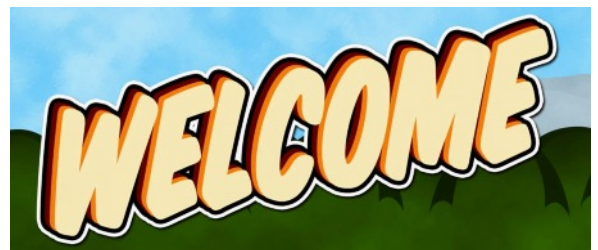
## GOD'S GREAT MASTER PLAN

stages, the Holy Spirit works in us until we BECOME LIKE OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR. Everything God does or allows has this goal in mind. He does this work on an individual basis, not through some mass movement. He chooses us, and then He works in us gradually, and one at a time, with personal and concentrated attention, leading us step by step towards that goal. This is obviously an impossible goal while in this world, but we are to aim at it, and get as close to it as we possibly can.

If you are a believer, God's greatest desire for you is TO BECOME LIKE HIS SON JESUS CHRIST, and it is the work of the Holy Spirit to gradually change and transform you, and make you more righteous in your character and actions and more like your Saviour. We will see in future issues that He does His work and accomplishes His plan in four stages. But let us in the meantime, make this our daily prayer:

**"Dear Father, thank You for saving me and thank you for helping me to know You and your desires for me. I do want to become more and more like Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and I deeply desire that the Holy Spirit will transform me, my thoughts, my words and my actions so that they will be like His."**

we BECOME LIKE OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR. Everything God does or allows has this goal in mind. He does this work on an individual basis, not through some mass movement. He



We welcome you to the 31<sup>st</sup> issue of Mini Mag. We trust that you will find this issue a help and blessing both in your life and in your ministry to children. Don't forget that you can also download any or all of the 30 issues which have preceded this one.

**We could well sing that wonderful children's chorus**

**"To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus.**

**All I ask to be like Him.**

**All through life's journey from earth to Glory.**

**All I ask to be like Him."**

*Continued from page 123*

The first challenge is "Do you want to be different?" "Do you want God to change your life?" The children need to know that, if they trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, God will expect to see a change. That is "preaching repentance." We pray that the children will say "yes" in their hearts to this challenge.

The second challenge is "Do you want to trust the Lord Jesus to save you and change you. He will if you ask Him." That is "preaching faith." We pray that the children will say "Yes" in their hearts and trust Christ.

Children can certainly respond to both challenges, as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts.

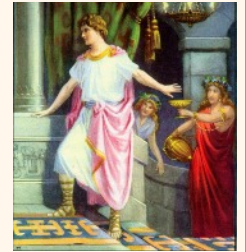
## Children in the Bible

**Daniel** and his three young friends were taken captive by the Babylonians and transported to Babylonia. They were all from royal families in Israel and the King of Babylonia wanted to integrate them into his people and use their gifts and abilities in his government. But, first of all, he put them on a three year training course and diet before they could enter his service. How old were they? Their age is not given. Most Bible commentators describe them as late teenagers, between 16 and 19 years old. But they could have been younger. One well known commentator suggests 14-17. They could even have been early teenagers about 11, 12 or 13 years old. Two commentators suggest they were 12 or 13. This early age would fit in better with the king's desire to absorb them into his people, because early teenagers are more open to change than older ones. This possibility is backed up by the use of the Hebrew word "yeled" which describes the four of them, and is translated as "young men," in Daniel 1:4. This word "yeled" is often used in Scripture to describe young children, and even babies, (For example Exodus 1:17, 1 Samuel 1:2 and Ruth 4:16) and could be used here to emphasise how young the four of them were.

The interesting fact about this wonderful story is that, under the leadership of young Daniel, all four of them showed, from the start of their arrival in Babylonia, where their love and loyalty lay. They refused to eat the food and the wine which they were served from the king's table because it had been offered to idols, would be

## DANIEL

- the teenager who took his stand for God



an infringement of the laws of their God and would defile them. Despite pressure, they took their stand for their God. Eventually, and at the suggestion of Daniel, the guards allowed them to have a vegetable and water diet for the following three years, which would not defile them. God blessed them, gave them good health and, above all, gave them knowledge and all kinds of understanding, (verse 17) and He also gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams.

