



Dear All,

I have been asked a lot what value Children's Ministries adds to the church and I have been doing presentations on the subject for 7 years now. Well even before at the Netherlands Union. I really believe that the best opportunity we have of reaching people for Jesus starts with our own kids and the earlier the better. We have all heard of the 4-14 window and that this is the best age to reach kids.

It is wonderful to see that the newsletter you have before with ideas that are working in Cyprus and Poland. So many ideas and creativity. Hopefully it will spark some creativity in you as well. It is so exciting to see that so much is going on in our Division.

We are grateful to God for leaders who are willing to invest in the lives of kids. We all work hard and we are all busy people and therefore we know how much time and effort is put into working with children because being well prepared is one way of showing our kids we care and love them.

Many blessings to you all as you read the newsletter. Hopefully it will inspire you to try out some of the ideas or give you ideas of what you can do in your area.

Blessings,

*Clair*

# TEC Children's Ministries News

## Children in Cyprus empowered and eager to serve

Report from Marica Mirilov, CM director

### Limassol

#### **HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB – Cave Quest**, Boxing Day, 26.12.2016.

Meeting Point SDA Community Centre in Limassol was turned into a big cave.

An enthusiastic team led by the AVS couple, Sylvana and Andrew de Jesus, welcomed the church children and their friends, engaging them in creative and meaningful activities.



#### **EPISKOPI BRITISH ARMY GARRISON – Family emphasis weekend**

The second weekend in 2017 marked the first ever SDA programme at Episkopi British Army Garrison organised for soldiers and their families.

In an effort to serve their community, Copral M.Vakatawa, a newly baptised member of the SDA church in Limassol, and his wife Emily hosted a special programme for the children, parallel to the programme for couples. 14 children were busy building models of their houses, gardens and the street. For the very first time some listened to Bible stories and sang Christian songs. On the last day of the programme the hard-working children were proud to invite their parents to examine their masterpieces.





# TEC Children's Ministries News

## PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS' CAMP

Although small in number, Limassol SDA pathfinders and adventurers are happy to follow the club programme earnestly; camping and activities in nature are their favourite.

The children aspire to be worthy disciples of Jesus and share their faith and hope with other children whom they invite to be their special guests at particular programmes.



## LET'S DO IT CYPRUS

On 2 April 2017, children together with their parents and other church members participated in the International Cleaning Day effort to clean their town.

Little hands worked hard to collect empty cans, paper, cigarette butts and other waste. As bag after bag was filled, the sense of usefulness and unity grew stronger.



# TEC Children's Ministries News

## Nicosia

### TEENS RETREATS

5-7 November 2016 and 19 April 2017 were special dates in the Nicosia teens' calendar. It was time to switch mobile phones off, get digging into treasures of the scripture, join in singing, discussions and of course at the end of the day to have some fun.

Their Sabbath School teacher, Alex Elmadian, is determined to use and create opportunities to make Christianity relevant and appealing to these young people.



### CAROL SINGING

The week before Christmas was busy practicing Carols and visiting church members and the friends of the church during this special season.

The teens took a lead choosing the songs and happily going from home to home, expressing their faith and good wishes through their songs and prayers. Everyone in return expressed their gratitude and this made the teens realise that true happiness comes from mingling with people and doing good.



### SERVING AT THE MERCY CENTRE

Mercy Centre, an interdenominational community centre for the homeless and poor in Nicosia, is well supported by the SDA church.

Teens actively participate in preparing Christmas presents for the needy and once every quarter serve the meal to about 50 beneficiaries. Similarly, it was time to count the blessings and be a blessing this year too.





# TEC Children's Ministries News

## Larnaca

### ENGLISH CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

A young AVS couple, Irina and Harold Novac, operate a newly opened SDA community center in Larnaca. The SDA church members in Larnaca do not have young children. However, Irina and Harold have a passion to offer to the Larnaca community the best of their talents and skills, especially to children.

Irina is a keen English Language teacher, and the promoted free English language classes have already attracted small groups of children.



### MANDOLIN LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

Harold has become known in Cyprus as a talented mandolin player.

He has already formed an active adult mandolin orchestra and his dream is to conduct a children's mandolin orchestra too. His skills and patience captivate the children and make them enthusiastic learners.



# TEP Children's Ministries News

## News from Poland

Report from Halina Jankowska, CM director

Someone said that the biggest gift for our children is ourselves, that is, our interest in their needs, the time we spend with them. If the needs of children are not met, in adult life they may have a disturbed relationship in their interpersonal and spiritual life.

