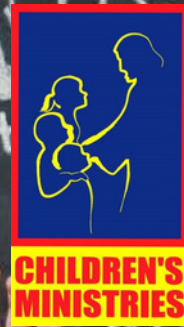


CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE?

NEW PATHFINDER CLUB CROATIA 2

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CRETE,
GREECE 3

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES ALBANIA 6

MESSY CHURCH 9

PARENTING TEENS 11



New Pathfinder Club, Croatia

Lorena Tomašević Latin, Krizevci church



On 29th February we officially founded our Pathfinder Club named Kalnički Klinčić, with more than 20 new pathfinders.

We organised a special ceremony led by Matej A. Luksic (Croatian Conference Pathfinder leader) where we sang a lot of songs, told stories and had great fellowship. Each pathfinder received their scarf, badge and membership cards, concluding with our Croatian pathfinder's hymn Step by step.

The next day we took advantage of the good weather and had our first meeting on Mountain Kalnik, along with our new scout and experienced mountaineer Benjamin Vukalović.

We conquered together the highest Kalnik peak Vranilac – 643 m.

As pathfinders we have been meeting since October last year, with increasing numbers at each meeting.

When the weather permits, we mostly meet outdoors. Walking through our beautiful forests, we learn about useful plants, trees, signposts and markings. In preparing for exams we learn how to tie knots and build camps.

So far we have had so much fun and laughter, as we learn valuable lessons. Both, young and old are fully involved. It has been really nice to see harmony among the younger and older generations who happily engage in each activity.





Children's Ministries Crete

Our first meeting back to church in Crete was long-awaited, it was a special time seeing everyone together again.

For our morning program we reviewed the lesson and spent time on arts and crafts. Everyone received a task and presented it after lunch. The children were so happy to engage and take part in the service, as they shared a new psalm they memorized from the bible.

On Sunday we continued our program in nature, singing, praying and playing. To conclude we shared stories about the great difficulties of children living in Africa and their courage and faith to survive.

Parents shared their thoughts and feelings about preparing children for service. the meeting was encouraging and inspired us all to further the work of Christ.



Children's ministries Crete, Greece



Quick & Easy Worship Ideas

Little things are important

Bible Stories

- Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10
- Parables of the mustard seed and the yeast—Luke 13:18-21

Things you need:

Collection of little things that are very important such as:

- Key
- Button
- Pencil
- Stamp
- Bag

Worship activities

1. Collect the small items in the bag. Let your child reach into the bag and try to identify any objects without looking at them.
2. Ask your child why the little things could be important.
3. What other small things are really important?
4. Children are very important. Even though they are little, God can still do great things with them. Children can make a difference in the world by being loving and kind.
5. Little things are also important to God. It matters to Him when we lose our teddy bear. He knows where all the lost socks go; He cares when a little tear rolls down our face; He cares when we cut our finger.
6. Thank God that the little things matter to Him. Praise Him for the tiniest details that He has taken care of in the world, and for the tiny little bugs and seeds He makes.

Another option:

An older child might like to have a matchbox challenge:

- Give him a small matchbox and let him fill it with as many different tiny items as he can.
- How many can he fit into the box? Think about a grain of rice, a lentil, a pin, a button, and other small items.



*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12*

Children's Ministries Albania



During the pandemic creativity has been awakened all over the world, and Albania has not been the exception. It has not been easy for any family to keep their children at home during the lockdown period, especially when the little ones have so much energy!

The Thomollori family at our church soon realized the great need to produce material for children during the quarantine, so they decided to launch the "adventure", creating a series of children's videos that have been widely accepted popular within the church and social media platforms.

Sanda Thomollori describes her experience: "This year has been a hard and challenging one. Children and their parents have not been able to attend church due to the quarantine restrictions. But our God is Mighty, he brings a shower of blessings even in a desert. It happened to Elbasan church when we decided to bring God's message to children where they were at their home."

This is how the series 'Stories of Wisdom' (Tregimet e Urta) was born. It started off as short videos with my children and sharing them on YouTube and Facebook.

Once the quarantine restrictions were over our church children were so eager to take part and were involved in several Christian character building videos, along with their parents. Parents loved this project. As one put it, "This will be great memories of serving God in an exciting way."

Within four months we have made 10 videos with more content coming soon. The project has taught our children valuable lessons on how to grow up happy and safe. The last four videos are dedicated to children's safety, as a response to several child-rape cases that happened this summer in Albania.

These short videos teach children how to react when a stranger offers them some sweets, invites children to come to their house or offers a car-ride, and what to do when they are lost.

