

# iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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## What can we expect for us in 2021?

**T**hree important things for us to consider from the past months as we look toward the upcoming ones of/for 2021.

As the new year is already on its way, this question seems to be the more obvious and pronounced, resonating in the mind of the majority of us but not daring to say it aloud.

After subsisting to a 2020 filled of uncertainties, struggles, challenges, death, sickness, depression, loneliness, difficulties, many of us are trying to figure out what 2021 may have in store for us: will it be better or worse than 2020?

I digitized this sentence in Google and the results that came up were approximately 1 640 000 000 of options or answers... It looks that this question is not just a simple question but it carries a lot of clues, curiosity and somehow also concerns.

Among these options, there are several areas involved as Economy, Climate, Health, Politics, Astrology, Work or Business, Industry, Security, Wellbeing, Technology and even Babies!

Yes, these and many more are the areas that can be affected somehow and in some way by what will happen from now on up to 31st of December.

Unfortunately, whatever we can think or say in the matter of expectations for any of the topics listed above is only on the domain of the suppositions and assumptions. Nobody is able to say with exact accuracy what we can expect or what will exactly happen. This may give us a sense of uncertainties and fear, but if we ponder that this has been the same for all the years that we left back we can look at 2021 with a different feeling.

Let's consider this. On January 1, 2020, none of us would have imagined how challenging and complicated life would have been by February on. Nobody was expecting that such a Health Crisis would turn as a pandemic, affecting all countries and populations from (all) around the world. Who would expect that, from one week to another, we would not be allowed anymore to attend our church meetings? I'm pretty sure that if someone had predicted such dramatic situation he would have been considered crazy and catastrophic.

If we look back to 2020, we have to acknowledge that we learned a lot from that experience and we should try to use

## Prayer Activities

### Thank you Journal

Start a *Thank-You journal*. Find a diary for the year with a little space to write each day. Lookout for the amazing ways God takes care of you. Every evening write in your diary at least three things God has done for you that you want to thank Him for.

"Prayer is not a 'gimme' list or bargaining chip or quick fix. Prayer is time spent talking with and listening to God."

—Kandi Elliot

from: "My Quiet Time with Jesus. Prayer Calendar & Journal".  
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## SHARING VALUES WITH CHILDREN



### HOPE

Read Elijah's story in 1 Kings 18-19 for illustration.

Hope is to trust and hope that everything will be better. Hope sustains us so that we believe that the things we wish to see or achieve are possible in Jesus Christ.

Have you ever put your hope in someone or something that is not reliable?

Like Elijah, has it happened to you that you have lost hope for some difficult situation?

How can you go home full of hope today?

What Bible truths can help you develop this value?

Many times it is difficult to have hope, and that this value is strengthened in our lives. But if we search correctly, there will always be hope. The best place to find it is in the Word of God.

God lifted up Elijah. He also gives you victory and celebrates it with you. Live every day in victory, trusting and waiting in Him.

*But those who trust in the LORD for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak (Isaiah 40:31).*

From: *The Talking Backpack 2 Learning Values with Estela & Mateo*. Developed by CHM of the Inter-American Division.

it for the future. Let's try to consider some of them.

1. The church lockdown has changed the way people do church, affecting also children and teens. I believe that several people have a different perception of being church and their participation to it. Many discovered that Sabbath can be experienced differently than just going to church to worship. This may have positive or negative outcomes, depending on how we want to learn from it. In fact, I would use the opportunity to focus on how we may organize our Ministry as strong and effective as possible for the future.
2. In general, people hate changes, but after more than a year of hearing phrases like "nothing will be the same anymore," "a new normalcy," and "things are going to be different," over and over, people are naturally assuming that changes are about to happen. If we have ever thought about making changes in our church or ministry, this is the time. Emerging from a crisis as the one we are experiencing can be the best time to rethink or reinvent the way we have done things up to now, reviewing and reassessing our life. We may need to give up of some practices and start with some others.
3. We had to deal with many demanding conditions such as deep health concerns, sometimes even leading to loss of relatives or friends; more or less strict lock-downs; job challenges requiring to deal with time and salary reductions,

home working, up to job loss; events and training assessments, new ways to work and connect with our beloved ones, colleagues or members. Considering all these issues, we can realize that also in these situations God has been near to each one of us, He was in control and He guided things for good. We may not see or feel it right away but looking back to the past months, we are able to fathom that.

So, as a matter of conclusion, allow me to focus on some important aspects and resume the opening question. What can we dare to actually expect for us in 2021?

As we look back to 2020, let's just acknowledge that, for better or worse, we made it! This matter of fact gives us, as we look forward to the days to come, the assurance that whatever will happen God will continue to love and care for us.

A little more than 300 days are ahead of us and we don't know what they will carry or reserve us...

Despite of all up and downs, as also all unforeseen and surprising experiences, we can say that we keep being confident and assured that God will be with us.

Like Samuel, we'll be able to declare: "Ebenezer... So far the LORD has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12). ♦

Elsa Cozzi

Inter-European Division  
Children's Ministries Director



## Talking with GOD

### Trust in the Lord

Life can sometimes be full of surprises. Plans we made might not be achieved and might need to be changed. You can, for example, spend an entire week making plans with your parents to go to the park on Sunday, and then when Sunday arrives it's raining too much and you can't go. It's frustrating!

