

**Steps and Guidelines
To Help Us Build
Effective Children's
Ministries**

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Table of Contents

Chapter One – Page 3
Results of an Effective Youth and Children’s Ministry

Chapter Two – Page 14
Developing a Fruit Bearing Children’s Ministry

Chapter Three – Page 16
Guiding Steps to Build a Children’s Prayer Ministry

CHAPTER ONE

Results of an Effective Youth and Children’s Ministry

What resource does the church needs the most? Is it, volunteers, teachers, leaders and pastors serving in God’s Kingdom? What lacks the most are the evangelists and prayer leaders in all ministry groups. **Youth and Children’s Ministries** are the training ground for all ministry workers and leaders. Let’s reset our focus on developing EFFECTIVE YOUTH and CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES as a leadership training model. Let’s look at the results and keep it before us as we build the **FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING**.

The BEST RESULTS to observe is to observe God’s Kingdom grow as the church growth grow through the BORN- AGAIN EXPERIENCE, adding to the church daily

1. **Relationship building** is evident, and all members are enjoying each other, home and in church 24/7 – value, respect & appreciation is the key!
2. **Targeting strategies** in action to lead every child or youth on a personal level
3. **Newcomers** every Sunday- Active plans for all to engage during meetings & reaching out opportunities
4. **Discipleship programs** and support groups are well attended
5. **Biblical verses** are prayed and thought through for application direction
6. There is a freedom and free flow to **counseling rooms or group sessions**
7. **Active discussion groups**, learning together the application of biblical principles
8. **Prayer focuses and intercession** is alive and relevant
9. **Excitement** in every room and fellowship venue
10. **Strong teamwork** is constantly developing
11. **Outreach team** opportunities are expanding to involve all giftings to the Body
12. Ministry workers **are eager** to volunteer and serve
13. All involved in **Missions** and taking the Gospel obeying the Great Commission
14. **Exciting transition** is observed between all the groups during transition periods
15. **Planning and active involvement** of Church picnic, game/sports days, camps, conference days, involving all.

A church biblically well managed and run is an incubator for maturity and servant leaders in God's Kingdom will reflect God's love and the raising of leaders functioning with biblical principles and grounded in truth with clarity on all Biblical Bible Doctrines combatting on the battlefield as His victorious army.

What part do you play in bringing forth these results transforming youth and children into SPIRITUAL GIANTS? Can you begin to prepare yourself to minister to children?

Recommended Reading: "Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions" by George Barna

Understand, children and youth are leaders of God's Armies

Realize Children and Youth are Leaders of God's Army.

COULD YOUR MINISTRY TEAMS TAKE YOUNG ONES OUT TO BE PART OF POWER FULL MINISTRY and OUTREACH TEAMS? John, Mark nor Timothy was very old when they joined the Apostle Paul's team.

Youth/Children – Body of Christ Members

Four Foundational Aspects of the Church

1. **Worship**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Proclamation** of God's Word
4. **Service / Ministry**

Let's look at these aspects...

1. **Worship:**

- During **WORSHIP** something happens in the Spiritual Realm when kids and youth are involved. Psalms 8:2 (Work of Satan is stopped)
- King David the great teacher of Praise & Worship encouraged song Ps. 149:1, shouting Ps 95:1-2, clapping Ps 47:1-2, lifting of hands Ps 63:4, dancing Ps149:3, kneeling and bowing down Ps 95:6-7, the use of instruments Ps 150:1-6 (cymbals and drums)
- Making a joyful noise and waving banners to proclaim the ruler ship of our God declares spontaneous joint heir ship

2. **Fellowship:**

- During **FELLOWSHIP**, welcome children. Matthew 18:5 (Rejection is pronounced if an un-welcomed attitude is reflected)
- Children should be fully included in fellowship of the believers even if it requires major changes in the way the church functions reflecting a natural home.
- In a natural home a child grows mature, they are given more and more responsibilities and opportunities to the running of the home, it should not be different in the spiritual home: the church

3. **Proclamation of the Word:**

- During the proclamation of **THE WORD** children needs to be taught in separate age groups in such a way to receive and understand the message.
- Family services can be done for corporate messages for all those in the family to participate and can include drama, videos, films etc.
- Let children remain in the presence of God when healing, deliverance and other miracles takes place. Children need to experience a mighty move of God in services.

4. **During Service and Ministry:**

- During **SERVICE / MINISTRY** children needs to be used according to their age and maturity
- God is involved and concerned about everyone. Ps. 139:13-16 and wants everyone to step into God's Salvation Plan by faith being children of disobedience and become sons and daughters of God. Eph 2:1-10
- Children should not waste their time in the world, get hurt damaged and dysfunctional. God want children to be great prophets, 1 Samuel 3:10-11 / at young age wants to touch their mouths, Jeremiah1:5-9 / groom children from early childhood for the ministry God has from them.

