



Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter

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The Church Of God
International

TEEN INSPIRATION THE FAITHFUL CHILD

by Katie Alexander, Ontario

We all know that we must be faithful children for God no matter how hard it is at the time. We must always have faith in God that he will bring us through the good times and the bad times. A great example of a faithful child of God is Job. God blessed Job with the abundance of everything, but to prove to Satan how faithful Job was God took everything away from him. Job never once cursed God because he had such strong faith.

Being a faithful child is having the ability to be able to take a leap of faith, and in your heart, know that God will be there to catch you before you fall. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11: 6

PROJECT: PASS-ALONG CARDS

All cards have been exchanged.
Thank you to all who participated!

Finding Faith Through Children

by Loretta Jasper, Ontario

Children are the world's most valuable resource, and one of God's greatest gifts. Not only do we get to enjoy them, but we also get to help mould them into responsible adults, ready to go out and face the world around them.

Believe it or not, they also represent God's way of teaching us. Their innocent way of looking at the world around them helps us to see things we may have forgotten as the years go by; for instance, 'How does a beautiful butterfly come from a lowly caterpillar or worm? What makes clouds? Why are flowers so perfect? What is sound or colour or wind?' ---the list goes on. We can tell them that God created all these things and that He set the boundaries of nature and the universe.

Often, their wisdom is well beyond their years. I would like to take the time to tell you about one of our grandson's great empathy for his grandmother's grief at the loss of her husband of many years: One day, a few weeks after the funeral, he was

walking with his grandmother. As they went along the way, he sensed her sadness, and without any discussion or prompting on the matter, he took her hand and said, "It's O.K. Gramma, we'll find you a new Grampa." In other words, life goes on and things will be O.K. again. She said that his words were comforting to her and his presence helped her through a difficult time. This is reminiscent of Jesus raising Lazarus to ease Mary and Martha's suffering.

I would like to relay another incident on a more humorous vein. I was watching over my first grandson while his mother was at work. This particular day, he was more active than usual and getting himself into trouble every time he turned around. Finally, when he broke the glass in one of the cabinet doors, I found myself yelling at him in total frustration.

Needless to say, he knew I was angry and so he behaved himself for the rest of the day. Unknown to him, his mother called during the afternoon to see how

things were going, and I relayed the incident to her. When she came to pick him up, she looked at him and said she'd heard that he had been a bad boy. His eyes opened wide and he uttered in amazement, "You heard Gramma yelling all the way across town?"

I don't think we need to yell to get God's attention, but He does hear and answer us when we are in need. All we need to do is ask in confidence.

When a child is injured, the first thing he does is run to his mommy or daddy, confident that they can help. We do our best to take care of them, just as our Creator takes care of us when we are lonely at the loss of a mate, in trouble at work, or devastated at some major mishap. He is always there for us. He never allows us to suffer more than we can bear.

Just as we know how to do good things for our children, He knows how to do good things for us. We need to approach Him in a child-like manner—He always has time for His children.

Teaching Submission to Authority

INSPIRED BY A LETTER FROM MADALITSO SIYABU, CGI MALAWI, CENTRAL AFRICA

The word *authority* can have a negative connotation. We resent people who lord it over us, and we are frustrated with those who reject our authority over them.

But in many cultures around the world, young people who willingly submit to benevolent authority are

thought to have wisdom and understanding. Authority isn't always bad, and it can save children from making terrible decisions.

We must make sure that submitting to the authority in question reflects God's will, and we

need to teach this to our children (Ephesians 6:1). With ever-increasing negative influences in the world, it is crucial children learn how to discern between good and evil to help save them from heartache and be a witness to others.

Homework: Getting the Parents Involved in the Sabbath Lesson

by Lissa Palmatier, Ontario

One of the challenges of successfully teaching the Sabbath lesson is keeping the children interested throughout the entire class. In most cases, their ages vary from 3 to 12, which is a very broad spectrum to inspire. Often, I only get verbal participation from a few children who seem to know the answers to most of my questions. My quest for the ultimate interactive Sabbath lesson has brought me to... **The Parents.**

Experience has taught me that those children who are always participating are the ones whose parents are more interactive with Bible study at home. So how do we encourage all families to make our Sabbath lessons more dynamic? We give them homework!

