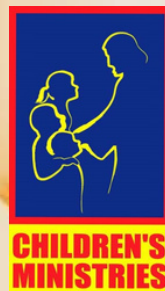
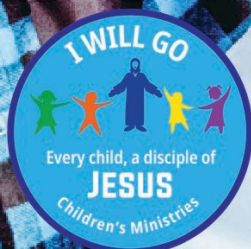


# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

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







# Children's Ministries Celebrates 25 Years!

## IN THE 1800'S

While it is true that Children's Ministries did not become a department of the General Conference until 1995, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had long recognized the importance of ministering to children even back in the 1800's. Work for children began in 1863 when Adelia Patten wrote a two-year series of lessons for children. From 1864 through 1888 children's lessons were published in the Youth's Instructor with biblical history and narrative Bible stories. In 1869 G. H. Bell wrote a series of lessons for children.

## EARLY 1900'S

In 1890 Our Little Friend began carrying the Sabbath School lessons for primary and kindergarten children which lasted for sixty seven years. In 1957, Our Little Friend began to have Sabbath School lessons for the Cradle Roll and kindergarten children. Sabbath School lessons for primary children appeared in a new publication, Primary Treasure in 1957. Sabbath School quarterlies for primary and junior ages started in Australia in 1911-1913 and soon more quarterlies were produced for children for the rest of the English speaking world. From 1933 to 1936 a series of five volumes called Bible Stories for the Cradle Roll appeared. Other curriculum materials for children appeared



periodically, both from the General Conference Sabbath School Department and from active and enthusiastic teachers and personnel in local Sabbath Schools around the world. In the 1960's several men took an active part in the Children's ministries department: Curtis Barger, Tom Ashlock, and Ben Leibelt. Tom Ashlock was responsible for developing a new Vacation Bible School program, with pencil activities being placed in the Our Little Friend and Primary Treasure. At the same time, several women in North America who had a passion for children also developed materials for them. They were Maureen Luxton, Helen Craig, Louise Myers, and Alice Lowe. Louise Myers wrote a series of program books for the Cradle Roll and Kindergarten levels.

## CHILDREN'S WORK UNDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Although there was no organized departmental work for children, but at the 1985 General Conference session in New Orleans, the Church Ministries Department was created, which was formed from a merger of four departments: Sabbath School/Lay Activities, Stewardship and Development, Youth, and Home and Family Service. This department includes services and support for children's ministries work, but it was not until the 1987 world advisory that children's ministries emerged as a new ministry within the Church Ministries Department. This department, in cooperation with the Review and Herald and Pacific Press publishing associations produced Sabbath school quarterlies for children.

These included the Kindergarten Sabbath School Lessons, Primary Sabbath School Lessons, Junior Sabbath School Lessons, Earliteen Sabbath School Lessons, and Mission (children's edition). The department also produced program helps for cradle roll, primary and junior/earliteen Sabbath school leaders. From 1985-1990, children's ministries received its impetus from the vision and prompting of Helen Craig, former Sabbath School associate director for children's Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, and children evangelism. From 1990-1995, Dr. Virginia Smith led out in the work for children's ministries as one of the various support ministries of the Church Ministries Department.

## EMERGENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The 1995 General Conference session at Utrecht marks a watershed for children's ministries. On July 4, 1995, A. H. Tolhurst proposed a motion from the floor that the Children's Ministries Department be established as a separate ministry, a separate department of the church. It was seconded and voted, and children's ministries became the newest department of the church, the only department in history to be suggested from the floor at a session.

In the year 2000 a new children's curriculum, Gracelink was written for the world church that stresses four core aspects of the Christian faith: Grace, Worship, Community, Service. This new curriculum lasted twenty years and at the present moment another new children's curriculum, Alive in Jesus, is being developed for the new millennial generation.

Today Children's Ministries has become a worldwide ministry with every division in the world field having a director to oversee the work of spiritual nurturing and training for children. Many unions and conferences have also elected Children's Ministries directors to minister to children and teens in their territories.

GC Newsletter Vol 17 #2 2020







## DIVISION DIRECTORS

Thank you to all the Directors previous, current and those to come for the work you do for Children! They are the future and your investment cannot be measured. May God bless you in all you do.



# 25 years of Children's Ministry

## The Netherlands



**Clair Sanches-Schutte**  
2000 - 2010

### *Highlight*

In 2002 Kidzrally was birthed a yearly event for our elementary school children 4-12 years started by Clair. We thank God 19 years later this Sabbath it is still the highlight of the year for the children. A day full of happy smiles and a lot of fun, At Kidzrally children learn about God in many different ways especially through story telling.

Children's Ministry in the Netherlands encourages young people to develop their talents. We have many teens and youth involved in our volunteer team that we train and help to develop their skills. During the program we also provide opportunities for children to show their gifts and talents on stage.

