

Children's Ministries

NEWS FROM THE DANISH UNION

Anne-May Müller, Children's Ministries Director

Soon a new year is coming, and it is again time for Denmark to give you some high-lights of what the children have experienced this last year.

Camp meeting

The national camp meeting in May is a big 5-day event for the whole church – and the children's programmes are high quality meetings and activities with a growing attendance.

This year we chose the theme "God is with us on the journey" for the children. And when the creative minds began planning, it "took off". The idea came to make the traveling theme go through most of what we did those days.

Every day the children started in the "departure hall" where they had passports made with picture, height, fingerprint and name. They got a new boarding pass every day, and the smallest children (0-4) had a VIP-access to their room, while the older children had to go through security. All waited patiently on their turn to see if the right light flashed, or they could proceed to the *airplane", where they were shown to their seat by the flight attendants. Every day we sang together, had safety instructions, and a skit, that always left us assured, that "the Captain is in charge – no need to worry when God is our captain".

When the children later split up in their appropriate age groups, they were either taken on the journey through the desert with Moses or taken on some of the journeys Jesus took while on earth. We had provided a small cardboard suitcase for every child to keep whatever crafts or material they had made or received that day.

For our crafts workshops in the afternoon the theme carried through, and they decorated travel pouches, made bag tags, candles with maps etc.

All the volunteers did an excellent job of giving the children a camp meeting full of fun memories. One afternoon a market day helped collect money for ADRA projects in South Sudan to help children go to school. The children had a booth where they sold some of the beautiful painted stones they had made, in order to help other children. A lot of outdoor activities is always a part of camp meeting as well, so you could play in the huge "sand desert", on several play grounds, do combat archery, bouncing castle, bonfire, football, and other ball games for larger groups.



When we gather the whole church for such an event the children need to be our priority.

We often hear stories of adults (parents or grandparents) who come to these events, because the children want to go so bad.

And if the children have good programmes and create lasting friendships with God and other children, they are much more likely to stay faithful to Jesus when they grow up.



Children's Camp

First week of summer holiday also means children's camp. We are blessed with good facilities, that have a lot of outdoor space and facilities to help create the setting for an awesome week. The children have a week of fun, activities, friendships, crafts, worships, songs, bonfire, games, tractor rides, swimming, hikes, sports and much more.



A group of dedicated volunteers spend one week to give the children the time of their life. This is an investment with a high outcome. This year's theme was "Circus" with the subtitle that does not translate well into English, but the days had themes of Love, Respect, Acknowledgement, Diversity, Unity. The activities each day was rooted in those values, and in the frame of a circus.

Each morning the story of Joseph was the centre of the meeting, and every evening the day ended with a worship for the whole group.





There is a lot of energy when you have 104 children gathered in one place, but when the programme makes sense, and when the volunteers know how to create good relationships with the children, the atmosphere is absolutely wonderful and creative.

It makes so much sense to invite children to come and be part of this event, where they – maybe for the first time – hear about God and create friendships with Christian children and adults.

Family Camp

In the autumn we have a family camp, where we this year had a focus on “having a good time – and having time”. One of the things missing in many families today is time. Time to play, time to be together, time to worship, time to talk about real issues, time to talk about God, time to simply be a family. We had very little programme planned but had lots of activities – indoor and outdoor – that the families could be a part of together – if they wanted.



And the children and adults loved to have this time together. The parents didn't have to worry about cleaning or cooking or doing the dishes. Everything was taken care of – they could just come and have a good time as a family. Every day there was one hour for the adults only so they could have some good parenting seminars, but the rest of the time was family-based time.



Every morning and evening the whole group gathered for family worship. In the evenings some families took turns showing in a very simple way how they do family worship at home. That was very inspiring and was a great help to see how other families make it work. We ended the day by putting "thankful-leaves" on the big tree in the meeting hall.

149 happy children and adults went home refreshed after 5 days of "hygge" and good times.



All-age services

Many churches are seeing the value of have intergenerational services once in a while. The church in Vejle has really taken that into their thinking. It all began, when the church began to grow, and they had an increasing group of children in the church. The board decided to something extra for the children. So now they do an all-age creative service once every two months at the regular service hour. Themes like "miracles", "The Tabernacle", "The Exodus" and many more is explored by all sorts of creative activities, including pictures, plays, posters, exhibitions and more that includes all learning-styles and our God-given senses.

The whole church participates in an hour of worship, exploration, learning and creativity.



Taking faith home

As part of the programme Taking Faith Home, we are offering families a worship-package subscription. We begin in January and are looking forward to seeing how families receive this new concept.

First the family receives a starter-kit with basic crafts materials, a binder, a prayer journal, bookmarks with bible study questions and four sessions of conversations for the parents and one family worship. After they have completed the starter kit, they will then receive one package a month, containing 5 family worships with everything they need in the package. So if there is an activity in the worship where you need two candles, there will be two candles in the package.

We need to have as few obstacles as possible for the family to do family worship, and we want to offer them all the help we can give for them to succeed. Please pray that this will be a good help for the families to have meaningful and regular family worships together.

- Anne-May Müller

Please send stories you want to share to this email: zkovacs-biro@ted.adventist.org

To subscribe to the newsletter please visit the TED website: www.ted.adventist.org