

A U T U M N CHILDREN'S LEADER 2 0 0 4

A NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO LEAD CHILDREN IN THE CONGREGATION.

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Editor: Sharon Wright
Children's Ministries Director:
Noelene Johnsson

A publication of the
North American Division
Children's Ministries Department
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600
(301) 680-6425

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Serengeti Trek: Plan Now for VBS 2005

If you liked *Lava Lava Island*, you'll love *Serengeti Trek*, the brand new Vacation Bible School program for 2005.

Throughout the program, with its exciting African safari theme, kids will explore the Bible and learn stories of Gideon (I know God);

Daniel (I talk to God);

Shadrach, Meshach &

Abednego (I talk about God);

Jesus (I love God); and Paul &

Silas (I work for God).

Each day they'll choose from a list of Daily Challenges to live out the Bible

Point. They may decide to pray with a family member, help a brother or sister, or play with someone who doesn't have many friends.

Outside of VBS, kids show they're wild about God. They learn how to apply the Bible to their lives through their actions. Back at VBS each day, kids will "Leave a little love" as they put leaves on a giant tree and watch God's love grow.

Like *Lava Lava Island*, *Serengeti Trek* provides detailed directions for leaders that present tested solutions to those everyday challenges. Like *Lava Lava Island*, it introduces kids to Jesus in a fun and memorable setting. For pictures of the pilot program and more information about *Serengeti Trek*, see <http://childmin.com/VBS>.

You can pre-order your materials for *Serengeti Trek* today at <http://childmin.com/VBS>. Starter kits will be available for shipment on January 6, 2005.

Review & Herald will sponsor a Vacation Bible School training event for *Serengeti Trek* on Sabbath, January 8 at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL. For more information, call 800-688-0555 or e-mail jlyles@rhpa.org. Register online at <http://plusline.org>.



Summer Outreach in Review

Editor's Note: As of September 23, 333 VBS programs have been reported, with 15,554 children involved. Check out our complete photo gallery online at <http://www.childmin.com/VBS>. All VBS reports are due by October 1. Coming in the next Children's Leader: 2004 VBS awards.

Everything was planned out for us down to the last detail. Pretty much all I needed to do was get my volunteers together and make sure all the props were collected. We had several children who seriously wanted to continue for a second week. They have been coming to Sabbath School ever since.

~Tahna Pugh
(Pomona Park, FL)

I liked the different stations and the fact that it was all organized for directors Celebration, FL in the manual. The theme, the Bible books. . . This is the way to go for VBS! The theme and stations make the director's and station leaders' lives easy. The kids absolutely loved it. The Bible Buddies were a big hit. The Bibles in Spanish—great outreach idea. The music was a big hit.

~Renee Goodwin (Seattle, WA)

I love the way each station emphasizes the Bible point and how they all flow together. Also, the daily challenge was a GREAT addition.



Vacation Bible Camp in Flint, MI



Celebration, FL



"Lei it on!" Gastonia, NC

It was great seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. This was the best VBS format so far! I don't know how anything can top this one. It pulled our church family together.

In the Kid-to-Kid mission, a little non-Adventist boy drew two folded hands on his page. I asked why he drew that, and he said, "I just wanted the children to know I am praying for them."

Our closing program was combined with Children's Sabbath. I gave a call at the close of the sermon for those who had never given their hearts to Jesus. Two brothers who did not attend VBS came forward requesting baptism. We'd been working with them, but what a joy! Jesus' love really flowed.

~Sandra Fletcher
(Lake Charles, LA)

Having crew leaders really works!

~Jessica Escobedo
(Hidalgo, TX)

It was all organized for me; things were easy. I really appreciated that, because I was pregnant with twins at the time!

I saw some older kids "bored" when they first came, but by the end of the week, they were loving it. All of the kids hated to see Lava Lava Island end. I saw real life application in my own sons' lives. They really worked hard for their lava.

~Mary Wilmoth (Crocketville, TN)



Naples, FL

her bed without being asked; her mom asked her if she was sick!

~Rossie Reyes (Jersey City, NJ)



Aloha from Garland, TX

I had mothers come up and specifically thank us for doing VBS. One mother, with tears in her eyes, thanked us over and over.

Irene Saylor (Tillamook, OR)



Preschool fun in Brainerd, MN

The music was great! We had so much fun during the Lava Lava Luau and Sing and Play Bay. I had older boys actually singing loudly and participating. Wow! Everyone had fun during this VBS—young and old.

~Kimberly Nicholson
(Hickory, NC)

The best part was that we didn't need to find a teacher for every age level!

The daily challenges were great. I enjoyed hearing how the kids were sharing Jesus' love. One little girl made

We did VBS in a trailer at a trailer park with 17 Hispanic families. The first two nights we battled with the fact that the children did not even know who Jesus is—and the parents would take their kids to another party or grocery shopping during VBS. The children really didn't have an opportunity to get acquainted with the ideas or the flow of the program. We were a bit discouraged. However, on the third night all of the kids were there and they really got involved in the program. On the fourth night the kids were singing the songs and rotating through the stations with joy in their eyes. ~Deborah Rivera (Niles, MI)



New Hope, MD

This was fun! I have been a VBS leader for over 20 years. We quit using Adventist programs many years ago. When the program changed, I visited another church to see Bug Safari and was so pleased that we purchased SCUBA last year and now Lava Lava. It is so nice to have a GOOD program finally available.

