

# GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Children's Ministries

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
Adventist  
Children's  
Ministries  
1995-2020  
*anniversary*



EVERY CHILD A DISCIPLE OF JESUS





**25<sup>th</sup>**  
Adventist  
Children's  
Ministries  
1995-2020  
*anniversary*



Adventist<sup>®</sup>  
Children's Ministries  
GENERAL CONFERENCE WORLD HEADQUARTERS

**Silver Anniversary** *Commemorative Book*

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# DEDICATION

## FOR ALL CHILDREN'S LEADERS & TEACHERS

To all children's leaders and teachers who love children and are passionate in leading children to say Yes to Jesus. You have spent countless hours serving children in:

- ♥ Sabbath Schools
- ♥ Vacation Bible Schools
- ♥ Children's Camps
- ♥ Service Projects
- ♥ Leadership Training
- ♥ Child Evangelism
- ♥ Discipleship Training
- ♥ Prayer Conferences

Your belief that every child is a disciple of Jesus has propelled you to labor selflessly and sacrificially for this *special* people group of God's kingdom.

## FOR OUR CHILDREN

To all the children who fill our churches and halls of activities. God loves each one of you. Your boundless energy, curiosity, and questions inspire us to create new ways to help you grow your faith. You have taught us what it means to be childlike in trust, humility, and genuine love for people as a prerequisite for entering the kingdom.

## FOR GOD

To our God. You have given us children as our heritage and joy. May our offering of time and commitment to pointing these little ones to Jesus will bring you glory and delight.



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Ted . N.C. Wilson  
President

Brother and sisters of the world Church,

Congratulations on this important milestone of the 25th Anniversary of the General Conference Children's Ministries department!

Throughout the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, there has been a most precious work of ministering to children and nurturing them into a loving, serving, and saving relationship with Jesus. We thank God that since 1995, when the Children's Ministries became an official department of the world Church, the church has continued to faithfully nurture, resource, advocate, build and fortify the spiritual growth of children and adolescents. We rejoice that the words found in Psalms 78:4, have been in the hearts and actions of many throughout the years, "We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (NKJV).

We appreciate the commitment of our past pioneers who recognized the importance of ministering to children. We also want to express our gratitude and share a word of encouragement to the current leadership for their efforts to continue the mission. Linda Koh, Director of the Children's Ministries department, Saustin Mfune, our recently retired Associate Director, and Tanya Muganda, Administrative Assistant, what you have done to cultivate and develop the Children's Ministries department to what it has become does not go unnoticed. This is a mighty work that is unmatched and extremely necessary. Through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit you inspire, encourage,

and train children and leaders in the right path. God has a promise for you: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might", "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Eccl. 9:10 and Col. 3:24).

To all the children who have chosen to use their talents for Jesus, we praise God for your choice! I hope you know how much Jesus loves you, values you, and needs you; and know that He has a place for you and your talents in His church. Remember that whatever ability God has given you, you can use it for Him, and He will make room for more blessings upon you.

If you have chosen Jesus as your best friend you will want to share this joy with your friends, your family and many others, to meet Him and know more about Him. By doing this, you too are part, of Total Member Involvement—everyone, everywhere doing something for Jesus. In a wonderful book called *Our High Calling*, God's messenger says, "He [Jesus] is our best friend, and we should seek for opportunities to speak of Him.... We should ever keep Him in view."

May God bless your commitment and total surrender to Him, and "as little children," may you continue to choose Jesus as your best friend. May our leaders continue yearning to Reach a Child, Reach the World, for Jesus is coming soon!

Maranatha!

Ted . N.C. Wilson  
President



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE VICE- PRESIDENT, ADVISOR TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Ella Smith Simmons, EdD  
General Vice President

Dr. Linda Koh and the Worldwide Network of Children's Ministries Leaders throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

Congratulations on your anniversary of 25 years of faithful service and ministry as a department to the children of the Church and in turn to their families. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is privileged to celebrate with you the point at which Children's Ministries became an officially appointed entity of the General Conference followed by aligned departments throughout the entire world. Thank you for preserving and enhancing our Church's long history of ministry to its children stemming from God's injunction to parents and caregivers found in Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NIV) to:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

This passage along with the admonition of Proverbs 22:6 to: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (NIV) has reverberate in one form or another in the hearts and minds of parents throughout history and certainly has been the inspiration for parents who intentionally seek to develop a Christlike character in their children. Yet, history has chronicled the despairing reality that parents have not always heeded these words. Even cursory observations bare this out in our minds.

