

Children & Missions



Esther Buff

It is God's will that every person be saved, 1 Tim 2:3f; Mt 18:14. Mission is God's strategy to accomplish it, Mt 28:19f. We must ask ourselves, "How often is *missions* a special subject in our church?"

The mission cycle is often broken at the point of teaching. Is missions happening at the rate and intensity which God has planned for us? Perhaps we as missionaries have failed to show the church its responsibility to go and give. We can begin now by teaching children that missions is the heartbeat of God.

We are all called to pass on our Godly heritage. Therefore, as a teacher, ask yourself what does missions mean to you?

- to have a burden for lost souls
- to be involved
- to do extra work for missions

We also need to ask what a child needs to know about missions? A good place to start with children is by asking questions.

What is a missionary? A simple response: a believer who is sent by God, with a support group, to preach the gospel to the lost. This can be in one's home country or abroad.

Who can be a missionary? You! Any person who is born again and loves the Lord Jesus. You do not have to be a super spiritual Christian.

What does a missionary do? A missionary's main concern is to tell others about the gospel so that they can be saved and then teach them to be disciples. He/she will use many methods available to reach this aim. The way a missionary works will be according to the circumstances in the country. In some countries they have to be engaged in a secular job to be allowed to stay.

What does a missionary need? They need whatever we need: food, friends, family, home, holidays, transport, money, etc.

What can a child do in relation to missions? Children can do the following basics when it comes to missions:

• **PRAY** According to Mt 18 children are ready to pray and move God's arm, whereas we adults might find it far

more difficult to trust God. We must teach and encourage them to pray.

• **GIVE** God blesses those that give more than those that receive. Children need to learn to give from what they have. Teach them to give a tenth from their pocket money. Challenge them to do things to earn some money, even at home. How do you give? Your children will certainly copy you.

• **GO** Children in our area can and do invite friends to our Light House Club – a Christian ministry for children. God can call them even when they are still young.

Finally here are some ways you can encourage your children to be interested in missions:

- Have pictures of the missionaries and their families who you support.
- Have a map to show where they live.
- A poster of what they need. e.g. house, car, food, friends, toiletries - think of things children can relate to.
- A picture of what we are collecting money for. e.g. food, Bibles, etc. Aim for small things that the little gifts of children can buy after some weeks. Use incentive charts so they can see progress.
- Be in contact with the missionary to keep yourself and the children informed.

Esther Buff and her husband Urs have worked with children's ministry as missionaries with WEC for 27 years. They founded Light House Project near Brits.

Children's Program * (ages 5+)

Thursday February 19	Friday February 20	Saturday February 21
11:00 Registration Wordless Book Mission Films	09:30 Schools World Tour Wordless Book Mission Films	09:30 Wordless Book Wordless Book Mission Films
13:00 Games, Jumping Castle	13:00 Games, Jumping Castle	13:00 Games, Jumping Castle
15:30 Workshops: Art, Music, Puppets, Crafts, Dance	15:30 Workshops: Art, Music, Puppets, Crafts, Dance	15:30 Workshops: Art, Music, Puppets, Crafts, Dance
17:30 Practise for presentation	17:30 Practise for presentation	17:30 'Parade of Nations'
19:15 Praise & Worship	19:15 Praise & Worship	19:15 Praise & Worship
19:30 Missions 'trip' begins	19:30 Missions 'trip' begins	19:30 Missions 'trip' begins
20:30 Missions Video	20:30 Missions Video	20:30 Missions Video

* schedule & times subject to change

FREE registration for your child(ren) in the CHILDREN'S TENT