



# KidsNewsZone

Vol 15 #2 2018



CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES

MISSION: TO NURTURE CHILDREN INTO A LOVING, SERVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

## DIVISION DIRECTORS

ECD Debbie Maloba  
ESD Zhanna Kaminskaya  
EUD Elsa Cozzi  
IAD Dinorah Rivera  
NAD Sherri Uhrig  
NSD Lisa Clouzet  
SAD Glaucia Korkischko  
SID Caroline Chola  
SPD Litiana Turner  
SSD Orathai Chureson  
SUD Milly Lakra  
TED Clair Sanches  
WAD Omobonike Sessou

GC Attached Fields:  
Middle East North Africa Union: Amal Fawzy  
Israel Field: Svetlana Shchelkunov

## KidsNewsZone

is published triannually by the General Conference Department of Children's Ministries for the purpose of communicating news and information about Children's Ministries.

General Conference  
Children's Ministries Department  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
(301) 680-6144  
Fax (301) 680-6155  
MugandaT@gc.adventist.org

[www.gcchildmin.org](http://www.gcchildmin.org)

**Linda Mei Lin Koh**  
Director

**Saustin S. Mfune**  
Associate Director

**Tanya Muganda**  
Administrative Assistant

**Erika Miike**  
Art Director

## Kids in Motion

TOTAL CHILDREN INVOLVEMENT (TCI)



**D**o we want our kids to make a difference? Do we want to raise children and teens who are compassionate, kind, loving, and passionate for Jesus? Of course, we do!

When an expert in the law tested Jesus with a question, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus quoted this Scripture in Matthew 22:37. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Jesus then went on to say, "This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Yes, it means helping our children to grow in faith and in reaching out in service to their neighbors and friends in the community. We need to immerse our children and teens in TMI—Total Member Involvement!

There is no time for our children to just sit at church and Sabbath Schools week after week as passive observers. We need to involve them in the life of the church! Yes, we need to immerse our children in TCI – Total Children Involvement! God has endowed children with various talents and spiritual gifts that can be used for His service. Why are we not utilizing these gifts toward His kingdom work?

Ellen White reminds us that, "In the closing scenes of earth's history, many of these children and youth will astonish people by their witness



COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



to the truth, which will be borne in simplicity, yet with spirit and power...In the near future, many children will be endued with the Spirit of God, and will do a work in proclaiming the truth to the world, that at that time cannot well be done by the older members of the church."  
—*Counsels to Teachers and Parents*, pp. 166, 167

It is time to let the kids lead in worships, singing and prayer. Let them preach if they have such a gift. Let them teach lessons, read scripture, or lead song service. Involve them in community service to the less fortunate. They can help build a ramp for easy movement of the physically handicapped on wheelchairs. They can help make sandwiches or pack lunches for distribution to the poor and homeless. They can pass out tracts and missionary books at the bus stands, or from door to door.

Let's remember that every child is a missionary for Jesus!

Ellen White reminded all leaders that:

*"Whole armies of children may come under Christ's banner as missionaries, even in their childhood years. Never repulse the desire of children to do something for Jesus. Never quench their ardor for working in some way for the Master."*—*That I May Know Him*, p. 42

So let's get our kids in motion! Let ALL children and teens get involved in TCI – TOTAL CHILDREN INVOLVEMENT!

*Linda Mei Lin Koh*

GC Children's Ministries Director

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



## AROUND THE WORLD

### INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

#### **West Jamaica Conference hosts the annual Jamaica Union Conference Children's Convention.**

The much-awaited day, Sunday August 5, had arrived - the day when the annual Jamaica's Union Conference Annual Children's Convention was to be held. Hundreds of energy-filled children from all over Jamaica Union gathered on the West Jamaica Conference grounds in Montego Bay, ready to enjoy the day's activities. The energy-filled children met their

match in the name of Lorraine Vernal, a bundle of energy, power-packed CHM Director of Jamaica Union Conference. She rose to the occasion. Saustin Sampson Mfune, the GC CHM associate director was privileged to witness this extravaganza as children show-cased their different God-given talents. All the activities centered on how children can cultivate Adventist values and stand up for Jesus in their communities. In general, the days' activities centered around *The Talking Back Pack*, an initiative developed in IAD to empower children in their *Total Member Involvement (TMI)* endeavors.



