

# WINTER CHILDREN'S LEADER 2005

A NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO LEAD CHILDREN IN THE CONGREGATION.

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## TV Turn-Off: Bring It to Your Kids in 2005

With TV-Turn-Off Week four months away, now is a good time to start planning ways to make this day a mile-marker in the lives of kids at your church. What is TV Turn-Off? It's a whole week where children and their families discover other things to do instead of watching TV.

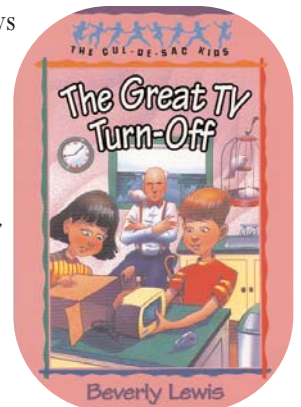
Why does turning off the TV matter? Because TV shows shape a child's world view in keeping with the common culture, which works against the Christian world view, especially an Adventist world view. Television also teaches morals, too often of the negative kind. While there is much that is good on TV, children tend to be watching too much of the other kind.

April 25-May 1 is the designated TV Turn-Off Week for 2005. This could be the week that kids discover a life after TV. Start planning by reading the little book, *The Great TV-Turn-Off* to your kids. You might even get extra copies to share with them.

*The Great TV Turn-Off* shows how one boy's courage makes a difference. Eric Hagel brings an idea and inspiration to the neighborhood children's club where the members sign up to participate in the TV Turn-Off Week. Not only do they sign a covenant, they venture out to obtain the signatures of their parents and adult neighbors too. What initially seems strange, even impossible, turns out to be a great success. In the end one boy's idea influences and unites a complete neighborhood, bringing special family moments, and fun times.

Could something like this happen in the neighborhood where the kids in your class live? You can soon find out by challenging them to think up their own plans for this special week. The most lasting result of TV Turn-Off 2005 could be for eternity.

*The Great TV Turn-Off* is easy reading for kids and may be ordered at your local book store or at Amazon.com.



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# What Color is Grief?

**S**everal years ago, the unthinkable happened. My children joined the ranks of the 68 percent in our nation who live with only one of their natural parents.

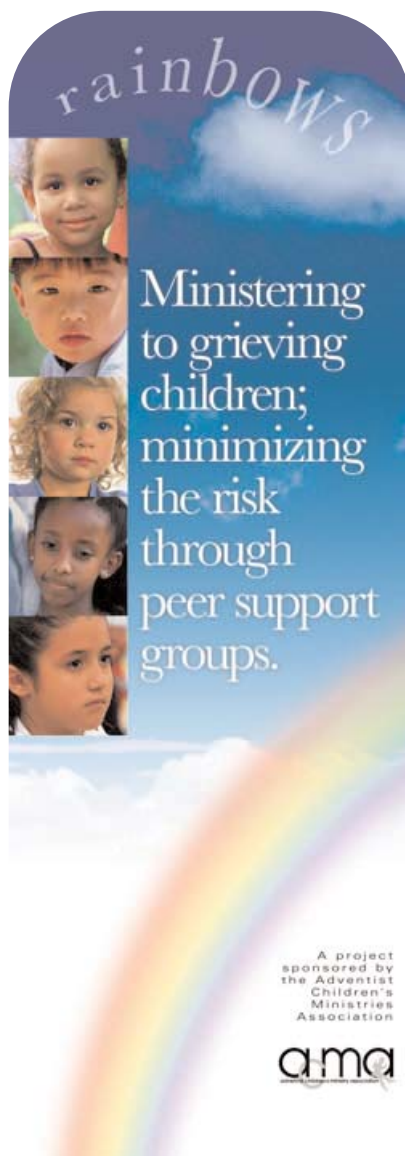
Immediately the black cloud of depression entered our home. I was a stay-at-home mom, home schooling my three children, teaching their Sabbath School classes. I was well aware of the inevitable negative effects of this kind of trauma on my precious kids. Not only would they lose the security of Dad in the home, but their whole lives would change. Moving from their familiar home and neighborhood, entering school for the first time, and having Mom totally absorbed in her own loss, working full time, and coping with the changed income level, everyone was overwhelmed.

