



## HELPS FOR CHILDREN'S WORKERS WORLDWIDE

### WELCOME

We welcome you to the 61<sup>st</sup> issue of Mini Mag. This issue is the first in a new series. The 60 issues in the first series were intended especially to help and guide those who were relatively new to children's work. (Although they would also have helped and challenged the more experienced readers.) This **new series** of Mini Mags, which starts this month with number 61, will be more advanced. There will be five sections as follows:

- A **devotional** each month based on the life of David.
- Guidelines on how to establish and build a good Quiet Time with God each day, which will give you strength and power in your life and in your ministry to the children.

→ How to tell Bible stories which hold the children's attention, and how to transform those stories into Bible lessons (each with a detailed plan) which the Holy Spirit can use to lead children to trust and follow the Lord Jesus.

→ How to understand the Person of the Holy Spirit, and how He works in our lives and ministries.

→ How to minister to the needs of the children and teenagers who are too old for Good News Club.

**We welcome you to this new course  
with us and I believe you will find  
it a help and a blessing.**

### DEVOTIONAL

(Read 1 Samuel 16, 17 first)

**David is** one of the most interesting people in the Bible. There is so much we can learn from him, his life, his ministry, his actions, his writings, his successes, his failures, his friends, his foes and especially his relationship with God. He had his problems, some of them serious. However, we must keep in mind God's testimony to David which describes him as "a man after His own heart." David was the only person in Scripture to receive this awesome accolade from God.



It is recorded by Samuel in 1 Samuel 13:14 and by Paul in Acts 13:22.

In this introduction to our series about David, we look for one word which would describe him more than any other. The main and most frequent word in Scripture used to describe David is **SERVANT**. (Both "Ebed" in Hebrew, and "Doulos" in Greek, mean "slave.") He was called the **SERVANT** of God because he was ready at all times to obey Him and do His will.

### DAVID THE SERVANT OF GOD AND PEOPLE

→ God called David His servant. "My servant David." (Psalm 89:3,20)

→ People called David God's servant as Asaph did, "God chose David His servant" (Psalm 78:70), and as the followers of the Lord Jesus did. "Your servant David." (Acts 4:25)

→ David called himself the **SERVANT OF GOD** many times, as in Psalm 19:11 and Psalm 143:12.

**But David is** also recorded as being the **SERVANT of the people of God**, as appointed and directed by Him.

Paul records this truth in Acts 13:36. In his message in the synagogue at Antioch he declares "For David, after he had **SERVED HIS OWN GENERATION** by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers and saw corruption." **David not only served God;**

**HE SERVED THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**

What can we learn from this initial picture of David, a man after God's own heart?

God has a twofold purpose for every believer. He will be pleased if we follow David's example and fulfil that purpose by being His obedient and faithful servants.

- **God wants us** to be His servants (Matthew 25:21, 2 Timothy 2:24), and to be always obedient to Him and under His control.

- **God wants us** to serve people, especially our fellow believers (Matthew 20:27, Galatians 5:13) not forgetting the children, by helping them and doing whatever they need. Our attitude towards them must always be one of service and help.

**There are two questions** which we need to ask ourselves today in this our devotional and as we think about David.



"Am I serving God? Am I obedient to Him and His will?"

"Am I serving my own generation by the will of God, especially my fellow believers and the children?"

**May God enable us to say "Yes" to both questions and really mean it.**

## YOUR GREATEST NEED

## THE CHILDREN'S WORKER'S POWERHOUSE

We are all fully aware of the weaknesses and shortcomings in our lives and in our ministry to the children. As a result, we continually seek for spiritual strength and wisdom in our lives each day and to be effective and greatly blessed in our ministry to the children. We long for God's hand of blessing to be upon us and the children. Because of our weakness we need strength, and we need **POWER** to live well and to massive factories in which the producing things like textiles, tools, machinery needs power to operate. empty shell.