The most important factor shaping the value system of children is the presence of personal patterns in family, school, social and religious life. Being close to people who not only declare values, but also notice them, is the surest assurance of their assimilation and conscious acceptance. It is good in this respect in our Polish Church. We have a large group of devoted members who love and live the passion of working with children.

In the past, children were taken care of. They participated in Sabbath school and religious education, took part in various forms of Christian activity. In the congregations programmes were prepared in which children were reciting poems, conducting dialogues and taking part in various activities. The tradition of our Church has already celebrated : Grandmother and Grandfather's Day, Family Day, Children's Day, Beginning and End of School Year, Harvest- Week, welcome the New Year. On the occasion of all these events and more, the children have put in a lot of work and their own inventiveness. During the holiday camps the children were involved in numerous games and games that helped them read from another book, the book of nature.

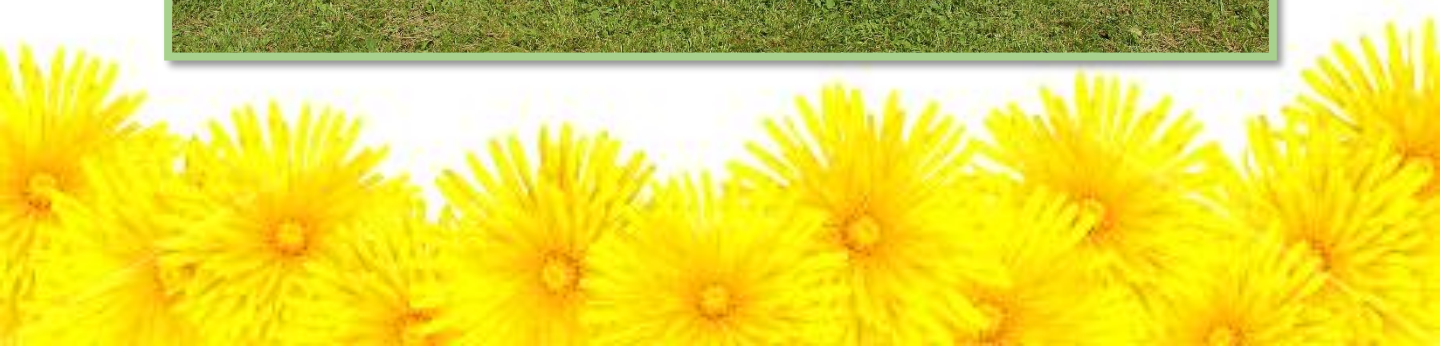
A great contribution to working with children was made by the family Sobaszkwie. They are a very creative family, and talented musically. The talents God has given them are great for working with children. They use different forms of communication, including puppet theatre.





## TEĎ Children's Ministries News

In the past year they organized camps in Kłodzko Valley for children and parents. They benefitted from parents from Advent families and more. And mothers who raise their own children and foster children. The community was built and in various ways parents were encouraged to bring up their worries to God. The principles of healthy cooking were also taught. Also like every year at the Camp in Zatonie, various types of activities for children were made through biblical stories, fun and art.



### Plan of Salvation in 3D for Children

The "plan of salvation in 3D for Children" was launched in August 2016. At the family camp the Group's Mission was "Three Angels". Although the name of the project is almost like a movie title, it is shown in the form of an exhibition. The aim of this exhibition is to familiarize children with the history of salvation and the Lord Jesus, their Saviour. The title of this project for the people outside of the church is "A journey through time". It is intended for children aged around 5-12 years.

During this exhibition, children go from station to station and learn the steps of the plan of salvation: a rebellion in heaven, creation of the world, the emergence of sin, the flood, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and His second coming.

This study is accompanied by fun and games involving all senses, experiments of very great interest to children, while teaching them about controlling their emotions, the prayer of confession of sin to God and seeking help from Him, that Jesus is their best friend. During the exhibition, children can see the pictorial Bible and the true Bible and learn that it is this book that tells the whole story of salvation.

At the end the children meet with a person dressed as Jesus, who takes them to his kingdom, and puts crowns on their heads and bestows gifts in the form of books talking about God. Parents and carers receive the book "Way to Christ".

Parents - bringing the child to the exhibition - get to read the rules, which explicitly stated that the exhibition is a Christian event. Many of them attentively listening to what is happening at the stations and ask questions about what they hear.

The plan of salvation in 3D gives you the opportunity to preach the gospel to children in a very direct way, and consequently also their parents. We also saw the involvement of our children and young people in the mission of facing their peers - a form of mission is so simple that our children will be happy to handle another exposition with just a little help from adults; in this way we educate young missionaries.