- This story shows us that it is possible for teenagers, who are in a right relationship with God, to take a clear stand for Him, when faced with difficult circumstances, and it shows that God blesses those who do.
- This story shows us the value and importance of biblical teaching in childhood (which I am sure all four had received), as a preparation for those later difficult teenage years.
- This story, along with the earlier stories we saw of three other teenagers (Isaac, Joseph and David,) challenges us concerning the future of the children in our Good News Clubs, especially those who are saved. What can we do to help them grow spiritually, after they are too old for Good News Club, so that they can become teenagers who serve God and take their stand for Him?

# HELP!



## ACEW CAN HELP YOU



We in ACEW have no teaching materials on Daniel; but Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.

have produced a fine set of six flashcard or PowerPoint lessons, with texts, on the subject of Daniel, and entitled "God rules; be strong." These lessons are suitable for teaching children or teenagers. CEF Ireland have also produced a series of teaching materials which are purposely aimed at early and late teens and could be a great help to those who want to help children through their teens. You can get information concerning all these materials, their cost and availability by contacting either CEF INC PO Box 348 Warrenton MO 63383 USA Web: [www.CEFPress.com](http://www.CEFPress.com) or CEF Ireland, 199 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT5 4FR, N. Ireland) or by E-mail at [hello@cefireland.com](mailto:hello@cefireland.com).

### ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH

Our list of teaching principles is growing. How many can you remember? (Look away and list them) Comprehension, Concentration, Application, Organisation, Attraction, Communication, Visualisation, Explanation and Illustration so far. How did you do? The reason I keep repeating the names of these principles every month is based on this month's principle **THE PRINCIPLE OF REPETITION.**

Effective teaching depends on the constant repetition of the truth being taught. It is a well-known fact that we retain and remember that which we have heard most often. It is not enough, when teaching something new to children, that you deal with it only once. You need to come back to it time and time again, especially with younger children. Lessons taught once will often be forgotten, but when repeatedly reviewed and revised, they are more likely to be permanently remembered and put into practice.

We can see the principle of repetition in the ministry of the Lord Jesus. He frequently uses repetition in His teaching ministry. He often taught the same lesson or truth, over and over again, to fasten the truth in the minds of those being taught. For example, He told the story of the lost sheep in Luke 15:3-7 and repeated it in Matthew 18:10-14. You can see, also, how He repeated His teaching to the disciples on "Prayer" at least eight times in Matthew's Gospel. In two of these times (6:5-15 and 7:7-11) He taught in more depth, He often repeated the



truths which He taught, but in a different way each time and using different illustrations. The principle of repetition should play a major part in your teaching.

► **There should be repetition within each lesson you teach.** Although you are teaching one central truth in your lesson, you need to come back to it time and time again throughout your lesson. However, you should not just repeat the same words over and over; you should restate them, or look at them from a different angle or go into more depth with them.

► **There should be repetition in your Good News Club programme.** The truth you are teaching should appear in other parts of your teaching programme such as the memory verse or the choruses you sing.

► **There should be repetition from one week to another.** To teach a truth effectively, you need to return to it in some way the following week and the weeks which follow. You could include a short version of what you taught last week, or you could have a Bible Quiz based on last week's lesson.

**Is skilful repetition a key part of your ministry? Ask a listening friend for their assessment.**



## KEY QUESTIONS

### PEOPLE ASK

**Questions:** What is repentance? Is repentance part of the gospel message? Is it possible for a child to repent?

**Answer:** "Conversion" means "a turning." Conversion has two sides, that which we turn FROM and that which we turn TO. Sinners are converted when they are convicted of sin and, in their hearts, they want TO TURN FROM IT, and they TURN TO JESUS CHRIST, and put their trust in Him to save them. It is the TURNING TO JESUS CHRIST and trusting Him which saves them but that turning is only possible if there is a "change of mind" about sin and a DESIRE TO TURN FROM IT. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith which saves is never alone. We need to remember that repentance is not merely the shedding of tears, or the inability to eat or sleep. It is not just feeling sorry for sin although that is involved. **Repentance is a change of mind concerning sin which leads us to a DESIRE to TURN from it and to be DIFFERENT.** When we then TURN TO Jesus Christ and TRUST HIM as Saviour we are saved. There is one conversion, but it has two "sides."