Do you tell your plans to God? He is

never caught by surprise. He knows all things that will still happen. When our plans need to be changed at the last minute we can't understand why—but if we trust in God it will be for our own good.

You can't go to the park on a rainy day, but you can do many other fun things—you don't even have to leave the house.

**But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. (Jeremiah 17:7, NLT)**

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, Sueli: *Talking with God*. Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

# Helping Around the World

## Sri Lanka



Isuru ©ADRA UK

Just imagine: the only thing you have in your life is the best smile in the world! You can't speak, or walk, or sing, or dance. You can only smile. Isuru is not even 13 years old and he has been bed-ridden from birth. When I walked into the shack which is his home in Wilgamua in Sri Lanka, my eyes had to adjust to the darkness before I could make out the shape of him

on the bed. Unable to communicate, Isuru has the most wonderful smile which lights up a room! His dad passed away last year and his mum Imanlatha is now the only one looking after him, surviving on gifts and a meagre income of just £12 a month from the government. Isuru is just one of many people here that are already benefiting from the health and sanitation project ADRA is conducting in the poorest areas of the island. ADRA refurbished the community water pump where Isuru and Imanlatha live and, ingeniously, adopted the pump so that Imanlatha could also pump water to a water tank on top of their new latrine, specially adapted for Isuru. A ramp from the house completes safe access for Isuru to his washing and toilet facility – unfortunately rather unique in Sri Lanka.



Isuru and his mother ©ADRA UK

## Myanmar

### Helping out-of-school children



Mai Ra ©ADRA UK

Mai Ra is 10 years old. She had to flee together with her parents and four siblings when fighting broke out near their village on the 17th of December 2016. They travelled by foot for about 4 hours before reaching Kutkai, in eastern-central Myanmar and took refuge at a church. But she has found living there rather unsettling as her father is unable to work due to his health and her mother sometimes gets some casual work in the fields during planting time or for the harvest. Otherwise they depend on humanitarian

assistance provided by ADRA and other NGOs. Mai Ra is one of about half a million children in Shan State who is out of school. She was able to join the school in Kutkai near her Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp in June 2017 when the new school year began, but during September she got sick for a week and fell behind in the classes. When she returned to school, she was struggling to catch up. The teacher became angry and told Mai Ra that she could not return until she had caught up with her the work. She is now too scared to return to the school and her parents are keeping her at home. She says, 'I would like to go back to school, particularly when I see the other children learning'. Mai Ra—one of the many children not in school today. She has faced so much trauma over the last year, leaving her home, her family losing their livelihood, and daily watching her family struggle. Her father says they will try at another school, but they have to wait until next year when the next school year starts. As an ethnic Kachin, adapting to the government school is difficult, especially keeping up with the

lessons in a second language. There are more than 12,000 IDPs in Northern Shan State alone, and many of the 4,781 IDP children of school age are not in school, or face difficulties like Mai Ra. Some IDP children drop out because their parents can't afford the tuition, others because there is no school near their IDP camps. Others like Mai Ra have dropped out because of the difficulties they face at the schools, which are not sensitive to their needs. Across Myanmar there are 76,543 IDP children struggling to access educational opportunities. With our local partner ADRA Myanmar, and with funding from the European Commission, we are working to provide the best solutions to help out-of-school children with either education or vocational training to help secure their future. Serving humanity so all may live as God intended. **A life does not get better by chance: It gets better by change.**

Catherine Anthony Boldeau  
ADRA-UK  
Development Education Officer



## Different Disabilities (Part 1)

Many children can be classified in some way as disabled, including those who are physically, emotionally, or mentally impaired. Here are some hints for dealing with them:

**Physically impaired children** can suffer from neurological problems, such as cerebral palsy or epilepsy; orthopedic impairments, such as brittle bones or arthritis; or health impairments, such as heart disease or asthma. In dealing with physically impaired children, follow these guidelines:

- Don't assume that physical impairment indicates mental retardation.
- Ask the child or her parents for information on strengths, weaknesses, and limitations.
- Reassure, affirm, and encourage such children, but do not over-protect them. Do not assume they cannot participate.
- Make your physically disabled learners part of the group, and adapt furnishings to serve their special needs.

### Hearing-Impaired Children

Hearing impairments may afflict one or both ears. They can be the result of heredity, congenital problems,

illness, or accidents. Hearing loss can be partial or complete. When dealing with hearing-impaired children, follow these guidelines:

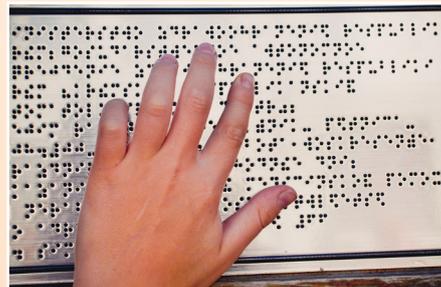
- Encourage involvement in class activities. It is easy for a hearing-impaired child to feel left out of a hearing world.
- Allow hearing-impaired children to use every available avenue of communication: speech, hearing aids, gestures, signs, sign language, pantomime, lip-reading, writing, and pictures.
- Learn common phrases in sign language, but don't assume that every hearing-impaired child uses sign.
- Remember to face a child who depends on lip-reading. Speak at a normal rate and volume. **Do not shout**, because it distorts the shape of your lips.