Every year over 600 children and their chaperones come from every part of the country to join us as we enjoy a wonderful Sabbath together. We thank our team of 80 volunteers who help make Kidzrally an unforgettable experience for everyone.

Madelon Comvalius, CHM Director



**Madelon Comvalius**  
2011 - Current







*Children's Ministry The Netherlands*



# 25 years of Children's Ministry

## Poland

### *Highlight*



**Halina Jankowska**  
**2008 - Current**

In the past 25 years Children's Ministry in Poland have experienced many joys, challenges and adventures. The children have enjoyed many camp meetings, where they have rested, played games and performed plays exploring the Bible in new and exciting ways.

Every year at Camp meeting in Zatonie, there are a number of activities for children to get involved in whilst parents and guardians are able to enjoy other programs. During the meetings we also run two training sessions that have been led by Directors from the TED, Birte Kendel and Clair Sanches and attended by many people who work with children in local schools and churches.

The talents of our children are to be admired in our programs for Children's Day, Family Day, Grandmother and Grandfather's Day, End of the school year and New Year's celebrations., every year in some churches they also have children's church. The children really put a lot of work, commitment and creativity into everything they do.

The TED have been providing successive training for children leaders, that has been a great help and inspiration to them. We have used numerous programs prepared by the G.C., TED and have put on national and district training for leaders, parents and guardians.

We thank God that our children are willing to participate in the life of the church and take an active part in it. It is up to us as adults to notice their talents and encourage their potential.

Let us be like Jesus, who identified himself with children. When we care for them and nurture them, it is as if we are receiving Him. Jesus wants us adults to be a stairway for our children where they will come to Him, not boulders that block their way..

Halina Jankowska, CHM Director





Children's Ministry  
Poland





# 25 years of Children's Ministry Finland



**Anna-Leena**  
up to 1997

## *Highlight*

There have been many Children's Ministry highlights before my time, to name a few we have enjoyed summers at our campground in Kallioniemi and praise God that many of our children have made the decision for baptism. Our yearly weekend programs include a variety of activities to get involved in. Our annual Family Weekend offers lectures and couple activities for married couples as well.



**Merja Kinnunen**  
1997 - 2007

Merja Kinnunen was active in making her own materials and was part of the team who translated 36 GraceLink books into Finnish. She is a pioneer in Child Safety materials in our church and today still active in helping other denominations. She also wrote a set of plays on emotions and created the characters, Bunny, Strawberry and Carrot. Along with her team she travelled to different day-care centres and performed to children who loved it. Another character from her time was Detective I. Viki who visited schools and taught about honesty.



**Eilisa Saarinen**  
2009 - 2019

Highlights for me as a Director have been the times spent face to face with children and their families since the pandemic, it has also forced me to step out of my comfort zone and start YouTube sabbath schools for little children and those of school age. It was beautiful to work with my 8 year old daughter who often helped with crafts for the bible stories. I received many positive feedbacks from the elderly who loved watching them and tired parents, who said that the Sabbath schools had been the highlight of their Sabbaths during lockdown.

Recently I have started a family café with our local church and it has been one of the greatest highlights in the midst of all the zoom meetings. The program consists of songs, playtime and a place where adults can socialise whilst enjoying waffles. I also run a mother-zoom group for mother's who feel lonely in the areas where they live. For me it is important to be more available for children and families in person, but also try to create some family worship materials to be use at home.



**Sirpa Iivari**  
2019 -  
Current

Sirpa Iivari, CHM Director



# ADRA Slovenia



ADRA Slovenia is preparing for the new school year together with local churches within the program "Let's Fill Slovenia with Happy Children". With donor contributions and fundraising that takes place from July to August we are able to help children and parents from vulnerable families start a new school year with all the necessary school supplies. School supplies cover notebooks, full pencil cases, art supplies, school bags and more. Each year we are able to assist between 300–400 children across Slovenia and this year will be no different. Children that receive supplies come from very vulnerable families and we take it as a blessing that not many Adventist children don't find themselves in such position and are always willing to participate in this program and contribute some of the supplies they may no longer need.

The End of school year 2019/2020 has been a difficult year for vulnerable families, especially for children due to the uncertainty and fear before COVID-19, isolation from peers and teachers and learning on new platforms. Technical equipment for e-learning was a big issue and ADRA together with donors (ADRA International, TED, Slovenian Conference, LDS, students have managed to supply 37 children with laptops that will undoubtedly serve them also in the new school year.