► Children giving a presentation during the Jamaica Union Children's Convention





Four things impressed Mfune as he watched the events. (1) Though the activities were held in an open air, the quality of the sound was second to none. When Mfune interacted with the team which operated the PA system, he learned that this was the same PA system which was used when the GC President, Elder Ted Wilson visited Jamaica. This point should be underscored. It is important because it tells children that the church does not see them as second-class citizens. They are valued. (2) The quality of the program and the way the activities flowed showed that great planning went into this program. (3) All children were given time to participate in the activities. No child was allowed to be a bystander. (4) Pastor Everett E Brown, the Union President and his wife, though they had a wedding two hours away, the president managed to squeeze his time to briefly appear at the grounds where the children had assembled. One boy who saw him, and I had met him the previous day when I preached at Port More Church in Kingston, proudly whispered to me that Pastor Brown was the union president. When leaders of his caliber appear at children's meetings, it sends a powerful message to our children. They can see that they are valued. And for your information, the Union Office is in Mandeville, some two and a half hours away from Mo'Bay. With such leadership, our children's spirituality is assured.

It was no wonder in the late afternoon as children left for their various homes, you could see in their eyes that they were all eagerly awaiting for next year's children's convention. Well done Lorraine and your team.



► Jamaica Lets Move

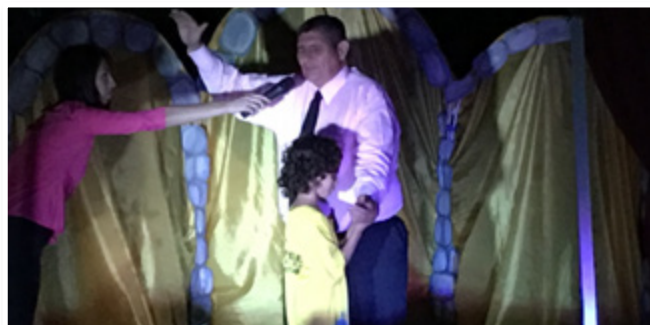
## South Western Venezuela Association brings together 980 CHM leaders.

When I, Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director, had received an invitation to go to Venezuela, my heart almost jumped out of my ribs due to fear. The images of war

you see on TV are not inviting. So, in 2017 I did not go. And when the invitation came again in 2018, I was placed between a rock and a hard place. But thank God, He placed heavenly courage inside me and I went. I praise God I did. I had a time of my life.

South Western Venezuelan Association under the leadership of Karina Alexandra Castillo de Palicio, a very motivated, dedicated and jovial CHM Director of the Association, managed to bring together nine hundred and eighty delegates who congregated for two days, June 1 and 2, at Casa Sindical de San Cristobal to share ideas as to how they can improve their leadership skills. I presented four topics and one of them being my favorite topic, "Why do We keep losing young people yet as a Church, we have powerful programs?" Milder Cordoba de Palacio who happens to be the wife of the Western Venezuela Union President, Pastor Palacio, and also the CHM director of the Union gave wonderful presentations as well. Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, 17 children were baptized.

Saturday afternoon was jam packed with activities presented by children from various territories of the Association. Though the country's financial situation is very bad, the people's spirits are high and are fully dedicated making sure that God's work goes forward. And like Noah, Adventists in this Association are determined, by God's grace, to be found with their children in the heavenly ark.