### Visually Handicapped Children

Many children who are legally blind have partial vision. Blindness can be caused by prenatal influences, eye diseases, diabetes, poisonings, infectious diseases, and injuries. When dealing with visually handicapped children, do the following:

- Capitalize on teaching through other senses—smell, taste, touch, and hearing.
- Make explanations clear and concise.
- Make available large print, Braille, or recorded Scriptures, and other resources.
- Use a variety of methods, including music, to teach God's Word. Discover what adaptations will make classroom activities more accessible.



From: Choun, R. & Lawson, M.: *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 2002

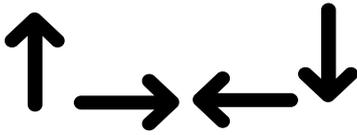
Trust in the Lord at all times. Listen to the voice of conscience. Love God and you will have his approving smile. What a thought, to have the great God, the maker of the heavens and the earth, to smile upon and love you. Dear children, seek for this, pray for it, live for it.

An Appeal to the Youth, p. 41



# Always and forever

Can you figure out what English word the symbols below represent?



Check your answer at the end of this text, then return pronto to the next paragraph.

When it comes to your life, God is always there, aware, and He cares. He knows when a broken friendship needs fixing. He clearly recognizes when your poor choices have landed you in dire straits. Whatever your circumstances, you cannot escape the loving interest that your heavenly Father has in your life.

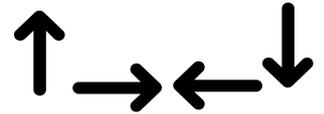
Some people think of today's Pow-

er Burst as a negative reminder that we can't run away from God. But these are words to celebrate, for they imply that even if you're too ashamed, embarrassed, or arrogant to turn to God, He's still there for you.

No, God will not always step in with a miraculous solution to your dilemma. But you can trust that because He always knows what's going on, He knows the best answer to your problem. In His time and way, He'll see you through. This is very good.

## Power Burst

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."  
Psalm 139:7-10



Answer:

The arrows represent the word news, each letter of which begins a primary direction: **n**orth, **e**ast, **w**est, and **s**outh.

From: Fishell, Randy: *Supercharged! Fast-moving, eye-popping, heart-changing devotional stories*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2000

## TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



### Will the world blow up soon?

#### Preschooler

Your preschooler is less afraid about the world ending than *his* or *her* world ending. Remind them that God cares for them and your family. We don't know what will happen, but we know God is in control. Share stories from the Bible about how God can protect people he loves. The life of David is a great place to begin. (See 1 Samuel 17:8-58.)

#### Elementary Age

Will this world end? Yes—but Jesus predicted as much, and it's part of his healing of creation. Encourage your child to daily seek to know God, be following God, and value what God values. God is in control, not nations.

#### Preteen

Why go to school if you expect the world to detonate tomorrow? Because we don't know how or when this world will end. Only God knows that. Remind your child that God wants for all people to be able to hear about Jesus and is sustaining the world so that can happen. God's plan is to save all those who choose to be saved—and the end of this world is nothing to fear for those who know God.

#### Related Scriptures

We can trust in God's protection—see Psalm 92:2. And see 2 Peter 3:9 to learn God's intent for all to know him.



From: *Trust Us... They'll Ask. Answers to your kids' toughest and most awkward questions*. Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2011

# Good Ideas for Bad Behavior: Bored Kids

**Question:** This boy isn't really a problem, but he seems so bored. He's very smart and knows a lot about the Bible. How can I help him?

**Answer:** Regroup your class so children of various developmental stages and abilities learn together. Make sure this child is in a position where he can help other children learn so he uses his knowledge and skills. Children love to give and they learn more when they teach. Keep in mind that asking him to help another child might not work if their social skills and friendship levels aren't a good match. Give the child specific responsibilities in the classroom. Ask him to set up chairs, pass out supplies, take attendance, or do anything he's skilled or gifted to do. Sometimes

this means being a scorekeeper rather than participating in the game. Sometimes it means helping prepare for the next part of the lesson while the rest of the class finishes.

**What you should do**

- Challenge the child so he isn't tempted to entertain himself by distracting classmates or annoying you.
- Talk to the child and let him know you'd like to find activities more challenging for him.
- Pair the child with an adult volunteer.

**What you should not do**

- Don't ask the child to draw two pictures instead of one to fill his time.

- Don't disregard his unique interests or areas of knowledge; instead, tap these obvious strengths.
- Don't ignore the situation and hope the child will adapt.

**Expert tip**

Don't worry about "playing favorites." Tapping one child as a junior leader is a good move, though it may feel strange at first—and you may hear some squawking from other kids who feel the child gets special privileges. Just keep in mind that ultimately it's more disruptive for one child to, out of boredom, impede learning than to redirect that child to facilitate learning.

