



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional

We have seen that God's plan for every believer is that we should be like His Son the Lord Jesus, in our thoughts, our actions, and our reactions. To accomplish His plan, He predestined (chose) us, regenerated us, is sanctifying us and will one day glorify us. The Lord Jesus gives us, in the Bible, four practical examples of how we can be like Him in our everyday lives.

- He wants us to be **HOLY** according to the command and example given in Philippians 2:5-8.
- He wants us to be **THOUGHTFUL** according to His command and example in John 13: 12-17.
- He wants us to be **QUIET**, when opposed, according to His command and example in 1 Peter: 2:21.

BE AN EVANGELIST LIKE THE LORD JESUS

The Lord Jesus has given us one more very practical and very important example to follow and to be like Him. One of the most amazing and most wonderful

statements to His disciples (and to us) is recorded in John 20:21. **"Peace to you. As My Father has sent Me, I also send you."** He had already made a similar statement when He spoke to His Father in John 17:18 **"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."** Do you see what the Lord Jesus is saying? This is an amazing comparison. We are sent into the world in the same way as He was sent into the world, and when we respond to that command and example, **WE WILL BE LIKE HIM.**

God the Father sent His Son into the world to bring salvation to a lost world.

God the Son sends us into the world to bring the message of salvation to a lost world.

God wants each believer to be an evangelist like the Lord Jesus, and to share the message of salvation to those who are not saved (including the children). Are we willing to be like Him in our service as well as in our lives?

- He saw the needs of the lost. So should we.
- He was sent to meet the needs of the lot. So are we.



We want to welcome you to this issue of Mini Mag with the words of a poem by an unknown author:

"Dear Lord I do not ask /that Thou should'st give me some high work of Thine/some noble calling, or some wondrous task./Give me a little hand to hold in mine./ Give me a little child to point the way/over the strange sweet path that leads to Thee./Give me a little voice to teach to pray./Give me two shining eyes Thy face to see./ The only crown dear Lord, I ask to wear/is this; That I might teach a little child./ I do not ask that I may ever stand/among the wise, the worthy and the great./I only ask that softly, hand in hand,/ a child and I may enter at the gate."

- He sought the lost. So should we.
- He sacrificed and suffered to reach the lost. Are we willing to do the same?

May God enable us to be like the Lord Jesus and obey His command to do what we can to bring the Gospel to the lost children; and may we also be like Him, and complete the task we are given.

THE CHILDREN WHO WERE JUDGED BY GOD

Last month we rejoiced in the wonderful picture of a group of children praising the Lord Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem. This month we also need to see and understand a completely different picture of children. In 2 Kings 2:23-25 we read that Elisha was returning to Bethel after the miracle in Jericho which purified all the water in that city. A number of young people followed him out of the city and made fun of him. We read "Then he went up from there to Bethel, and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him and said unto him Go up you baldhead, go up you baldhead." They called Elisha names; but, worse than that, they made fun of his ministry and derided the work of God as witnessed in the recent departure and "going up" of Elijah.

We read "So, he turned around and looked at them and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord, and two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths" (verse 24). Elisha did this, not because they were mocking him, but because they were mocking God, and His work, and this was God's judgement upon them. What age were these "youths?" The word "youths" in verse 23 is the Hebrew word NAAR and is often used to describe

those who are older than children and it is therefore often translated as "youths" as it is in this verse in the New KJV. But the word "youths" in verse 24 is a different Hebrew word YELED. This word usually refers to "children" and not "youths" as translated here. This was probably a mixed group of older children and young people in their teens and early twenties. But the use of the word YELED shows us that children participated, and that, because they were old

enough to be accountable and equally guilty, they were involved in the judgement which took place. Incidentally the word Hebrew word "mauled" does not mean they were killed. It means "rip" or "cleave". So they could have been wounded.

This story reminds us that CHILDREN CAN BE JUDGED. If a child is old enough to deliberately reject God, he is lost and leaves himself open to God's judgement. That is why the Lord Jesus refers to the possibility of children being lost or separated from God in Matthew 18:10-14; and that is why we must bring them the wonderful message that, if they put their trust in Jesus Christ, they will be saved from that judgement.



KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

Question: Who should evangelize children?

Answer: Last month we answered the question "Why should we evangelize children?", and we learned how important it is to do so. This question follows logically. If it is so important who are going to do it? There are several possible answers to this question.

► **EVERY CHRISTIAN** should be ready and available to evangelize a child with whom they come into contact in some simple way. No special calling or ability is required to evangelize children on this basis. You could give them a simple attractive children's tract, (CEF have produced a number of these), or an invitation to a Good News Club or children's rally, or an information card about the local CEF's TV and audio-visual ministry. It would also be a great help for the local ministry to children if you would pray for it, and support it financially, and make it possible for others to contact the children directly.

► **THOSE WHO ARE IN SPECIAL POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY** with regard to children should use their position and relationship to evangelize them.

● **Parents** can evangelize their own children in a daily family time of bible reading, prayer and discussion. Weave the gospel into that time but without pressure of any kind.

● **Grandparents** can invite their grandchildren to spend one night in their home each week and have special activities for them including a Good News Club.

● **Pastors** can give a 10 minute message to the children in each morning service and include the gospel message in it.

● **Sunday School teachers** can weave the gospel message into their weekly bible lesson and let the children know that they are willing to help them know how to trust the Lord Jesus.

● **Primary and secondary school teachers** can give spiritual help to children as they teach, if they are wise. They can help them more directly by starting a Scripture Union or Good News Club after school hours.

● **Men and women** can open their homes for a weekly Good News Club and invite the local children to attend. If necessary, they can ask their local CEF to provide someone to come and teach it.

● **Young people** can reach out to the local children in the summer by conducting 5 Day Clubs in the open air. Ask the local CEF for information and help.

► FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S WORKERS

God the Holy Spirit guides some men and women to devote themselves completely to the evangelism of children. Some work with their own church or denomination. Some work as specialists in children's work as part of the ministry of a missionary organisation. A number work in a mission like Child Evangelism Fellowship whose specific goal is to reach unreached children with the gospel, and has, at present, over 3500 full-time workers in over 190 countries (and there are unlimited opportunities for many more full-time workers)

ASK GOD IF HE WANTS YOU TO REACH AND TEACH CHILDREN IN ANY OF THESE WAYS AND THEN DO IT

HELP THEM TO GROW

Last month we studied our two responsibilities as teachers of children. We are to “FISH” for our unsaved children and lead them to Jesus Christ and we are to “FEED” our saved children and help them to grow in Christ. We are to be both fishermen and shepherds. In past issues of Mini Mag we have dealt mainly with fishing and how to evangelise the unsaved children. We are now starting a series of studies on how to be good shepherds and feed our saved children. If we don’t feed them their spiritual growth will be limited.

The children who have trusted the Lord Jesus are born again. They are new-born babies in Christ. Like any other babies, they need to grow, and, also like other babies, they need help to enable them to do so. There are four main things they need to do if they are to grow; and you and I, as their teachers, are responsible to give them that help.

➤THEY NEED TO EAT.

Mothers start with milk for their little ones and then go on to more solid food like meat. The spiritual milk and meat which our saved children need come from the Word of God. So, they need us, initially, as their teachers, to feed them by teaching them, very simply, the great truths of the Bible, and by showing them how this spiritual milk will help them grow spiritually. If we don’t do that, growth is unlikely. But we also need, secondly, and at a later date, to give them spiritual meat, and teach them in more depth. We need, thirdly, to show them how they can get this spiritual food for themselves, especially in a daily quiet time.



➤THEY NEED TO WALK

How sad it would be if a baby never learned to walk. In the Bible walking is another word for “living” We need to teach these children how to live the Christian life, how to walk in a way which pleases God, and how to be a good testimony before their friends. Like any other baby they will stumble many times and even fall, but our task is to help them get up and move on. We will see how to do this in a later issue.

