



Dear Friends,

This newsletter is filled with news from Denmark and Greece. We are grateful for dedicated leaders and volunteers who time and time again give of themselves and their time to disciple and minister to kids.

In this issue we read about a Scandinavian initiative to discipleship. It is good to see they are being very intentional. Online I found this question by Greg Baird: "Are you practicing informational discipleship in your ministry, or transformational discipleship?"

That is a really good question which all of us should ponder.

He goes on to say: "Informational discipleship is focused on delivering content to kids. Bible stories, character qualities and spiritual truth. These are all important and even necessary. However, if our ministries stop there, all we are going to be doing is creating informed disciples." What we are looking for are transformed disciples. Greg gives four ideas to help take your children's ministry from informational to transformational.

1. Live a transformed life yourself.
2. Create a culture in your ministry where relationships are central.
3. Find ways for every child to receive focus.
4. Equip parents to disciple their own kids.

I pray that in all we do for and with kids will focus on the transformational.

Blessings to you all,

Clair

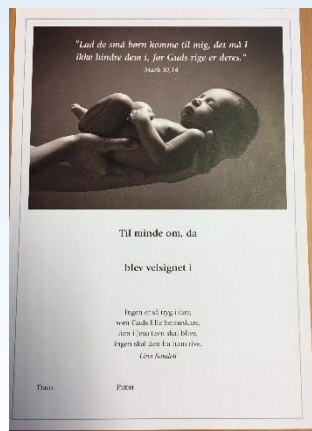
TEC Children's Ministries News

NEWS FROM THE DANISH UNION OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE

Anne-May Müller, Family and Children's Ministries Director

DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

In cooperation with Norway, Sweden and Denmark we are working on creating a higher focus on discipleship for children from birth to young adults. The aim is to encourage and equip parents and churches to take responsibility for making children disciples of Jesus Christ. And it is never too early to begin that journey. As part of the resources we have developed a box of conversation starters (translated from the Australian "TableTalk") to help families to have spiritual conversations.



We have also developed cards the pastor can use when a family has a new baby, and at the same time inform them of the possibility of having a dedication for their new baby. We have also had very nice diplomas made to give to the parents at the dedication.

Whenever the department hears of a family who has had their first baby, we send them a gift with two books: 1 Beginners Sabbath School lesson book and 1 Puzzle Bible. The family is also given a voucher to have a family weekend or a marriage retreat with a 50% discount.



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ALL-AGE WORSHIP SERVICE

At the camp meeting we had an intergenerational worship service for the first time. We usually are divided into age-groups the whole time. But since this year's over-all theme was "Fellowship" it was decided that we should have a divine service for everybody! For the first time we were all together in the big meeting tent. It was a wonderful experience to worship together from the youngest to the oldest, as we all got to experience the hand of God through the life of David.

Grandfather David was on stage, telling his two grandchildren about his life. We saw and experienced different scenes from his life, as a young shepherd boy, to his old age. Often David would say: "I wrote a song about that – Let me take my harp and sing it for you" – and the grandchildren responded with a loud "Nooooo ...!" and soon the whole tent caught onto it, and instead of grandfather David singing and playing, we all sang.



We even had a visit from Grandmother Bathsheba, who told the story from her perspective, and the grandchildren then read from David's diary (Psalm 51). As a symbol of David's repentance and God's forgiveness, we popped soap bubbles.

Exiting the big tent the children were given a balloon each with the text from Psalm 23 on it. A perfect and happy ending to an experiment, that I think we will have to repeat from time to time. It is good when the whole church can worship together, and when there is something for both older and younger to ponder and thank God for. Activity bags for all the children (0-5 years and 6-12 years) were handed out so that if they got bored they could use them. Many of them went home unopened...



TEØ Children's Ministries News

CAMP MEETING

The Danish Adventists gather for 5 days in May every year at our beautiful campsite to spend time in fellowship, fun, meetings and worship. More than 60 volunteers helped to run the children's programmes in four different age groups + teenagers + youth. Five days packed with music, spiritual meetings, play groups, sports, craft workshops and more.



It is definitely one of the high points for our children. We see many attending our camp meetings who seldom come to church. They enjoy it there, because the atmosphere is relaxed and there are many opportunities for fellowship. This year the volunteer leaders of the different activities were easy to spot with their orange t-shirts, and it became very visible to the whole camp, that there are many volunteers involved in getting a camp-meeting to run smoothly for the children too.



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Every morning we began the day with singing and praise, and we learned about "Martin the monk" before we split up in different age groups to have our morning meeting.

The 8-12 age group had a Reformation theme for their meetings. So they hammered their theses on a door, and another day they had an outdoor activity in the wood where they met the soldiers trying to catch them, and they had to transcribe Bible texts from Latin to Danish.



TEC Children's Ministries News

CHILDREN'S CAMP

The first week the schools are out in the summer, our campsite is filled with happy children who are enjoying a week of fun activities for children age 6-12. This year's theme was "around the world in 7 days", and the children "travelled" to different countries and continents every day to get a glimpse of fun games, food and culture. Every morning there are songs and an age-relevant meeting where they learn more about our loving God. Children's camp is an excellent opportunity to bring non-Christian friends, and we are so happy that is what our children do.



This week means a lot to many children, and has helped them getting to know God and feeling more included in the church. It is also very helpful to many parents, because the children's summer holiday is much longer than the adults can take out from work.



The many volunteers that take care of the children do an excellent job, and have to master a lot of skills. They put the children to bed, tackle home sickness and discipline issues, they make a lot of fun activities, crafts and outdoor fun. They do fun sketches in the evenings, sing around the campfire and say the good night prayers in the evening. Thank God for willing and able young people, adults and even grandparents who see this week as an important mission opportunity.



TED Children's Ministries News

NEWS FROM THE GREEK MISSION

Paulina Papilia, Children's Ministries Director

VISITING PYRGOS CHURCH

You will find photos here from our trip to Pyrgos (a Greek city 4 hours away from Athens). Pictures of children from Sabbath school and pictures of the congregation. Many poor gipsy families live there and visit the church so we handed out food and clothes to them. We also had the Sabbath school all together and the sermon was given by the kids. The most impressive thing though is that even when the parents don't go to church, the children go on their own.