A father with 3 active little boys was busy trying to get the registration cards and name tags taken care of, when one of his little boys looking around said, "This is a real jungle." The dad was about to agree, then said, "What are you talking about?" Then he looked around and saw that it WAS a jungle! ~Kelly Parish (Gaston, OR)

54th Street Church (Ingleside, CA)



Bazine, KS

I loved watching the children's faces light up, seeing how much they wanted to come back every night. My grandson Wyndell has built his own VBS and has VBS at his home at least twice a week. He knows all the songs, motions, he knows the Bible stories and acts them out. We have 10 children that were not Adventist who have been coming to Sabbath School.

~Brenda Lowder (Lake Placid, FL)



Chapel Haven, CO

After song service on the second evening, one of the toughest young men attending VBS came up to me and asked if he could teach all of us how to sing "Praise ye the Lord" in Nepalese. What a thrill! Praise the Lord is right! ~Gaye Hershberger (Williamsburg, MI)

We left invitations to our VBS program at different day care places around town.

~Linda Ringer (Groveland, FL)

Teens and older kids serving as crew leaders get all the benefits of VBS plus leadership training ~Romilda Davis (Dalton Gardens, ID)

Lava Lava Island in Hong Kong

Fourteen Hong Kong churches erupted in excitement this summer, with the largest Vacation Bible School in the history of the conference. Each church conducted its own program (in Cantonese), and all fourteen joined together for a graduation ceremony August 1, held at Hong Kong Adventist College.

Church members took leave from work and helped to transform their churches into amazing adventure islands. Students took on the role of team leadership. Non-Christian parents of participants also became involved whenever they could.

Six hundred people attended the graduation, and more than 320 children took part in VBS. When an appeal was made at graduation for children to dedicate their lives to Jesus, their response was most touching and inspiring.

~adapted from Northern Asia-Pacific Division News & Views



Gladstone Park, OR

We formed a collaborative team from the two largest churches in the Anchorage area. VBS coordinators from each church worked together, which allowed us to obtain adequate staff and funding for the first area VBS in three years.

We sent letters to area churches telling them about the VBS—and tentative plans for VBS 2005. We have also planned for a PowerPoint presentation to promote next year's program and encourage area churches to support it.

~Brenda Johnson & Cindy Abbot (Anchorage, AK)

News & Notes

Coming Events

Looking for a training event in your area? Ask your conference Children's Ministries director what they have planned; let them know if there's a specific need in your church, or if you're interested in completing Children's Ministries certification.

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

◆ **September 23-26, 2004**—Reston, VA. This North American Division-sponsored convention will include tracks not just for Children's Ministries, but also for a number of other church ministries.

◆ **November 18-21, 2004**—Training convention in South Bend, IN (Lake Union)

◆ **January 8, 2005**—VBS Training event in Apopka, FL; for more information, call 800-688-0555 or e-mail jlyles@rhpa.org.

www.adventsource.org

AdventSource has launched a dynamic, fully bilingual Web site—www.adventsource.org—the first of its kind in the North American Adventist circle. The site features all ministry products online in an easy searchable access system. Users can toggle back and forth between Spanish and English. The site features all English language products as well as more than 100 items in Spanish.

Users can now purchase e-books, electronic files, pictures and music online and receive them immediately.

PlusLine Celebrates 10

In celebration of ten years of service to the Adventist community, PlusLine will draw thirty names from its membership list to receive prizes including CDs, DVDs and personal electronic devices. One winner will be drawn each day throughout the month of September.

PlusLine's free online membership provides personalization features (via MyPlusLine) and keeps you in touch with news about church resources, events and other ministry services.

Camporee News

For complete information about the Faith On Fire Camporee, including photos and commemorative items, visit <http://www.adventistyouthministries.org>.

ALL the kids loved it! I think it helped bring some parents back to church through the positive experience their children had. Both the kids and the parents loved the music. We sang the songs with the CD during church and it went SO well. I was surprised to see all the smiles on people's faces!



The VBS family from Monroe, NC

~Pam McTavish (Castle Rock, CO)



A special crew from Rutherfordton, NC

We had our teenagers as crew leaders. The kids loved it and the teens got to participate without feeling like little kids.

~Connie Whitfield (Cleveland, OH)



Costumed helpers from Mantion, MI

We gave out *Your Story Hour* CDs for graduation. All those who could not come will get a personal visit and their CD.

~Bonita Warner (Benton Harbor, MI)



Hagerstown, MD



Jacksonville, NC

Two ladies visited an apartment complex several weeks before and told stories to children—then we bussed them to the church every day.

~Astrid Vodeb (Baldwin Park, CA)

We used sound effects and fog to create the illusion of the volcano exploding. One of the crew leaders was helping. She took a 3-year-old crew member with her to hide behind the volcano. When the special effects started, child got startled and ran, further shaking the volcano and adding to the "eruption." That really made Lava Lava come alive!

~Afua Baptiste (Plantation, FL)