Children can be raised in powerful families & ministries as leaders in God's army.

How can children serve and minister in your church fully equipped? Greeting, helping in practical matters, singing, waving, reading scriptures, praying, sharing testimony, mission outreaches, giving out tracts, hospital ministry, orphan & street kids care and visiting the elderly with adult group.

Children are a vital asset to the church. Before they will bear fruit, our priority is to communicate the GOSPEL/ THE GOOD NEWS with them clearly to understand and then after their response to God to be saved, teach them BIBLE DOCTRINE. Be watchful then for them to also to experience the GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and for children to realize their giftings to be used to honor God.

REALIZE CHILDREN AT AN EARLY AGE CAN BE BORN AGAIN AND BE INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH AS A FULL MEMBER BEING BORN AGAIN, with a need to grow spiritually and to be involved in Christian work with opportunities to love and care!

Why Evangelize Children

It is not enough to give the children a good feeling and experience of church life and to teach from the Bible – the ultimate goal is to lead each one of them to a personal experience of being born again. John 3:3.

What is evangelization? Read Matthew 28:19-20

The goal for evangelism is to spread the good news concerning Jesus Christ, to make people realize their sinful lost state, to lead them to repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. To make sure that they get truly born again, and to disciple them and bring them into the fellowship of the believers in a local church.

The methods used in evangelism.

By persuasive words and confrontational methods to persuade, sometimes even pressurize people to repent and to take a stand for Jesus, either by raising their hands, coming forward for prayer or signing a decision card. After that they are embraced and welcomed into the Kingdom of God and advised what to do next.

Child evangelism is a complex issue. Children are not “little adults”. In some places the methods just described under point A are used to bring even little children to salvation. The problem here is that many adults fail to see children in a process of gradual development. They treat them as “little adults” and expect them to respond to the gospel as an adult would do.

Children are on a journey. Children are not small adults. They are on a journey to becoming mature adults but, wherever they are on the road of

development, they are uniquely children and require to be treated as such. In this process of development, the consciousness and understanding of spiritual things gradually develop, and that can differ from child to child, according to their nature and upbringing.

We can say with Jesus that the very small child belongs to the Kingdom – it must be because of his innocence that the blood of Jesus covers him – but somewhere on the road of development, probably with gradual revelation, he needs to personally commit his life to the Lord.

In child evangelism there is the danger of being pressurized too early

- Children respond easily!
- Children will easily respond to an emotional appeal from an adult they love and respect.
- When children are emotionally persuaded to make some sort of physical response to Christ, (*lifting of hands, coming forward for prayer, etc.*) they can easily confuse the outward response with the real thing, which can only be brought about by the Holy Spirit.
- Sometimes, out of genuine concern for their spiritual welfare, people put children under strong emotional pressure to receive Christ. They do not realize that, in many cases, they drive them away from Christ in the long run because the child is not ready to receive and will, therefore, only make an outward response and think that this is all they need in order to receive what is promised.

The result of such a superficial commitment can be very damaging.

No Spiritual power becomes available to the child in the battle of life because he has never really come into vital contact with Christ, the only source of power. The probability is that disillusionment will set in and that he will give up the unequal struggle for all time.

It could develop into an antagonism towards Christianity because the whole experience is seen to be a hoax, which they were led into unfairly. It would be very difficult to get such a person to listen to the gospel later in life.

When nothing in particular happens, the danger is that the whole of Christianity is seen as not working, and the result will be that they discard the whole thing when they reach their teens.

Let it be a true work of the Spirit of God. In John 6:44, Jesus says: “No-one can come to Me unless the Father draws him”.

- The children need to hear the gospel in all its fullness and when they are ripe the Holy Spirit will draw them to Jesus.
- The people who work with children need to be open and sensitive so that they co-operate with the Spirit of God.
- “Let the children come to Me”

The Goal for Child Evangelism:

To bring each child in our care into a true experience of salvation should be the greatest concern for parents and church leaders but, as we have seen in this lesson, it takes great wisdom and skill so that the whole church experience does not become a vaccination against Christianity.

The Scripture Union International in a conference came up with the following conclusion after dealing with the challenges around child evangelization.

1. Also, in the spiritual realm a child goes through a process of development. He becomes increasingly capable of understanding right and wrong as God’s Word is presented to him, and this may lead to an increasing awareness of the work of sin in his own life.
2. Parallel to this is an increasing ability to grasp the saving Word of God, and particularly the meaning of God’s gift of Jesus Christ. At the same time the child’s capability for response to God’s Word is developing, and his acceptance or rejection of what he knows of Christ becomes steadily more meaningful.
3. In the light of this, we doubt whether there is any point at which a child suddenly becomes responsible for his actions or for his attitude towards the Lord. He is becoming more and more responsible for his life and choices as the years pass, until he attains the fuller responsibility that goes with adulthood.
4. We therefore reject the errors to be found in two extremes:
 - i) *That of expecting or requiring of children a level of understanding and response which is proper for an adult – the error of demanding too much.*
 - ii) *That of putting off any challenge to respond to Christ until the child has attained years of full responsibility, whenever that might be – the error of expecting too little.*
5. We believe that a child should be presented with the Christian message at any age in a way which is in keeping with his current development, that he may be expected to respond, and that God will then act with His saving grace in his life while he is still a child.

