



# **Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide**

## **Devotional**

Last month we saw that God's great plan and purpose for an innumerable number of sinful men, women, boys and girls was to transform everyone of them and make them like His Son Jesus Christ. You and I are part of that wonderful plan, and the Holy Spirit is working in your heart and life, as a believer, to transform you into that wonderful image and likeness. The Bible makes it clear that He accomplishes His plan and purpose for your life in four stages.

## **CHOSEN BY GOD -TO BE LIKE HIS SON JESUS CHRIST**

The first stage took place a very long time ago, back in eternity, and before you ever existed. That was when God chose you and predestined you

to become part of His plan and become like Jesus Christ.

"For whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29) Predestination or election is a subject which has caused much confusion and controversy. Yet the Bible makes it clear that God did "choose beforehand" and predestined people like you and me before we were saved; indeed before we were born; and even before the foundation of the world. We, spiritually dead sinners, would never, could never, have trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, if God had not chosen us, and enabled us, to do so.

**"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Ephesians 1; 4,5) The fact that we are CHOSEN PEOPLE IS ECHOED IN MANY VERSES LIKE John 15:16, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 1 Thessalonians. 1:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Timothy 1:9.**

But the truth of predestination does not rule out, or contradict, the truth of human responsibility, although it might seem to do so. The Bible teaches both truths.

➤ God chose those who will be saved and everyone who goes to Heaven is there only because God brought them there. God is sovereign in salvation.

➤ Man is responsible to trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and everyone who goes to Hell will be there only because they brought themselves there. Man is responsible in salvation.



We want to wish every reader and every downloader a very warm WELCOME to Mini Mag. We rejoice in the fact that, through our Mini Mags, we can have FELLOWSHIP with you in the evangelism of children worldwide. KOINONIA, the Greek word for FELLOWSHIP, is used 17 times in the New Testament.

- In 1 John 1:3 John writes about the FELLOWSHIP we have with fellow believers and with God.

- It is recorded in Acts 2:42 that the believers in the early church devoted themselves to FELLOWSHIP.

- Paul writes in Philippians 1:5 how wonderful it is to have "FELLOWSHIP in the Gospel."

We cannot have physical FELLOWSHIP with you but our goal is to have FELLOWSHIP with you in your life and ministry through the words, reading and application of Mini Mag, so that together, and in FELLOWSHIP with each other, we can reach many of the world's children for Jesus Christ.

Don't try to reconcile these two truths. Our minds are too small to do so. Believe both of them.

Praise God, dear believer, that God has chosen you and that His purpose for you is to transform you into the image and likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. That is the great truth and purpose of predestination.

**WHAT A PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR IT IS TO BE PERSONALLY CHOSEN BY GOD SO THAT YOU CAN EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE HIS SON. BE SURE TO PRAISE HIM AND THANK HIM.**

## Children in the Bible

We do not know her name. We do know that she was an Israelite girl, seemingly from a devout home, who was taken captive by the Syrian invaders (2 Kings 5:2) and taken to Syria, far from her home, her friends and her spiritual background. How old was she? The Hebrew word used to describe her in 2 Kings 5: 2 and 4 is "naarah" which generally refers to teenagers and young people and it is translated here as "young girl". So, she was probably a teenager, possibly even in her early teens. We can conclude, also, that she had a good spiritual background.

Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army, a great man and a valiant soldier; but he had the dreadful disease of leprosy and it was killing him. The young Israelite girl had a good spiritual background and heritage, and she knew that God had blessed and used His servant Elisha, back home, in many wonderful ways. She knew and believed in her heart that God could use Elisha to heal Naaman of his leprosy. What should she do? Should she keep quiet and let her captor suffer? Or should she tell him that God could heal him? She decided to tell Naaman's wife that there was a prophet back in her home country whom God could use to heal her husband. (2 Kings 5:3). She shared this with her husband, and as a result, Naaman went to Israel, and went to the house of Elisha. In response to Elisha's instructions, he washed himself in the river Jordan seven times and was completely healed. (2 Kings 5:14)

## The Young Girl Who Witnessed For God



What joy there must have been that day for Naaman and those who had come with him to Israel, and what joy there must have been for his wife and household when he returned. And what joy there must have been for that Israelite girl whose witness was used by God to perform one of the most wonderful miracles. This was all the result of a teenager's witness for her God to "two strangers" who were, in a sense, her enemies. But greater results were to follow. Naaman was not only healed. He became a believer in the God of Israel (2 Kings 5:17,18) and he returned home a changed man with both his body healed and his soul healed. And all because a young girl witnessed for God and what He can do.