**The Bible makes it clear that repentance is part of the gospel message:** The Lord Jesus preached it; "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) Paul preached it "Testifying to the Jews and also to the Greeks repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ". (Acts 20:21)

The Lord Jesus commanded us to preach it "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations." (Luke 24:47) Read also Isaiah 55:7, Acts 2:38, Acts 26:20 Acts 17:30, and Heb. 6:1

If repentance is an essential part of the Gospel message (and it is), we should include it in our evangelistic message to the children. When we are evangelizing children, we rightly emphasise the benefits of salvation. "Ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life and you will be saved and go to Heaven when you die" and that it is good. If you then asked the children if they would like to do this, almost all of them would say "yes." But repentance is missing from the message. The Gospel challenge to children should be two-fold. "Repent and believe."

*Continued on Page 121*



**I SEE IT**

## THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD AND COMPLETELY TRUE

*An Illustration  
for children*

Todd was very excited. To-day was the day when he would receive the results of his examination. He ran to the school and saw the list on the board of those who had passed. He scanned the list quickly and his name was there. He was so excited, and he ran home to tell his parents the good news. They were excited too. Todd also wanted his grandparents to know he had passed but they had gone on holiday. How could he tell them? "I know what I will do" he thought "I will text them a letter." And that was what he did. As a result, his grandparents were so happy

to read the good news.

Did you know that many years ago, God actually SPOKE to people just as Todd SPOKE to his parents. But God does not SPEAK to us like that to-day. Instead, He speaks to us in a WRITTEN LETTER called the Bible just as Todd used a letter to tell his grandparents the good news. I am sure that many of you have a copy of GOD'S LETTER, the Bible, in your home. God wants to SPEAK to you as you to read it. Be sure to do so and read the good news that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for your sins.

## 72 Years and Still Learning:

### *Personal advice from the author*

In recent issues of Mini Mag we have studied the lives of four teenagers in the Bible. (Isaac, Joseph, David and Daniel) who served God and were blessed by Him. We want the children in our Good News Clubs to become like them, and earlier in this issue, we asked the question "What can we do to accomplish this?"

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland have responded to this challenge. Irish Child Evangelism Fellowship was founded in 1950. As the work grew, many Good News Clubs, and 5 Day Clubs, were started and many children trusted the Lord Jesus. We felt that a ministry was needed to keep in touch with these children as they entered teenage years and became too old for children's activities. We also saw the potential of training the older teenagers to get involved along with us in the evangelism of children. As a result, we started a ministry called CEF Youth Council in the early 1960s and we organised special meetings and week-ends for teenagers. This ministry was then developed in the late 1970s by the leadership of Irish CEF, and it was organised as "Youth Challenge" under full time leadership. Junior Youth Challenges were organised all over the country for the eleven to sixteen year olds, who had left Good News Clubs, to keep them together, minister to them and help them grow. There are now 45 of these Junior Youth Challenges all over the country. They meet every two weeks and enjoy Bible studies, fellowship and various

## FOLLOW THEM THROUGH

activities. God has blessed these meetings and many young teenagers have really grown in their faith. Weekends are also organised to bring these groups together for teaching, fellowship, praise and games.

Senior Youth Challenges were commenced later for the sixteen to early twenties, and a number of these have been established in different parts of the country. They meet on a monthly basis for fellowship and Bible study, and they also have week-ends together. They are also challenged and encouraged to attend and take part in the national training course for conducting open air meetings for children in the summer. Quite a number of them have put their training into practice and they lead and conduct meetings for the local children. Groups of them also go in the summer to conduct children's meetings in other countries like England and the West Indies. In addition, several of them have come into fulltime ministry with CEF.

*We praise God for this extensive ministry with teenagers in Ireland which has needed years of development. Has it challenged you to start a Junior Youth Challenge for the children who have left your Good News Club or Sunday School Class, or the ones who may soon leave? CEF of Ireland has produced good teaching and training materials for both Junior Youth Challenge and Senior Youth Challenge, and you could contact them at 199 Templemore Avenue Belfast BT5 4FR N. Ireland for information and help. <https://www.cefireland.com>*

The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Administrator 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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