



Dear Friends,

Yesterday we started Lente. We have been having great worships here at the office with that in mind. The worship this morning by Karen Holford was very good. Reminding us all that little acts of kindness can make such a big difference in the lives of others.

When I think of children's work I think of all those people working tirelessly each Sabbath to make the Children's Sabbath School a place the kids will enjoy. All those little acts of kindness to our children which will impact their lives and show them that someone cares.

The newsletter you see before you today will mainly focus on The Netherlands. When you see all the things going on at local level it is a joy to see how much is happening there. We hope you enjoy this issue and perhaps you will see something you could try out in your local church to show our children little acts of kindness.

Blessings to you all,

Clair



TED Children's Ministries News

In the Netherlands, they organize a Kidzrally annually, for all children between 4 and 12 years old. They have welcomed over 600 visitors every time. They also have an active national teens club that meets seven times a year. The children's Sabbath School leaders are given the opportunity to attend an annual training event, where they get a lot of new ideas to implement in their own congregation.

You have been able to read about these activities in the TED CM newsletter of May 2016. This time, they would like to highlight a number of activities undertaken by local congregations for the children.

BREDA

Earlier this year, the church of Breda organized a second Vacation Bible School. The children brought friends from regular school and grandparents from the congregation even brought their non-Adventist grandchildren.

The theme of this day was: SMALL BUT BRAVE, STRONG IN THE WORD OF GOD. The children were told about the story of David and Goliath. To get a good impression of Goliath's gigantic size, they arranged a full-size Goliath on site. The children enjoyed fun crafts and a meal together: Lunch with David and Goliath (lentils and peas) and David Soup (carrot/tomato) and Goliath-dip Guacamole. The afternoon consisted of a running track and donning a suit of armour like Saul's. Afterwards, the children had a moment to think about: STRONG TOGETHER. Through Bible texts and a practical application of pulling rope one against one, they were beginning to realize that you need each other and God to stand strong.

On Sabbath there was a special children's service in line with the Vacation Bible School. All visitors were given a smooth stone to take home with the text in 1 Samuel 17:47 on it.



TED Children's Ministries News

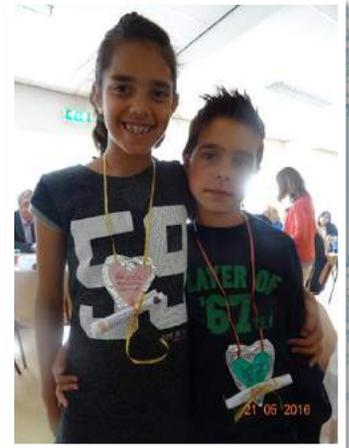
GORINCHEM

Our congregation in Gorinchem has a small core of six children. The Children's Sabbath School is very important for this congregation and they prepare lessons for three different age groups every week. When children visit Gorinchem, there is always a group for them to join. The commitment of the Children's Sabbath School leaders is always a 100%!

Twice a year, Gorinchem organises a themed service together with the children. One of these is always a Christmas service, and the other is based on different themes each year, for example: Noah's Ark.

The Children's Sabbath School organises a trip annually too, for instance, the zoo. The children sometimes invite a friend to come along. Parents and church members are also invited to come. Together they always have a blast!

Every 13th Sabbath the Children's Sabbath School organises a special programme. Usually they rehearse a song and the children will learn something about the project of the offering. The children gather the offering.



TED Children's Ministries News



APELDOORN

The congregation of Apeldoorn has a very active Children's Sabbath School. The kids are involved in the services of the church as much as possible. Christmas time was a very busy, but also very exciting period of time for the children. At Christmas, the children made Christmas decorations together, and on Sabbath morning (24 December) they enjoyed a Christmas breakfast together. After breakfast, the children listened to the last part of the Nativity story, while parents cleaned up. The children could then dress up as shepherds, because they were going to sing the shepherds' song and recite rhymes during the service. What a wonderful bunch of children!