► One of the 17 candidates being baptized



► Part of the 980 delegates

“ AND SAID, ‘TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!’ ”

(MATTHEW 18:3 NASB)

## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### Mfune as graduation speaker at Pine Tree Academy Graduation

In the month of February, Saustin Mfune, the GC CHM Associate Director was the Adventist School on Kauai Island in Hawaii conducting a week of Spiritual Emphasis. On Sabbath during lunch after he spoke for divine service, a young lady who was accompanied by her family approached him and introduced herself as Isabelle Yeaton. “We are on vacation and come from Portland, Maine”, Isabelle said as she pointed at her family. She explained that the family was moved by his sermon and wanted if it was possible for Mfune to speak at her graduation at Pine Tree Academy, in Portland, Maine.

That’s how Mfune, as from Friday June 8 to Sunday June 10, found himself at Pine Tree Academy as the graduation speaker. The original plan was for Mfune to be the Baccalaureate speaker but when all was finalized, Mfune ended up as the Commencement Speaker as well. The graduating class aim was “You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.” And the motto was, “Don’t look back. You are not going there.”

In his concluding remarks during his Commencement address, Mfune said that the fact that they have finished the rigorous academy requirements does not mean that things

will be smooth all way. Ahead of them, they were deep ravines to be crossed. Steep and treacherous mountains to be scaled. There will be times they will get discouraged and feel like giving up. Though their motto states that they should not look back because they are not going there, Mfune told them that this will be the time to look back through their mind’s eyes, and again walk the corridors of Pine Tree Academy and once more encounter Jesus who calmed the storm, who fed the hungry, who opened the eyes of the blind and raised the dead. “That Jesus of Pine Tree Academy, will be more than ready to propel you forward.”

### General Conference Youth Leadership Convention

The first Youth Leadership Convention organized by the General Conference Youth Ministries was held at Kessel, Germany, July 31-August 4, 2018. About 1,500 youth leaders from all over the world gathered together for excellent training and inspiring, motivating plenary sessions. The theme was “Pass it On,” and everything was hinged on this important theme of passing on *Identity, Mission, Leadership!* Pastor David Asserick from Australia expounded skillfully on the need to develop one’s identity, identity in Christ, and identity in the church.

Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director was invited to present two workshops on Steps to Leading Children to Jesus. The highlight of the convention was the investiture service followed by a Sabbath sermon by Elder Ted Wilson, GC president. Every youth leader returned home with many bags



► Mfune addressing the graduating class



► Mfune poses with the graduating class



► GC Youth Leadership Convention in Kessel





of resources. The Youth Bible was launched at this convention together with the Adventurers Bible which was colorful and beautifully illustrated. It was a very successful convention!

## NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

### Division-wide International Mission Congress

This international mission congress was indeed a mini-General Conference Session! More than 4,000 people participated in the mission congress held at the Kintex Convention Center in Seoul, August 8-11, 2018. The programs from the beginning to the end were outstanding. There were many testimonies on mission outreach like 1000 Missionary Movement, Pioneer Missionary Movement, His Hands, etc. presented from different unions and they were inspiring. Many booths had interesting ministries that provided great ideas to reach out and share the gospel. The afternoon was reserved for concurrent workshops. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director was invited to present two seminars on involving children in missions. Such a mission congress provided inspiration and motivation to begin a ministry to share the gospel story.



► NSD Mission Congress

the program, change for good will be noticed in our children on our Island,” the first lady conclude her response. In his response to the speech, Pastor Luke Narabe, the President of Fiji Mission stated that the convention was honored by her presence. “That act in itself, is very motivating,” Narabe concluded his remarks.

Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director as he interacted with the First Lady during a meal, he learned that her family learned of the SDA message because somebody had dropped a DVD in their mail box. This led them to order more and more DVDs since the address was provided on the DVD. “This is what it means to *Pass on the torch - your faith*. This is what this convention is all about,” she concluded her remarks.

Litiana Turner, the SPD CHM Director introduced a barrage of materials and programs which are being generated by her department. Pastor Lutunaliwa Nasoni, the CHM Director of Trans-Pacific Union Mission in his closing remarks of the Convention said that we need to tirelessly disciple our little ones in the path of righteousness and work hard for their redemption.