From: *The Quick Guide to Discipline for Children's Ministry. 101 Good Ideas for Bad Behavior.* Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2009

## 360° CHILDREN'S LIFE ISSUES



#EndFGM

### February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

*"The Sustainable Development Goals contain a specific target calling for an end to FGM. When this practice is fully abandoned, positive effects will reverberate across societies as girls and women reclaim their health, human rights and vast potential."*

UN Secretary-General

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women and girls. The practice also violates their rights to health, security and physical integrity, their right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and their right to life when the procedure results in death.

**Key Facts:**

- Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM.

- If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 be subjected to it by 2030.
- Girls 14 and younger represent 44 million of those who have been cut, with the highest prevalence of FGM among this age in Gambia at 56 per cent, Mauritania 54 per cent and Indonesia where around half of girls aged 11 and younger have undergone the practice.
- Countries with the highest prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 are Somalia 98 per cent, Guinea 97 per cent and Djibouti 93 per cent.
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15.
- FGM cause severe bleeding and health issues including cysts, infections, infertility as well as complications in childbirth increased risk of newborn deaths.
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

**In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**, with the aim to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice.

This year the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) jointly launch **the 2021 theme: "No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation."** Many countries are experiencing a "crisis within a crisis" due to the pandemic including an increase in female genital mutilation. That is why the United Nations call on the global community to reimagine a world that enables girls and women to have voice, choice, and control over their own lives.

(...) Although the practice has been around for more than a thousand years, there are reasons to think that female genital mutilation could end in a single generation. That is why the United Nations strives for its full eradication by 2030.

From: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/international-day-zero-tolerance-female-genital-mutilation-6-february>

From: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day>



© In Touch Ministries, YouTube Video Screenshot

"I have complete confidence that God is able to take care of any situation and provide an answer to any question or problem—He has all the resources of the universe to draw upon in helping each one of us through any type of crisis if we will trust Him."

—Charles Stanley

From: <https://www.wow4u.com/trust-quotes6/>

## QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

### Don't worry

#### Bible Connection

Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus told His followers not to worry about their clothes and their food because our Father knows everything we need and is continually providing for us.

#### Things you need:

- Chenille wires
- Cardstock, colored paper, scissors, pens, adhesive tape, etc.
- Small pot
- Permanent marker
- Coins and small stones
- Sturdy plant canes or popsicle sticks

#### Worship activities

1. Read the Bible verses together. Jesus is tenderly telling His followers not to worry about the everyday details of their lives.
2. What are each of your concerns and worries? Cut spiky or wobbly shapes from colored cardstock and write a worry or concern on each shape. Tape each worry or concern to the end of a chenille wire.
3. Place all the "worry wires" in a small pot so that they can wobble. People are like the chenille wires, and they can feel very wobbly when they're holding on to worries and concerns by themselves.
4. Some of your worries might be very heavy. Tape some coins or small stones to the cardstock of your biggest worries to make the wires bend.

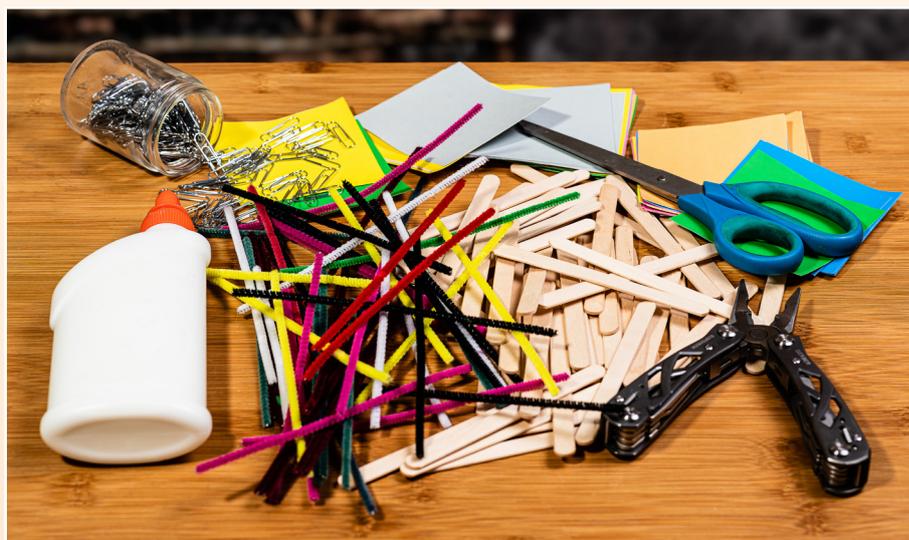
5. Write "God" on the popsicle sticks or sturdy plant stems. Tape each chenille wire firmly to a stick or cane so that the "God" sticks can support the chenille wires and take the weight of the "worries."
6. Use the marker pen to write "Don't worry, trust God!" on the pot.

#### Another idea:

Cut flower (lilies of the field) or bird (sparrow) shapes out of colored paper.

God doesn't want us to be worried about our basic needs for food and clothes. He wants us to trust Him to provide everything we need, like a loving and caring Father.

Write some of your worries and needs on these shapes. Cut out a large wing from paper or cardstock, and place your worries under God's wings, or cut large hand shapes and place your worries into God's hands.