THE WORDLESS BOOK

Here is a review of the gospel message. We need to be clear on what to communicate with children to build their understanding. For a more complete presentation, consult the following resource:

Wordless Book Training Course

<https://online.cefcmi.com>. This training course is FREE. The Wordless Book Training is an approximately 42 minute seminar designed to equip you to effectively present the message of salvation to children.

The Yellow/Gold Page

1. Gold speaks of heaven.

*The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate having been made from a single pearl. And the street of the city was made of **pure gold as clear as glass**. Revelation 21:21.*
2. The gold speaks of basic truths about God.
 - God is Creator—God made everything (give examples). God made you!
 - God is Love—God loves you (make it personal).
 - God is Holy—God is perfect. He has never thought, said, or done anything wrong. Heaven is also perfect because it is where God lives.
4. Heaven is a wonderful place.
 - There is no sickness, no pain and no hunger
 - No one ever dies
 - Everyone is perfectly happy

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain. Revelation 21:4.

The Dark Page

1. The dark page represents the thing that separates us from God: **SIN**
Do you know what “sin” means?
2. Sin is anything you think, say or do that does not please God or breaks His laws. Sin is the failure to love God as we are commanded to do. *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.”*
3. Examples of sin are: lying, cheating, disobeying your parents, hurting others and being selfish.
4. *Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God’s glorious standard (Rom 3:23).*
5. Everyone is born with the desire to (“want to”) sin.

6. The punishment for our sins is that we can't be with God in heaven.

- Because of sin our hearts are not clean
- God is perfect. Perfectly good, and perfectly clean
- Because God is perfectly clean, he can only allow those with clean hearts in heaven.
- *The wages of (payment for) sin is DEATH... Romans 6:23.*

7. On our own, we can't make our hearts clean. But God loves us so much that he provides a way for our hearts to be made clean.

The Red Page

1. The red dolor in the Wordless Book represents the blood of Jesus—the ONLY way our hearts can be made clean.

Do you know who Jesus is? Do you know when we celebrate Jesus' birth?

- God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth
- God became a man to identify with man yet never sin
- Jesus is the Son of God – He was born of God's Spirit - perfect

2. What did Jesus DO?

- Instead of us being punished, He **willingly** took our our punishment in our place.
- Jesus was crucified on the cross that the shedding of His perfect blood can cleanse us of all the wrong things we have done and be forgiven by God.
- And on the third day, Jesus overcame death to rise from the grave to live again.

But God shows His great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8).

The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23).

But God raised him up from the dead! After this, for many days, those who had gone with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem saw him.

The Clean Page

The truth about being made clean from sin.

1. *But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. (John 1:12).*

- "As many as"—If **YOU**...
- "Receive Him" – take Jesus as your own
- "Gave power" – Jesus gives you the right, the authority
- "To become sons..." – become a child of God. How? By the Holy Spirit coming to live in you – "born from above"
- "To believe on His name" – to **TRUST** with all your heart that Jesus is who He says He is and has done the work necessary for you to be saved from your sins.

2. Jesus invites all who are burdened by the sin that they are living in to come to Him: *"Come unto Me, all who are weary and having heavy burdens, and I will give You rest..."* (Matthew 11:28).

3. Our hearts can now be made clean. But do you **WANT** to be made clean? Before our hearts can be made clean, we need to:

- Admit that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross to be punished instead of us,
- Invite Jesus into our lives to help us turn away from sin

4. When we do these things sincerely, our hearts will be made clean.

"But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins, because we can trust God to do what is right. He will cleanse us from all the wrongs we have one. (1 John 1:9).

5. When our hearts are made clean, we can be with God.

6. Invite the child to sincerely pray—tell God about his desire to follow Jesus in his own words.

- If the child says "no," do not pressure him/her. Answer any questions.
- If the child says "yes" ask thought-provoking questions to see if he understands. For example: Who is God? Why do you need Jesus? What did He do that your sins can be forgiven? Why is He the ONLY one who could do that for you? What happened after He died? How can you become a child of God?

7. Emphasize to the child that it is not the prayer itself that makes him a child of God but the believing in Jesus – who He is and what He has done.

- Tell God you are truly sorry for all the wrong things you have done
- Tell God you truly believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sins that you can be free of them.
- Tell God you truly want to be with Jesus and live His way, turning from wrong things and doing what is right, with His help.

