



May 26 World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk

Generations Praise!

Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next.
Isaiah 38: 19 (NLT)

What is Children's Church? It is a service that

- Is specifically designed to meet the needs of our children.
- Reaches children's hearts and prepares them to make decisions for Christ.
- Helps children build relationship with Jesus.
- Explain the Scriptures in easy – to – understand language.
- Helps children understand the practicality of God's word
- Teaches Children to memorize texts for recall later as need.
- Helps children to apply biblical principles to their lives.
- Familiarizes children with the doctrines of the church.
- Provides fellowship with other children.
- Teaches stories that contain lessons on moral development.
- Trains children to willingly share the good news with others.



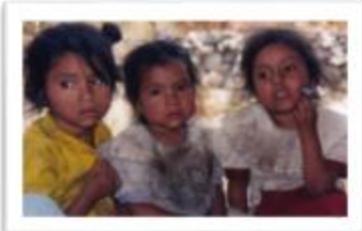
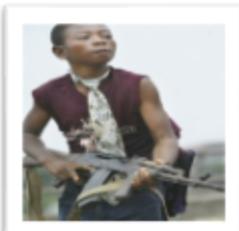
World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk is scheduled annually on the last Sabbath of May. This Sabbath is set aside to intentionally, pray for children who are at risk. The World Weekend of Prayer for children at risk is held every year over the first weekend of June. However the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the General Conference has set aside the **26th of May** 2018 as the day to pray for the Children at risk. This global initiative brings together hundreds of thousands of adults and children across more than 40 countries. Whether you attend a nationwide event, plan something with your church, go to a prayer breakfast, or

spend a quiet few minutes praying in your own home, we would love you to stand with us in interceding for the children of the world.

Thousands of children around the world are at risk. Many face abuse, neglect, trafficking to other countries, hurt and much more. Children at risk need to be protected and helped so that they can use their God given talents to their fullest. They need our prayers. **Involve in the 7Days prayer and pray for Children who are at risk of facing dangerous situations.**

**EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THEIR HURT, POVERTY AND TRAGEDY
WE BELIEVE GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT FOR THE WORLD'S
VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITH HIS ENDURING IMMEASURABLE LOVE
AND COMPASSION.**

Adventist Children Ministries say "Stop Child Abuse."

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Children In Poverty  | Orphaned Children  | Street Children  |
| Child Labourers  | Children of War  | Children Affected by HIV/AIDS  |
| Sexually Exploited Children  | The Girl Child  | Children with Disabilities  |

7 Days of Children and Family Prayer for Children at Risk May 20th – 26 2018 Generation Praise

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Go to www.worldweekendofprayer.com for more resources.



Day 1 Sunday

20th May 2018

• *Prayfor* Children around the world who live in poverty, in fear of abuse, without an education, in need of a loving family and have little hope – may they know God's goodness today in spite of their situation. Pray that they would recognise God's immeasurable love and compassion for them, and give them the strength and boldness to praise him first and foremost, no matter what.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Activity: Draw a picture of a body, or around the outline of a child. Write on it, giving thanks for the amazing ways in which our bodies work, but also praying for those who are unwell, focusing on different parts.



Day 2 Monday

21st May 2018

• *Pray for* Parents to be positive role models for their children in leading God-inspired lives that radiate his joy, love and peace. Pray that they would spend time with their children, enjoying God's Word together, and in praise and prayer.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

Activity: Ask everyone to write down three families (or family members) they know well or to find a photo of them. Tell each other about each person and then, personally, write down prayers for them. Commit to regularly praying for them.



Day 3 Tuesday

22nd May 2018

• *Pray for* Church leaders to ensure that praise and worship – in song, word and action – is a priority for their ministry. May children be valued members of churches and empowered to be leaders and messengers of praise to God. Pray that churches would be known as places of good news amidst bad times.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Activity: In twos or threes, go on a prayer walk around your community, particularly to places that are vulnerable to problems. Thank God for the people and pray that he may transform their lives.



Day 4 Wednesday

23rd May 2018

• *Pray for* each of us to be able to count our blessings each day in all circumstances. May we believe God's promises for us, and trust him to guide us and lead us, and remain faithful to him.

- Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Activity: Donate food, clothing or anything that can help the needy. Find out in your church or neighbourhood on someone who is in need and organize some something to give away.



Day 5 Thursday

24th May 2018

• *Pray for* Healing for those who you know who are unwell. • Those suffering hidden illnesses like mental health. • Medical professionals who are often overworked.