© Shutterstock.com

#### Prayer

Let each person choose one of their concerns and worries—they can hold their worry if they wish. Gather around each person in turn. Place your hands on their shoulders and pray a sentence or two, asking God to untangle their concerns and fill them with peace.

During the last two years we used scientific experiments and illustrations to learn spiritual lessons that can be shared with our children and young. For 2021, I would like to focus on our Christian responsibility towards nature and all God's creatures.

When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them the task of "cultivating and guarding" the garden of Eden (Gen 2:15). For a long time, this commission was misunderstood by many Christians, who felt they had been given "dominion" over the Earth resources and could use them as they pleased. Thankfully, today most religious denominations realize and take on their God-given responsibility of actively caring for Creation. The holistic message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for example, has numerous environmental implications. To cite just a couple of examples: the weekly Sabbath rest is a call to periodically stop producing and con-

## Know—Love—Care

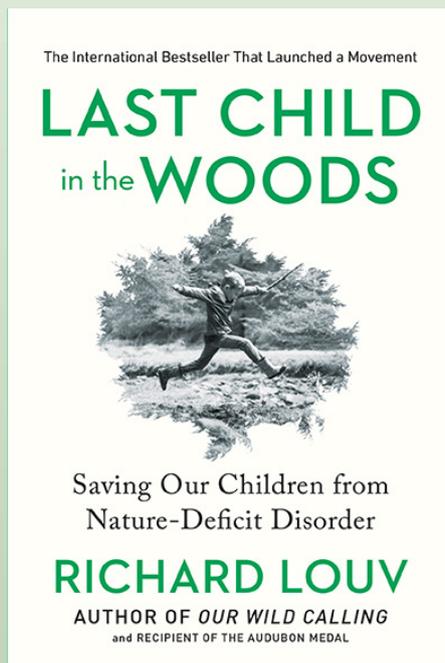
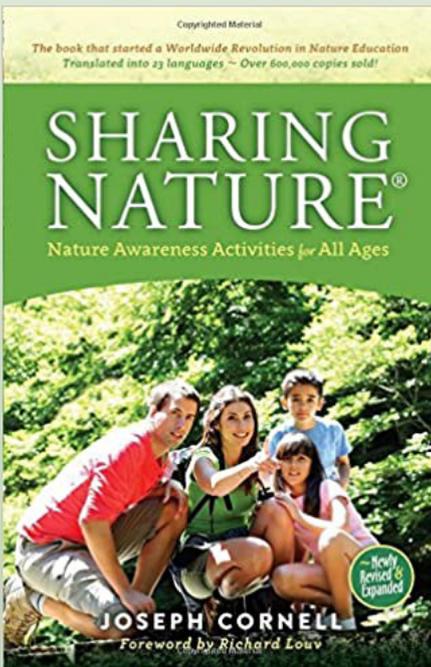
suming in order to focus on what is really important, and our recommendation of a vegetarian diet reduces pollution and favors large savings in energy and water consumption. It also shows deep care for animals, God's dear creatures that "see and hear and love and fear and suffer".<sup>1</sup>

That is great, but probably not enough. Our world is suffering an unprecedented environmental crisis which is already producing severe consequences such as pandemics and natural disasters, and prospects for the future are alarming. We know that there are no final human solutions for this world but until Jesus comes and re-creates everything, it is our duty to "guard it" as best as we can.

It is time for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Europe to take a stand for Creation, not only about the belief in Creation but also about the care for Creation. As you will no doubt agree, one of the most effective ways for this to work and

last is to instill love and care for nature in our children. That requires time and conscious effort and that is where you, children leaders, come in. You regularly spend time with children and they look up to you, so you are in an ideal position to make this happen. I will help you as much as I can. Following the strategy **Know—Love—Care**, every month I will share with you experiments, illustrations, and activities specifically designed to (1) foster curiosity and awe for nature in our children, (2) make them empathize with animals, plants, and other creatures, and (3) create in them the desire to participate in their conservation. Of course, this is not just about environmental conservation, "cooperating with God in restoring the diseased earth to health" it is actually a "praise and a glory to his name."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 315.  
<sup>2</sup>SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1 (EGW), page 1112.



For those who are especially interested in this topic and cannot wait until next month to start working, I recommend the following books:

- Cornell, J. (2015). *Sharing nature: nature awareness activities for all ages*. Crystal Clarity Publishers.
- Louv, R. (2008). *Last child in the woods: Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder*. Algonquin books.

They contain both interesting insights about the importance for children (and adults) to connect with nature, and practical ideas and activities for easy, down to earth application of these principles.

Noemi Duran  
 Geoscience Research Institute  
 Director of the European  
 Branch Office



## Children's Deviations



## ALEX (4 YEARS)

Mommy, how do you keep seeing through all of my disguises?

From: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sweet-strange-and-totally-hilarious-quotes-from-kids\\_n\\_5876a47be4b05b7a465da3ac](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sweet-strange-and-totally-hilarious-quotes-from-kids_n_5876a47be4b05b7a465da3ac)



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## From the POCKETBOOK

### for Peer Helpers

## To begin with...

### What is a peer helper?

A peer helper is a person who has been trained in communication skills, and has learned how to apply them in helping another person with a personal or social problem. A peer helper also cares about others and will take time to listen to their problems. Without giving advice, the peer helper will assist the person in managing and/or solving his or her own problems.

