



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional

THE FOUR V's IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF A CHILDREN'S WORKER

This is a devotional which has been a great help to me, and I have shared it with many others.

The Bible makes it clear that there are four steps or stages in our service for God.

► **VISION** The first step is VISION, which God wants us to SEE before we start serving Him.

- He wants us, first of all, to SEE HIMSELF, to have a clear view of what He is like, and especially to see that He is sovereign and in complete control, as Isaiah did before he started his ministry. (Isaiah. 6:1)

- He wants us, secondly, to SEE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE. (including children) He wants us to see and realise that they are lost and need to be saved. (Matthew 18:14, Romans 3:23)

- He wants us, thirdly, TO SEE THE GOSPEL and its power. (Romans 1:16). We don't have the ability to save these needy people. (including children.) It is the gospel which is the power onto salvation.

- He wants us, fourthly, TO SEE OUR RESPONSIBILITY in His service. He has a place and responsibility for each of us and He wants to show it to us. (Isaiah 6:9)

► **VENTURE.** The second step in God's plan is to VENTURE, and to move forward in accordance with the vision He has given us. We have seen what we should do; and now we start doing it. We need to move forward on our "two feet." We put the first foot (vision) forward and then the second foot (venture). Vision-venture; vision-venture, vision - venture. If we keep hopping on our vision foot, we will be mystics without action. If we keep hopping on our venture foot, we will be activists without purpose or goal. God wants us to move forward using "BOTH FEET."

► **VALLEY.** The third step is invariably THE VALLEY. We have seen what we should do, and we have started doing it, and everything is going well. But then comes the deep valley of difficulties and criticisms. What should you do if and when you come into such a valley. You should REMEMBER God's vision and call and DO NOT QUIT, you should REFLECT on God's character and His sovereignty and have PEACE, and you should RELY on God's promises and KEEP GOING. Then comes the next step.

► **VICTORY.** The fourth step is VICTORY. The victory of PERSEVERANCE and the victory of PEACE which comes from our Lord when we trust Him and obey Him. This is the victory which overcomes the world—even our faith. (1 John 5:4) And it is the victory of seeing boys and girls trusting the Lord Jesus.



We welcome you to the fifty-eighth issue of Mini Mag with the words of a poem from an unknown author which pays tribute to a Good News Club teacher.

THANK YOU TO A SPECIAL TEACHER.

Memories were made in this Good News Club.

Friendships were formed and they grew.

Each little child—whether quiet or wild

Learned so many great things from you.

You were the one they looked up to,

The teacher they came to adore,

The person they knew they could count on.

You were wonderful—and so much more.

Your kindness will always stay with them.

And your gentleness was the key

To help them trust and to help them grow

And become what God wanted them to be.

Here is some homework for you to do to show you from the Bible how valid and biblical these four steps are. See if these four steps are followed when God called Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah and the apostle Paul (Acts 9: 3-25) into His service. And you will find the same pattern displayed in the lives and service of many Christian leaders since then, like William Carey (India) and Hudson Taylor. (China)

In issues 57 -60 we are reminding ourselves of important subjects we have taught in earlier issues. Last month in this section about children in the Bible, we revised the important and detailed teaching about children in the book of Deuteronomy. This month we return to the second main passage about children in the Old Testament and remember what we learned about children in Psalm 78:1-8.

In verses 1 – 2, Asaph, the writer of this psalm, encourages his readers to pay close attention to what he is going to say, and he promises to clarify truths, some of which may need more explanation and understanding.

In verse 3, he underlines the fact that he and his readers have heard these truths from their fathers. They have been taught from one generation to another. What a privilege it is to be taught truth.

In verse 4a he makes a promise not to hide these truths from the children. They need to hear and build their lives on these truths. This is a picture of the problem we face to-day. So many children have never heard these wonderful truths, and even those who attend church are so often told stories but are not taught key truths.

In verse 4b he promises to resolve the situation by telling and teaching the children, who are the coming generation, three great and basic truths about God. Firstly, that He should be praised for the great God He is, secondly that He should be praised for His strength and power and what He can do, and, thirdly, that He should be praised for all that

He has done. Who He is, what He can do, and what He has done. Are we teaching these great truths about God to our children? What about the children who know nothing about these truths, and other truths. Can we make the same promise to reach and teach them?

In verse 5 the psalmist concentrates on two things which God has done. Firstly, God wrote and gave us these truths in His Word, and, secondly, He commanded our leaders (and us) to teach them to the children so that they would know them.

In verse 6 he explains that God's plan is that the children who know these truths through our teaching, should teach them to the next generation, and they should then teach them to the next.....and so on.

In verse 7 he tells us what children can do when they know and experience these truths. Firstly, they will set their hope in God (they will be saved), secondly, they will remember all He has done (grow in knowledge) and thirdly they will keep His commandments. (grow spiritually)

In verse 8 he gives us a warning that if we don't reach and teach the children, they will become stubborn and rebellious like their fathers, who were not reached and taught God's Word as children. That leads us to a vital closing question, concerning our ministry.