This project has been a great blessing for both parents, children, and the community and we have received very positive feedback.

Many unchurched people have watched our videos and are looking forward to more. These videos also show clearly that the Seventh Day Adventist Church cares for children and teaches good values. This has increased a good reputation for our church. "





Virtual bible studies via Zoom

A very special event this summer was the baptism of a 13 year old boy who is very active in our church. Medi Lloshi got baptized together with his mother on the 1st of August, his own birthday!!!

He is starring in video 5 which teaches that one can be a spiritual giant even if being a 'shorty'. Medi prays every Sabbath for our church members and says his dream is to become a pastor.

Here is the link to the playlist on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HplhHv9UZd0&list=PL6h0hsmU_b11EkxBBxJoTEcPaZyju571G

Creativity has been put to work at its best. For every Sabbath worship program, the Albanian mission team prepared joint services for all churches offering a live transmission on Facebook and YouTube. The media department of the Albanian mission contributed by producing materials for church members as well as for the community. Health tips, cooking recipes, songs, children's stories, and encouraging messages are some of the latest productions.

The pastoral team and church members contributed in making of these materials. We set up WhatsApp groups to send Sabbath school lessons and crafts so that our children could enjoy special days of worship.

Messy Church

For our Messy church programs we decided to ask parents and children to prepare for a virtual program. Each family was asked to take photos or record a short video of them baking or making crafts at home. On the agreed day, our Messy Church program was held live virtually and each family had the opportunity to share their experiences.

The coordinators also conducted fun games, songs and a Bible narrative. Although, it was not the same as our regular Messy Church programs, the families enjoyed spending time together and being able to share with other children and parents.



Adventist Kindergarten

The Adventist Kindergarten, located in the ADRA compound Tirana, was also affected by the lockdown imposed by the Ministry of Education. However, the teachers continued to provide virtual curriculum development on a regular basis.

The kindergarten reopened its doors to the community on 1st June, in order to continue promoting an education with Christian values in a safe and great environment. Children immerse in the intuitive learning centers and enjoy the English classes, cooking and horticulture activities. As the new school year starts, the staff is ready to welcome the children for a new learning journey. The staff kindly requests for your prayers for children and parents.

Pathfinders

Our Pathfinder's department continued to be active in spite of the quarantine organising virtual bible studies and honor classes using Zoom and Kahoot.

Additionally, they did Bible games in their friendship groups, where they shared their experiences and challenges faced during the pandemic.

When the lockdown was lifted, a mini camporee was organized by one of the local churches, where the Pathfinders had the opportunity to go to a campsite and take a cosmography class during the starry night. They also enjoyed watching a good Christian movie, playing games and learning more about Jesus and His soon return.





Messy[®] CHURCH

Messy church, Croatia

We have been running Messy church here in Croatia for more than six years. Our workshops, Bible stories and meals together has brought a real blessing to the many children and their families at our church.

This year we celebrated the 50th time meeting. It was great to see the importance of us coming together and the impact it has had, to hear a child say, that the best part of Messy Church is that they get to enjoy mum and dad participating in workshops with them was beautiful.

Starting of at Pula Church, many other churches in Croatia have now been inspired in their districts. With help from Clair Sanches-Schutte (Children Ministries Director, TED) we have started three new Messy Churches.

After a few educational seminars that the Croatian Children Department organized and the Messy Church Conference that Clair held in Zagreb in February, these Messy Church projects were brought to life. We now have four Messy Churches and thankfully receiving financial support from the Trans European Division for our churches in: Rijeka, Daruvar, Požega and Pula.

It is encouraging to mention that you don't need a great number of children in order to start a Messy Church. In Požega they have only two children in their Sabbath School, but Messy Church brought another seven children and their families to each meeting.

Messy Church in Rijeka had a similar story. Although they had three active children in their Sabbath School, they decided to serve children and parents in their town and also invite them. They were able get 10-15 children along with their parents to join.

For advertisement, they used the SWAP project and paid Facebook adverts. SWAP project is a platform used to bring and exchange children's clothes, toys and other things in the community. This proved to be a great opportunity to get in contact with people and to start some new friendships and gain members.

Messy Church in Daruvar, who started there first meeting last December, is using creative methods too in order to invite and welcome children to the meetings. During Sabbath afternoon, after preparing a hot tea, muffins and balloons, church members went to their Town centre and they were inviting children and parents to their Messy workshops. One of the mothers said that her child told her afterwards that it was the best Sabbath ever in his life!

You can find pictures and ideas of our Messy Churches on the internet by typing in your search engine "Razigrana crkva."

