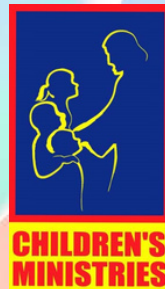
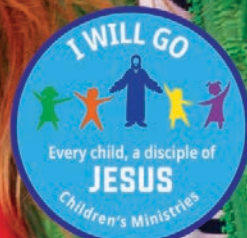


# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

25<sup>th</sup>  
Adventist  
Children's  
Ministries  
1995-2020  
anniversary







# 25 Years of Children's Ministries!



This year 2020 is the Adventist Children's Ministry Department's 25th anniversary worldwide. Celebrating with the General Conference and with other world divisions to mark this very important milestone. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has continually recognized the importance of ministering to children in various age groups since various ministries were set up.

Starting from a series of lessons for children that focused primarily on history and Bible stories in the 1800s, the Church has continuously developed a child-friendly and balanced Sabbath School curriculum to serve the unique and varying needs of children.

We praise the Lord for the wonderful network of children ministry leaders who have and still are guiding our children and teens in their spiritual journey. Materials are being produced and translated each year to nurture the faith of these little ones.

Activities and programs are organised to strengthen the children's prayer life, to promote a healthy lifestyle and to present to them Bible studies and service opportunities. Discipling programs for children are in place and they continue to be a great blessing to children and their families around the world.

For the past 25 years, God marvelously blessed the Children's Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Children's Ministry would not have reached such a noticeable level of success if it were not for the many people who had the passion and who shared their expertise and resources. With the collaboration of the Pacific Press and other publishing houses, the Children's Ministry Department has grown into a full-fledged ministry as it is today, impacting, and shaping children's lives for God's glory.

We thank God for those who have brought this very important ministry to a higher level. As we celebrate a successful 25 years. May the Lord bless you abundantly as you celebrate and remember God's goodness, and as you continue to serve all the children in your territory with selfless commitment and joyful dedication to our heavenly Father! Yours in His Service,

Orathai Chureson, PhD, SSD Children's Ministry Director





GC, Division, Union  
and Mission Fields



# 25 years of Children's Ministry

## Hungary

### Highlight

#### Istvánné Gyűrűs



**Istvánné Gyűrűs 1986**

In the summer of 1986 we held our first holiday camp with 26 people in Salgótarján. After that, we had holiday camps every year with 26-36 people attending. These were the years of so many applicants that we had to hold two camps and in one year, we even held four one week camps. At that time the Children's Sabbath School Ministries was working jointly with Family Ministries and we didn't get much support for children's programs, so my husband and I organised these camps and the attendees would pay a fee.

I started working with Children's ministries in 1986 by the appointment of brother Vencel Pintér, President of the DET. At that time I was still serving as a pastor in the Salgótarján district. From 1989 onward we held training meetings for children's teachers each year and there was a growing need to start our own newspaper for children. That's how the Smile (Mosoly) newspaper started.

I was able to attend courses held by Karen Flowers and Birthe Kendel for children sabbath school teachers several times and attended one in England. I have written the supporting materials for "Children Sabbath School Teacher Handbook" and the handout "Teaching Children". The last camp was held in 2016 with the participation of about 40 children and parents in Péntesgyőr.

#### Zsuzsanna Egerváriné Kökényes



**Zsuzsanna Egerváriné Kökényes 1999**

I was elected head of the Department of Child Services in 1999 and I was in office for nearly sixteen years. In December 1999 - Smile (Mosoly) was transferred to the union and became the national newspaper of the Department of Children's Ministries. I was the editor of the paper between 2000 and 2004 and then between 2008 and 2015. During my leadership I had the privilege of putting on the following events:

Starting with spring 2001 Children's Choir Meetings. They were held regularly from 2008 to 2014. The largest meetings were in DEBRECEN between 2011-2014.

I have been organising Holiday Day Camps since the summer of 2000. These were unknown in Hungary at the time. The materials used throughout the camps had to be revised and then edited. Holiday Day Camps soon became very popular.

Between 2001 and 2009 local children's teachers reported that it had already been rolled out in 21 locations.