Which is better? To try to mend and restore the bodies of adults, broken by sin, at the bottom of the cliff of life which they have fallen over, or to build a wall at the top to keep them from falling over?



KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

Question: What is a Good News Club? Who teaches in it? What do they teach?

Answer: Lets discover what a Good News Club is.

- It is a meeting held for children in a Christian's home, or in any other place which is available.
- It is held weekly and, on a week-day, usually in the late afternoon or early evening.
- It is a neighbourhood Good News Club which is held for the children who live in the locality.
- It is called a Good News Club because it shares the good news of the gospel with those children.

► **What exactly is its purpose?**

- Its first purpose is to evangelize the children who come and show them how God can save them.
- Its second purpose is to help Christian children grow in their faith and live a life pleasing to God.
- Its third purpose is, whenever possible, to encourage them to attend a good church.

► **Who does this?** Several people can be involved working together as a team.

- The host or hostess who is willing to open their home for the club each week.
- The man or woman who will teach the club each week.
- The helper who welcomes and seats the children and could be available to help the teacher by teaching a memory verse or conducting a Bible quiz.

- The prayer partner who prays regularly for the teacher, the children and the actual meetings.

It is of course always possible for one of these persons to share more than one of the responsibilities, like teaching a memory verse or conducting a Bible Quiz.

► **What is the programme of each club?** The programme usually lasts around 60 minutes and can include singing gospel choruses, repeating and learning bible verses, having a bible quiz, praying, building up interest in missionaries and their work, studying some bible doctrines from time to time and teaching a Bible lesson. The teacher will lead the activities in an attractive way and use visual aids. The teacher will also be helped by attending a local training class.

► **What do I do now if I want to start a club?**

- Pray, and ask others to pray, for a home and for the staff needed.
- Choose a day and time which will be suitable for both staff and children.
- Publicise the club by visiting the surrounding homes with information about the club, to give them printed invitations to send their children, and to encourage their children to attend.
- Invite personally any children you see to come and let them know that they will enjoy it.

FULL SPEED AHEAD AND BE SURE TO KEEP THE CLUB GOING NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

FEED MY LAMBS



In these last four issues of the fifth year of Mini Mag (issues 57-60) we are reminding ourselves of some of the most important lessons to be learned from the previous fifty six issues. Last month we remembered and revised the most important parts of our evangelistic ministry to unsaved children. We said that we should teach one central truth in each lesson and apply it to the unsaved children. But we must also apply that central truth to the saved children. This month, we will recall the main responsibilities we need to fulfil in our ministry to saved children, as we obey the command of the Lord Jesus to FEED HIS LAMBS. (John 21:15) As we do this, they will grow in their faith. Our plan should be to cover, over a period of time, at least seven areas of the teaching they need.

► **Our first goal is to teach them that the Bible is God's word and completely true.** This is really the foundational truth on which all other truths are based. and should have priority.

► **Our second task is to teach them and show them how they can know that they are saved.** Lack of assurance can be a great problem for many saved children. You need to go back to the Bible and show them that God has promised salvation to all who trust the Lord Jesus, and that He always keeps His promises. You should explain, too, that the change in their lives also shows them that they are saved.

► **Our third responsibility is to help them deal with what is often the major problem** in a saved child's life. They need to understand that, although they are saved, the old sinful nature is still there, and that it is battling with their new nature. They need to understand therefore that it is still possible for them to sin, and that, if and when they do sin, they do not lose their salvation.

► **Our fourth purpose is to help them see that they can have victory** over sins in their lives, and to explain how this can be achieved. They cannot do it themselves no matter how hard they try. They need Someone Who has the strength to do it for them, and that Someone is the Holy Spirit Who now lives in them. Illustration: If the driver of a car wants to stop the car he is driving. He puts his foot on the brake, and the engine stops the car. His foot is the desire; the engine is the power.

► **Our fifth step is to teach them to pray.** We need to teach our saved children how, when, and where they can talk to God, and what they should say when they do so. You could suggest four subjects with four headings—Sorry, Please, Thanks and Love You Lord.

► **Our sixth objective is to build a strong and sound foundation** for their lives by teaching them and helping them to understand the great doctrines of God's word. The more they understand about the Bible, about God, about Jesus Christ, about the Holy Spirit, about sin and about salvation, the sounder will be their faith and the greater will be their understanding about salvation.

► **Our seventh target is to help them see how important it is to live a changed life.** God desires and expects that they will show their salvation by living a life which is clean, and by doing things which are good. The Lord Jesus has made them to shine and to be lights in a dark world. (Matthew 5:14,15) And He promises that if they do shine, God will be glorified (Matthew 5:16). The light from their changed lives will also be a witness to those who are not saved and might lead them to the Lord Jesus.