Ana Kristovič





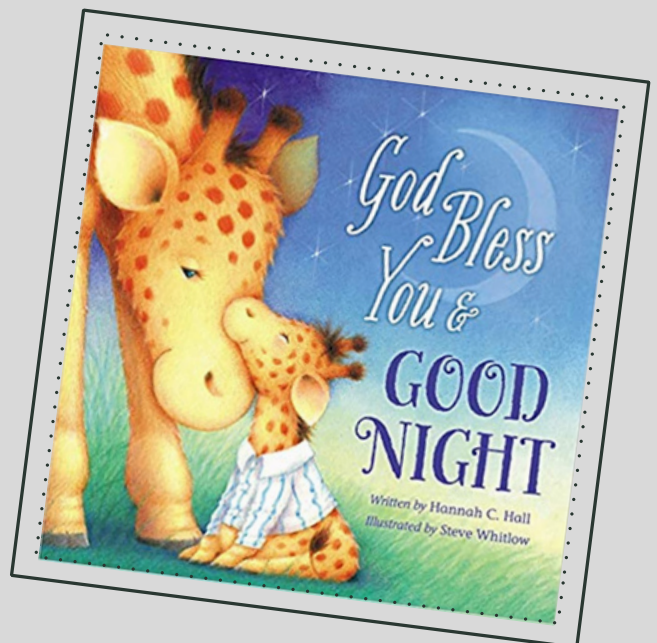


## *Blessings for Children & Parents*

Coronavirus and children have at least two things in common, their influence is contagious and they both have the power to change lives. Hopefully, in these unstable times parents have had an opportunity to spend more quality time with their little ones. In many countries time stood still

for quite some time. Therefore, in our publishing house, Logos, we decided to translate and publish 10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know by Donna. Habenicht, to help parents make the most out of the time they spend with their children. We also plan to publish a children's book titled God Bless You and Good Night by Hannah Hall by the end of 2020. We pray that our publishing ministry will bring blessings to both children and parents.

Jasmina Odorčić







## Pathfinders Slovenia

During quarantine the pathfinders met online. In addition to the skills they have acquired at the meetings we organised in Slovenia, the pathfinders and their guides regularly attend online skills prepared for participants from all over the world by English pathfinders.

The pathfinders plunged at the start of the epidemic. Dr. Natalija Bahovec from the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions, guided them through the requirements for acquiring the viruses skill and also taught about COVID-19. In the Journalism skill, we learned about the laws of journalistic words, how to write a good story, develop an attractive title and a cover letter to editors. We used our knowledge to write various news and posts on social networks.

In the Literacy skill we joined forces with the Humanitarian organization ADRA, Slovenia. Ana Kristović introduced us to the types of literacy and invited us to sign the ADRA petition 'Every child everywhere in school'. As part of this skill the pathfinders read to the elderly and children who do not know how to read. During this time Adventurers (aged 6 to 10) acquired appropriate knowledge and instructions for working at home and performed various tasks during the week.

Due to the situation, we paid a lot of attention to the mental and physical health of children. We were singing a lot, making knots, repeated the adventure oath and learning the pathfinder song, which is now also translated into the Slovenian language. Through stories about everyday objects, we presented moral teachings and their application in everyday life and read good books for an adventurous reading badge.

As part of the skill of a Family helper the children performed at least one family task every day for three weeks. We also talked about cans and keeping food fresh in biblical times. We learned about structure and different types of seeds, we also used the seeds as a metaphor for spiritual and personal growth. As part of the Acts of kindness skill, we also remembered the lonely, sick and elderly Adventist believers, for whom the children made encouraging greeting cards.

In recent weeks we dedicated our attention to trees and with our families we discovered different kinds of trees, species and their fruits in nature.

Patricija Vrtič











# Summer Camp

Nazarje, Slovenia

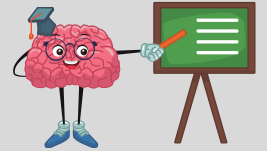
In August our annual Summer Camp for Adventurers and Pathfinders took place in Nazarje, Slovenia. The theme was 'Do Something Good Each Day'. Our focus was in doing good deeds for nature, animals and people through sports, arts, educational and creative activities, mountain hiking and devotionals. The camp welcomed less participants than usual due to coronavirus restrictions, but that did not stop us making new friends around campfires, swimming in nearby cold rivers on mud hurdle trails or even at 2062 meters high up a mountaintop! We all had a great time learning about God and enjoying nature.

Patricia Virtič

*Love*



# Sabbath School



This year the Sabbath school for children in Slovenia, as in many other countries was a little different than usual. The privilege of online Sabbath school was that the children could sleep longer and if they did not turn the camera on, they did not need to comb their hair, but were deprived of genuine contact with each other, contact with other believers and a feeling of greater closeness with God in His house.

Children from 1st to 4th grade loved to sing the songs, participated in physical activities, actively responded and told stories about themselves and about everything that was happening around them. The teenagers were less talkative, but from Sabbath to Sabbath they diligently participated in socializing and studying different Bible topics.