In today's world there are perhaps more children than ever who are growing up outside a church or faith-based environment. These children are unfamiliar with scripture and have not been carefully guided in the development of Christian traits, morals, and values. In many cases this is largely due to the fact that their parents themselves did not have a Christian upbringing. Therefore, they lack the knowledge base and skills to give Godly guidance and examples to their children, although many long to do so. These parents include those who are new in their walk with Jesus and new to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or simply those who do not understand child development. They have needed the help of the Church in this regard. When parents and children have needed developmental guidance the SDA Church has been there to encourage and teach them the way of the Lord for child development.

Since 1863 with Adelia Patten's publication of a little two-year series of Bible lessons for children up to this day with the multifaceted productions you and your team provide, Dr. Koh, the record portrays the passion of children's ministries leaders for lovingly nurturing the faith of our children and involving them in the life of the church. This spirit with its attendant hard work has propelled the department to develop

a plethora of inspired resources for children, parents, and children's ministries leaders for the purpose of discipling our children. In this ministry you have equipped and guided many for training up the children in the way they should go, so that even when they are old, they will not depart from it. Please continue to minister and advocate for children as priority in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. My humble words express my witness and desire as your partner in ministry, a fellow educator, and most significantly a grandmother.

My unchanging prayer is that each of you will achieve all that God calls from you and that you will be blessed in your families as you make eternal differences in the lives of other families.

Sincerely,

*Ella S. Simmons*

Ella Smith Simmons, EdD  
General Vice President



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



Linda Mei Lin Koh, Director  
General Conference

Dear Directors, Children's Leaders and Teachers, and All Who  
Are Passionate About Children:

We praise the Lord for His guidance and leading of the  
Children's Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist  
Church these past 25 years. From the General Conference  
headquarters to all around the world church, children have  
been led to Jesus, nurtured in their faith, and trained as leaders,  
using their various gifts of preaching, teaching, praying, singing,  
writing, memorizing Scripture, and many more to glorify God.

As we celebrate 25 years of Children's Ministries, let us not  
forget those who have gone before us; those who have  
pioneered new ways of teaching and reaching children in our  
churches and in the community. Let us continue committedly  
and passionately to reach this **special** people group of God's  
kingdom.

Children's Ministries experts tell us: "Train A Child Today; Build  
the Church Tomorrow." Yes, building tomorrow's church begins  
with today's children! There is still much work to do. Let's  
continue to go forward and impact the next generation, the  
*Generation Z* digital natives for Jesus, the Great Master. May  
God fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit to touch the lives  
of children, helping them to develop a loving relationship with  
Jesus, inspiring them to witness for Him, and empowering  
them to use their gifts and talents to serve Him and their  
community.

Prepare our children for the imminent return of Jesus Christ!  
Be **Faith Builders!**

Stronger Children, Stronger Church,

Linda Mei Lin Koh, Director  
General Conference

## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

(Retired July 2020)



Saustin Mfune,  
Retired Associate Director,  
General Conference.

The Children's Ministries department, the bedrock of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was created twenty-five years ago in 1995 during the Holland GC Session. I served as the first Children's Ministries director in the Eastern Africa Division which by then was headquartered in Harare, Zimbabwe. Since the department's inception, it has been my privilege to interact with children and children's leaders until my recent retirement on December 31, 2020. While serving children provides several privileges, allow me to mention only one. Should there be mishaps in the tender years of children, you help correct the ills by treating the source.

What do I mean by treating the source? The treating the source philosophy is based on the Jericho City story as referenced in 2 Kings 2:19-22. The inhabitants of Jericho approached prophet Elisha and told him that though the city was beautiful, the water was bad and the ground was barren. Elisha's solution to the problem was to *treat the source of the river*. Once the source was treated, the situation was resolved.

By working with children at a young age, and by interacting with parents, you have the privilege of treating the source of character development. A daunting task but a great honour.

As I conclude, allow my imagination to get a little wild. I can see myself in heaven. I am on a street called *Saustin Mfune*

*Saved by Grace Boulevard*. Then suddenly I hear a voice shouting from behind me. "Uncle Saustin! Shorty, Shorty. I can spot you a mile away." I turn around and see a boy racing towards me. I open my arms wide and the boy jumps into them. We hug each other. His face beaming with joy the boy says, "You came to our country and told us a story about yourself. And then you sang a song – *They used to call me Shorty, Shorty*. That inspired me and changed my life completely. If you will be telling stories here, you are sure to see me in the audience. And thanks for coming to our country. Let me go now." Before he walks away, he looks at me and says, "By the way my sister and my parents are here too. Talk to you latter."

As the boy sprints off, tears of joy flood my eyes. I say to myself, 'Working with children was worth it all!' As I look ahead, I see Jesus walking towards me. I smile and say to myself, "Thank you Jesus for starting Children's Ministries. When your disciples wanted to block children who wanted to see you, you rebuked them. You told them that you were a friend of children, for heaven is for children as well." Matthew 19:14 NIV.