**YOU WILL FIND HELP
IN THESE ACEW
PUBLICATIONS**

I would like to repeat a suggestion which I made in a recent Mini Mag, because I believe it would be a great help to you and your ministry to children, or in your ministry to teach children's workers. There is a lot of teaching and there are many ideas in the fifty-eight issues of Mini Mag which we have produced, and they are all online at www.cefbokministry.com. You could download all 58 issues and put them in a large file. When you need help, or ideas for your ministry, you could well find them in this file/book. And it would cost you very little. I know that if I were in your position I would certainly do this and have it on hand for whenever it is needed. And you could also make such a volume available to other co-workers.



AN ILLUSTRATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

This is a familiar illustration which I used many times when I was a young children's worker, and I wanted to include it in Mini Mag in case some downloaders had never used it.

The farmer saw the forest fire approaching his farm, and he did his best to prepare for it, so that it would not cause too much damage. Little Red Hen also saw the fire coming and she immediately called her ten chickens to come under her wings, so they would be safe from the fire. Nine of them did so, but the other one felt he was too big to do that, and he wanted to run around and enjoy himself. And the fire got closer! The next morning, after the fire had swept through parts of the farm, and had moved on, the farmer came out to inspect the damage. He saw a black heap on the ground which resembled a hen. It was the remains of Little Red Hen.

The hen had been burned in the fire. But just as the farmer moved the hen, and touched the remains with his foot, they all fell apart and nine little chickens fell out, chirping and very much alive. Little Red Hen had died to save her chicks. She had taken the chickens' place and had become their substitute. She died so that they would not die.

So, the Lord Jesus took our place when He died on the cross. He became our substitute. He took God's punishment for our sin, so that we would not be punished for it. He now calls boys and girls to come to Him and be saved from sin and its punishment.

What do you think happened to the tenth chicken, the one who refused to come in under her mother's wings? Yes, the farmer saw that there was another little black heap. It was the remains of that tenth chicken, who had refused her mother's invitation to come under her wings, and had been burned in the fire. Unfortunately, some boys and girls say "no" to the Lord Jesus, and in doing this they choose to take God's punishment for sin themselves.

75 Years and Still Learning:

The author's experience and the lesson he learned

THE PROFESSOR AND HIS CHAUFFEUR

Fred Orr was my spiritual father. It was through him that I came to trust Jesus Christ as my Saviour. It was through him that I started my ministry with Child Evangelism Fellowship. He was my mentor. He was an outstanding and very gifted preacher and teacher. He received many invitations to preach. He and his wife Ina went to Brazil as missionaries. Every time he returned to Ireland on furlough, we asked him to preach and teach at our CEF conferences, and his ministry to us was greatly blessed.

One year I was invited to be the Bible teacher at the annual CEF conference in Ireland. I accepted the invitation although I was a little nervous about it. Imagine my shock when, just as I was starting to speak on the first morning, Fred Orr, the renowned Bible teacher, walked in, sat down at the back of the church and was listening intently to me. I did not even know he was in the country. My heart dropped. What should I do? I stopped what I was saying, and instead, said to the congregation that I would like to tell them a story.

One of the most famous nuclear physicists in the world was an Irishman. He was also a professor at one of our best universities. He was invited to go to USA for a lecture tour, and he went accompanied by his chauffeur. They travelled from one university to another with the chauffeur in his uniform driving the car. The lecture in each place was exactly the same, and eventually the chauffeur said to the professor "I have heard your lecture so many times and I know every word of it." The professor looked at him and said "I have an idea. When we go to the next university, I will be the chauffeur and you will be the

professor and give the lecture." They both laughed and decided to do this.

So, they arrived at the next university. The professor in the chauffeur's uniform drove the car and the chauffeur was welcomed as if he was the professor. He gave the lecture. It was word perfect and, when he finished, everyone applauded. The chairman thanked him and then said that there was still some time left. So, he asked if there was any one there who would like to take this wonderful opportunity to ask such a gifted professor a question on nuclear physics. Immediately one man stood and asked a question. The chauffeur had, of course, no idea how to answer it. He thought about it for a moment and then he knew what he should do. He replied to the questioner and said "That is really a very easy question to answer. In fact, it is so easy that my chauffeur could answer it, and I will ask him to do so".

I then said to the congregation. "I want you to know that I am the chauffeur standing here before you, but my professor, Fred Orr, has just come in. So, if you have any questions or problems, I will ask my chauffeur to deal with them." Everyone laughed (especially Fred) and I continued with my message.

I learned, from this experience, and from others, that I should always recognise, appreciate, and acknowledge the help, encouragement and example given to me, by those like Fred, when I was young in the faith. And I learned that I should express my thanks and appreciation to them if it was at all possible to do so.

The Mini-Mag is published and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, and Kenneth Martin.

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 75 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 TFACEW@aol.com.

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