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Newsletter



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Credentials

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Girls4Christ in EUD

The idea came to me in the beginning of 2008, in one of those nights when I cannot sleep and start thinking about Women's Ministries and all that needs to be done. Suddenly I knew that Girls4Christ would be the idea, to reach out to young women. At that time, I was Women's Ministries director in the Swiss German Conference. In May I shared the idea with my team, they received it with great interest. Shortly after I shared it with my colleagues from the DACH Team (DACH = German speaking Unions, North and South Germany, Austria and Switzerland). They too were most excited about this new idea. At that time Women's Ministries in many countries had become a club of older women, and young women were less involved. The original idea was to reach out to young women of age 16-25 in order to lower the age average in Women's Ministries meetings. The result is much different. Since we started Girls4Christ in January 2009 it has become a wonderful outreach program for young women of 12-18 years. They enjoy the programs and invite their friends. Many young girls have found their way into the SDA Church, have much fun and show interest in getting to know their Lord Jesus Christ. But nevertheless, the average age in Women's Ministries meetings has been

reduced in the last 10 years because the main emphasis in Women's Ministries has changed from Nurturing to Empowering for Outreach. This emphasis attracts younger women, and we are most thankful for this.

The programs are targeted to attract young teenage girls. Everybody who is interested in the topics can come, even if they are older.

Offered topics are e.g.:

- How to relate to parents
- Communication, Conflict Management
- Handling Money
- Identity
- 5 languages of love
- Healthy limits
- How to start a friendship, or how to end it if necessary
- Health
- Find your profession / study direction
- How to become the right partner

It is most important that young women find a home in their church, a place where topics for women are discussed. Young women have so many questions, and they

Continue reading on page 2

God's Names: Jehova-Jireh The Lord will provide

What would you pack if you were going on a trip? Would you pack pajamas, a toothbrush, and shoes? Maybe you would, because we often know what we need. But there are times when we don't know what we need. Suppose you found a caterpillar on your trip. You wouldn't have packed a jar for it because finding the caterpillar was a surprise. We can't know everything we are going to need. But God always knows what we need. He knows what we need today ... and what we *will* need tomorrow or next week. He knows about everything we will *ever* need. That's because El Roi, the God Who Sees, sees everything.

God is Jehova-Jireh, the Lord Will Provide. That means God "takes care of the needs" of his children. He gives them what he knows they need ... and even what they don't know they need.

God takes care of His children in a very special way, and He also provides for those who don't even love Him.





CHM in the South-American Division

How many children are listed in your Division?

487.356 under 15 years

Which countries belong to your division?

8 countries: Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Chile.

Which activities are you doing for/with children?

Vacation Bible School
Great Like David
Encounter of Princesses (girls)
Encounter of Champions (boys)
CelebraTeen

What are your challenges?

Involve more parents in the spiritual care of their children, care for, and keep adolescents in the church, have leaders do a more personal job, that is, caring for people.

Which dreams and plans do you have?

Every child can: live more like Jesus
Every child and adolescent becomes a disciple of Jesus and a missionary
Parents should be conscious about their responsibility to guide their children on the right way

Which programs do you have for 2017/2018?

Kids in discipleship
Great Like David
Guardians of the Treasures
I know my story
Generation Teen

Which books would you recommend for reading?

Ellen White: *Child Guidance, The Adventist Home*
Thom S. Rainer & Eric Geiger: *Simple Churches*
Keith Phillips: *Education of a Disciple*

In the beginning of her ministry, Graciela Noemi Hellvig de Hein was a missionary with her husband at the Amazonas River in Brazil. She has worked in Argentina, Uruguay, as a pastor's wife, helper of her husband in the Sabbath School Department, coordinating the activities for children. She was responsible for Women's Ministries and chaplain at the Adventist University La Plata. Now, Graciela is director of Children's Ministries at the South American Division. She has joyfully been working for the Lord for 40 years.

need to find answers. If they don't find them inside the church, they will search for them somewhere else.

Adolescence is a time of great changes to the young people. Media and propaganda show what a body needs to look like. This is not always easy for young women to cope with. The gender topic is always interesting to young girls. They want to be respected, they want to find respect in society and in church life. What is the role of a woman? At this age it is most important for them to be able to share ideas without distraction from young men. They feel much more free to express their feelings and they can develop their self-worth and develop responsibility for their own lives. Often we are asked why we only reach out to young girls. I truly believe that young men need spiritual fathers as well, and that the church should consider offering programs with specific topics for young men.

Even though girls4christ was launched by Women's Ministries, we had the support of the Youth Department from the beginning. Often in Youth conventions they give room for workshops for girls4christ.