The teachers have put in a lot of effort for both of these age groups. In one of our activities we were surprised the children found some little gift and things they could use in their study of the Bible.

Unfortunately Sabbath school in our churches is still going on in limited circumstances, but we hope that everything will be back to normal soon and that there will be no obstacles to gathering without masks. We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to glorify our God in Sabbath school and in all our worship services together again and come before Him with our requests and thanks to Him.

Tatiana Godina Marin





# Summer in Crikvenica

Despite the uncertainty caused by the renewed rise of COVID-19 cases in the region, Slovenian Conference organised a Summer in Crikvenica.

Every day before this event we listened carefully to the news, because going to Croatia could expose us to the risk of getting the virus or could mean a mandatory quarantine upon the return home.

We prepared a variety of activities for children, young people and adults. Through spending time together we re-experienced beauty of the intergenerational church that lives, prays and works together.

We talked with children and teenagers about wise use of time, friendship, falling in love, love relationships and other topics. Then together with them we listened to a presentation about rowing and we participated in searching the hidden treasure.

We also enjoyed different creative activities, where we were making bookmarks, drawing on stones, decorating paper bags and filling them with snacks, we also made a "Sea World" poster. We were also playing Twister and other social games. In the evenings we played volleyball and table tennis, watched a movie, went for a walk and ice cream and enjoyed time jumping on the trampoline.

We also made a boat trip where we could observe the seafloor. We visited the adventure park and enjoyed the sea, swam, played and rode on inflatable pillows every day.

Surprises, like encouraging thoughts, juice or snacks awaited at the room door almost every morning. There was a sheet of paper with our name on the door of each room and everyone could write some encouraging words.

On the first day of our gathering we celebrated baptism. The glitter of the sun in the sea, the flying seagulls, the sound of wind, waves and songs contributed to the magic of the moment, when 11-year-old Lara professed her faith in God and joined the church.

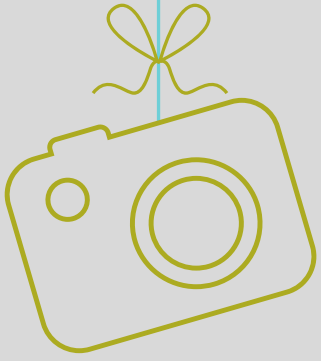
A big thank you to Trans-European Division, Adriatic Union Conference, Slovenian Conference and ADRA Slovenia who supported the project for children!

With all the responses from children, parents it was worth every effort and money!


Tatiana Godina Marin











# Everyone has a story.

## *Stories for Everyone*

During lockdown in Slovenia we began to broadcast various useful contents on our YouTube and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/adventisti.si>) for all users of social networks. Among other activities we told stories for children, as we all love to listen to stories. Especially if they are from real life, have a positive message and inspire us, as they fill every corner of our heart. We called these stories "Stories for young and old. Parents told us that children loved to listen to the stories even several times a day. This helped them feel calm, encouraged them to be grateful, happy, trust God and made it easier for them to rest in the evening. We want to continue with this activity so the Slovenian conference is preparing a place for the studio and is looking for volunteers who have the joy and ability to tell stories to children. We hope that we will succeed as we continue contribute to a better future for all.

See our stories online:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX6EwO5ieDw&list=PLy68BtzRboMmojNSYX\\_f8Ulg3m2DVCm5H](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX6EwO5ieDw&list=PLy68BtzRboMmojNSYX_f8Ulg3m2DVCm5H)

Tatiana Godina Marin





**CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS, AGES 5-14, SHOW US YOUR TALENTS IN ART, POETRY, AND MEDIA PRODUCTION!**

# KIDS TALENTS FOR JESUS



**WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BOOK.**

**THEME: JESUS IS MY BEST FRIEND**

**CLOSING DATE: NOV. 1, 2020**



**SUBMIT ENTRIES TO MISSION/CONFERENCE/UNION CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTORS**



Check out the Guidelines & Forms at [www.children.adventist.org](http://www.children.adventist.org) and Facebook: @gcchildrensministries.

General Conference Children's Ministries is celebrating 25 years of ministry to children and adolescents! To commemorate this event, we are calling all children and teens to show us your talents and gifts in our Kids Talents for Jesus. The theme is, Jesus is My Best Friend. We would love to see all children and teens send in your best piece of art, or poetry, or media production.

All winning entries will be featured in the General Conference Children's Ministries 25th Anniversary Kids Talents for Jesus publication.

For rules and guidelines and the submission form, you can download this from the General Conference Children's Ministries website and Facebook page at: <http://children.adventist.org>; Facebook@gcchildrensministries.

CHM Director: Clair Sanches-Schutte  
CHM PA: Caroline Fuller, 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)