What are the responsibilities?

1. To be available to the person needing help, whenever possible.
2. To listen.
3. To keep confidentiality.
4. To help the person solve his or her own problems.

5. To refer the person to a professional when warranted.

6. To report:

**Child abuse**—to the department of social services or police.

**Potential suicide or bodily harm**—to your leader, a professional, and/or a relative.

### Rules for helping peers

There are certain basic concepts you will always want to remember when you help a peer. These are generic in nature and will apply to any age person or any helping situation.

- Be nonjudgmental
- Be empathetic.
- Do not give advice.

- Do not take responsibility for the other person's problem.
- Stick with the here and now.
- Do not argue, verbally or nonverbally.
- Listen between the lines.
- Deal with the feelings first.
- Be genuine and sincere.
- Keep confidentiality.
- Be a vital part of a caring network.

Remember, some people who need your help the most will not be those who will ask for it; the person sitting alone at lunchtime or the one standing alone at a social gathering may be feeling very lonely. This person may need your care and understanding as much as any of your helpees. It will be up to you to reach out to the stranger.

From: Sturkie, J. & Gibson, V.: *The Peer Helper's Pocketbook*. Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, CA, USA, 1992

## BENEVOLENT EDUCATION

# Characteristics of Introverted Children

1. **They have a vivid inner world.** It's always alive and present for them. They rely on their inner resources rather than constantly turning to other people for support and guidance. [...] Introverted children like imaginative play, and they prefer playing alone or with just one or two other children. They often spend time in their own room with the door closed, doing solitary things like reading, drawing, or playing computer games. [...]
2. **They engage with the deeper aspects of life.** Introverted children are not afraid of the big questions. They want to know why something is the way it is or what it means on a deeper level. Astonishingly, even at a young age, many of them can step outside themselves and reflect on their own behavior. Often, introverted children want to understand themselves—and everyone and everything around them. They might wonder, *what makes this person tick?*
3. **They observe first, act later.** Generally, they prefer to watch games or activities before joining in. Sometimes appearing hesitant and cautious, they stand away from the action and enter new situations slowly. They may be more energetic and talkative at home where they feel more comfortable.
4. **They make decisions based on their own values.** Their thoughts and feelings anchor

them inwardly, so they make decisions based on their own standards rather than following the crowd. This can be an extremely positive aspect of their nature because it means they're less vulnerable to peer pressure. They don't do things just to fit in.

5. **It takes time for their real personalities to come out.** Just like introverted adults, introverted kids warm up to new people slowly. They may be quiet and reserved when you first meet them, but as they become more comfortable with you, they come alive. Often their aim in conversation is to better understand their own or someone else's inner world; they value connecting and really getting to know someone on a deeper level. Also, like introverted adults, introverted kids are generally good listeners, paying attention and remembering what the other person says. They may speak softly, occasionally pause to search for words, and stop talking if interrupted. [...]
6. **They struggle in group settings.** Over the years, our society's values have shifted and extroversion has become the ideal. We praise assertiveness, group acceptance, and external accomplishment rather than quiet reflection, solitude, and careful decision-making. Sadly, the standards of being outgoing and assertive have been woven into every school and institution that an introverted child encounters.

[...] When they begin formal schooling, they may spend 6-7 hours a day with up to 30 other children, all the while being encouraged to participate and work in groups. This is challenging for introverts, who do better at home during their early years and adapt better to group settings as they grow older.

7. **They socialize differently than extroverts.** They may have just one or two close friends and count everyone else as an acquaintance, because introverts seek depth in relationships rather than breadth. They probably won't spend as much time socializing as extroverted kids, and they'll need to go off on their own after a while to recharge their energy. Like introverted adults, introverted kids have limited social energy. Too much time spent socializing might result in tears, meltdowns, and bad moods.

If you're the parent of an introverted child, the best thing you can do for your child is to honor their temperament. Help your child understand why they feel tired and cranky after socializing. Teach them that there's nothing wrong with needing to spend time alone.

Above all, don't ever let them think there's something wrong with them because they're introverted. When we embrace introverted kids for who they are, we give them the confidence they need to fully show up in the world.

From: <https://introvertdear.com/news/introverted-kids/>



# CRAFT IDEAS



## Easy-to-do crafts with & for kids

### Why craft with your kids?

A recent study by Dr. Richard Rende revealed that creative interaction between parents and young children engaging in activities like arts and crafts not only provides immediate and lasting cognitive benefits but also creates a unique bonding experience, which creates lifelong memories. Taking time to be creative with your children is a topic that I am *incredibly* passionate about. I know firsthand the benefits that children reap when they are exposed to arts and crafts activities, and in an age where arts are in a decline in the school systems, it is even more important than ever for parents to take the initiative to introduce art activities to their children.

Other key findings of Dr. Rende's study

showed that:

- Arts and crafts engage multiple brain areas simultaneously and improve bilateral coordination between the left and right sides of the brain, leading to immediate and future cognitive development.
- Activities like arts and crafts accelerate the development of muscles in the hands and fingers, improving fine motor skills that are essential for school success in the earliest formal years.
- Face-to-face interaction in the early years is critical for optimal social development.
- Arts and crafts promote rich social interactions that help develop language skills and social cognitive abilities like understanding emotions.