For more info please go to the webpages Girls4Christ or to Facebook. Here are some

links:

<http://www.sta-frauen.ch/girls4christ>
<http://www.sta-frauen.at/girls4christ/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Girls4Christ-784383994927238/>

In the 4 DACH Unions (North + South Germany, Austria and Switzerland) Girls4Christ is very well settled and very active. They offer weekends for young women, or for mothers and daughters. In Romania they call it 'Princess for Christ', in Bulgarian, Czechoslovakian, Spanish and Portuguese Unions they show great interest in this project. The General Conference also showed great interest. In some other Divisions Girls4Christ has been launched, e.g. in TED and other Divisions. At GC level they call it Sisters for Christ. The aim is the same.



Denise Hochstrasser
EUD Women's Ministries Director

Jesus wants
all of me

Ready - or not?

I am ready, Lord. Ready to do something great and big and amazing. Ready to do something so small that no one will ever notice. Here I am. You can send me.



Chepko Danil/Vlaserich/Shutterstock.com

"God called to him... and he said, "Here I am!"

Exodus 3:4

Out of the mouths of babes...



ashva/Shutterstock.com

A family was entertaining some pious friends for dinner. The hostess, keen to show that they upheld Christian standards in their own home, asked her five-year-old son to say grace. He looked blank. There was an awkward pause, followed by a reassuring smile from the boy's mother. "Well, darling, just say what Daddy said at breakfast this morning." Obediently, the boy repeated: "Oh God, we've got those awful people coming for dinner tonight."

Taken from Watts M., "Children on the Loose", Mill Hill, London, 2001

In Synergy Changes in Departments at the EUD that are connected to CHM



Stephan Sigg, former EUD Youth Ministries Director, accepted the call to be President of the German Swiss Conference. On October 1, 2017, he started his new ministry, and we wish him all the best and God's richest blessings.



Jonatan Tejel, who was working at the GC Youth Department, has been voted to succeed Stephan as EUD Youth Ministries Director. As he is originally from Spain, we are happy to welcome Jonatan back in our territories. May God be with him as he starts this new task.



Denise Hochstrasser, currently EUD Women's Ministries Director, is going to retire in Spring of 2018. We thank her for the work she has been doing during the years she served in this position, and we also wish her God's blessings for this new stage in life.



During the Annual Council, Dagmar Dorn was elected to be the new Women's Ministries Director. At present working in Zurich, Switzerland, as midwife, Dagmar will take the responsibility in spring 2018. Even if there are still some months until then, we want to welcome her as well. May God already prepare her and grant her wisdom.

Some teachers shame and humiliate children as a means of discipline. How can I encourage more positive discipline techniques?



FamilyLiu/Shutterstock.com

- **Discipline Policies.** One way to avoid types of discipline that involve shame and humiliation is to institute a discipline policy and train teachers how to use it. Discipline policies inform teachers about acceptable discipline techniques. If you have a children's ministry committee or leadership team, work with this group to develop the policy. If you're in a smaller setting, work directly with teachers to develop discipline procedures. The discussions that take place will be enlightening to you and to the teachers as you work toward an understanding of appropriate behavior and discipline in your children's ministry.
- **Training times.** Use teacher-training times to talk with teachers about appropriate discipline procedures. Make sure teachers understand how important it is to always show love to a child even though they may abhor the child's actions. Encourage them to use words and phrases that convey love to the child. Talk with teachers about their own feelings of anger and frustration toward difficult children in their classes.

Help them to find way to like (and maybe eventually love) those children. Encourage teachers to keep a discipline log in which they note each child's behavior each week and how they handled it. Discuss the log and its implications with your teachers. You may also want to role play gentler, more effective means of discipline.

- **Watch closely.** If a teacher continually uses shame and humiliation with his or her class, action must be taken. Document your observations and the complaints you've received. Meet with the teacher and talk through the events. If the teacher is willing to make changes, agree on the changes, then monitor his or her progress. If the teacher is unwilling to make changes and doesn't understand the harm that shame and humiliation may do to the children, remove him or her from teaching.



Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Taken and adapted from Beckwith I., *Quick Relief for Children's Ministry Leaders*. Group Publishing Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 1998

When the children and youth stray from the fold, do not give them up, do not expel them from school. Do not show that you want to humiliate them; but with tender voice and yearning love seek them, knowing that all heaven is enlisted with you in the work of bringing them back to the fold.

- Spalding and Magan Collection, p. 113



Lasting Friendships

What makes a good friend? Have you ever had a friend who left his or her family just to come live with you? Read Ruth 1:1-8; 2:1-3; 4:5-17 to meet such a friend.

Think About It

- Ruth was loyal to Naomi, which means she was devoted, sincere, and caring. Who has been a loyal friend to you? How have you been a loyal friend?
- How did Boaz show loyalty to his relatives?

Go deeper

Read Deuteronomy 31:6; Ruth 2-3, Proverbs 18:24; Matthew 1:1,5; 1 Corinthians 13:3-8.