We children's workers need power power we are helpless. We know specifically from the Holy Spirit. He But the big question is how can we our ministry but also in our lives?

question but in this month's Mini Mag and the ones which follow each month, we are going to see and examine the main source from which we will receive the power and strength, which we need, daily from God. Many of us are fully aware of the answer. We know what we should be doing to receive that power. But we often don't do it thoroughly because we don't have enough time to do so or because we don't realise how vitally important it is. **We receive power and strength when**

to live and to operate. Without that that this power comes from God, and is our **POWERHOUSE**.

experience that power, especially in There are several answers to that

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### WE ORGANIZE AND MAINTAIN A DAILY AND EFFECTIVE QUIET TIME WITH GOD

It is so important that we have this special time each day. However, some of us would agree that our Quiet Time is, for different reasons, not what it should be. As a result, we may not be receiving the strength and power we need in our lives and ministry. So, we will, each month, and step by step, make it our goal to study how to build an effective daily Quiet Time. We will just mention the first two steps this month.

**THE FIRST STEP** for you and me is to understand what a Quiet Time is. It is not just the reading of a few verses and a few quick prayers. It is our main spiritual activity for the day.

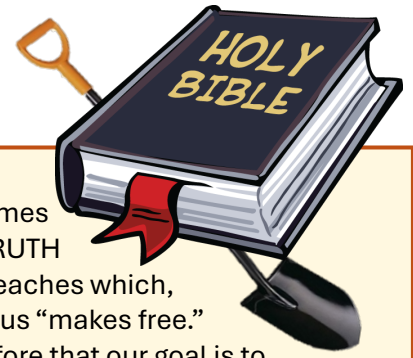
It is a period of time set aside each day to meet alone with God, to worship Him, to listen to Him and to speak to Him. And that needs both time and discipline.

**THE SECOND STEP** is to ask ourselves if we are really having a satisfactory Quiet Time each day, and if not, to make up our minds that, with God's help, we will start to have one.

**In the Mini Mags which follow, we will study the WHO, the WHAT, the WHY, the WHEN and the WHERE.**

## DIGGING DEEPLY

## HOW TO TEACH BIBLE LESSONS (AND HOW NOT TO TEACH THEM)



We all know that the main responsibility for children's workers is to teach their children from the Bible what God is like, what they are like, and what God wants them to be, to do, and not to do. But the question is "Do we know how to do this?" It is not as simple as it may seem, and it needs a lot of study and hard work. In earlier issues of Mini Mag, we have already dealt with this subject. But, because it is the very heart of our ministry to the children, we are going to come back to it again in this new series and go into it in much more detail. We want to become skilful teachers of God's Word whether we are just beginning our ministry to the children, or if we have been engaged in it for years. We need to keep digging and keep digging deeply. Our goal is not just to teach; it is to teach well.

As we start our study, we always must keep in mind the difference between telling Bible stories and teaching Bible lessons. A Bible story is narrative, a recital of facts and incidents which are recorded in the Bible and which children need to hear. If that story is well told, children will listen to it and be blessed by it. But, on their own, stories do not teach truth and the great doctrines of God's Word. The children are listening, but they are not really learning the truths they need to hear. However, a skilful teacher can tell a good and interesting story, and, at the same time, teach the truth which he has found in the Bible passage on which the

story is based. If he does this, his Bible story becomes a Bible lesson. It is the TRUTH or DOCTRINE which he teaches which, according to the Lord Jesus "makes free." (John 8:32) We see therefore that our goal is to tell Bible stories and, at the same time, develop them into Bible lessons by teaching truth through them. The first step then is for you and me to be able to tell a good story.

Story telling is an art, but it is one which can be achieved through much preparation and frequent practice.

We start off with how to PREPARE A BIBLE STORY. We will work together on passages of Scripture from the Old and New Testaments. We will base our stories, and, later, our lessons, on these passages over these next months.

**In the next issues of Mini Mag we will study and work on:**

**OUR PREPARATION and OUR PRESENTATION of a Bible story, and, in the meantime, could I suggest, for your "homework", that you think about how you could prepare a Bible story based on Luke 19:1-10 to tell your children.**

**Good! See you next month!**

## VITAL TRUTHS TO DISCOVER

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT AN "IT"

In this section, during all the months to follow, we are going to study a subject which is essential for the life and ministry of every children's worker, and yet a subject which is often neglected. If this subject is understood and acted upon, it will bring great blessing to you and your ministry to the children.

