

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

Thank
you

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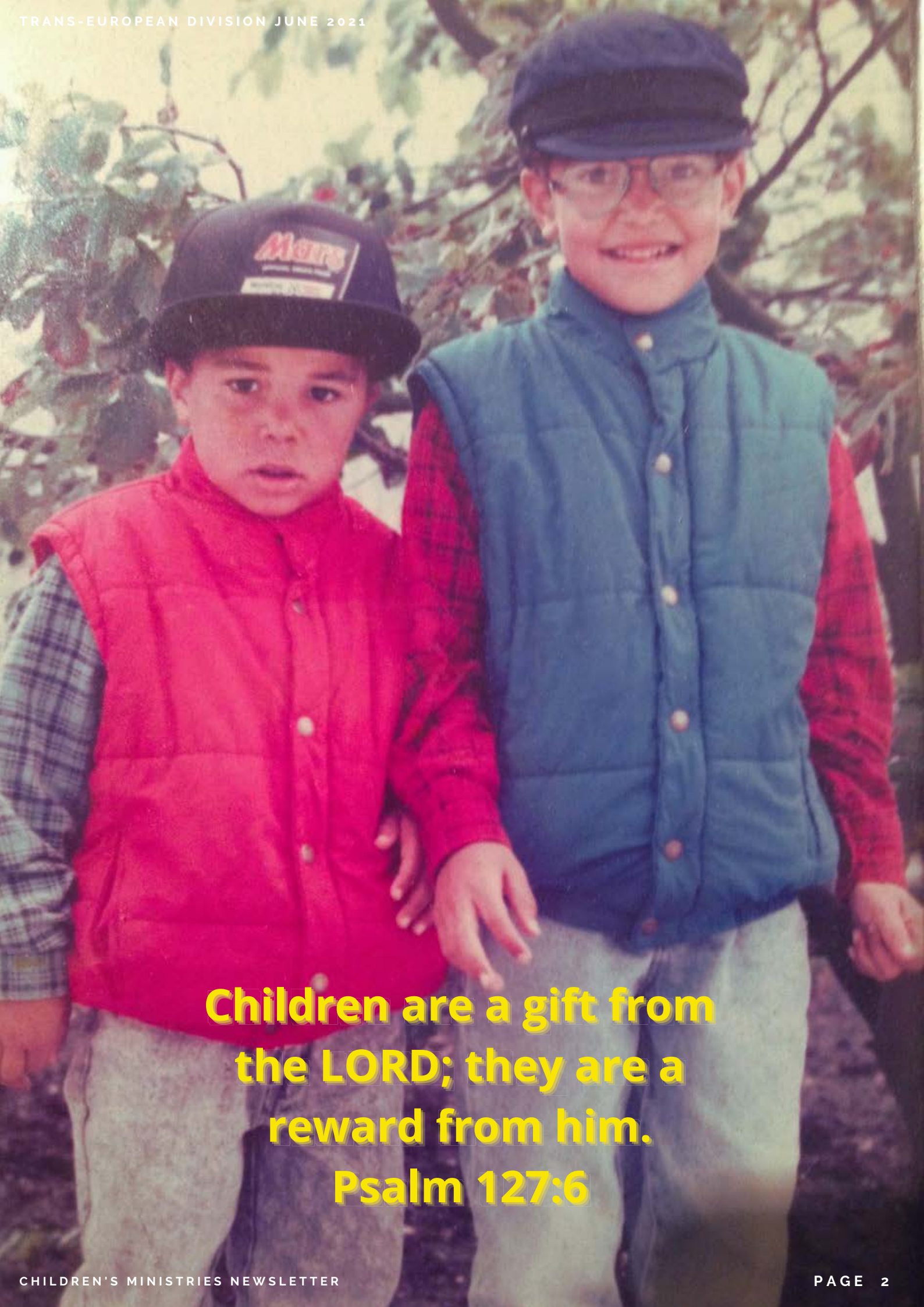
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**Children are a gift from
the LORD; they are a
reward from him.
Psalm 127:6**

Clair Sanchez-Schutte



What can you say after 11 years as Children and Women's Ministries Director for the Trans-European Division? Well, as it happens, a lot. When I first came to the Division office my very first appointment was to Lithuania, where I held a KID training. I was so nervous as it was my first trip. But the people in Lithuania were wonderful to me and I made some friends for life. In those 11 years I think the thing I have loved the most is meeting people and seeing that you have made a difference by visiting them. I know during COVID we have stayed connected through zoom and that really has been a gift, but meeting face to face is something different. You get energy from personal encounters, bouncing off one another and sharing ideas and encouragement.