Prayer Starter

God is a loyal friend. He said, "Never will I leave you" (Hebrews 13:5). Thank God for this. Tell Him how you feel about His friendship and how He sent Jesus to "buy you back" or redeem you.

Facts and Fun

God wants us to help the poor. He commanded landowners not to harvest the edges of their fields (Leviticus 19:9-10). Then poor people could gather or "glean" the leftover grain. You can give the poor your "leftover grain" too. When you empty your pockets, put the change in a special place. Later send it to a missionary or to a group that helps the poor.

Taken from: Dall, J. et al.: *My Time with God*. Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, USA, 2000

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Question: Can I have more than one best friend?

Answer: God wants us to be kind and nice to the others. If you are, you will probably meet many other young people who like you and who would like to be your friend. To have friends is wonderful, and it's pleasant to have many friends. You can have several good friends. You are not obliged to put them in order of priority. It may happen that you have one or two friends who are more precious to you than all the others. But pay attention when you say that someone is your best friend. This can hurt your other friends. And don't say that someone is your best friend just to make another friend angry, to make him or her jealous or to exclude them.

You can have a favorite meal, but you are not obliged to have a favorite friend. You can be the best friend for several people.

Key Text

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10

Additional Texts

Proverbs 17:17

Additional Question

What should I do if someone wants to be my best friend, but I don't want to be that?

Note for parents

Encourage your children to be loyal friends who respect the feelings and preferences of others. Advise them not to call some of their friends their "best friends" because other friends could be hurt if not having this title. Encourage them to be a good friend instead of trying to find one. Everything the Bible says about love one another also applies to friendship.



gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com

Taken from: Veerman, D. et al.: *103 Questions que les enfants se posent au sujet du Bien et du Mal*. Éditions Bérékia, Montréal, Canada, 2000

Activity Report: Creation Day in Sofia

October 29, Sofia, Bulgaria

On 29 October 2017, we had the pleasure to take part in a family day event focused on families with children in Sofia city (Bulgaria). The Family Department in the city of Sofia had set out to achieve a number of goals with that event:

- to offer events for the families attending church as well as families in the community, which can become ongoing family tradition and practice
- to create a network of families and their children that share similar interests and can create sustainable and long lasting relationships in a safe and nurturing environment
- to share our Christian values and core beliefs with other families in the community

Such events are offered regularly throughout the year in Sofia – one in Spring, one in Autumn and one in Winter.

This is only possible with the dedicated work of a team of about 15 people that work tirelessly to make it all a success. The team benefits from the talent and ideas of a number of experts such as teachers, photographers, décor specialists, children’s animators along with union leaders and other volunteers.

The overarching theme for this event was the Creation. The use of a creative story telling set the scene for the various activities. More than 110 children attended along with their families and we had about 30 families from the community.

The children and their families were invited to participate in interactive workshops, enjoyed some delicious snacks and lovely music, all of which contributed to the welcoming and warm atmosphere on the day. The team managed to artfully capture the attention of the children along with the adults as they took them on a journey through all the days of the Biblical creation story. One notable feature of the day was including the children and allowing them to be children through participation, play and lots of fun shared with their friends. This was particularly praised by the parents, and impressed people from the community. They expressed that seeing the children having so much joy and not simply being asked to seat, listen or watch but rather actively participate made the day a true success. Here is what some of the parents shared:

“...we are truly grateful for such an amazing and heart-warming event. It was unique and very creative!”

Dima Rachkova (mother of two children)

“We would like to thank the team for organizing such a lovely event! It was done to highest standards, breathtaking in fact. It was like being on an adventure... we love it!”

Polly Ivanova (mother of one)

Teodora Nikolova
Bulgarian Union
Teacher





Children's Sabbath: Stand & Shine

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)

Special Material for Children's Sabbath has been prepared and translated into some languages of EUD territory. According to the feedback from several churches children, like all other participants, really enjoyed the opportunity to discover the importance of Reformation then and today.



2017
EUD
Children's Sabbath

Stand & Shine

ON THE TRACK OF THE REFORMERS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH EUD - Inter-European Division

Images: Samuel de Abreu

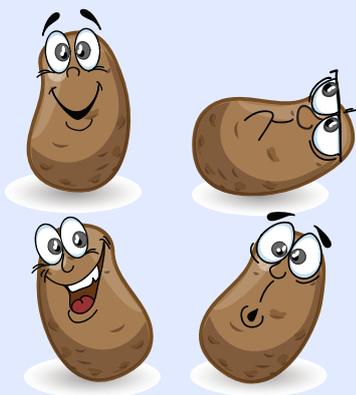
Object Talk: Teamwork

Theme: Working Together

Object: A very large potatoe
- Dictator, a very small potato
- Commentator, two matching potatoes
- Imitators, a potato with large specks on it
- Spectator, a sweet potato