Proverbs 4:6

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Activity: Write prayer cards for those who are sick or ask mum and dad if you could pay visits to those who would need visitation. Find out on a family member who would need your visit too.



Day 6 Friday

25th May 2018

Pray for struggling families in your community. • Wisdom in how the church can reach families. • Social services to improve to support them.

Psalms 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Activity: Invite the children's and youth leaders to share with your church members how things are going. Produce bookmarks and ask different groups within the church to pray regularly for different parts of this ministry



Day 7 Sabbath

26th May 2018

Pray for Protection of children in difficult places. • Families who are struggling. • Churches to find ways of providing support.

Psalm 12:5

“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD. “I will protect them from those who malign them.”

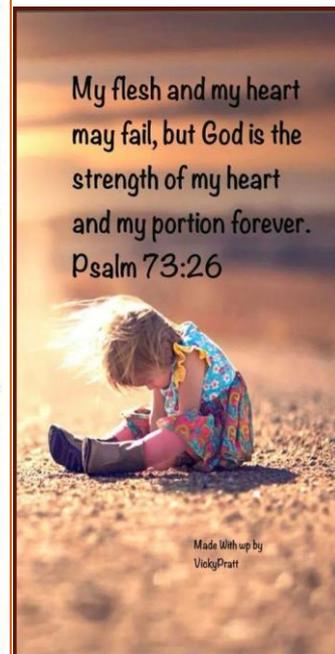
Activity: In a circle, ask everyone to write their name at the top of a piece of paper and pass to the person on their right. Everyone write at the bottom of paper why they appreciate the person whose name is written.



12 PRAYERS TO DAILY PRAY FOR MY CHILDREN

1. Salvation; Is 45:8, Ec 12:1
2. Conviction of sin; I John 2:1, Num 32:23
3. Humility and submissive spirit; James 4:10
4. Love for God's Word; Ps 119:105
5. Protection from evil; John 17:15
6. Free from the need of other's approval; Ga 1:10
7. Wisdom and wise choices; Pro 4:5-7
8. Submission to God; James 4:7
9. Faith that works; James 1:22
10. Godly friendships; I Sam 23:16
11. Lifelong relationships with siblings; Job 1:2-4
12. Future spouse; Prov 18:22

www.arabahjoy.com
www.avirtuouswoman.org



How to plan and organize for the Children at Risk Prayer Week.

1. Photocopy the 7 prayer cards on colored system board paper. Cut them out and fastened with rubber bands. Pack them in little plastic bags. Give to the children on the **19th of May 2018**. [**Get the little plastic bags / money plastic bags from Theodist.**]
2. Promote through the Communication leaders to the Church about the **Prayer cards** and what is the activity for the families and children to do during the 7 days of prayer at home from the **20th to the 26th May 2018**.
3. Ask every child / family to print or draw the map of the world on card boards and stick or paste in their living room. Ask children to write prayers on stick on pads note in the month of May 2018 and paste on the Countries they are praying for. Encourage them to do the prayers together with their families at home. They will paste about 31 prayers beginning on the **1st to the 31st of May 2018** on the countries of the world including PNG on what they will read about in the news on the challenges children are facing.
4. Ask the Class Teachers of the Children's Sabbath School to also draw a large picture of this world map and paste on the wall of the Sabbath School Room before the Month of May. Ask the Children in each Divisions to look at the news papers, the TV news, facebook news and community news in PNG and collect news articles or reports of challenges/Risks affecting children around the world. Every Sabbath from the beginning of **May 5th 2018 to the 31st** each child will share news about whats happening in the world for a particular country of the world. Put a sticker on the country mentioned and ask the children to write short prayers and pin up on the map. [You can use stick on pads to write the prayers and stick them on the countries mention.] Example:



5. There are **four [4] Sabbaths** in May this year. On these Sabbaths during the prayer segments of the Sabbath School program make allowance for this part and include in your program only for the Month of May. Encourage the children to continue with the other months in their various homes.
6. For those in the rural Districts plan how you can do the following Prayer activities in your village churches and share with the Director what you will do.
7. **On the 19th of May 2018** ask every child in your local church to make 7 prayer cards for Children at risk similar to what they were given and bundle them up with rubber bands. **By the 26th Sabbath of May 2018** Children Ministry leaders will provide baskets and children will stand at the church entrance after Divine Service with the baskets of prayer requests for the church members to pick and take home with them to pray for the prayer requests. Ask children to do more prayer requests if they have the resource. # Collect off cut papers from GPO.

