



# Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

## Devotional

Trees appear often in the Bible and there is much we can learn from them to help us in our devotional life.

- **WE SEE A MAN BEHIND A TREE** In Genesis 3:8, Adam tried to hide himself among the trees from the presence of God because he had sinned. Sin separates from God and gives a desire to hide from Him.

Here is a man **HIDING** behind a tree **and being guilty of SIN.**

- **WE SEE A MAN ON A TREE** God's answer to Adam's sin, and our sin, was to send His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sin as a substitute and sacrifice. We read in 1 Peter 2:24 that Jesus Christ "Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree." And Paul writes that He (Jesus Christ) was "made a curse for us, for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Galatians 3:13)

Here is a Man **HANGING** on a tree **and offering Himself as a SACRIFICE.**

- **WE SEE A MAN UNDER A TREE** Nathaniel was a well-known thinker. Philip found him under a fig tree (John 1:45,48) and told him about the Lord Jesus.



(John 1:45) Nathaniel doubted Philip's claim that the Lord Jesus was the Messiah but responded to Philip's invitation to "come and see." (John 1:46) When the Lord Jesus saw Nathaniel, He spoke to him and showed him that He already knew him and that He was omniscient. Nathaniel, when he heard this, understood and saw that Jesus is "the

Son of God...the King of Israel." (John 1:49).

Here is a man **HEARING** under a tree **and receiving the blessing of spiritual SIGHT and understanding.**

- **WE SEE A MAN UP A TREE** Zacchaeus was a well-known rascal. He climbed the sycamore tree so He could see the Lord Jesus. (Luke 19:4). The Lord Jesus stopped, looked at Zacchaeus and told him to hasten and come down. Zacchaeus did so and received the Lord Jesus joyfully. (Luke 19:6) As a result he was not only saved; he was a changed man who returned all the money he had stolen. (Luke 19:8)

Here is a man **HASTENING** down from a tree **to receive the Lord Jesus and the blessing of SALVATION.**



We would like to welcome you to this issue of Mini Mag with a story about D.L. Moody the famous nineteenth century American evangelist. He was returning from an evangelistic meeting, and someone asked him if it had been a good meeting. He replied "Yes." His questioner continued "Were any saved?" "Yes" said Mr Moody "Two and a half were saved." His questioner laughed at the answer and remarked, "I know what you mean. Two adults and a child." "Not at all" replied Mr. Moody "Two children and an adult."

What did he mean? How many souls were saved that day? Three. How many lives were saved that day? Two and a half. The two lives saved were those of children who, coming to Christ when young, have their whole lives to live for Him. The half-life was that of the adult who had already lived most of his life in the world and had only the last part of his life to give to Jesus Christ.

**SIN—SACRIFICE—SIGHT—SALVATION.** That is the message of the trees. It reminds us of our SIN. It reminds of the SACRIFICE of the Lord Jesus for our sin. It reminds us as believers of the SIGHT and understanding He gave us of that great sacrifice, and it reminds us the grace given to us to trust Him for SALVATION

We look forward to that day when we will see and enjoy the tree of life in Heaven. (Revelation 22:2,14)

# CHILDREN CAN BE SAVED

In recent issues of Mini Mag we have been searching the Old Testament for verses and passages which give us information about children, in addition to the two main passages in Deuteronomy and Psalms which we had studied in previous issues. We found 26 such places and learned so much about children from them. To-day, we start to search for verses and passages about children in the New Testament, in addition to the two main passages about children in Matthew and Mark, and we will see what we can learn from them. I will give you the references and my thoughts on what they teach. You could use your Bible to read them.

**John 4:47-53.** This is the story of how the Lord Jesus performed a mighty miracle on a nobleman's son. As a result, the child was healed; but an even greater miracle took place after the child was healed. We read that the nobleman, and his whole house or family, believed and that included the child. Children can believe and be saved.

**Acts 16:15,32-34.** In these two households, the households of Lydia and the Philippian jailer, it is recorded that the whole households believed and were baptized as believers. It is possible that there were children in each household. If so, they, like their parents, believed and were saved. Children can be saved.

**Ephesians 1:1, 6:1-3.** The first verse in the epistle tells us that the epistle is addressed to those who are "saints," and "faithful". Paul was writing a letter to saints." Saints," is another name for believers. The first part of the letter is addressed to all the

saints, or believers, at Ephesus. But in the second section of the letter, he addresses separate groups of those believers: wives, husbands, fathers, servants, and masters. We agree that all these groups are believers because the letter is addressed to believers. But in the first three verses of chapter 3, he addresses children (TEKNON) directly, and the instructions which follow indicate they are young children. Therefore, these children must have been believers. Children can be saved.

**Titus 1:6** One of the qualifications Paul outlines for an elder in the church, is that his children (TEKNON) should not be "accused of riot or unruly." But he also says that they should be "faithful children." The word "faithful" used means "believing" and it shows again that it is possible for children to be believers. Otherwise, it would be an impossible requirement.