The second and third quarter of 2016, the congregation of Apeldoorn connected their Children's Sabbath School to an ADRA project. To conclude this period, the kids organised a high tea for the church' members. The children distributed invitations, also inviting people from the neighbourhood. On the day itself, the children helped set the tables, making food and selling tickets. It was an incredibly sociable afternoon and a great amount of money was donated to ADRA.



TED Children's Ministries News

DEVENTER

Deventer is one of the Netherlands' oldest cities. The Adventist church also has a congregation here. The children of the Children's Sabbath School of Deventer's congregation are involved with the church as much as possible. The children sang a beautiful song at the Christmas service, and had matching outfits! 😊



MEPPEL

The congregation of Meppel celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2016. To mark the occasion, the children performed a musical with the theme: Live Long in Gloria. Around Christmas, the children regularly perform a musical. Last year, the theme was 'Being Quiet'. The kids also stepped on stage in a nursing home to perform both musicals.

The children of Meppel's congregation are very active when it comes to helping ADRA. They decorated ADRA boxes, which went to poor children in Serbia and ran very fast in the ADRA charity run for Gambia! Every year the Children's Sabbath School leaders pay a lot of attention to the children's prayer readings.



TEO Children's Ministries News

ENSCHEDA

Enschede is a city in the east of the Netherlands, close to the German border.

December was a fun month for the children of our church in Enschede. At a church member's home, the children had their very own Christmas for Kids, drinking hot chocolate together, doing crafts, taking a walk, eating delicious food, watching a Christmas film and receiving a present. A very successful Christmas afternoon indeed! During the Christmas service, the children could also contribute.

The children of congregation Enschede are very lucky, because a few church members were kind enough to refurbish one of the children's classrooms.

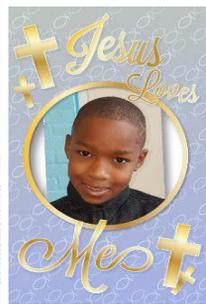


CHURCHPLANT E OASIS

Churchplant E Oasis is situated in Schiedam. They have five Children's Sabbath School teachers and about thirty children from the ages of 0 to 13 attending Sabbath School. All children have a photo pendant, which they can hang in the Children's Sabbath School classroom when they arrive.

The children learn about Jesus in the Children's Sabbath School and also do lots of arts and crafts projects together. During the services, the children get to participate on a regular basis.

At the end of the year, E Oasis organises a children's day. Children from the neighbourhood are also invited to join in and enjoy this wonderful event, so they too can get acquainted with the Lord. In 2016, the children's day theme was: 'Soldier in God's Army'. With a total of fifty children, it was a blessed day.



TED Children's Ministries News

ARNHEM

Arnhem church has a lot of activities for the children. Arnhem is the capital of one of the Dutch provinces, and is well known because of the Second World War movie A Bridge Too Far.

On Sabbath morning the Arnhem children are involved in the divine service; there's always a children's story and the children usually gather the offering. At special services the children sing (they are so talented they can sing three voiced harmonies) or perform beautiful mimes. Older children also have assisting tasks in church. For example, they assist as hosts, as deacons or help the media team out. They also join the adults in outreach activities.

Once a year there is a special nature Sabbath for children. They spend the Sabbath outdoors and enjoy a special Bible oriented programme.

Then there is 'Friend's day'. Every year the children will bring their friends from outside the church to Friend's day. The number of children in church triples on this wonderful occasion. On Friend's Day the Children's Sabbath School teachers prepare a special programme around one Bible story. During the programme there are different stations; for example a praise dance station and a crafts station.



TED Children's Ministries News

TILBURG

The congregation of Tilburg has an active Children's Sabbath School. For the past year they have been working really hard on an amazing children's service. The theme of the children's service was 'Let My People Go'. After months of rehearsing, the children gave a top performance and had a lot of fun while doing so.

Hooray! Congregation Amigu was established 10 years ago; worthy of a celebration! We are very grateful to God for the blessings we have received. We have practised hard to sing a song together with all the children. This was a great success and a lot of fun.