8. Share with the child some promises of God in the Bible that can encourage him/her to continue to walk with Jesus.

- *“If any man is in Christ he is a new creation—old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”* – 2 Cor. 5:17.
- *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So, we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* – Hebrews 13:5-6

9. Teach the child the promise of God when as a Christian he/she sins again but then sincerely turns from it – 1 John 1:9: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

The Green Page

“And grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” – 2 Peter 3:18.

1. The green color reminds of things that grow, like grass, leaves and trees.
2. After praying for forgiveness and for Jesus to come into your life, you now have a special relationship with Him.
3. It is important that you grow in your relationship with Jesus. You can do this by:

- Pray, talking to God
- Reading God’s word, the Bible
- Obeying God’s word and learning to hear God speaking to you through the voice of the Holy Spirit. *“The Spirit will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak...”* – John 16:13.
- Confess, tell God of any sin in heart and ask forgiveness
- Go to Sunday school and church

ONCE THE CHILD IS SAVED, teach children Bible Doctrine

The Definition of Bible Doctrine is: “Doctrine is what you believe about a truth, subject or fact. For the Christian, it is what we believe to be true concerning those things taught in the Bible on which we base our beliefs. Doctrine establishes our foundation in the Word of God and develops our life-long patterns for living.”

Why Teach Doctrine? – Hosea 4:6; Isaiah 28:9; John 21:25.

- Combats false doctrine
- Forms the basis of what we are to do
- Helps develop relationship with God
- Gives clear direction for life

What doctrine should be taught first?

- Inspiration of the Bible
- Doctrine of God
- Doctrine of Salvation
- Doctrine of Grace
- Doctrine of Faith
- Doctrine of Man

When can doctrine be taught?

- Time for Bible Lesson
- Song time
- Memory verse time
- Special lesson / Sunday children’s church sermon

Steps to take to teach Bible Doctrine?

- Begin with basics
- Make it practical
- Teach one truth at a time
- Use visuals to enhance the truth with practical application
- Make it simple
- Spend time in prayer for own understanding and clear teaching

Realize the importance that we will be raising knowledgeable children with a formation of BIBLICAL TRUTH!

We are building Christ-like character, attitude and preparing the children’s heart before God in obedience to Him. As a national leader or ministry leader, can you communicate these aspects to all in your group to bring a CHRIST-LIKE MINDSET about children?

Read the following Scriptures about what God is saying about children and our responsibility.

Exodus 20:12.	Proverbs 29:15.	Ephesians 6:4.
Proverbs 22:6.	1 Corinthians 14:9.	Colossians 3:21.
Proverbs 23:13.	Ephesians 6:1.	

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:6.

CHAPTER TWO

Developing a Fruit Bearing Children's Ministry

TO GROUND, EQUIP & DEVELOP LEADERS

The greatest challenge for each local church will be to shift to **OUTCOME BASED MINISTRY MODEL**, to overcome a critical status of the child being spiritually impoverished and Bible illiterate. Children are the most impressionable group in the church and serves the most spiritual influential group in the church. Children's Ministry needs to align with the leader's vision to impact the health and growth of every local church.

THE MISSION: FORMATION BUILDING!

Create and develop a more effective children's ministry with a distinct prayer ministry and strong outreach program partnering with parents to guide children towards a heart for God.

Read Psalm 78:1-8; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 18:14

Help Parents / Guardians / Care Giver / Youth realize their Mission:

- Responsible to co-teach
- Equipped to re-enforce spiritual growth and discipleship at home-base
- Know the Sunday school lesson goals

Be the doer of God's Word and the Christ-like model

Elements to Optimize Learning:

- **Teach** in an atmosphere of love, joy and excitement
- **Receive** all with excitement, welcoming all while presenting an inviting teaching area
- **Engaging** learning, participating children giving input and learning to communicate their needs

- **Apply.** Relevant teaching is teaching that can be applied today or this week. Follow-up addressing the needs with actions when possible and spiritually, engaging other children to learn to be part of ministry and serving
- **Gauge** whether or not learning is taking place
- **Engage** the complete spectrum of learning styles in the room or area
- **Make relevant** the learning of principles, practicing spiritual disciplines bearing fruit
- **Build** relationships. Connect leaders and parents to influence the next growing leaders
- **Consider** "CO-THEME TEACHING" with spiritual leader
- **Plan** to use digital tools to enhance teaching, recruit those with skills
- **Strengthen** "APPLICATION TIME" - Questions and Discussion / Bible and Prayer / Response
- **Re-enforce** the elements of "FAITH"
 1. Believing "Why God Came"
 2. Listening to God
 3. Forgiving
 4. Following God
 5. Being Trustworthy
 6. Living Powerful Witnessing and Reaching Out
- **Lead** children in worship, prayer and biblical servanthood.