**1 John 2:12-14** Midway in chapter 2, John addresses, and commends, three groups he is writing to –children (twice), fathers (twice) and young men (twice). He gives his reasons for writing to them. He writes to the fathers because they have known the heavenly eternal Father. He writes to the young men because they are strong and have overcome the world. He writes to the children (PAIDION) because they have known the Heavenly Father and because their sins have been forgiven. The word "paidion" clearly shows he is referring to children, and he writes that these children know the eternal Father and that their sins are forgiven. This surely shows that children can be saved and enjoy the blessings of salvation.



## KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

### BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

**Question:** How can I make my Bible lesson so interesting that the children will really listen to it and not be restless ?

**Answer:** This is a question which is asked by many children's workers. You need, first of all, to identify the extent of the problem(s) which cause this lack of attention and restlessness. Are most of the children restless or is it just one or two of them? If most of the children are restless, the problem lies with the teacher. If it just one child, he/she is the problem, and the teacher would need to speak with this child privately (and even with his parents) to find and solve his problem.

If most of the children in your meeting are restless and not really listening, you need to find the problem by asking yourself some questions. Your answers to these questions will help you to find and solve your problem. There are three possible types of problems.

#### 1) YOU COULD BE THE PROBLEM.

- Do you feel you are pleasant and attractive to the children?
- Do you have a good sense of humour and do you smile frequently? Do you even laugh sometimes?
- Do you show a genuine interest in the lives of the children as well as in their souls?

#### 2) WHAT YOU ARE TEACHING COULD BE THE PROBLEM

- Is what you are teaching really interesting? Most children will listen well, if what they are hearing gets their interest and attention; and especially, if the words used are simple and understandable. You are teaching lambs not giraffes.

- Is what you are teaching relevant to the children's needs.? Do you know what these needs are?

- Is there plenty of narrative in your lesson? Children like movement, action, and a good story.

- Do you always incorporate the Word of God in your teaching. God's Word attracts attention because it has power. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit and He helps the children to listen and understand.

- Above all, have you spent enough time during the week to prepare thoroughly what you will teach?

#### 3) HOW YOU ARE TEACHING COULD BE THE PROBLEM

- Are you "living your lesson?" Are you making the story and the lesson come alive? Do the expressions on your face, and the movements of your hands change in accordance with what you are saying? Or do your face and your hands just freeze?

- Are you using your voice well and adapting it to whatever is happening in your lesson—sometimes it can be fast and excitable, sometimes slow and sad. Sometimes it can be quiet and sometimes loud. (but not too loud) Or are you inclined to have a "frozen" voice which always operates on the same level and the same speed.

- Are you using visual aids and illustrations to help the children understand what you are teaching. They make your lesson more interesting and more understandable

**I do not know you and your problem(s) but I trust that, as you answer the above questions, you will find your problem and its solution. You might even ask a co-worker to give you their views or their answers.**

## Your Ministry to Children:

We continue with this series of lessons on how to help our saved children to grow spiritually. We have seen, in previous issues, that we should, first of all, teach them what they should know about, and what they should do with, the Bible. We should then teach them the truth of assurance and how they can be sure they are saved. We followed that with teaching on how to understand the reality of sin still in their lives, and how to have victory over it. Our fourth responsibility is to teach them how to pray. We should teach the children the seven basic principles of prayer over a period of time.

**WHAT IS PRAYER?** Prayer is talking to God, our Heavenly Father, Who loves us and is all powerful.

**WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?** There are three possibilities: 1) At any time. 2) During a short time set aside for God each day. 3) Quick short "telephone prayers" when faced by problems. God hears all of them.

**WHO CAN PRAY?** God promises to hear and answer the prayers of His children, those who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and are in His family.

**WHERE SHOULD WE PRAY?** We can and should talk to God anywhere and at any time. But there are some special places where we can pray 1) At our bedside before getting into bed at the end of the day 2) Quietly in a church service or in Good News Club 3) When meeting together with other young believers in a Prayer Group.

**HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?** 1) We should pray to God our heavenly Father (Dear Father...), knowing



## TEACH THEM TO PRAY

that the Lord Jesus through His death has made it possible for us to do so. 2) We should bring our requests to our Heavenly Father WITH FAITH, and really believing that they will be answered if these requests are His will. 3) We should speak naturally. We don't need a special "prayer voice".

**HOW DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYER?** He answers prayer in three ways 1) He can answer "Yes" if it is His will 2) He can answer "No" if it is not His will and if He knows that a "Yes" would not be good for you. 3) He can answer "Wait" if it is not the right time for a "Yes" or a "No."

**WHAT SHOULD WE SAY?** Four words will remind you what to say. 1) **LOVE** you. Tell God how much you love Him 2) **SORRY** Confess to Him any sin you know you have committed and ask for forgiveness 3) **THANK** Him for all He has done for you. 4) **PLEASE** Pray for your family and anyone you know has a special need

**LOVE—SORRY—THANKS—PLEASE.** These are the key words. God will help you and guide you as you pray.

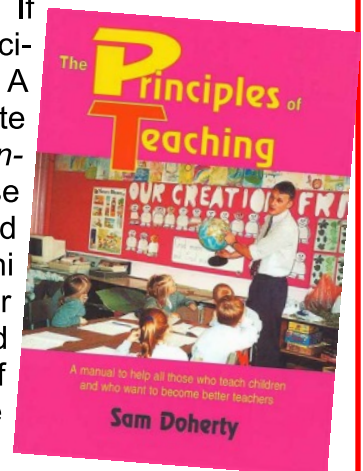
# HELP!



