

Children's Ministries

Dear Friends,

This weekend I am going to try something new. I will be holding a Messy Church training via Skype. I was invited to come to Russia to present Messy Church but because of health issues I was unable to go. But we want to get the message out there and help people to connect with their communities. The News Pages this time come from three fields. Cyprus, Lithuania and Norway. In both Lithuania and Norway there are reports about Messy Church. It is so good to see how this is helping to connect with people. I hear again and again how excited churches are that they found this form of reaching out. It is such a joy to see that it not only reaches people but also helps us as church members to do something for God using our talents and gifts.

I always think of the Bible verses found in Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV): "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

And in The Message Bible: "Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

What an encouragement it is to know that in all we do for Him he is right there with us to guide us and to show us the way.

Blessings to all,

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
Children's and Women's
Ministries director
Trans-European Division



NEWS FROM THE CYPRUS SECTION

Marica Mirilov, Children's and Women's Ministries Director

Photos: Pallavi Singh Morem

Children Using Social Media for Good

A small kitchen turned into a video recording studio in the Meeting Point, Seventh-day Adventist Church community centre in Limassol, Cyprus on 13 May 2018. The very first children's step-by-step recipe instruction video was recorded for a new YouTube channel 'Holy Cakes'.

The idea originated with a group of children taking part in a social media workshop organized by the Cyprus Section at the end of March.



Adriana Grujic, a social media expert and a workshop presenter, challenged the participants with a group task to develop a strategy for using social media in preaching the gospel.

The children came up with the catchy name of Holy Cakes referring to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – our bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit, and everything that we do with our bodies should honour God – even our choice of cakes. A plan was formed to search for

wholesome and healthy recipes and share them on YouTube. They went a step further suggesting that from time to time social events could be organised for the channel followers to bake together and taste the cakes.

Cyprus Section children ministries department capitalized on the idea by devising a new strategy in working with the children. In a creative way children will use social media. The whole process will develop decision-making skills in children, and appreciation and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

A young Adventist Volunteer Services couple, Bogdan and Ksenia Osadchuck, used their experience from Hope Channel Ukraine for the shooting of the first Holy Cakes programme.

The young chefs, Emmanuel and Nivedh, commented: "Baking is fun!" and for their parents the brownies, without sugar and butter, never tasted better.



NEWS FROM THE NORWEGIAN UNION CONFERENCE

Gry Beate Marley, Family Ministries, Volunteers and Youth Ministries Director
Harald Giesebrecht, Associate Director



Kirkemorro

Messy Church, dubbed Kirkemorro (Church fun) is just starting up in Norway with Lillehammer church as the pioneers. Next gathering in October 2018 will be a combined Messy Church for the community, and training event for other churches who want to come and learn. (Photo Credits: Øystein Klussen)



Summer Camp

Summer camp in Norway is for all age groups. There are children's groups for ages 0-2, 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12. The teenagers and the young adults have their own parallel camps alongside the adults. Some things everybody does together, such as football tournament, market day for ADRA and the first half of the evening meetings and queuing up to get hot lunch. And of course, worship on Sabbath morning when there is usually a baptism.





Except for the teens, the programme is not packed, and there is time for family activities and excursions. Many families come because their children demand to be there. And when the children are having a great time, usually the parents do too. (Photo Credits: Tor & Elsie Tjeransen, Harald Giesebrecht)



Teen Forum, Relations and Connect

Because of the size of Norway there are regional gatherings for the teens in the north, in the south and the east. The programme is usually a mix of teaching sessions, activities, a party, a movie and games outside in the dark ... but only the North Norwegians are into mid-winter swimming. (Photo credits: Jonathan Fosse, Harald Giesebrecht)



Teen programmes in the North



Teen programmes in the South

National Pathfinder Camp

The 2017 pathfinder camp gathered around 200 pathfinders at Nordtangen camp site, just north of Oslo. In the meetings the children learned about Martin Luther and the reformation through the fictional medieval character "Martine." Martine, played by Melissa Myklebust, told her story of finding forgiveness and peace in Jesus.

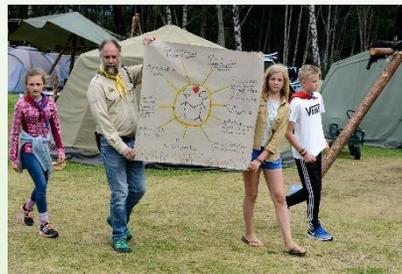


Melissa Myklebust as "Martine" the girl experiencing the reformation.



Market day activities and products for sale

Victor Marley, Director, Youth Department, Norwegian Union volunteering to let pathfinders throw balloons with water at him to raise money for a project on the traditional market day.



Activities included building, a market day to raise money for ADRA, visit to local tourist attractions, a 'protest march' to declare to the Norwegian Union what the children thought the church should be like, swimming, canoeing, climbing, crafts, sports and games. (Photo Credits: Tor & Elsie Tjeransen)

From LITHUANIA

Children's camp in Lithuania

Here are pictures of the children's summer camp from last year. 25 children participated in the camp. They were from Adventist and non-Adventist families. At the camp they learned Bible stories, sang, did handicraft, played games and made new friends. 10 adult volunteers helped to make the camp happen. There was sunshine and rain, but the children were always in a good mood and their smiles made the camp a wonderful experience.



Messy Church in Kaunas

Here are some pictures of Messy Church in Kaunas. There are about 25 - 30 children participating each time.



About Children for Children

This is a project that takes place in Lithuania each December. Church members make and collect gifts for non-church children from poorer families. This time 2800 gift boxes were made and 700 bigger items were collected. Each Adventist church in Lithuania organises a church programme, where children from underprivileged families from the community are invited. Children from Adventist families also participate in the programme; they share the gifts, sing and play some games.