May God bless you friends as you continue to serve Children's Ministries Department which goes way beyond the 1995 Holland GC Session.

Happy Silver Anniversary Children's Ministries Department.

Saustin Samson Mfune – D.Min  
Retired GC Associate Children's Ministries Director

# OUR MISSION

## Mission Statement:

The Children's Ministries Department seeks to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus.

We seek to fulfill our mission by developing the following:

1. **Grace-oriented ministries**, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him and develop their faith.
2. **Inclusive ministries**, in which the volunteers who minister and the children to whom they minister will be valued and involved regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic status.
3. **Leadership ministries**, in which volunteers are empowered, trained, and equipped for effective ministry to children.
4. **Service-oriented ministries**, in which children are given opportunities for hands-on service to people in their neighborhood or community, which could establish a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life.
5. **Cooperative ministries**, which involve working in partnership with other ministries, such as family ministries, Sabbath School, health ministries and stewardship ministries, to support and help parents develop the faith of their children.
6. **Safe ministries**, whereby our churches adopt safeguards to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse; to choose volunteers with high spiritual and moral backgrounds; and to minimize the church's liability.
7. **Evangelistic ministries**, in which children who are not enfolded in the church family will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach-programs such as Vacation Bible Schools, neighborhood Bible clubs, health EXPO, story hour, children's camp and others.



# OUR PHILOSOPHY

Children's Ministries seeks to develop the faith of children ages birth to fourteen. While Sabbath School provides for religious education once a week, Children's Ministries looks at the whole child and seeks to provide multiple ministries through nurturing programs and initiatives that will lead children to Jesus and disciple them in their daily walk with Him.

We desire to partner with parents in this discipleship journey for studies have shown that parents have the greatest impact on their children and their children's faith. Hence, Children's Ministries will work diligently to empower and resource parents to disciple their children who in turn will disciple others.

Indeed, we want every child to say YES to Jesus. We want every child to develop intimacy with Jesus through prayer, Bible studies, and outreach. We believe Every Child is a Disciple of Jesus!



The Bible makes it very clear that children are very special to God. If you examine what the Bible says about children, you will notice a great number of perspectives:

- *Children are a gift from God.* He gives children to parents as special sign of love and personal fulfillment (Deut. 7:13; Ps. 127:3).
- *Children are desirable.* From creation, God has instructed us to bear children (Gen. 9:7; Deut. 6:3).
- *Children bring joy and blessings to adults.* God provides many benefits to parents through parenting their children (Num 5:28; Deut. 28:4,11).
- *Children need to be taught how to develop a relation with God.* One of our greatest challenges is to pass on our beliefs and understanding of God to our children (Exod. 12:26,37; Deut. 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6).
- *Children are so valuable to God that He commands us to protect them.* Parent are to ensure the spiritual and physical security of their children (1 Sam. 20:42; Ezra 8:21).
- *God loves children enough to ensure that they receive discipline.* (Prov. 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; Eph. 6:4).
- *God enjoys the nature and personality of children and asks adults to learn from them.* Scripture identifies attributes such as sincerity, humility, simplicity, and trusting as qualities found in children, and God treasures these characteristics (Matt. 18:3; 19:14; Phil. 2:15).

If children matter this much to God, then they should matter as much to us, too.

Jesus' Great Commission is: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20). Surly, this includes making disciples of children and leading them to make a personal commitment to Jesus.



# OUR FOCUS GROUPS



## ADVENTIST CHILDREN

Children's Ministries focuses on partnering with families to lead our children within the church to accept Jesus as their Special Friend and to disciple them in a closer walk with Him.



## NON-ADVENTIST CHILDREN

Following the Great Commission given by Jesus, Children's Ministries also focuses on bringing the gospel to children in the community who have never heard the name of Jesus. We want to share the good news of salvation with them.



## AT-RISK CHILDREN

Children's Ministries focuses on helping to alleviate these problems through advocacy, financial assistance, education, and comfort and care. We seek to introduce the children and their families to Jesus Christ who is the great Helper and Comforter.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IN RETROSPECT

## WORK IN THE 1800'S

While it is true that Children's Ministries did not become a full-fledged department of the General Conference until 1995, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had long recognized the importance of ministering to children even back in the 1800's. Work for children began in 1863 when Adelia Patten wrote a two-year series of lessons for children. From 1864 through 1888 children's lessons were published in the *Youth's Instructor*, most of which centered around biblical history and narrative Bible stories. In 1869 G. H. Bell wrote a series of lessons for children. In 1890 *Our Little Friend* began carrying the Sabbath School lessons for primary and kindergarten children which lasted for sixty-seven years.

## WORK IN THE EARLY 1900'S

The earliest Sabbath school supplies, the memory verse cards (black and white), were first used in 1906, and changed to color in 1915; also, in 1915 there was introduced a series of Eyegate Pictures (no longer used) to illustrate the children's lessons, and the Picture Rolls (now in one-year and three-year cycles of lessons for primary and younger children).