My time at the TED has been especially exciting because of the people I met. I have made many friends, who I didn't even know 11 years ago and they are friends for life now. I don't want to start naming people because you always forget someone and say later, I wish I had added them. But many I have written to, to thank them and invite them to visit me in the Netherlands. My life will be different now. But I am still going to be working for the Lord, albeit in a different way. Firstly, I can do what I want when I want and how I want. That's the great thing about being retired. You can pick and choose the things that excite you. I am already working on ideas of what I can do and have been praying about it a lot so that I do what God wants. That has always been my way of doing things. I have received many little nudges from God and I am grateful for that. When you follow His lead, you do what is right and are blessed by it.

I just want to add a word of thanks for all those I had the privilege to work with. Who have made my life easier, by picking me up at the airport, taking me to the hotel, by inviting me into their homes, taking me out for a meal, for showing me the sights? All these little acts of kindness have made my work amazing. Also, I have seen over the years the endless hours of dedication of my Union, Conference, Mission and even local church, counterparts. Those who work diligently for the Lord without looking for glory but giving glory to God. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

May God richly bless you as you embark on the next 4 years with Karen Holford, who I know will do an amazing job and will inspire, connect, and bless each of you.

Thank you, my friends, blessings to you all.

Clair

thank you



Messy Church team Maribor, Slovenia

Joy
to the
World



CM YOUTH, ALBANIA

A Trip down
Memory Lane



Children's Camp, Greece





Messy Church Training, Denmark



Children's Day, Albania



Radio interview with Linda Koh in Latvia

Clair's time as CM
Director



Messy Church Pula, Croatia



CM training Athens, Greece

Messy Church Cyprus



The year 2020 started strong, having gained momentum from the previous successful events. We managed to do 4 events before the Covid-19 lockdown in mid-March 2020. Two in Nicosia, and two in Paphos, spread out in the months of January, February and early March of 2020.

January 2020

For Nicosia, January's event had the fitting title of Setting Goals and it was based on the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. It was a very cold day for our usually mild-winter Cyprus, and we held all the activities indoors whereas usually we have a nice big patio suitable for fresh air activities. The weather stopped some families attending. Those who did attend built a wall with custom-made bricks courtesy of one of our members who works in construction. We also had a sweeter version of building a wall on an actual scaled down perimeter of the city walls using wafers and Nutella.

The spiritual emphasis was on Nehemiah's goal, perseverance and problem solving. His project was not without difficulties, but he thought of solutions and had the courage to implement them and keep going until he reached his goal with God's help.

Our song service included original lyrics describing Nehemiah's goal in the Greek language, set in a popular tune. And our common meal was appreciated by everyone.

Highlight: One primary aged child had kept inviting her classmates to no avail. This time a school friend did come!

February 2020

The same Nehemiah program was repeated in Paphos in early February.

Just before the end of the month, we had our next event in Nicosia. The theme was inspired by Valentine's Day - not love, but kindness, the everyday expression of love. Our Bible story was Ruth who showed kindness to Naomi, and Boaz, who showed kindness to Ruth.

During the worship time the participants gleaned "barley" and brought the seeds to Naomi who prepared a simple flatbread and baked it on a crepe-making appliance and then shared it with the participants.

The families were given an original kindness calendar prompting them to show kindness every day for the month of March. We promised them a treat if they were to bring their filled in calendars to the next event, but this never materialised. We did have a few families who posted their filled-in calendars on our Facebook page.