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CHAPTER THREE

Guiding Steps to Build a Children's Prayer Ministry

CONTENT

- A. Research the Need to Pray involving Children in your Local Area – P. 16
- B. Know God's Call to Children – P. 18
- C. Why we should teach Children to Pray – P. 21
- D. Preparing yourself to lead, by being led by God to build the PRAYER MINISTRY – P. 21
- E. Prayer Tools and Ideas to Ignite Prayer – P. 23
- F. Consider who could Lead the Children in Prayer? – P. 26
- G. The Opportunity to Learn More to Lead Prayer – P. 27

A. Research the Need to Pray

Call volunteers age 6 to 14 years to help with a "test" on prayer in their age groups. Verify if there is a need to keep prayer journals, meet weekly to discuss not only what prayer is, but how God answers their prayer to build their faith and trust in God's faithful promises. Develop a form to hand out, look at this example:

Name:	ANSWER YES/NO	Give a comment	Do you have a question or desire to act on learning more about prayer?
Do you talk to God?			About talking to God...
When did you begin talking to God?			Becoming His child...
Do you write down what you are saying and asking God?			Learn to keep a prayer journal...
Do you talk to others about what prayer is?			Meeting in prayer group weekly...

Name:	ANSWER YES/NO	Give a comment	Do you have a question or desire to act on learning more about prayer?
Do you share with others when God answers your prayers?			Have an opportunity to share answers to prayers....
Do you want to learn more about prayer?			In a prayer group, what do you want to discuss about prayer?

* Adapt & make the form available on A4 Paper Landscape and give enough space for comments and answers by enlarging the space in the table.

* Parents can help the younger group fill in their forms, this participation will help the parents to be involved once the prayer group develop.

Children need a Prayer Model, Passionate in a Relationship with God

Realize as a prayer mobilizer / leader for children, through prayer children can see changes in their life/situation, family, church, school, friends, community, city, nations and the world. Children will grow spiritually and realize miracles are normal as God answers prayer. Children can live a supernatural life and be directly in communication with God being a born-again child of God and walking in total forgiveness, experiencing righteousness and holiness.

Children can stand in the gap, as priest before God for the lost, sinners, suffering, oppressed, depressed, possessed, sick, addicted and dying.

For exposure to the church family the children can make a bulletin board with prayer requests on one side and answers on the other side. The entire church will be touched and experience how God answers their prayers. This prayer lifestyle is critical for all Christians to build their faith and trust in God and learn more about God Himself and His word. This will ignite all and bring all into intense worship, what God desires for the church.

Children can pray for Adults

Challenge the adults of the congregation with this thought: “When was the last time you asked a child to pray for you by name? Most will say we never ask children to pray for the adults. Then turn to the children and ask them if they are given the opportunity to pray for adults and their needs, would you do it? If you are willing, stand. Give children direction to come to the altar, invite adults to join if they desire prayer. Adults if you have a need and believe in a child’s faith, come forward and kneel before them. Instruct children to put their hand on an adult’s shoulder and ask them their name. Then ask them what their need is. Use their name and bring the adult’s need before God.

Children are learning challenges adults face and will also realize that all and their own challenges can be brought to God, who loves, cares and protects us while He is working out the good. They will see how the adults will humble themselves and will receive God’s blessings. Answered prayer will help children realize their prayer are important. Children can grow into prayer leaders. Jesus used children to point the way for adults in Mark 10:15 and Jesus wants to do the same today. Will you help to be the role model who leads children and give them an opportunity through the church leaders agreements to pray and learn confidence to become prayer leaders themselves.

B. Know God’s Call to Children

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy.” Joel 2:28

God includes children specifically here in this promise. He also made children very visible in these following events.

- Exodus 12: Children were part of the first Passover and the great Exodus from Egypt.
- 1 Samuel 3: God spoke to the boy Samuel.
- 2 Kings 5: A young girl was used to heal an army commander, Naaman.
- 2 Samuel 17: Shepherd boy, David, saved God’s army from Goliath and the Philistines.
- 2 Kings 12: The seven-year-old Joash became king of Judah.
- Matthew 5: A boy shared his lunch that was used in a miracle to feed thousands.

- Matthew 19: Children pushed-in for the attention of Jesus and He welcomed them.
- Matthew 21: Children joined in the cheering crowd along the road.
- Acts 12: Rhoda a servant girl, took part in a prayer meeting for Peter.

Surely children were present at Pentecost! Children heard the mighty rushing wind, saw the tongues of fire and heard the speaking of unknown tongues. God never leaves children out and His gospel is for all in the family and from generation to generation.