Most teachers on the Sabbath school roster know which lessons they are responsible for at least three to four weeks ahead of time. This gives you plenty of time to look at your lesson and create homework for your congregation's families. Find areas of your lesson that would benefit from a bit of easily-found information and give those questions to your families to answer in your lesson.

Here is an example of a homework assignment that I would delegate.

*Lesson: The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37*

Question: In Luke 10:35 it says that the Samaritan took out two dinarii and gave them to the innkeeper. What are dinarii?

Please prepare a short answer to this question that your child can share with our class next Sabbath. Thank you.

By handing out these questions to parents at least two weeks before your lesson, you give families the opportunity to open a Bible together. You are also offering your students the opportunity to perfect public speaking skills and explore various research tools. Although it may require a little prep work on your part to come up with 5 to 10 questions (along with your own answers just in case!), you will find that when it comes to the actual lesson, the children (and their parents) will be teaching themselves.

NEXT ISSUE: September 2006

Project: Let's Participate

POCKET PALS

New Project: **Pocket Pal**

An introductory craft to the PenPal Directory

The launch of this project is due to an expressed interest in a pen pal registry. However you can participate in the Pocket Pal exchange without registering your name in the Directory, by simply indicating your intentions on a separate piece of paper:

- A) I (child) have parental permission to be a pen pal
- B) I /Our class would like to be pen pals with another class/friend and exchange PocketPals
- C) I /Our class wish to exchange pocket pals and not be put on the pen pal list

CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out a standard pocket shape to fit within a 3" x 4" square piece of paper. Draw a horizontal line across the pocket shape about 1-1/2" down from top, (line represents front portion of pocket). Decorate pocket with stitching, sparkles or button. Write your name, age and teachers address on the front, lower half of pocket. (Class: Please use teacher's address to ensure privacy and protection of children. At Home Children: must have parent permission).
2. Cut a 1-1/2" circle to represent your head, trimming a 1/2" off the bottom.
3. Decorate head to look like yourself and glue onto pocket along the horizontal line (so head is peeking out from the inside of the pocket). Try gluing only the bottom quarter of the head to pocket to give it a 3-dimensional look.
4. On the back of pocket list your favourite scripture, biblical figure or hymn. List your goals, hobbies, interests or pets.
5. Include a separate paper indicating your intentions (A,B,C), and mail Pocket Pal to either address below for exchange with another class/individual.

Deadline for project submission: **July 17, 2006**
PenPal Register: No deadline, ongoing
We will make every effort to find a Pen Pal for all requests, but participation is crucial.

To register your Sabbath class for this project or upcoming projects contact our office at the address/email listed.

Please provide a mailing address and email (if available), the average number of students in your class (e.g. teens=5, youth=11), and your congregation location. Small groups and families are also welcome.

The STN staff will match your class with another class of similar size and age, and pass your project along to them.

Teacher to Teacher

A CHILD'S FAITH -Lu Copeman, Ontario

Faith is a lasting and comforting feeling that we experience at different levels throughout our life. As children we have an innocent blind faith, while as adults we choose to believe in faith, and as seniors we've learned to trust in faith.

The innocence of a child's faith is reassuring and inspiring. As parents and teachers we share in the responsibility of building a nurturing environment and trusting relationship. A child taught to have faith in God can achieve peace and happiness in their daily lives, while providing comfort in times of trouble.

Through a child's faith we can better understand the words of Jesus. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14-15

Please send in your poems, stories or examples of how a child's faith has affected your life.

Email your ideas and stories to Lu at:

ldcopeman@sympatico.ca or mail them to either address below and we will publish your

ideas in the next issue.

Just want to add your name to the PenPal Directory — drop us a line!

Don't forget to include a list of your interests from step # 4.

**SAMPLE OF
POCKET PAL**



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