**This wonderful story shows us, as children's workers, that children and young people can witness for God and can tell others what the Lord Jesus can do for them. It also shows us that God can use their witness to be a blessing to others. Children can, indeed, be better and more fearless witnesses than we older people. They can also be more effective witnesses to other children than we are.**



## KEY QUESTIONS

### PEOPLE ASK

**Question:** Why do you believe and teach that children are more open to the gospel than adults and more likely to trust Christ than adults are?

**Answer:** I believe that this is what the Bible teaches. The Lord Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 18:3 and Mark 10:15 that adults must become like little children before they can be saved. "Unless you are converted and BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven." "Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God AS A LITTLE CHILD will by no means enter it."

The Greek word "paidion" or "child" which is used in both verses literally means "little child" and the words are spoken by the Lord Jesus with a little child in His arms as an example of what He is teaching.

Children are different from adults in many ways. Children, by nature, are trustful; adults by nature are sceptical. Children are humble; adults are proud. Children are submissive; adults are resistant. Children are dependent on others; adults are independent. Children by nature are more open to a Gospel message which demands trust, humility, submission and dependence than adults are. These natural traits possessed by children do not result automatically in salvation. Little children are spiritually dead and they can only believe and be saved if and when the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and gives them life. But

children have advantages in this big step of salvation which adults don't have. Adults must become like children before they can be saved. Children are already like children!

**The Bible, and experience, also teach us that the hearts of people get harder as they get older. The heart of a child is tender and less hardened by sin. The heart of the adult is seared and hardened by sin. As the children grow their hearts will become harder. Therefore, the Bible exhorts us to reach them NOW "in the days of their youth before the difficult days come" (Ecclesiastes 12:1) and before they become "like their fathers a stubborn and rebellious generation." (Psalm 78: 8)**

We could use a wooden door to represent the door of salvation. This door would be about four feet high. We could bring an adult to the door and ask him if he would like to go through. He may say "Yes" but before he could do so, he would have to bend and become like a child, which is not always easy. We could bring a child to the door and ask him if he would like to enter. He may say "Yes." But he has an advantage over the adult. He does not need to bend. He does not need to become like a child. He already is one.

**The child is more open to salvation than an adult. As a result, the statistics tell us that most people are saved when young and that relatively few are saved in old age.**

## Your Ministry to Children:

Good teaching is based upon an understanding and use of a number of principles. If our teaching is based upon those principles, it will be effective. So far, we have studied ten of these teaching principles and, as a result, we have examined our ministry to see if we are teaching in accordance with them. In this issue of Mini Mag we will study and apply another principle –one which I believe to be the most difficult of all these principles to put into practice. It is the **PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION.**

Teaching is not a one-directional activity with the teacher doing ALL the talking, and the children doing ALL the listening. We are teachers not lecturers. We are not “jugs” pouring truths into a number of inanimate “mugs.” Teaching and learning are not just the giving and receiving of information. If children are to learn, they must be involved in the teaching process. They need to be active as they listen to us and not passive. They must be encouraged to participate and to take part in some way. The children will learn when they think what they hear through for themselves, when they apply it to themselves and put it into action. Very little learning takes place unless the children participate by their thoughts, or by their words or by their actions. How can you encourage them to participate?

**1) BY ASKING QUESTIONS AND LOOKING FOR ANSWERS AS WE TEACH.** The children will be stimulated to think, if the questions are carefully chosen. You should not use TESTING QUESTIONS here which just ask for information like “How many brothers did Joseph have?” You should instead use TRAINING QUESTIONS like “Why did God allow Joseph to suffer so much?” This type of question encourages the children to

## AVOID JUGS and MUGS



think and use the information he has received to find and give the answer.

**2) BY ENCOURAGING THE CHILDREN TO BRING AND USE THEIR BIBLES.** They could, for example, open their Bibles and find the verse you are going to use. Then they, and you, can say it together and you can add some words of explanation.

**3) BY USING BIBLE QUIZZES AND REVIEWS** in addition to your Bible lesson. These encourage participation and help the children to remember and express what they have heard.

**4) BY EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF THE CHORUSES THEY ARE SINGING.** You could ask questions related to the meaning of the choruses they have sung.