How God prepares and speaks to children

My great grandmother and grandmother were God fearing women. They lived with us in our farmhouse. Always praying, studying God’s word and always reminded us daily what God’s word says. The knowledge that God can help in time of need was anchored in my young soul. In my own childhood years, I experienced God gently ushering me to respond to His call for salvation in my Sunday school class. This was an answer to my prayer the previous day, calling out to Him for help in my need. Then at the age of 8, I called out to God in a fearful situation and He intervened in my desperate call for help. I experienced the brightest light in my dark room, the warm, calming feeling flowed from a touch on my head followed by this same feeling running from my head to my feet and everything in my body entered peace as I fell asleep. When I woke up, I knew that God’s presence visited me, and He supernaturally stopped the fearful experience and I experienced His love, care and protection. Love and forgiveness are the spiritual experiences which continuously flow from my heart and I know it is all God’s heart flowing out from within me. His inner voice has guided and directed me through my life. Through my challenges and struggles I immediately called on His help and His name. He sent people into my life as mentors and prayer warriors. When I made sinful and wrong choices, He ushered me back into His presence. My faith grew and I embraced God eagerly. Those childhood experiences left me with a strong conviction that God prepares and speaks to children and sets the stage for each child’s future ministry as God calls and raises the leaders in each generation for their hearts to be prepared before Him. They will know He will help them. They will not forget His faithfulness and they will teach others God’s law. They will follow Him, obey Him and keep their hearts prepared. **Ps. 78:1-8.**

I attended a Prayer Conference for children in Australia organized by Jane Mackey and the Australian Children's Prayer Network. I saw how God minister to children laying before him and how God touched these children at the altar. Children were leading children in prayer. The children were being led by God's Spirit and His anointing ministered as children moved, worshipped and danced in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit directed the children and prepared them to receive from God and prepared their hearts for His plan and purposes. I was touched by the children's response and behavior of awe and honor to our faithful God, ready to reach, touch and minister to His children of all ages.

Children can touch the whole Church, Family, Community and Nations.

The best place to start teaching about prayer is in the nursery group age. Pray for them, use the word of God and declare and proclaim the promises of God for each child's life. Write these scriptures on the wall. Help all memorize them and help the parents see what you have prayed for their children and help parents agree and continue on praying at home. Make table mats with all the scriptures on as a prayer tool. Parents will be touched to become so involved praying the word over their children. The children will pray these same prayers over other children and adults.

The older children can adopt a leader to pray for and see God change their lives and situations they are struggling in.

Begin praying using an "ADOPT-A-LEADER" prayer plan you can develop to be effective in the church, school, community and country.

Also "ADOPT-A-UNREACHED-PEOPLE GROUP"

Develop or use "PRAYER SONGS" and "PRAYER TOOLS" to teach children about prayer. The Lord's Prayer can be expressed in sign language. Tools e.g. Prayer Bags / Prayer Balls / Prayer Posters

Create "PRAYER BANNERS" with scripture / promises / declarations.

Create "PRAYER FLAGS & RIBBONS" expressing victory over the enemy, challenges and situations

Create "PRAISE & THANKSGIVING INSTRUMENTS" e.g. Bells, tambourine, drums, shakers etc.

Create a "CHILDREN'S PRAYER ROOM" at possible venues. Invite children to join a "PRAYER GROUP" in the church, community – possible after church, school or in holidays.

Focus on prayer during any lessons being presented and teach a specific prayer principle. God can lead you in a creative way to bring attention to prayer and to anchor the principles in children's soul. It does not matter how you begin a children's prayer ministry. The important thing is that you begin.

JUST DO IT!

C. Why we should teach Children to Pray

- Prayer is the key to wholeness and to a feeling of total well-being.
- Prayer is one thing your child can do that will have a great impact on extending God's Kingdom on this earth, no matter what other skills and talents the child may have.
- Prayer is one thing your child will be doing on earth that he will also be doing in heaven, talking to the child's Heavenly Father.
- Prayer is the foundational to our Christian conversation. When children ask God to forgive them and comes to live in them, their prayer lives change. They become sons and daughters of the King of kings, but they cannot grow in Christ without prayer. Children who knows all the Bible stories but do not know how to pray will always struggle as Christians.
- Prayer is the essential part of a victorious Christian life and expresses to God our thankfulness/gratefulness and honoring God as Sovereign in our life in all and for all, expounding into true worship.
- Children need help, protection, wisdom and discernment as they grow in this challenging world, this making it critical for every child to know God through the salvation experience and to communicate with God daily as a lifestyle to "walk with God" and live a supernatural life with a confident attitude nothing is impossible with God.