From 2006 to 2014 reports were received from 25 locations. Some local camps approached the union organised camps in the numbers of their attendees (Nemesvámos: 90 children) there were also significant camps in Szolnok, Kecskemét, Debrecen, Székesfehérvár and Lovasberény (30-70 children attending each).

In 2000 for 14 quarters we launched Children's Bible Studies, which arrived in the congregations at exactly the same time as the adult Sabbath School lessons. We organised Health Expos for children. The Health Expo held at the Bible Camp in Balatonlelle in 2010 with outstanding health workers and educators was a great success. Christian Playhouse programs were started by the Department of Children's Ministries in 2001. They still work great in a few places today. These are related to the Holiday Day Camps. The advantage is that children are in contact with their summer peers and children's teachers as well as the congregation throughout the year.



**Dora Mihalec 2014**



The KID program started in Hungary in 2004. In the summer of 2009, at the "Mission Conference" in Debrecen, Anne May Wollan held a one-week training course for parents and teachers. The Department of Children's Ministries took care of the program for the children at all "Mission Conferences", but it was only from 2009 that the children came to the forefront in such a way that the conference addressed them every day.

We launched a competition in 2010 for the title of "Most Child-Friendly Church". The children's group of the Lovasberény congregation won the tender and the accompanying HUF 40,000.

When it was the year of "The Great Hope," we published a short summary for children of The Great Controversy, called The Book of Hope. It was illustrated by Timea Tolnai and the children coloured the drawings at the summer camp. (Advent Kiadó Publishing House) National Children's Conference was held in Terézváros, Budapest, in 2003.

We held training for children's sabbath school teachers for several years.

Spinning off from the Smile Children's Magazine (Mosoly), several Smile Clubs have been launched across the country. Later, there were also Smile Camps. The most prosperous still operating today is the Gyöngyös Smile Club.

I ran the Holiday Bible Camp 15 times between the summer of 2000 and the summer of 2014. In 2014 Debrecen Children's Choir Meeting was a great event. At this meeting, not only the children and their parents came from the congregations of Debrecen and its surroundings, but also the organisers invited the children of the Christian Advent Community (KERAK) to sing and play music. We did not expect such a large turnout, but there was one nearly a hundred children came with their parents, teachers, musical moms and dads.

Some traveled 250-300 km and still came. All participants felt great. There were separate choir numbers from the children of some congregations, but there was a united choir conducted by a professional conductor. Weeks before the meeting, they had already discussed what songs would be sung with the joint, large choir. A story was told by Zsuzsa Attiláné Szabó for the children and I was preaching the word that morning in the children's language.

The biggest share of the organisation was bestowed upon Annamária Nagy Szöllősyné. After a delicious lunch with a good appetite, it was most beautiful to see when everyone was on a joint excursion on a Saturday afternoon and everyone was together in a nice atmosphere. This was not a one-time meeting. I believe that this also contributed to the fact that in 2015 we were able to experience the inclusion of so many of our brothers to the Hungarian Union. The sounds of the songs and the children are a wonderful connecting link that connects one soul to the other.

**Dora Mihalec 2014**

I am so grateful to God that I took over a well functioning Children's Ministries department from my predecessors where I was able to build. We renewed the 20 years old children's magazine 'Mosoly' (Smile) in 2014 with a new layout and content to meet the needs of 21st century child. Every Adventist child now gets the magazine for free printing a total of 1.400 copies per quarter.

In 2015 we also began giving the Grace Link Sabbath School material for free to every child in the church and the teachers get their guide online. Our annual Vacation Bible Camp started up, with 100 to 120 children attending. Some of the topics in past years have included: The time traveler, Indian Camp, Princes and Princesses, Treasure hunt and Come with us to Egypt.

We launched a Facebook page in 2016 where we deliver creative and useful materials for children and teachers.

In 2017 we started the annual Super Sabbath which is a great meeting for all adventist children in the country. Every year we have 350 children attending the event accompanied by adults. The event has been so popular that we have organised it every year since.