► The First Lady of Fiji, Sarote Konrote unveiling the theme



► Mfune, the First Lady, Turner and Pastor Luke cutting the inauguration cake

## SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

### First Lady Sarote Konrote graces Fiji Mission CHM Leaders' Convention

“*Passing on the Torch*” was the theme which motivated some 600 CHM leaders to gather at Naibita Village in Fiji as from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June to sharpen their leadership skills. Miliakere Macdonald, the Fiji Mission CHM Director and her team put their act together in such a way that there was no dull moment.

Madame Sarote Konrote, the first lady of Fiji, inaugurated the convention. She is a Seventh-day Adventist and could not hide her excitement when she saw the three-day program planned for CHM leaders. “Once the leaders have been empowered and transformed by the information I have seen in



► Part of the Delegates in Fiji



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.  
FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE  
THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

(MATTHEW 18:10 ESV)



### Vanuatu Mission – Leadership Certification for CHM leaders

Litiana Turner, CHM leader of the SPD Discipleship Team, did several days of Leadership Certification Level I training for over one hundred children's leaders and teachers in Santo, Vanuatu, August 13-16, 2018. They were excited about what they have learned and were grateful for training to be done on their island. At the end of the training each participant received a beautiful certificate.



► Leadership Certification in Santo, Vanuatu,

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

### Matola Town Hosts Mozambique Union Conference CHM Leadership Training

From 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July, many Children's Ministries leaders gathered at Fomento SDA Church in Matola town, about 12 kilometers away from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique for a three-day training conducted by Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC CHM Associate Director and Caroline Chola, CHM director of Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division. Topics covered included *How to Involve Children in Church Programs*, *How to Organize a Children's Campaign*, *Why We keep losing Young People* Yet

*we have great programs as a Church, and Children and Health.*

Sister Aguida Matsinhe, the Union CHM Director should be commended for planning the meetings in such a way that all Union Officers and Departmental Directors, the leadership from the local conference and church pastors around in Matola and Maputo attended the training.

On Sabbath, 28<sup>th</sup> of July, some churches around Matola area congregated at Colegio Adventista Liberdale where children showcased their God-given talents. When Mfune made an appeal after preaching during divine service, a number of children responded to baptism invitation. There was also another group of children who expressed interest to become Pastors and Full time or Part Literature Evangelists.



► Leaders at Fomento SDA Church





► Children who accepted call to Baptism



► Children who accepted call to Pastoral Ministry and becoming Literature Evangelists

## Southern Africa Union – The 4th Children's Ministries Leaders Convention

More than 250 children's leaders and teachers from all over the union attended this CHM leaders' convention, May 24-27, 2018 at the union headquarters in Bloemfontein. The whole compound was buzzing with excitement, colors, and action all throughout the event. The singing was absolutely fantastic with lots of action songs and movements. The theme



► Southern Africa Union Children's Leaders' Convention

of the convention was "Building Bridges for At-Risk Children." Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Caroline Chola, SID CHM director were the main presenters, highlighting all the courses from the Leadership Certification Level VII program.

Sabbath was filled with various programs with children presenting lovely music and poetry recitation. Dr. Koh challenged the leaders with her worship message, "I Chose You!" reminding everyone that God chose everyone to be his disciple to bear fruit, and to reach out and build bridges. The highlight of the afternoon was the sampling of the new Vacation Bible Experience (VBX) and the Health EXPO. The leaders had so much fun trying the different activities at the various health stations that they couldn't wait to go back home to try them out in their churches.

SAU CHM director, Zodwa Kunene did an excellent job of organizing this convention. Her bubbly personality, love for children and her passion for the ministry definitely shine out!