**5) YOU COULD ALLOW SEVERAL OF THEM TO USE THE VISUAL AIDS** you used in last week's lesson.

Do you, like me, find that this is the teaching principle which is weakest in your ministry .and the one which needs most work and development? What have you determined to do to strengthen this principle in your ministry?

# HELP!

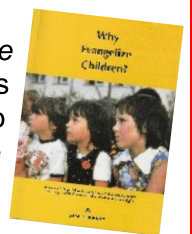


## ACEW CAN HELP YOU

For almost thirty years, the ministry of ACEW has been to “assist children’s evangelists.” During those years we have written published and distributed eight devotional manuals, and sixteen training manuals for children’s workers, in many languages. One of the earliest books we wrote and published was a 86

page manual called “Why Evangelise Children?” It was written to challenge its readers to evangelise children and to show them how to do so. It proved to be a very popular book. It has been printed five times in English, and has also been printed and distributed in many other languages. Many copies have also been given to pastors and Christian leaders and it has been very well received. It answers many questions about the evangelism of children, like the one included in this issue. You will find it helpful for your ministry and for distribution to key people. It is available to you on our website

[www.cefbokministry.com](http://www.cefbokministry.com) free of charge.





**I SEE IT**

## **IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED... WHAT THEN?**

*An Illustration for children*

There are two words spoken by the Lord Jesus which every boy and girl should know and obey. The first word is COME. He wants them to COME to Him and be saved. The second word is GO. He wants those who have COME to Him and have been saved to GO and tell others that they need to come to Him and be saved. If you are saved, are you doing this? Have you invited any of your friends to come to Good News Club or to trust the Lord Jesus? What should you do if they don't listen or if they disagree with you?

Robert the Bruce was the king of Scotland many many years ago. The Scottish army, which he led, was fighting the English army and the English army had defeated them. He went

into hiding in a cave, defeated and ready to give up. As he sat there, he watched a spider trying to weave its web and failing to do so, time after time. He watched spellbound. And then he saw that each time the spider failed and fell, it climbed back up again; and finally, after many attempts, it succeeded. Its web was complete. As he watched, Robert found the determination not to give up, but to return and renew the battle with the English army. And this time he was successful and won the victory.

**So, don't give up when your friends don't respond to your invitations or if they disagree with what you say about trusting the Lord Jesus. Be like the spider and keep going and trust God for success.**

**IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY, TRY AGAIN.**

## **72 Years and Still Learning:**

*Personal Advice from the Author:*

A careful study of the gospel message and its presentation shows us that there are a number of key gospel truths each of which contain two conclusions which go together. These conclusions should not be separated from each other nor should one be believed and taught without the other. The title above is from the wedding ceremony but the words are equally applicable to our gospel ministry to the children.

### **UNSAVED CHILDREN HAVE TWO NEEDS**

- 1) They need forgiveness of their sins. (Acts 2:38)
- 2) They need to be changed and have a new nature. (John 3: 3,5-7)

Understand BOTH of these needs and include BOTH in your teaching.

### **THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS HAD TWO GOALS.**

- 1) He died to give forgiveness and justification to those who trust Him. (Acts 13: 38,39)
- 2) He died to change sinners and give them a new life and nature, when they trust Him. (Titus 2:14)

Explain BOTH these purposes of His death to the children when you are evangelising them.

## **WHAT GOD HAS PUT TOGETHER LET NO MAN PUT ASUNDER**

### **WHEN A CHILD TRUSTS JESUS CHRIST TWO THINGS HAPPEN.**

- 1) He is justified, his sin is forgiven and God sees him as pure as the Lord Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 2) He is regenerated and has a new nature and a new life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Make sure that the children know that BOTH of these will happen if he trusts the Lord Jesus.

### **THE EVANGELISM OF CHILDREN SHOULD INVOLVE TWO CHALLENGES AND INVITATIONS.**

- 1) Do you want to have your sins forgiven? Do you want to go to Heaven when you die?
- 2) Do you want to be different? Do you want to live a life which pleases God?

A balanced evangelism will include BOTH challenges.

### **THE RESPONSE OF THE CHILD SHOULD BE TWOFOLD.**

- 1) There should be a desire for the child to live a changed life, and a desire to turn from sin.
- 2) There should be a conscious act of faith when the child puts his trust in Jesus Christ and is saved.

**WE MUST NOT SEPARATE IN OUR GOSPEL MESSAGE WHAT GOD HAS PUT TOGETHER IN THE BIBLE**

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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