March 2020

The first day of March we repeated the program of Kindness/Ruth in Paphos. Our next event was scheduled for March 28, but it never happened due to the Covid pandemic.

Facebook page

We had started a Facebook page called Messy Church Cyprus and on March we posted a paid ad. We had a few new followers, which was great encouragement, but no actual visitors at the time.



Ο Άνθρωπος
που ήθελε να δει
τον Χριστό!



Μάθετε πώς ένας απατεώνας και κλέφτης έγινε φίλος του Χριστού!

Το πρόγραμμα θα έχει:

- Χειροτεχνίες
- Τραγούδια
- Παιχνίδια
- Πολλά Διασκέδαση
- Καλό Φαγητό

Για Παιδιά Δημοτικού
(και συνοδούς)

Σάββατο
30 Μαρτίου
3.00 - 5.00 μ.μ.

Οαση
Ευαγόρου 31Δ
Λευκωσία

Κρατήσεις 95127698

Συμμετοχή ΔΩΡΕΑΝ

Impact on the community

In both churches we have a great (for our setting!) participation. Especially in Paphos, God has brought families from the neighbourhood and some of the children have continued coming to Sabbath School, albeit erratically.

In Nicosia we have several families who attend church in another Christian denomination but appreciate our programs and are happy to come with their children to the Adventist Messy Church programs.

Impact on our members

The events have really helped in bonding our church family. Our catering team put a lot of thought and love on cooking delicious and healthy vegetarian meals, the teens are always on hand to help with the crafts, music and whatever else is needed and everyone is happy and excited to pitch in. Messy Church has indeed created a buzz in our churches. It is the highlight of the month! It is a truly team building exercise.

Contextualisation

So far, our inspiration for the stories/themes were based either on the several international days or the Orthodox Holiday Calendar. For example, in June the Cypriots have the Holy Spirit Monday, which is a public holiday, and we chose to talk about the Holy Spirit that month. Other stories tied to the Orthodox Calendar that we could use are the stories of Lazarus, the Ascension of Jesus, the annunciation, to name a few. Most families will be familiar with these, and the children are taught about the major international days at school.

Future

We are hoping to be able to resume our usual activities in September, God willing. Right now, we still have government restrictions.

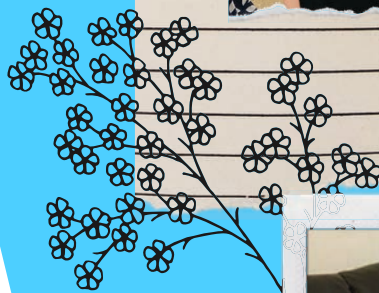
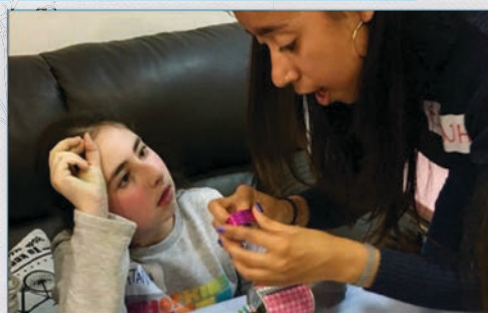
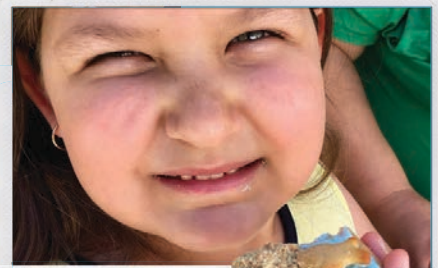
Future plans of bonding with our messy church families:

- Sabbath school – successful in Paphos – interrupted by Covid-19
- Pathfinders - successful in Paphos – interrupted by Covid-19.
- Church Socials
- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Camp in Kalamos Camp, Greece.
- English Lessons