The Abused Enthroned Generation Praise

Each generation tells of your faithfulness to the next. Isaiah 38: 19 (NLT)

Sermon

Written By; Pr John Nebare

Introduction

God will always turn the negative situations into positive outcomes for His glory. Every dark story of individuals, a nation or group, God will always have a better side for them. And you find that picture with Joseph. There are some stories in the Bible that have portrayed images of violence and abuse. But there is one specific incident of violence story recorded in Genesis 37:19-28. It is about Joseph. His elder brothers abused him and violently mistreated him. Their action against Joseph was violence caused against him.

Key Text: Genesis 37:19-28

Gen 37:1 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer is coming. **Gen 37:20** Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit; and we will say, some evil beast hath devoured him; and we shall see what will become of his dreams. **Gen 37:21** And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him from their hands: and said, Let us not kill him. **Gen 37:22** And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood; cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might deliver him from their hands, to bring him back to his father. **Gen 37:23** And it came to pass when Joseph had come to his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his coat, *his* coat of *many* colours that *was* on him. **Gen 37:24** And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty; *there was* no water in it. **Gen 37:25** And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a company of Ishmaelite's came from Gilead, with their camels bearing spices, and balm, and myrrh, going to carry *them* down to Egypt. **Gen 37:26** And Judah said to his brethren, what profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood. **Gen 37:27** Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelite's, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother, our flesh: and his brethren were content. **Gen 37:28** Then there passed by Midianites, merchants; and they drew and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelite's for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph in to Egypt.

Is Violence the Plan of God?

Many times we see the end of the story as Joseph being the saviour to his own families in time of hunger. We concluded that it was God's plan for Joseph to be abused and mistreated so that his divine plan would be fulfilled. We may see this way but God may not see it this way as the way to fulfil his divine plan. Joseph later in his life acknowledged that it was God's plan that he was in Egypt as he reconciled to his brothers in Egypt. God's plan for Joseph to be a leader was shown to him in his dream of the eleven stars with sun and moon circling his star and the eleven head of wheat bowing to his wheat standing in their mist. But

the way to get to Egypt and fulfil that divine plan may not necessarily through actions of his brothers. God could have brought Joseph to Egypt through other means in order to fulfil His plan. As we look at the story of Joseph purely on legal issues, his brothers have violated all the international laws on human rights. There are three areas that his brothers have violated;

1. They abused him and mistreated him by throwing him into a dry well

2. Human trafficking – sold him to the Ishmaelite

3. International abduction – taking Joseph to Egypt against his will and without his parents' approval and knowledge. His brothers could stand trial before international courts for these. The crime they committed is serious enough to stand trial. When you observe these actions of the brothers you cannot conclude it was approved by God. God turned the situation of Joseph around for the good.

Prayer Time: Take this time to pray for who may be suffering from such treatment.

1. Pray for innocent children who have gone through such ordeal around the world as mentioned above.

2. Pray for our children in our country, home, societies and villages and towns.

3. Pray for our children in the church who may be abused by their caregivers or any other adults.

4. Pray for the most vulnerable orphans in our church and societies.

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is for the children (**Matt.19:13-14; Mark 9:37; 10:13-14**). How many times do adults ignore this teaching of Jesus? Bible has accounts of ministry related to children both in the OT and NT. Examples, Elijah ministered to the widow's son (**1Kings 17:22- 23**). Elisha also did the same to the son of the hosting family (**2Kings 4:32**). Jesus also ministered to number of children, healed demon possessed (**Matt. 15:22-28**), raise the dead girl (**Matt. 9:18-24**) and laid hands on some children brought to Him by mothers (**Mark 10:13-14**). Other accounts demonstrated the image how God's kingdom has the character of fairness, love and inclusiveness of all humanity.

Conclusion: What is Church Doing to address this Problem?

Churches should now have the same approach to our young children and provide special ministry for them and look in their eyes and see them as Jesus would have if He was here today physically. Churches will be held accountable for mistreating children in an abusive manner. Read the warning of Jesus below; Mat 18:6 But whoever shall cause one of these little ones who believe in me, to sin, it were better for him that *a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea* The statement of Jesus carried the seriousness of our treatment to children. It is about time the church takes a proactive approach in addressing the issue of child abuse in homes, church and community. Families and church should treat their children, whether in discipline or others in manner deemed appropriate to them and not so cruel and badly treated. Remember Children are God's heritage (**Psalms 127:3**) the family and the church are custodians. God bless and happy Reading'