Text: "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12



Virinaflora/Shutterstock.com

Application

It is not always easy for people, even Christians, to work together as a team. Today I brought along some potatoes to show you just how different we can be. Some people always seem to be telling others what to do. This bossy person is called a *(pause before each word, emphasize the first syllable)* dic-tator. *(Show large potato.)* Older brothers and sisters sometimes seem like dictators. Another person may not act like a show-off, but has lots of little comments to say about everything. This person is a comment-tator. *(Show small potato.)* Kids can be commentators, even in the middle of a Sabbath School class. Then there are those who want to do only what everyone else is doing. *(Show identical potatoes.)* These people look and act alike. Often they must wear the same kind of clothes. They're imi-tators. Just as much a problem are those who wish to be only spec-tators. *(Show potato with specks.)* Spectators watch everyone else do what needs to be done, but they don't get involved. Sometimes they sit next to the commentator just to make sure he doesn't miss anything. *(Put the commentator next to the spectator.)*

Jesus knows how hard it can be to work together as a team. That's why he gave us an example of how he wants us to act. He said we are to love others just as he loves us. Love should be shown through our actions.

The sweet potato looks a lot like the other potatoes. *(Show.)* But inside, it is a different color and has a sweeter taste. You have eyes, and hair, and look similar to other people around, but inside you are different. Christians must be filled with a sweet, kind, loving spirit. *(Hold the potatoes up as you speak of them.)* Don't be bossy like a *dictator*. Make only good *comments* about others. God made you a special person. Instead of being an *imitator*, be as special as God made you to be. And then there's that hard one. The *spectator* just watches work being done. If we love others, we'll want to help clean up around the house and join in with doing the dishes. We will be first to help at church.

You are different. *(Hold up the sweet potato.)* Love others just as Jesus loves you. Teamwork is the result of that love.

Prayer

Lord, help us to work together, because Jesus has shown us how to love. Amen.

Taken from: Kokmeyer, V.: *Object Talks for any day*. Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 2001

Upcoming Events

2017 - Year of Reformation (500 years)

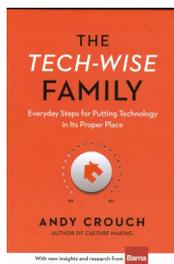
Special Material for Children's Sabbath is ready and we are waiting to receive your translation

2018 is expected to be another busy year for Children's Ministries. We look forward to see great things that God is preparing for us and the children in our Division.

2019

September 18-22

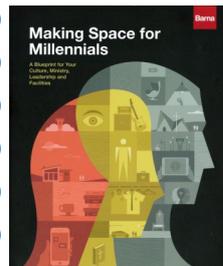
Convention in cooperation with Children's, Family, Shepherdess and Women's Ministries



Crouch, A.: The Tech-Wise Family

Making good choices about technology in our families is more than just using internet filters and determining screen-time limits for our children. It's about building character, wisdom, and courage rather than accepting technology's promises of ease and instant gratification. It's about developing our heart, mind, soul, and strength when we're tempted to settle for entertainment and consumer satisfaction. And it's definitely not just about the kids. The author takes parents beyond the typical questions of what, where, and when to show us that in a world full of devices, there's a way to choose a better life than we've imagined.

Last but not least: books worth reading



Barna Group: Making Space for Millennials

Is there room in your structures for the next generation of disciples? If you're like the leaders of countless faith communities and Christian organizations, you are wrestling with how to make space for Millennials - not just appealing space in your buildings and gathering places, but also room in your institutional culture, ministry models and leadership approach. This highly practical Barna Report is an essential, nuts-and-bolts tool for designing with Millennials in mind. Get to know Millennials as a generation and discover what impact their shared values, allegiances and assumptions will have on your church or organization as you make space for their ideas and influence.

Special for German Speaking People

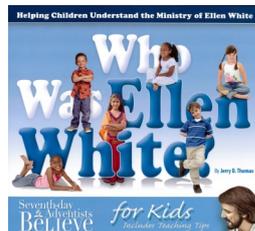
A series on Reformation started on Friday, February 3, 2017. Every Friday (18:00), Saturday (14:30), Sunday (9:30) and Wednesday (18:00), one episode will be broadcasted.

The themes are about the Waldensians, John Wycliff, John Hus, Martin Luther and others.

Episodes can be watched online on www.fribos-dachboden.de



Thomas, J. D.: Who Was Ellen White?



One of the unique challenges in our church is to understand the ministry of Ellen White and how it should impact us as Adventists. This can be especially difficult for children. If we want them to become lifelong Adventists with faith in the Bible and in our church's doctrines, then we must make sure they are well-grounded in what we believe. We must make sure that they learn to appreciate the blessing our church has received from the ministry of our prophet, Ellen White.