- Creative activities are a great way to bond with children and create lasting memories.

Nearly 90% of the parents surveyed for the study said that they would like to spend more time creating arts and crafts with their children, but they didn't know where to start or how to carve out the time needed.

Trust me, you do NOT need to consider yourself 'crafty' to start getting creative with your children! There are hundreds upon hundreds of craft projects that you can make with your children that require NO special skills or tools and that take less than half an hour of your time.

From: <https://www.happinessishomemade.net/quick-easy-kids-crafts-anyone-can-make/>

### DIY Marble Run



### Procedure

I made 3 towers, 2 towers that were 3 toilet rolls high and a 3rd that was 2 high. Each taped together with electrical tape, as that is what I have on hand. To connect the towers I cut 3 toilet rolls in half longways and taped them together to make chutes.

Next, I cut holes in the towers for the chutes to rest in, making sure that it was tilted downward to encourage the marbles to roll down. I tested as I was cutting with a pom pom to make sure the holes in the towers were high enough to allow the balls through.

For the base I used a side of a cardboard box, marked the towers out, then glued them down. I left this overnight to dry completely to ensure that it was secure.



### Things you need

- 11 Toilet paper rolls
- Cardboard base
- Tape
- Paint
- Glue
- Marbles / Pom Poms



The next evening I painted the towers, chutes and base (secretly, while the kids slept) and in the morning used my glue gun to secure the chutes in place before gathering our salt dough balls I had made from our last salt dough play batch. I don't keep marbles with 3 young children.

Make sure that the chutes that the marble drops into is pushed as far back as you can safely get in there without breaking something. We want to catch the balls.

From: <https://www.powerfulmothering.com/diy-marble-run-from-toilet-rolls/>



# FOCUS ON...



## Special Activities & Events

### Faith and Science Fundamentals Webinar Series

A series of webinars intended for those who have questions about the relationship between two apparently distant concepts: **religious faith and scientific knowledge.**

Christians believe that God is the author (editor) of the Bible and the creator of nature and so, knowledge drawn from these two sources should always be in harmony. But that does not seem to be the case. Or is it?

These are the types of issues dealt with in the Faith and Science Fundamentals webinars. "Once a week for sixteen weeks we will explore the main issues of the faith-science debate, focusing especially on one of the most controversial topics: *Origins*" said Dr. Noemí Durán, biologist, professor, and director of the European Branch Office of the Geoscience Research Institute (GRI).

The content is organized in four sections: Science, Models of Origins, Biology and Design, and Rocks, Fossils and the Flood. Each section contains four webinars. The specific titles and dates for each session are available on the Facebook page GRI Live Creation: <https://www.facebook.com/GRI-Live-Creation-101992155041587>

The webinar takes place **every Wednesday**, from January 27 until May 12, 2021

The event is free but it requires registration. It will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform.

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_60Zx02CKSWeXY8MkLxYwQA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_60Zx02CKSWeXY8MkLxYwQA)

**FAITH & SCIENCE FUNDAMENTALS**

WEDNESDAYS  
19:30 CET  
18:30 WET  
20:30 EET

A series of weekly webinars by  
**Noemí Durán**  
Director of GRI-Europe

27 JAN - 17 FEB  
**SCIENCE**

24 FEB - 17 MARCH  
**MODELS OF ORIGINS**

24 MARCH - 14 APRIL  
**BIOLOGY AND DESIGN**

21 APRIL - 12 MAY  
**ROCKS, FOSSILS, AND THE FLOOD**

zoom  
YouTube

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: f i #GRI-LIVECREATION

### Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

# 2021



**January 27-May 12**

**Faith & Science Fundamentals**

Every Wednesday

Webinar - see above for more details.

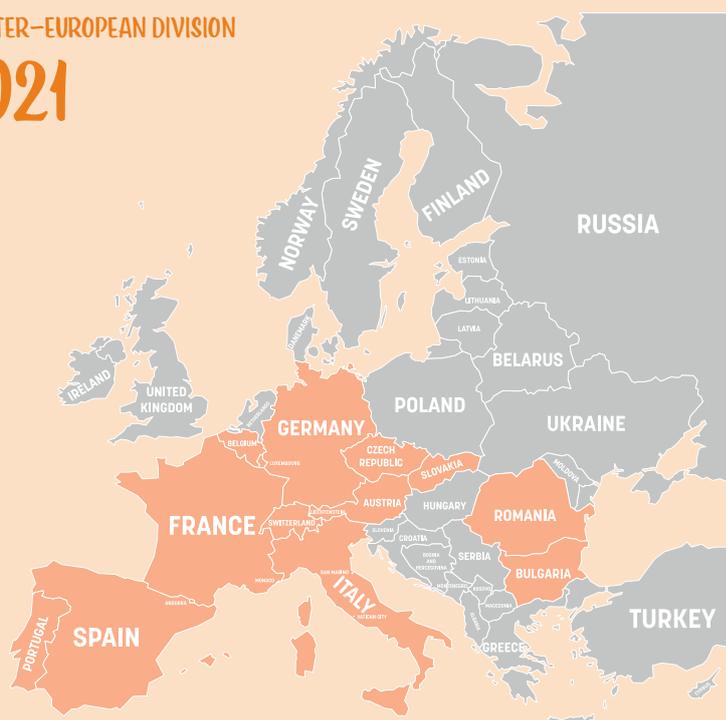
**March 20**

**Global Youth and Children's Day**

DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS ALL PLANNED EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED.