D. Preparing yourself to lead, by being led by God to build the PRAYER MINISTRY

- Rejoice in the growing of this ministry, being prayerful and expectant to see what God will do
- Learn to confidently lead children in new prayer experiences
- Explore a variety prayer ministry plans and tools

Look at Children-Tested Prayer Plans:

- Joining a prayer group must be a child’s free choice. Those ready for a deeper relationship with God will come. God honors the choice and will draw near to the children seeking more of Him. Value for prayer will develop in them and they will learn more about God while their faith will be strengthened. When children choose to do prayer, they will also enjoy it more. Be prepared not all children may want to pray.
- There are three important factors: Where can children pray? Who will lead them? What part of the schedule is the best time to invite the children to join the prayer group?
- Walk around the church and look for a quiet place to meet. Consider a pitched tent, classroom, empty office or an old empty bus can be donated, painted and decorated.
- Look at the morning schedule. Usually some adults meet to pray before Sunday school, could that be a good time? If not consider other times in the current schedule.
- Traditional children’s church / Sunday schools don’t usually allow for special called-out prayer times. Teachers are busy with structured lesson plans for the whole class. Here are some creative plans that offer options.
 - ✓ Once a quiet place is found where you can be persistent and constant and have an agreement with leaders confirming the place as a safe prayer place for children you could possibly be ready to start a prayer ministry for children at the best time. Documentation will help to share this vision with leaders and congregation to support with a good understanding and in agreement.
 - ✓ Communicate this vision for this generation

A CLEAR VISION – GOD’S DREAM

Your youth and children will be taught to strengthen their faith in God, to be established in the Lordship of Christ, and to walk in the Spirit. They will be trained, equipped, and released to be praying the WORD OF GOD.

“WORLD CHANGERS” – The Young Prayer Warriors are the world’s greatest hope for such a time as this – Children & Youth in our churches, moving swiftly, praying fervently. They will have authoritative voices, their eyes reflecting the fire of God, their very beings powerfully full of His presence. Praying, praying!

One child may stand before the congregation and expound the Word of God with wisdom far beyond his years. Yet another might come forth in mighty intercession. One after another would pray, interprets, preach, prophesy, teach, and intercede with a profusion of God’s power flowing through them. Miracles, signs and wonders will follow, as people will fall to their knees, weeping, confessing their sins, being healed, and being set free.

DO YOU SEE YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN THIS VISION?

Use a flyer to communicate the beginning of the Prayer Group Plans and meeting goals.

Example: Sample Flyer for Prayer Events for **KIDS FOR CHRIST (K4C)**

K4C PRAYER GROUP

Pastor will be our special guest at our

KID’S PRAYER POWER CONFERENCE

Date: _____

Venue: _____

Place: _____

Time: _____ to _____

Contact Person Cell: _____

We will talk about the GREATEST POWER ON EARTH

Invite a friend to join you on this learning adventure

E. Prayer Tools and Ideas to Ignite Prayer

- The church, Christian school and home can form a power triangle of formation of faith for children’s lives. When children see prayer modelled in every area of their lives they will naturally and eagerly participate in it. This unity provides a secure foundation that helps kids depend on God for the rest of their lives.
- The church can provide a PRAYER CALENDAR to send home for every child. Praying scriptures, the messages or theme are based on, this can help praying together and growing together. Family can write in their

planned schedule and be praying for appointments and events. Pray for every opportunity to share the gospel and also to pray for others in need.

- The family can plan to make a BLESSING BASKET for a family in need. They can work together to find blessing scriptures and fill the basket with some groceries or homemade snacks and deliver it when ready and prepared. Healing scriptures for baskets for hospital outreaches or visiting the sick at home can be so appreciated and impact others lives!
- The children need one-to-one prayer experiences, and this should begin at home. They also need to be able to experience praying alone to God and develop this lifestyle independently. Children used all prayer experiences as steppingstones to their personal prayers.
- The children need to experience the entire congregation in prayer, then all age groups in prayer groups prayers and also see and experience the leaders praying for all.
- Children need to experience the laying on of hands with understanding and have a clear concept what the scriptures says about this ministry tool. This is the same for anointing others being sick and has the opportunity to step into faith and with confidence act on the scriptural instruction.
- Children can be directed with scriptures how to pray for themselves, family, friends, church, school, community and the nations. They can also pray being directed by PRAYER TARGETS. e.g. Unreached People Groups go to WEBPAGE for FRONTIER PEOPLE GROUPS (FPG's) <https://joshuaproject.net/frontier>
- Use creative ways to lead children
 - ✓ **Sentences Prayers** – Begin a sentence and have a different child complete the sentence e.g. “God, we thank you for....” OR “God, please help....”
 - ✓ **Position Prayers** – Children can sit, kneel, lie down, hold hands while praying
 - ✓ **Sensory Prayers** – In silence ask children to focus on nature. e.g. The sun, flowers, birds, cool breeze, rain, rainbow etc. Then thank God for His creation, goodness, provision etc.
 - ✓ **Alone Prayers** – Provide a box, tent, open field for alone prayer time. Limit time and call children back for feedback.
 - ✓ **Prayer Camps / Prayer Conferences / Prayer Training /Longer Blocks of Prayer-** ALL NIGHT PRAYERS / *Prayer Team Field Trips / Prayer Opportunities* eg. Families with new babies, loss of loved ones etc.
 - ✓ **Praying Bible Prayers – See List Next Page**

- Discussion Questions for Bible Prayers

1. What do we know about the Bible Character who prayed this prayer?
2. What kind of prayer is it? Thanksgiving, Praise, Confession, Petition, Intercession?
3. How do you think the Bible Character felt before he or she prayed this prayer? Then how did he feel when God answered the prayer?
4. How did God answer the prayer? Use Bible Concordance to locate answers for prayers
5. What can we learn about God from this prayer?
6. What can you learn about people from this prayer?
7. When might we want to pray a prayer like this one?
8. Using these prayers as models, what prayer can you write?