I began immediately, to search for some kind of intervention for our family. Right away I discovered that our Church is really ill-equipped to provide tools for grieving families—especially those of us dealing with divorce. I eventually found several support groups for myself through other denominations and organizations. Involvement in those groups was a life-saver for me, but I found nothing to help ease the pain and loss for my kids. The loss affected their behavior, grades, attitudes and happy spirits. I could see the colors of grief in each of their faces—the red rage of anger, the pale nothingness of resentment, a deep blue sadness, that awful black hopelessness and painful grey of withdrawal. Because I was very much caught up in the problem, I was powerless to help them.

That was four years ago. My family has weathered this painful storm and is on a healing path. And now I discover Rainbows, a wonderful program started by a mom, who much like me realized her inability to nurture her own kids in the aftermath of her divorce. She developed a complete curriculum for kids of all ages, centering it on God's principles for coping with loss.

Rainbows is designed as a peer support group with an adult 'loving listener' who facilitates 3-5 kids of similar ages through the program. The object is to allow a safe and understanding place for kids (and their parents) to grieve and learn tools to deal with their loss. Kids offer hope and understanding to each other, while gaining tools with which to deal with the changes in their family.

Children in America grieve not only the loss of a parent to death or divorce, but also to separation while one or both parents serve in Iraq. Other children live with the pain of



abuse, the effects of 911, and the trauma of natural disasters. Without intervention, these kids risk severe behavior problems, declining grades, as well as a greater probability of involvement with drugs, alcohol, sex and crime. How will they hear God's still small voice when they are in such pain? Jesus showed us that we must first meet their needs and then bid them follow Him.

My dream is that one day our Elementary schools, academies, churches and Adventist Community Service centers will be registered and functioning Rainbows sites. Places equipped to support grieving families, outreach centers to meet emotional needs.

What color is grief? In my opinion, it all depends on how you deal with it. Today, talking openly and honestly about our feelings has produced in my family the soft pink of joy, a clear

yellow of wonderful possibilities, a rich purple of hope and a deep green of new life and goals that this once painful experience has revealed.

God can use Rainbows to offer His children the colorful promises of hope, peace and security within the pain of their fragile lives. How about your church, school or ministry? Might God be calling you to bring Rainbows colors to kids God has placed around you?

~Jackie Bishop

**For more information contact NAD  
Children's Ministries  
301-680-6425.  
www.childmin.com**

## News & Notes

### Coming Events

Details for these events available online at <http://childmin.com/Events>.

- ◆ **February 25-27, 2005**—Cohutta Springs, GA; Children's Ministries Certification (Georgia Cumberland Conference)
- ◆ **February, 2005** (date to be announced)—Takoma Park Church, MD; Rainbows Facilitator and Coordinator training (North American Division)
- ◆ **June 22-27, 2005**—Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI; Seeds Plus! International Conference (North American Division Evangelism Institute)
- ◆ **June 29-July 9, 2005**—St. Louis, MO; 2005 General Conference Session.

### Year-End Reporting

Children's Ministries coordinators at the local church will fill out the report that was mailed to their church and return it to their conference or direct to the North American Division. Or they can fill out the report online at <http://childmin.com/Resources/Year-end.htm>.

The report asks only seven questions, three of which require yes/no responses. Year-end reports are due by February 28, 2005. Please help us get a true picture of what we all are doing to lead children to Jesus.

## This Squirrel Teaches

Leaders and teachers know that children need to be protected from predators, but somehow nobody felt comfortable broaching this subject with someone else's kids. And many parents hesitated because they didn't want to risk shattering their child's innocence.