**ACEW CAN HELP YOU  
TEACH ATTRACTIVELY  
AND EFFECTIVELY**

A large part of this issue has been devoted to the art of teaching. If you want to be a good teacher, you need to know the principles which govern teaching. If you understand and follow these principles, you will be a good teacher. A number of years ago, we in ACEW wrote and published a book entitled "The Principles of Teaching" in which 24 of these principles are studied. I have mentioned this book in previous issues of Mini Mag, but it could be such a help for your teaching, that I felt I should recommend it again. You can download it free of charge at our website [www.cefbookministry.com](http://www.cefbookministry.com).

A CEF group in South Africa studied a chapter of this book in each of their regular training classes and found it to be a very helpful and practical study book.





## THREE ILLUSTRATIONS OF PRAYER FOR SAVED CHILDREN

**1) God wants you** to have a Quiet Time each day when you can get alone with God and talk to Him in prayer. Many years ago, some of the first missionaries in Africa taught those who had trusted the Lord Jesus to have a Quiet Time with God each day. None of them had rooms or other places where they could do this. So, they went out into the jungle to have it there. Each of them picked a certain place in the jungle where they would go each day and talk to God. As more and more of them were becoming Christians, more and more were having their Quiet Time in the jungle. And all over the jungle could be seen small bare areas where the grass had been sat on, flattened and worn away by those people as they knelt each day in prayer. And if it was noticed that one of the places seemed to be growing grass again, the other Christians would go to the person whose spot it was (or had been) and say “Brother (or Sister) the grass is growing on your place. What is wrong?”

Boys and girls, if you are a Christian, I hope that the grass is not growing on your place. If it is, get back into your Quiet Time again.”

**2) Rod was having** a very difficult time at school. The other boys knew he was a Christian and they took every opportunity they could to mock him, make fun of him and laugh at him. Rod became more and more angry with them, and he began to



plan how he could get his own back on them. And then, one evening, as he was praying before he went to bed, he began to think differently. “God wants me to love these boys, to be nice to them, to help them and to pray for them. And that is what I am going to do.” He began to pray for them and when they laughed at him, he did not get annoyed. Instead, he took every opportunity to be helpful and kind to them. And he kept praying and asking God in his daily Quiet Time to save them.

**3) Kathy was a Christian.** She had asked the Lord Jesus to save her. She had a short Quiet Time each day when she could talk with God. She had a health problem, and she asked God

every morning to heal her. But there was no change and she felt very disappointed. “Why does God not heal me.” she asked sadly. And then she heard the story about the eagle and its little ones. The eagle builds a nest hundreds of feet up in a very high tree, and she wants to teach her little ones in the nest to fly. So, mother eagle pushes one of her little eaglets out of the nest. But, as the

little eaglet falls quickly downwards, mother eagle flies swiftly underneath the little eaglet and catches it on one of her wings. She flies up into the sky again and tilts the little eaglet off her wing. It plunges down again but is once more caught by its mother. The big mother eagle does this over and over again until the little eaglet is able to fly, instead of plunging downwards. And that is how God uses problems to help his children to “fly”, and to grow spiritually. We, and that includes Kathy, find this difficult. But God loves us, and He knows that what He is doing will eventually help us to “fly”. So, Kathy needs to keep praying, and keep trusting that all things (including prayers which are not answered) are working together for her good. (Romans 8:28)

## 72 Years and Still Learning:

*The author's experience and the lesson he learned*

### THE SWEETEST MUSIC THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN

There is no doubt at all that the greatest JOY a children's worker can experience (apart from his JOY in the Lord and his salvation) is the JOY of leading a child to Jesus Christ, and knowing that, because of his ministry, another name has been written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The open-air meeting had just finished, and the children were dispersing in different directions. I had presented the Gospel as faithfully as I could, and I had told the children that I would be ready, and available, afterwards, to speak with any of them who felt they needed help in knowing how to come to the Lord Jesus and trust Him. I was collecting my teaching materials, when I felt a tug at my jacket. I looked around, and there stood a little boy, who was reaching up to pull my coat and attract my attention.

“Yes, son”, I said, “Did you want something?” “Yes, Uncle Sam” he replied “I want to ask the Lord Jesus into my heart. Could you please help me?”

I have learned that this is surely “the sweetest music this side of Heaven,” the JOY of hearing the voice of a child who wants to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and then to sit down with him and lead him to Christ. I cannot think of any music I would prefer to hear, than this “sweet music” Have you experienced this JOY?

**Have you heard this MUSIC?” The children are waiting, and their hearts are open. God will use you in their lives if you obey His call to reach them with the Gospel and you will have great JOY when you hear “THE SWEETEST MUSIC THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN”**

The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Administrator of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at [www.CEFBookMinistry.com](http://www.CEFBookMinistry.com).

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