

Singapore News

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Parable of the Two Woodcutters

Two woodcutters were competing against each other as to who could chop down the most trees in a day. Both started hacking away within earshot of each other. After an hour, Sam stopped. Fred was puzzled but carried on chopping.

Five minutes later, he could again hear the swing of Sam's axe. Another hour went by, and Sam again seemed to stop chopping for a few minutes. Fred was thrilled. He became more confident that he would win.

So he kept chopping away, pausing now and again to wipe away the perspiration from his forehead. Sam's "start and stop" continued for the rest of the day, and Fred's delight grew.

At the end of the day, however, Fred was surprised to discover that Sam had felled more trees.

"How can this be? I never stopped chopping once but you kept taking a break!"

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"Yes, but I stopped to sharpen my axe," Sam replied.

Lesson: A small investment of time can have big rewards. Time spent to equip yourself can make a difference to your ministry.

Please call Ms Lorita Lim, our Education and Training Coordinator, at 6276-1201 to find out more about training opportunities for your Church members.

TCE Testimonies



"TCE 1 (Teaching Children Effectively – Level 1*) equips me with the skills and tools to tell the Gospel even to little children and lead them to Christ, without compromising on the Word of God. It also taught me how to apply the message of salvation throughout a Bible lesson to keep the attention of the children. Now I am serving as a teacher and a speaker in the junior worship and kindergarten department of my Church, applying what I have learnt."

Valerie Loh
Jurong Calvary Bible-Presbyterian Church

"Even though I have been teaching in the Children's Ministry for many years, the TCE 1 course helped me in my presentation skills as I practised before the trainers and received feedback. I have also been reminded that we should always try to incorporate the Gospel message and invitation to salvation whenever there is a new child in a class. We never know whether the child will have a chance to hear the Good News again. I have learnt and benefitted much from the TCE 1 course and yes, I will be signing up for TCE 2 (Teaching Children Effectively – Level 2*)."

Cheong Mee Ling
Covenant Community Baptist Church

*TCE 1 is a practical 30-hour course designed to introduce participants to methods of evangelism such as the Wordless Book, the evangelistic Bible lesson and community outreach ministry. The next TCE 1 course is scheduled on July 22-26 (Mon-Fri). Call 6276-1201 for details.



Available for Speaking Engagements

Alan Wong is available for speaking engagements on topics related to parenting or the children's ministry – to parents and Sunday School teachers, or at your Church's worship services. Here is a short blurb about Alan.

Alan Wong, National Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship, Singapore, has a Master of Theology (with a major in Christian Education) from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has served in various capacities in parachurch organisations and churches. He is a member of Faith Methodist Church and serves as a Sunday School teacher. He is also author of "Building the Next Generation", a book on dramatised family devotions for preschoolers and early primaries.

Please contact alan@cef-singapore.com for more information or availability.



TCC Starter Lesson

The Truth Chasers Club (TCC) is a Bible correspondence programme for children and can be a good complement to any existing outreach to unchurched children in the community and schools. The starter lesson is available for preview at our website (cef-singapore.com). For free hard copies of the starter lesson, please contact Ms Lorita Lim at 6276-1201.

Autosave?

Many of us know of "autosave", a function in many computer applications that saves an open document automatically, helping to reduce the impact of data loss in case of a program crash. Does the New Testament teach automatic salvation under an inclusive covenant relationship by being part of a Christian family?

Timothy was instructed in the (Jewish) Scriptures from childhood (2 Tim. 3:15, cf. 1:5), but he was probably saved through Paul's ministry during the latter's first visit to Lystra (Acts 14:6-7, 16:1-2). Paul called Timothy his "true child in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2). The teaching of the Scriptures by his mother and grandmother set the stage for Timothy to receive Christ. Children are not automatically saved by being part of a Christian family.

Some of us claim Acts 16:31 as a promise of household salvation. In a following verse, it is recorded that Paul and Silas proclaimed the Gospel to all who were in jailer's house AND his whole family believed (Acts 16:34). The point of Acts 16:31 is that salvation is available to members of the jailer's household as each one believes in Jesus as their Saviour. Faith is not automatically transferred from one person to another.

In Sunday School, we teach Bible stories to children, praying and hoping that their behaviour will change. But an unsaved child, even one who has been in church since infancy, cannot grow in the LORD because out of the treasure of his heart, a child will bring forth its fruit (cf. Luke 6:43-45). A saved child and an unsaved child are radically different at the core; the former has life while the latter does not. Moreover, a child without the Spirit of God will not and cannot accept the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14).

Therefore, we (parents and Sunday School teachers) must present the Gospel to our children (students) periodically and as the Spirit leads so that they will have an opportunity to put their faith in Christ as their Saviour. And we must not stop at presenting the Gospel to the children in church. How shall the children of the unchurched hear the Gospel?

Gospel Tools

Besides the Wordless Book and the Gospel Flipper Flapper, we have several Gospel visuals and tools for leading boys and girls to Christ. Here are just a few of them. If you'd like to know more, please contact us at 6276-1201.

Amazing cards

This is a set of four curved picture cards that you can use to capture the attention of children and explain the Gospel to them.



Hold two cards curving toward the same direction. Which is bigger? Both are the same. Our eyes are often fooled by optical illusions. But God is not fooled. He is perfect ... [continue with Gospel presentation].



What is next (in life)?

This is a set of six cards printed with pictures related to the Gospel and life stage situations. The cards can be attached together with a fastener (provided) and displayed like a fan.



The Magic Puzzle

Made of durable yet flexible materials, you can pull different flaps to reveal six different scenes representing the Gospel. Children will be intrigued by this puzzle.

Teaching Children to Share their Faith

Seventy children from the Community of Praise Baptist Church were taught how to witness using the Gospel Flipper Flapper. They were taught how to flip the flaps of this creative Gospel tool to reveal symbols and colours so as to share the Gospel.



One of the teachers was impressed by the simplicity with which the Gospel can be shared.

The children were inspired by the true story of Madugu, a boy from Niger, Africa – how he accepted Christ as Saviour and how he told his three brothers about his faith. They also learnt to make their own Gospel tool – Gospel keys that they can hang on their school bags and share with anyone who asks about them.



Resources for Missions Emphasis

Other than Madugu, we have other missions stories that you can use for your Missions Emphasis to stimulate interest and participation in God's plan for a lost world. These lessons are based on biographies of inspirational Christians like Amy Carmichael, Corrie Ten Boom, Eric Liddell, Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot and many more. Please call Mrs Linda Tan at 6276-1201 for a preview of these lessons.

Your prayer and financial partnership is vital for our ministry of reaching and teaching children. If you are sending a gift, please issue a cheque payable to Child Evangelism Fellowship (S) Ltd and mail it to 164 Bukit Merah Central #04-3647 Singapore 150164. Thank you.