► Children singing at the convention



► Health EXPO station



COME, YE CHILDREN, HEARKEN UNTO ME: I WILL  
TEACH YOU THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

(PSALM 34:11 KJV)



### Botswana Union – CHM Leadership Training

GC CHM director, Dr. Linda Koh and Mrs. Caroline Chola, SID CHM director left Bloemfontein and flew to Kasane for more leadership training for the Botswana Union. It was a brief stop at Kasane where the GC director introduced the seminar on different ways of teaching children to witness to their friends and classmates. The leaders were overjoyed to receive all the resources because they don't get so many resources for their ministry.

The next stop was at the union headquarters in Gaborone. Dr. Koh spoke to the children of the Gaborone Central Church on Thursday evening of May 31<sup>st</sup> as the culmination of their Week of Prayer. For the weekend training, Union CHM director, Sonita Seligmann chose a great venue for the CHM Leadership Training at one of the amphitheaters on the campus of the University of Botswana, June 1-3, 2018. Both the GC CHM director and the division CHM director presented seminars from the Level VI certification course. The amphitheater was filled to capacity on Sabbath and many more chairs had to be added. It was heartwarming to see how passionate the children's leaders were in ministering to children. They left with more than knowledge—they left with renewed inspiration and vision for ministering to children. Many received free resources to enrich their ministry.



► Botswana Union CHM Leadership Training



► Gaborone Church Children's Week of Prayer

### SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

#### North-Central Mindanao Conference – Little Trumpets Training

May 10 -12, 2018 was an exciting time for 230 children and some Children's Ministries coordinators from different districts of the conference as they joined the union-wide Little Trumpets Convention. The main training was conducted by Pastor Edgard Englis who trained the children how to give Bible studies, do door-to-door evangelism, preaching, and prayer ministry. He has been doing this for more than ten years now. He simply loves children!

Heartwarming testimonies from several children who because of the ministry of the Little Trumpets ministry, have become Adventists. They accepted Jesus through the Bible studies given by the children. We praise God for using children to finish his kingdom work.



► Little Trumpets Convention

#### Myanmar Union – CHM Leadership Training and Advisory

Even though it was difficult for leaders to travel to the capital due to limited budgets, several CHM directors met together with the others for a leadership certification training weekend, July 13-15, 2018, at the union headquarters in Yangon. Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director conducted the Level 6 leadership certification courses for about 20 children's leaders. Sabbath morning was filled with spiritual activities as Dr. Koh visited one church and preached there, but returning to the union office for more seminars in the afternoon

Then from July 16-17, the union and 4 mission CHM directors met up with the division CHM director, Dr. Orathai Chureson who fly over from Indonesia after a busy week of evangelistic meeting. They met up with Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director in Bagan for a mini advisory. It was wonderful that the directors could meet in between a quinquennium to





lay plans for the new year. The MYUM director Cho Cho did a great job in organizing this event. Bagan was such a beautiful and historical city.



► Leadership Certification in Yangon, Myanmar

## Bangladesh Union – Unionwide Children's Congress

On July 19, 2018, the streets leading to the Seventh-Adventist Mission School (SAMS) were lined with children and children's leaders in colorful costumes, drums, and musical instruments; Pathfinders dressed in smart uniforms were at the front of the welcoming band. As soon as Dr. Linda Koh, GC CHM director and Dr. Orathai Chureson, SSD CHM director arrived on campus, the music began and the leaders were given a VIP welcome! An ethnic dance was also performed to welcome the special guests.

SAMS campus was the venue chosen for the children's congress. About five hundred children came from all over the union to attend this annual children's congress. Dr. Linda Koh challenged the children to "Give Jesus What's in Your Hands," as they examined what gifts and talents they can use for the Lord. The congress was filled with activities,



► Bangladesh Children's Congress

games, and learning of skills. Sabbath was filled with worships with Dr. Koh preaching in the morning and in the afternoon the hall was bustling with children participating in Bible contests, singing, Bible recitation, and preaching. The most heartwarming event was the baptism of 14 children and teens. There was indeed joy in heaven that day!