We are going to explore and study the Person and Work of Someone Who is invisible and has never been seen. Someone Who speaks to us, but our ears cannot hear Him, Someone Who has performed some of the greatest works the world has ever seen, Someone Whose presence and help are available to you for your life and ministry.

He is known in the Bible by the Name "The Holy Spirit." He is the third member of our trinitarian God. He is "God the Holy Spirit" and has the same divine nature as God the Father and God the Son. We will see later that He is "the executive Member of the Divine Trinity." He is the One Who carries out God's purposes in creation, conviction, regeneration, enlightenment, sanctification, and glorification.

And yet we rarely take time to study Him and really understand WHO HE IS and WHAT HE DOES.

This month we will start our study with our first two questions "Who is the Holy Spirit? What is He like?" His Name gives us three clues to help us answer these questions.

→ **His Name** shows that **HE IS SPIRIT.**

He is invisible. He does not have a body. He has never been seen. He is not restricted to any one place. He can be everywhere.

→ **His Name** shows that **HE IS HOLY.**

He is perfect and without sin because He is God, and such sinlessness can only be found in God. In the Bible He is often called "The Spirit of God" or "the Spirit of Christ."

→ **Having a Name** indicates that **HE IS A PERSON.**

A person has a personality with intellect, emotions, and a will. The Scriptures emphasise that He is a Person and that He has a personality, with intellect, emotions, and a will. He is not a force or an influence: How do we know He is a person?



## THE FIRST KEY TRUTH WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THAT HE IS A PERSON

- **The Lord Jesus always used the personal pronoun “He” when speaking about Him.** (John 14:16, 16:13). We should never refer to Him as an “It.”  
- **He does things which only a person can do. He speaks** (Mark 13:11), **He teaches** (Luke 12:12), **He guides** (Acts 8: 29), **He appoints** (Acts 20:28), and **He intercedes** (Romans 8:27).

- **He can be grieved or hurt when believers “speak evil.”** (Ephesians 4:30, 31)  
- **He is given titles in the Bible which can only refer to a person. For example, He is called “The Comforter. (Counsellor or Helper)”** (John 14:26)

## A NEW CHALLENGE

## DON'T FORGET THE TEENS AND INBETWEENS

God called my wife and me into a ministry to children seventy-five years ago. Right from the start of our ministry we concentrated on children between the ages of 5 and 12. We felt that the earlier pre-school years of a child's life needed a more specialized approach than we could give.

In more recent years, however, several CEF groups, workers and writers have seen the value of a foundational ministry to these little ones and have developed a good but simple teaching plan to introduce them to God, the Bible, and the way of salvation. We, like many others, have concentrated on an evangelistic and teaching ministry to the 5 – 12-year-olds, and we have had the privilege to see many of them trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

Those of us, who teach weekly Good News Clubs, children's meetings, or Sunday School classes, want to teach this age group as effectively as possible. But there may be two problems in our ministry which need solutions. I believe that the solutions to these problems will enable us to strengthen and even extend our ministry.



We will start to study these solutions in detail in our next issue of Mini Mag.

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS IT**

### THE PROBLEMS

We are faced with two problems in our Good News Club ministry.

**1) TEENAGERS WHO LEAVE OUR GNCs.** We so often lose the children who have become early teenagers and are now in the 12–16-year bracket. They feel they are too old for Good News Club. They feel that the Good News Club is fine for those younger children but not for them, now that they are older. And so, they leave Good News Club and eventually we may LOSE CONTACT with many of them. That could certainly be a problem.

**2) TEENAGERS WHO STAY IN OUR GNCs.** Some of these teenagers want to stay in the Club, but they find it increasingly difficult to participate in some of the activities which the younger children enjoy. Activities like memorising verses or singing action choruses or enjoying bible quizzes. They would prefer to participate more in the meetings, rather than sitting listening all the time to the teacher, and they like to discuss and ask questions. But if we were to adapt our programme and teaching to them, we would lose the attention and perhaps the presence, of the younger group.

### THE SOLUTION

What are we to do? Our challenge is to find solutions to both problems so that we can continue to minister to both age groups. We must ensure that the solution we find, and the decisions we make, will result in blessing for both the fives to twelves and the early teenagers. These solutions have, I believe, been found.

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.

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