But now Squeakers is about to change all that—Squeakers the book that is. Written by Stephen Cosgrove, this charming tale teaches the importance of saying "No!" to situations that make one feel uncomfortable. It affirms the importance of not keeping secrets from parents, models appropriate parental responses, and just as important, it teaches kids the behavior of predators—all without actually mentioning sex or molestation and without frightening children.

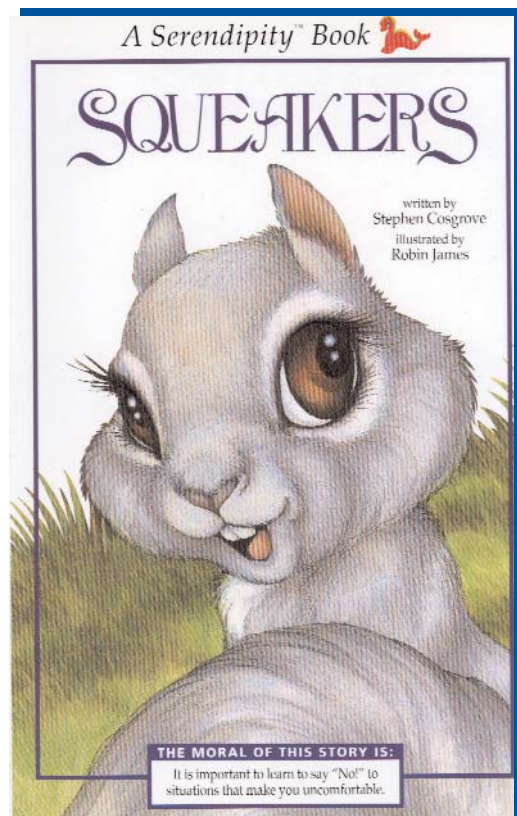
Squeakers the squirrel is stopped on his way home from school by a mole bearing gifts of nuts and an offer to trade them for hair from Squeaker's tail. Discomfort and embarrassment follow, robbing the little fellow of confidence and joy—until his parents intervene.

When asked to come read a book to fourth graders at Sligo Adventist School, one Children's Ministries director chose to read Squeakers. The children listened with interest

and joined in a discussion afterward. The class teacher observed later, "One of my children may be kept safe as a result of this book."

Statistics show that one child in three is at risk from a predator, often a church member in good standing or a family friend. We can let Squeakers warn them or continue to sleep at our watch. You can find Squeakers at [www.adventsource.com](http://www.adventsource.com). Take advantage of their quantity pricing; make copies available to families in your church.

~Noelene Johnsson



## Saved by a GraceLink Powerpoint

One of my most profound experiences with Gracelink happened one Sabbath when I was teaching a group of juniors in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The lesson: Jehoshaphat

The focus: Grace (my favorite)

The Powerpoint: God has already won the battle for us.

As we experienced the lesson together, one junior teen stayed on the fringes of the group the entire hour. I could not quite pull him into

the discussions. However, as the other children left the room he stayed behind, and when everyone had gone he approached me.

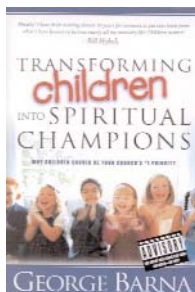
Pulling from his pocket three little colored pills, he calmly stated, "Well, I guess if God has already won the battle for me, I'll give these to you." He went on to explain that a high school boy gave the pills to a bunch of boys on Friday. They were supposed to swallow them over the weekend and get together at lunch on Monday to tell how they liked the experience. "I was too scared to say no when he gave them to me,"

the boy concluded. "But I like to think that this is one of those battles for God to win for me."

I was in tears as he left and so grateful that at least this particular Sabbath Day, God and His word had become so real to this little guy and that he trusted this Big God to be powerful enough to handle even a big high school boy's reaction on Monday morning.

Gracelink offers kids the tools they will need for handling life's toughest challenges; it helps make the Bible 'real' to kids today.