WE OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND INFORM ABOUT EVENTS AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

HELP US PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE AFFECTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BY THIS EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION.



# God's Dreams for Children

Have you noticed what is happening to our children? Have you watched their faces and looked into their eyes lately? When you look into their eyes, you'll see some that sparkle with hope, joy, and a sense of belonging. You'll see some whose eyes are lit up with the fire of living purposefully and acting on what God has called them to do. But keep looking.

Look into the eyes of children as you pass them in the halls of schools and churches. Look into the eyes of children on the streets, hanging out in playgrounds, and playing next door to you. Look into the eyes of the children in your own home. What do you see?

Many children today are growing up without someone to hold them, love them, or lead them. Many are raising themselves and being taught values only by TV or friends. They grow up without having someone listen to their questions, love them enough to challenge them, or care enough to lead them to discover Jesus for themselves. Many are sidelined until they're adults, told to wait to speak up stand up or live out the dreams God has already given them.

What are God's dreams for children? What comes to your mind?

In the fall of 2001, I was hiking along a trail and asking God for His vision for children. For years, my wife and I had become increasingly concerned that many children are walking away from their faith in their teens or twenties... or not even finding it at all! So it was on this autumn day, after several months of focused praying for solutions, that I

found myself on the trail pleading with God for His vision.

During my conversation with God, my part went something like this: "I may not be the man to receive Your vision for how to reach this generation. I may not have the wisdom, experience, or character to hear and act on whatever You're dreaming up for Your children. But, Lord, I'm willing. I'm willing to do whatever you ask me to do to help the children. Just tell me!"

Before long, God responded, but I was not prepared for what He had to say. I was expecting some grandiose idea. His voice whispered to my heart something painfully simple: "Don, you're not discipling the children." The simplicity of His answer embarrassed me. "What do you mean?" I argued. "We do all kinds of things for children. We clothe them, feed them, teach them, coach them, and preach to them. I know a bunch of church kids go to all kinds of programs that teach lots of good things about You!" But then a thought hit me like a bullet: "It's very possible to be doing all these wonderful things for children, and yet have them grow up without being intentionally mentored to Christ." "Wow!" I thought. "We may be making lots of investments in children, but bypassing what would lead each child to personally experience Jesus."

Walking further along the trail, I felt like I was in a daze. God wasn't through sharing, though. His voice said, "One more thing. You're divorcing parents from personally discipling their children to Christ." That puzzled me, so I paused to

think about that. As I pondered, I had to be honest and admit that much of what I was doing for children was without their parents' involvement. In fact, I realized that my efforts were making it easy for parents to be completely disconnected spiritually from their children. They could drop off their children at the school, church, or community program... and run. Was this God's way?

Over the days ahead, I rediscovered three powerful Bible passages that reveal God's dreams for His children. Please look these texts up in your own Bible and underline them. Pray about them. Think about them. Live them!

**1<sup>st</sup> Passage: Acts 2:17**

What does God dream?

- To have everyone, including children full of His Holy Spirit.
- For every child to prophecy, or tell the world, about Jesus Christ.
- For the young and old to have visions and dreams together... and live God's dreams together!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Passage: Malachi 4:5-6**

What does God dream?

- To draw the hearts of fathers (and mothers) back to their own children.
- To draw the hearts of children back to their own parents

**3<sup>rd</sup> Passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-7**

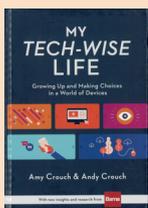
What does God dream?

- For parents to love God completely.
- For parents to obey God out of their heart relationship with Christ.
- For parents to be the disciple-makers of their children.

From: MacLafferty, D. *Inside Out. Children and Families Trusting, Following, and Sharing Jesus.* College Press, Collegedale, TN, USA, 2015.

For more helpful resources to disciple your children, youth, and family, go to [www.indiscipleship.org](http://www.indiscipleship.org)

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



**MY TECH-WISE LIFE**

Amy Crouch & Andy Crouch

It's time to take our power back. We can barely imagine our lives without technology. Tech gives us tools to connect with our friends, listen to our music, document our lives, share our opinions, and keep up with what's going on in the world. Yet it also tempts us to procrastinate, avoid honest conversations, compare ourselves with others, and filter our reality. Sometimes it feels like our devices have a lot more control over us than we have over them. But it doesn't have to be that way.



**COME HOME**

Don MacLafferty

Your family is precious to God! God has a great love for you and everyone you call your family. This booklet invites you to discover God's plans for your family and the place you call home. Explore timeless principles that will help you love your family well and safeguard your home in this chaotic time. Find God's vision for what your home could become by His love, His grace, and His power.



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