➤THEY NEED TO TALK

One of the greatest joys for parents is to help their little one to talk and to listen to him as he tries to speak his first words. We need to teach “our little ones” to talk, to pray, to God and to have a daily quiet time. But we also need to teach them how to testify and talk to their friends about the Lord Jesus and salvation.

➤THEY NEED TO OBEY

Above all, our saved children need to be taught how to know God’s will from the Bible, and the importance of obeying what God has said. They also need to be taught that they should obey their parents and those in authority over them.

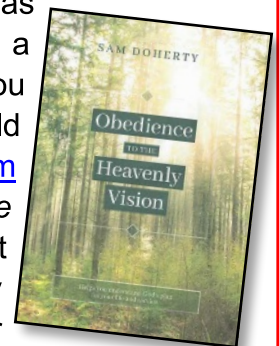
That’s quite a teaching programme for us teachers, and it takes time, hard work and much prayer. In the issues which follow, we will try to give you some help, but remember that if God has called you into this ministry to saved children, He will enable you to fulfil it.

HELP!



**ACEW CAN HELP YOU
KNOW GOD’S PLAN
FOR YOUR MINISTRY**

God wants every believer to serve Him. He has a ministry for each of us. If you are having a problem knowing what God’s will is for you –especially with regard to children– you could go to our website at www.cefbokministry.com and download our book “*Obedience to the Heavenly Vision*.” This was one of the first books we wrote, and it has proved very popular. As you read it, you will discover four steps in God’s plan for your service. We have had to reprint it several times in its book format. Many people have testified to the help and blessing they have received from reading it. I believe that you would find it very helpful.





TWO ILLUSTRATIONS PRIMARILY FOR SAVED CHILDREN

learn to walk. So when you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and have new life you are a spiritual baby and you need to learn to walk and live the Christian life. This takes time and you will have your stumbles and falls. Pick yourself up and keep going.

1) When a young father came home from work, he heard the exciting news that his young baby son was about to take his first step. He got out his camera and waited, ready to video the action. His wife held the baby by his armpits, his little feet on the ground. She relaxed her grip. The baby tried to balance himself and lifted one foot and took a tiny step, while the video in the camera kept going. His parents whooped with delight. Then the baby lifted his next foot and tried to take another step—and down he fell. Did his father shout at him or scold him? Of course not. He picked him up, hugged him and said to him “Well done! Before long you will be able to take two steps”; and he did, later that day. He had to

2) A father asked his little son if he could pick up a heavy rock. The boy tried, grunted and then said “Dad I can’t lift it.” His father said “But it can be done.” The boy tried again and then grunted “I can’t do it” “Yes it can be done” replied his father “but there is something you need to do.” This went on two or three more times with the boy insisting he was using all his strength. Finally, his father put his arm around the boy and said “Son, you don’t understand. There was something you did not do. You did not ask me to help you.” If you really and truly want to overcome that problem in your life, then ask God, your Heavenly Father, to help you overcome it, and He will.

72 Years and Still Learning:

Personal Advice from the Author

THE JOY OF THE HARVESTER

“Those who sow in tears shall reap in JOY. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with REJOICING bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5,6)

There is no ministry which brings more JOY than a ministry to children. As I look back over these last 72 years my heart is full of JOY at the privilege I have had to work with children and help them spiritually.

► These two verses show us that the harvester has four responsibilities:

- He goes out.
- He carries precious seed.
- He sows precious seed.
- He weeps and waters the seed with his tears of concern, sacrifice and hard work.

► These verses also show us that the harvester can look forward to four results and blessings.

- He will return.
- He will reap.
- He will carry his sheaves with him.
- He will have JOY or “songs of joy” (NIV).

► This JOY will be:

- The JOY of obedience to the Lord of the Harvest.
- The JOY of seeing children saved and growing.
- The JOY of one day hearing the Lord’s commendation “Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the JOY of your Lord.”

WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL GUIDE YOU TO MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND EXPERIENCE JOY IN DOING SO

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.

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