We invented in 2018 thematic days, according to the plan of the world church. We connect the children's week of prayer to the youth week of prayer and the Sabbath before the children's day, we organize children's Sabbaths in the local churches. Every child gets the prayer week material for free and we provide the local churches with the children's Sabbath material online.

From March - May 2020 we produced a Sabbath school video for primary school age children, which we share on Facebook every week and reached between 7.000 and 11.000 views.

In 2020 we launched our new children's website, called Jezusabaratom.hu (jesusismyfriend.hu). We have translated the Grace Link cartoons and we also share interesting articles for kids, games and stories. We want also to incorporate children's songs, and we are working on other audio materials that the children can listen to on the website.



# Children's Ministries Latvia



## "Treasures of God's Promises" Competition

Throughout the year the Children's Ministry Department in Latvia organise a competition for children called "Treasures of God's Promises". Each month the children learn about God's promises divided into the following topics: God is faithful; God forgives sins; God protects, God answers prayers, God gives wisdom and God gives strength.

Each month the children are asked to choose a promise and depict it in a drawing. Both parents and teachers organise children from different churches and the community. Our local libraries also take part in the competition and have been a great way to involve the wider community. As reward children receive specially designed magnets with God's promises on them, the most diligent are able to have collected several magnets and a game "Treasures of God's Promises" for the whole family.











# Children's Ministries Greece

Taking care of children is a huge blessing! All who is involved in the work with children can appreciate it's a treasure. Jesus taught us to treat children with respect and strive to be like them - humble, trustful, loving and forgiving (Matt 18:3). It is our responsibility to show and guide children by our own example to look upon the Creator. By taking care of them, we teach them to build a relationship with the Lord and trust Him in everything. Look how much you can learn from children, they cannot take offense for a long time and do not hide the anger in themselves, they forgive easily, forget quickly and continue to love. It is very important to us that they are happy. If children are happy in Christ they will want to do a lot for Him. They learn from adults who guide them with love, analysing their mistakes and encouraging them to take new actions.

We are faced with the task of revealing their talents and gifts, strengthening their faith and showing them how to share the divine light of love. To achieve our goals we try to make the life of children in the church brighter and more colourful. With the different ethnic backgrounds at our church, we use a variety of methods and activities for spiritual direction in order to motivate the children and involve many of them in the cause of praising the Lord. We often explain to them what it means to be disciples of Christ so that they may have a desire to go and tell others about the Savior.











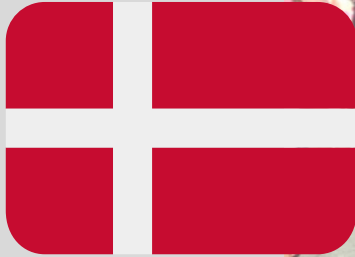
In September we experienced special joy in our Children's Department, as we witnessed some of our children get baptised. We give God thanks for the work he is doing in their lives! During this time we also had our annual Summer programs such as Vacation Bible School and Camp Vacations a highlight of our year and loved by children. They spend a lot of time together studying Bible stories, making new friends and participating in fun outdoor games and activities. A program we will never forget is Clair's seminar at one of our camps, where we received such a blessing from her leadership. We have also organised a puppet theatre show online, in order to unite our children at a distance. Our videos can be watched on youtube,

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXj4u-rLulSX-4eiT6uUJlw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXj4u-rLulSX-4eiT6uUJlw?view_as=subscriber)). Children like this program very much and they willingly participate in all of the activities. We thank our Heavenly Father for all the blessings He pours throughout the years in the work for Children's ministries.

Irini Shicova, Children's ministries Director, Greek mission







# Children's Ministries Denmark



Capturing the excitement, the craziness and absolute joy it is  
to do Children's Ministry. At a time when we could do camps!  
Anne-May Müller, CHM Director





**Clair Sanches-Schutte, CM Director**  
**Caroline Fuller, PA, Editor**

**Trans-European Division**  
**119 St Peter's St, St Albans**  
**AL1 3EY, England**

Please email your Articles/Reports to:  
[cfuller@ted.adventist.org](mailto:cfuller@ted.adventist.org)