We pray to our Lord that our churches here and society will get back to normal soon, so we can have further joy with this great project.

Matej A. Luksic



Parenting teens

Setting standards

Good parents who wish to try the inoculation method will involve the teen in setting standards for the home in advance of the event. Crucial areas include driving, dating and sexual behaviour. All must be addressed in discussion.

Advance preparation

Prior to the time a teenager is allowed the privilege of dating or driving, he or she should be encouraged to suggest guidelines to follow when using the car or dating later on. Parents, too, can have input into the agreement, which can then be drawn up.

Written rules

A young person should help to formulate and agree to abide by written rules. He will tend to follow through much more consistently with these kinds of rules formulated in this way.

Time and patience

An approach like this takes time, effort and patience, but rich dividends are the handsome payoff. A teen who has been allowed to make choices is likely to co-operate with family policies and to develop a healthy independence and self-respect.

'Everybody is doing it'

Parents must explain that everyone does not do things alike; therefore they do not need to know what other parents or teens are doing.

'Give me the facts'

A wise plan is to suggest, 'Give me the facts, and then I'll make a decision.' When the facts have been presented, say, 'I really haven't made a decision yet. Give me some time to think it over. I want to talk with your dad (or mum), and I'll let you know when we decide.' That way you make as rational a decision as possible.

Top tip

Once the rules have been agreed to, the parent must be careful to find the teen doing something right, and to affirm it.

Maybe

When 'No' becomes 'Yes' your no's for the future will be interpreted as if you have said, 'Maybe; ... I'll think it over.'

Don't say 'No' immediately

Parents always feel that they are on safe ground by thinking it over. Always listen to the arguments before saying 'No.'

Some freedom

Parents should make every effort to be as lenient as possible and, within reason, give their teen the freedom he desires. However, it is very important that Christian parents establish early in their child's life that they do things differently as a whole than non-Christian parents because their value system is different.

Gracelink

Third quarter (lesson10) A Wife for Isaac.
Genesis 24

The Message

God wants everyone to join his family.

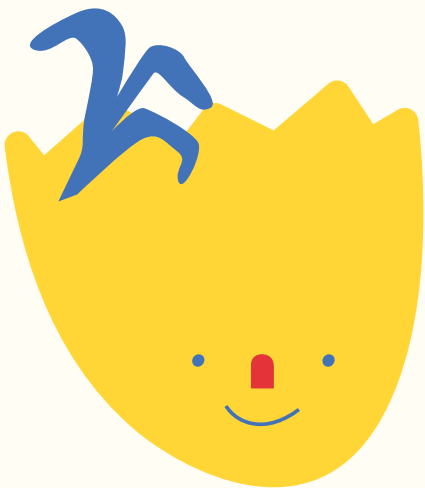
Memory Verse

"The Lord...will send his angel with you and make your journey a success" (Gen 24:40)





" Children are a gift
from the LORD;
They are a reward
from Him. " Psalm
127:3



Congratulations



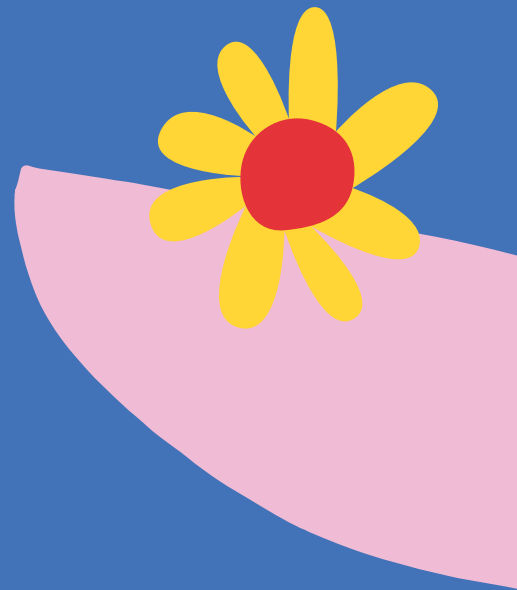
Jasmina Noemi Radovanov

born : 15th July 2020



Pictured with siblings and happy parents: Christiane and Jovan Radovanov





Sebastijan Lukšić

born : 5th August 2020

Born to happy parents: Ana and Matej Lukšić





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, 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.

Children's Ministries Director: Clair Sanches-Schutte
Edited by: Caroline Fuller
Childrens Ministries, PA

Trans-european Division
119 St Peter's St, St Albans, AL1 3EY, England

If you would like to add an article or advertise your ministry in our monthly Newsletter please email: cfuller@ted.adventist.org