~Jackie Bishop



### Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions

Call 800-328-0525 and ask for catalog

#10450 to obtain our

**special New Year's discount price of US\$11.95**

Good only until March 31, 2005.

Regular price US\$17.95  
(\$14.95 for 2 or more copies).





# Children's Ministries in the News

Conference Children's Ministries Directors met together January 9-13 at the Adventist Ministries Convention, in Orlando, Florida. awards for excellence in ministry were awarded, as follows:

•**Jackie Bishop**, for passionate spirituality, dynamic training presentations. As a certified Rainbows trainer, she is helping Children's Ministries branch out into a new ministry of compassion to grieving children.

•**Phyllis Washington**, for tireless leadership in creating a peer support system for children's leaders and teachers in Lake Region Conference. Phyllis has motivated and empowered chapters of the Adventist Children's Ministries Association (ACMA) to start outreach ministry to otherwise overlooked children of Chicago and Detroit.

•**Don MacLafferty**, for creating a

discipleship center for children and their families, in Collegedale, Tennessee, where he involved many leaders in creating Footprints in the Sand-I, a we session discipleship program for parents, and footprints-II, a companion program of 36 lessons for children. Dozens of families in four states have already been blessed by this mushrooming ministry.

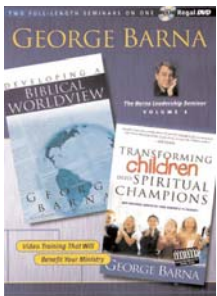
•**Noelene Johnsson** received the first-ever President's Award for her 17 years of leadership at NAD Children's Ministries. During these years ministry to children has expanded from a one-hour per week focus on Sabbath School plus once a year VBS to include multiple ministries to children, including children's church, children's prayer meeting, VBS follow up, and baptismal lessons, and children's evangelistic meetings.



Elder Don Schneider, President of NAD, presents award to Noelene Johnsson, Director of NAD Children's Ministries

## New Resources for Children's Leaders

### The Barna Leadership Seminar



Volume 1 provides two great seminars by church researcher George Barna, on DVD-- Developing a Biblical Worldview, and Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions. Great for parents, pastors, and teachers. If you want your life to make a difference, obtain this dvd to find out how you can make a profitable investment for God's kingdom. Whether you are a parent of a young child, a youth worker, a pastor or someone who wants to better understand how to maximize ministry effectiveness, Transforming Children into Spritual Champions will point you in the right directions.

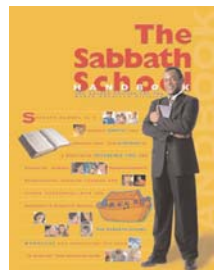
**Advent Source #010451 DVD Price \$29.95**

### Primary Memory Verse Songs

This new CD or GraceLink memory verses is of special interest for parents and teachers of

primary children. The product is set to debut third quarter. However, limited copies for first quarter are available free to the first 25 persons who e-mail [evelyn.milliner@nad.adventist.org](mailto:evelyn.milliner@nad.adventist.org). Mention that you saw this offer in Children's Leader. Permission is granted to copy freely for teachers and children in your church only.

### The Sabbath School Handbook



Children's Sabbath School provides a complete religious educational experience that is age appropriate and focused on leading each child into a relationship with Jesus. This handbook

was prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School Department and edited by the Adult Ministries and Children's Ministries Departments for application in North America. This is considered a "must-have" reference tool for Sabbath School Superintendents, Secretaries, Division leaders and other personnel. The Sabbath School

Handbook has everything you need to support this important work. **Advent Source #550000 Price \$8.95/Spanish #550005**

### Preaching With Graphics

This interactive CD tutorial takes a pastor or worship team through hardware, software, tips and design tricks to enhance worship with computer generated graphics. It will help you put together elegant sermon graphics quickly. Extensive video instructional included with audio track that coaches you through the learning process. You can go at your own pace and review anytime. To purchase your copy call: 702-871-0814 Fax: 702-871-0815/ Email: [mvsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:mvsecretary@hotmail.com)