Bible Prayers

Exodus 15	Moses' song of thanksgiving for deliverance from Egypt
Joshua 10	Joshua prays for the time to complete his victory
1 Samuel 2	Hannah thanks God for a son
1 Kings 18	Elijah's prayer on Mt. Carmel
Job 10	Job seeks the reason for his suffering
Psalms 4	Evening Prayers
Psalms 5	Morning Prayers
Psalms 23	Shepherds Prayers
Psalms 37	Trust Prayer
Psalms 51	Forgiveness Prayers
Psalms 46	Protection Prayers
Matthew 6	The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 11	Jesus' Garden of Gethsemane Prayer
Luke 1	Mary's thanksgiving
Luke 18:10-13	Prayer by the Pharisee and tax collector
Acts 4	Church's prayer
Acts 7	Stephen's prayer
1 Corinthians 1: 4-9	Paul's prayer for the church of Corinth
Philippians 1:8-10	Paul's prayer for the Philippian Christians

F. Consider who could Lead the Children in Prayer?

The best prayer leader may be a retired Grandfather whose prayer life can be admired. She might be a quiet person whose heart is for God. One who leads prayer need to be able to model prayer principles and lead children to become passionate priests before God and for His people.

A PRAYER BOX is also a great tool to manage a prayer group to help those who lead become confident to help children discover more about prayer. Also keep a notebook to keep a journal what the group is learning, prayer requests and answered prayer. When beginning the prayer group, it is a time of LISTENING and MODELING prayer. It is important for each child to have a BIBLE on their lap. Parents with their Bibles can join and help. Allocate about 15minutes in the beginning for this prayer time. It is not a time of instruction, but as leader be prepared to read between prayer scriptures with promises relevant for that day. Add promises on same theme the children can draw and read. Add poems, short prayers and testimonies. Short praise and worship songs can be chosen to sing and add instruments the children can use. Prepare the PRAYER BOX. **Wrap it with bright paper, cloth or paint it if possible and label it.**

Place inside the PRAYER BOX **Sentence Prayers or Bible Promises**. Let children draw from box and pray being led by the Holy Spirit applying the scripture. Children will need guidance to this is at first. Children can also learn how to place their name in scriptures. Behind the scripture re-write the verse and leave a gap where the child can read his name to make the scripture personal. Look at some books written on prayer and pick up sayings/ definitions about prayer and testimonies about prayer. Ask children after prayer group what can they say about prayer and what have they learned more about prayer. Add in testimonies the children can read out loud. Keep this time inter-active and help children discover prayer principles every time the group meets to grow in prayer knowledge and skill. Soon the children will be confident enough to be able to participate in the congregation in prayer or at the altar praying for people's needs and the sick.

Always review the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** with children communicating the following concepts clearly:

- WHO GOD IS,
- WHAT SIN IS,

- WHO JESUS CHRIST IS,
- THE INVITATION GOD GIVES TO ALL, and then
- SPIRITUAL GROWING STEPS.

God is the one working with HIS TRUTHS FOR SALVATION to draw children into HIS KINGDOM and into a relationship with HIM. When children have heard the good news and became born again you have gained a leader who will grow and sustain the future generation being a leader to reach and teach others about God's truths. Be sure the congregation is ready to be the parents God called them to be and the leaders who will lead a generation of leaders to reach the nations. Once the children know the GOSPEL MESSAGE, it can be prayed over their lost family and friends and nations asking the LORD OF THE HARVEST to raise the HARVEST WORKERS.

G. The Opportunity to Learn More to Lead Prayer

There are four lessons available on request to be taught to the congregation to help the entire congregation mobilizing prayer at home. Then possibly volunteer to lead prayer groups could arise. Each lesson can be presented in two hours which includes a workshop. In one day, HOME / GROUP PRAYER LEADERS CAN BE PREPARED from 8am to 12midday /1pm to 5pm. The church needs to be willing to take responsibility for all logistics and costs to bring people together and host training.

The subjects available are:

1. How to Pray for Children
2. How to Teach Children to Pray
3. How to Pray Scripture over Children
4. How to Mobilize Children to Pray for World Evangelization

Confident WORLD INTERCESSION NETWORK (W.I.N.) Directors could request these lessons and work through the lessons to prepare themselves to teach the lessons. Should assistance be needed ask for training to come to your nation.

TO REQUEST TRAINING SESSIONS:
Contact Rev. Joe Delport on email:
joedelportwmm@aol.com