## Vietnam Adventist Mission – Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible Schools have been a yearly event which runs from end of May to August in different parts of Vietnam. It is the highlight of the Children's Ministries in VAM. This 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2018, there were 999 children who attended VBS program, including 724 SDA and 275 Non-SDA Kids.

In early June, VBS was organized in Phu Nhuan Church in HCM city. This year our VBS Theme is "Service Others Like Jesus Did" After 8 days attended VBS they finished by Musi-



► VBS Children in Quang Ngãi, Central Vietnam



► VBS Children

“ AND SAID, ‘TRULY I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.’ ”

(MATTHEW 18:3 NASB)

cal Charity Program. Children raised fund for orphanage and “crystal-bone” children. They earned 320 USD. They gave rice, food . . . and also their toys and books. We hope every child will learn about Jesus and apply lessons in their lives everyday.



► VBS Children



► VBS Children

### Pakistan Union Mission – Children’s Sabbath Celebration

Joining the world churches around the world, Children’s Sabbath was also celebrated in different churches in Pakistan on July 28, 2018. In the Advenpura church, the theme was “Get Caught by Jesus’ Love!” Children participated in singing, praying, and speaking during church worships. Shazia Ghafoor, CHM director of the union did an excellent job in promoting this event and in encouraging churches to involve children on this special Sabbath.



► Pakistan Children’s Sabbath Celebration

## TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

### Finland Union – Family Camp

About sixty children and adults attended the annual Family Camp organized by Eliisa Saarinen, director for Children’s and Family Ministries from June 11-17, 2018. It was held at the beautiful Kallioniemen campsite owned by the union, set amidst nature with the lake surrounding it. GC CHM director, Linda Koh was invited to present each morning on topics such as courage, trust, wisdom, hope, etc. for the children that tied in with the themes of the drama on Paul’s journey. A group of young adults presented excellent dramas on Paul’s life. In the afternoon topics such as spiritual parenting, teens and religion and others were presented for parents. While Linda was working with children, her husband, Pastor Oliver Koh presented spiritual topics for the parents.

The children participated in many outdoor activities such as boatrides, swimming, diving, games, etc. The water was icy cold, but everyone got into the sauna before jumping into the water. It was amazing how they can endure the cold water. It was indeed a fun-filled camp that provided opportunities for bonding and nurturing.



► Finland’s Family Camp





► Outdoor Worship at camp

## Serbian Union – CHM Leadership Training

A group of enthusiastic children's leaders and teachers attended the union-wide leadership training organized by Ana Gagic, the union CHM director, from June 29-July 1, 2018 at the Theological Seminary in Belgrade. Linda Koh, GC CHM director provided training in special needs ministry and ministry to the teens. She dealt with topics such as Teens and Religion, Evangelizing Postmodern Teens, Winning Ways with Teens, etc. Sabbath was special! Ana, the union director introduced different types of games that could be used with teens and children in learning memory verses, knowing about the cross, and others. The leaders enjoyed it. Then Linda Koh presented the sermon of the hour followed by more seminars in the afternoon.

The children's leaders were so glad to receive many free resources for their ministry. Many expressed appreciations for the training provided.



► Serbian CHM Leaders Training



## WELCOME TO THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TEAM

We are happy to welcome Mrs. Glauca Clara Korkischko, the new Children's Ministries Director of South American Division to our children's ministry team. We look forward to working closely together.

She is an educator with many years of teaching experience in the elementary level. She has served as an administrator as a coordinator of teachers and also a principal of schools. She is happily married and has two sons, ages 17 and 21.



SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.  
FOR I TELL YOU THAT IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS ALWAYS SEE  
THE FACE OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

(MATTHEW 18:10 ESV)



TIPS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

## *Your Child can be a Joseph*

When you read the story of Joseph as narrated in Genesis 37 to 45, you tend to wonder how Joseph became what he became. While his ten brothers were filled with hate and rage, he was different. As you follow his story, you can't help but notice his distinguished character. In Genesis 37:2, the Bible tells us that he never bowed down to peer pressure—to do the evils his brothers were doing. In verses 5-11, he had the courage to tell his brothers his dreams, to speak his mind even though he knew that they hated him. Many times, we inhibit our ideas when we find ourselves in a hostile environment. In verses 12-14, we find Joseph willing to do good to his brothers, going all the way to Shechem to give them food. This reveals that he never held any grudge against them. And in verses 17, when he did not find them in Shechem and learned that they had gone to Dothan, he followed them. This indicates that his action towards them was not a pretense. And if you check the Bible time maps, you will discover that Shechem and Dothan were very far apart. In Genesis 39, even as a slave, he could not be seduced by Mrs Potiphar, something which could have placed him on privileged platform. In Genesis 45, he forgave his brothers who treated him horribly. We can write many more about Joseph. What made Joseph to be so different from his brothers?

I think the clue is in Genesis 37:2. The Bible says, “Now Israel *loved* Joseph more than all his children...” (NJKV). It is easy to see the negative side of this verse. It is unwise for parents to show partiality when dealing with their children. They need to love them equally. But there is a positive thing in this passage. Israel (Jacob) *loved* Joseph and showed him his love.

As a parent, you need to create the most loving and non-toxic environment for your children. According to Child Trends, the leading nonprofit research organization in the United States focused on improving the lives and prospects



of children, youth, and their families, observes that warmth and affection expressed by parents to their children, **results in life-long positive outcomes for those children.** “Higher self esteem, improved academic performance, . . . and fewer psychological and behavior problems have been linked to” children who are loved. ([www.mother.ly](http://www.mother.ly). Viewed on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018). On the other hand, children who do not have affectionate parents tend to have lower self esteem and tend to feel alienated, are hostile, aggressive, and antisocial. In 2010, researchers at Duke University Medical School observed that babies with mothers who were attentive to the baby's needs and showered them with love, grew up to be happier, were more resilient and less anxious adults. The study involved approximately 500 people who were followed from when they were infants until they were in their 30s. ([www.mother.ly](http://www.mother.ly). Viewed on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018).

There are many ways you can show love to your children.





1



Give them a listening ear. Don't bury your head in your cellphone or laptop ignoring your children completely.

2



When talking with them, don't talk to them while texting or checking your messages on your cell phone and computer. Look them straight in the eye and show that you are interested in what's going on.

3



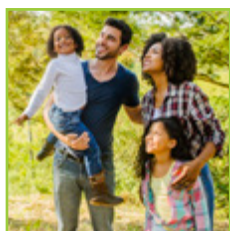
Touch them appropriately and tell them that you love them. If they are still babies, hold them in your arms and smile down at their little faces.

4



Create time to do your things together. Things such as: playing, reading, listening to music, coloring books, etc.

5



Don't give them an impression that you are too busy for them and that your work comes first and everything else, including family, comes second.

6



Take time to read the Bible together and have worship with them.

7



Discipline them appropriately.

As you can see, your child can also be a success story as Joseph in the Bible. Let the perfume of love permeate your home environment.

*Saustin Sampson Mfune*

GC Children's Ministries Associate Director

## NEW RESOURCES



### ANIMATED MISSION VIDEOS

An exciting animated mission video is available each week for children. You can watch them or download them at [MissionSpotlight.org](http://MissionSpotlight.org) or [M360.tv/stories](http://M360.tv/stories). Let the news out to your children's leaders and parents.



### BEGINNER MEMORY VERSE BOOK / COLORING BOOK

This new resource contains all the beautifully illustrated memory verses for the Beginners. They not only learn the memory verses, but they can color those same memory verses in pictures as they learn. Watch out for the release soon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### CHILDREN'S PASTORS CONFERENCE (CPC19)

January 15-17, 2019

Orlando, Florida

Register:

<https://www.childrenspastorsconference.com>