*Messy Church
Cyprus*

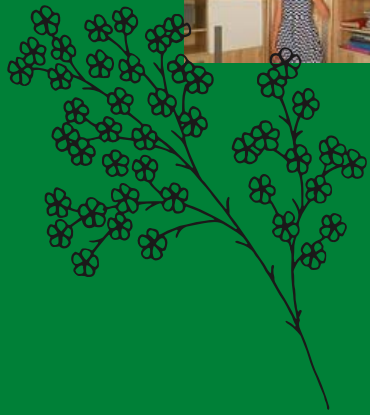
**SO
MUCH
FUN**



GOOD TIMES



Children's Festival, Poland



When we first organized the Children's Creative Festival, we saw what a great experience it was for our Children. When they sang, played instruments, composed, staged scenes, recited poems and exhibited their artwork, you could see how important it was to them. Therefore, during the pandemic, we decided to organize two more online Festivals. Thank you to God with the commitment from parents, guardians and the children we were able to make these two events a success!

Halina Jankowska.



Messy Church Albania



We are delighted to inform the restart of the Messy Church programs in the church of Durres, as the city slowly returns to normality after a strong earthquake in 2019.

Parents and children were invited to participate in the activities and icebreakers as they learn more about God's word. The theme was based on Mathew 13, the sower's parable. Both parents and children were able to identify the four types of soil in which the seed fell. At the end of the story, everyone was willing to be like the fourth ground and let the seed of the gospel grow in their hearts.

Here you see children painting and decorating their plant pots. They did a great job!! At the end of their work, the children were provided with a tulip seed and we gave the instructions on how to plant the tulip and how to take care of the seed, so that it can grow big and beautiful. In the same way, the children expressed they wish their hearts to be filled with the seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Clarissa España
Children and Pathfinder Ministry Director
Albanian Mission



enjoy!



StoryTime with Auntie Chizi

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1. <https://youtu.be/KoNihY319vA> (II Children's Creativity Festivals part 1)
2. <https://youtu.be/W9vAC9w62U> (II Children's Creativity Festivals part 2)
3. <https://youtu.be/gvG6k9aE> (Hymn)
4. <https://youtu.be/gUoXHDGZDWA> (III Children's Creativity Festivals)



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Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the
way he should go: and
when he is old, he will
not depart from it.



New Beginning

Karen Holford



It's lovely to meet you and I am really looking forward to working with you very soon! I thought that you might like to know a little bit about me.

I was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, in the north of England. My parents and grandparents were all Adventists. I grew up in the sixties and seventies and went to a lovely church that was very ahead of its time, with a cafe church and a strong intergenerational worship ethos. Even though our church was like one big and caring family, I was so shy that I would hide after Divine Service so that I didn't have to speak to anyone!

I wrote stories to read in church, and, before I was ten, I had started writing news items about church events for the local paper in my home town of Coventry. I enjoyed writing so much that I decided I wanted to be a writer when I grew up!

I left school and trained as an occupational therapist, specialising in the rehabilitation of people with brain injuries. Then I met Bernie, who was just about to go to Andrews University to finish his MDiv. After spending 4 weekends visiting each other, he asked me to marry him. So we went to Andrews University, one week after we were married, as poor, unsponsored students. Once at Andrews University I decided to study for an MA in Educational and Developmental Psychology.

We returned to the UK and had three children Bethany, Nathan and Joel. The oldest two are now married, and Beth has three children under 10, so I am enjoying being a grandma! God also opened up some unexpected opportunities to write and I have written books on family life, relationships, parenting, and creative worship.

My husband, Bernie, is very busy as a local church pastor of two churches and about 450 members. We've now been married for more than 37 years. We used to work in family ministries at the South England Conference and we both studied for our MSc In Family Therapy. Last year I completed an MA in Leadership from Andrews University. So I have quite mixed educational background! But God brought all of the different studies together to help me in my work in Family Ministries. What looked like a jumbled mess has been the perfect combination for my current work, and it will also be helpful for working with the Women and Children's departments too.

I am an introvert, but fortunately I no longer hide after church, because I eventually learned how to talk to people! I love to write, be creative, surprise people with kindness, go for long walks in nature, and take photographs.

I am really looking forward to meeting you too, and learning from you all! Blessings of love and peace to you,

Karen Holford

Welcome



Thank
you

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