In 1921 sand table cutouts were introduced (purchased then from other publishers), and then then in 1926 the Children's Color Set was added (later Child's Home Color Set). It was later replaced by felt sets of the Bible.

In 1952 the flannel board cutouts were introduced, followed by various patterns, pictures, and other visual aids, now replaced by felt sets of the Bible. Soon books were being developed for reaching children also in the community:

- 1950 R. Breitigam, *The Challenge of Child Evangelism*.
- 1955 *Vacation Bible School Teachers' Guides*.
- 1955 *Vacation Bible School Manual*.





In 1957 *Our Little Friend* began to have Sabbath School lessons for the Cradle Roll children together with the kindergarten children. Sabbath School lessons for primary children appeared in a new publication, *Primary Treasure* in 1957. Sabbath School quarterlies for primary and junior ages started in Australia in 1911-1913, and soon more quarterlies were produced for children for the rest of the English-speaking world. From 1933 to 1936 a series of five volumes called Bible Stories for the Cradle Roll appeared written by Rosamond D. Ginther. Other curriculum materials for children appeared periodically, both from the General Conference Sabbath School Department and from active and enthusiastic teachers and personnel in local Sabbath Schools around the world.

In 1961 through 1965 came *Program Helps for Kindergarten Leaders* in the three-year cycle, and then similar helps for the primary department; also, the cradle roll helps in a one-year cycle. These were discontinued in 1971.

In 1962 *Earliten Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly*, produced for the young people in grades 9 and 10, changed the next year to grades 7 and 8 (12-14 years of age); these lessons were carried also in *Guide*.

In 1964 Louise Meyer produced *How to Conduct Cradle Roll and Kindergarten Institutes and Workshops*. This was revised in 1974.

In 1965 the following were produced:

- William J. Harris, *A Manual for Conducting Sabbath School Institutes and Workshops for Leaders and Teachers of the Primary Division*. It was revised in 1974 and entitled *How to Conduct Primary Institutes and Workshops*; and Curtis Barger, *How to Conduct Junior and Earliten Division Institutes and Workshops*.
- William J. Harris, *The Challenge of Vacation Bible School Evangelism*.
- William J. Harris, compiler and editor, *Vacation Bible School Crafts and How to Make Them*.
- Ethel Grace Stones, *Finger Plays for Tiny Tots, Cradle Roll* (revision of *Finger Plays for Tiny Tots* by same author).

**1863**

Adelia Patten wrote a two-year series of lessons for children

**1869**

G. H. Bell wrote a series of lessons for children.

**1890**

*Our Little Friend* began carrying the Sabbath School lessons.

**1921**

Sand table cutouts were introduced.

**1952**

The flannel board cutouts were introduced.

**1957**

*Our Little Friend* began to have Sabbath School lessons for the Cradle Roll and the kindergarten children.

- Ethel Grace Stones, *Finger Plays for Tiny Tots, Kindergarten* (revision of *Finger Plays for Tiny Tots* by same author).
- Louise Meyer, *Pointers and Patterns for Teachers of Tiny Tots*, Nos. 3 and 4, revised.
- Vera Groomer, *Illustrating Sabbath Songs for Cradle Roll* [8 1967].
- Vera Groomer, *Illustrating Sabbath Songs for Kindergarten* [8 1968].

Also available are Vacation Bible School program and nature materials on three levels (kindergarten, primary, junior) for a three-year cycle and camp meeting lessons on three levels (cradle roll, kindergarten, primary) on a three-year cycle. These were revised in 1976, 1984, and 1993.

In January 1971 *Program Helps* and *Teaching Aids* were begun as separate publications on seven levels from cradle roll through adult. Other aids were available such as memory verse cards and Picture Rolls published

by the *Review and Herald* for the General Conference Church Ministries Department. Also available were felt materials and miscellaneous items from independent Seventh-day Adventist producers of Sabbath school supplies.

Throughout the 1970's till the early 1980's, several important books were published to help enhance the teaching of children in Sabbath Schools. Such a list includes:

- 1974 R. Curtis Barger, *Juniors? Help!*
- 1980 W. Richard Leshner, *Tips for Teachers*.
- 1981 Alice Lowe, *Building Little Christians*.
- 1983 Habenicht and Bell, *How to Teach Children in Sabbath School*

### 1961

Began the *Program Helps for Kindergarten Leaders*.

### 1962

*Earliteen Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* was produced.

### 1964

Louise Meyer produced *How to Conduct Cradle Roll and Kindergarten Institutes and Workshops*.

### 1965

See all the titles above that were produced.

### 1971

Felt materials and miscellaneous items were available.



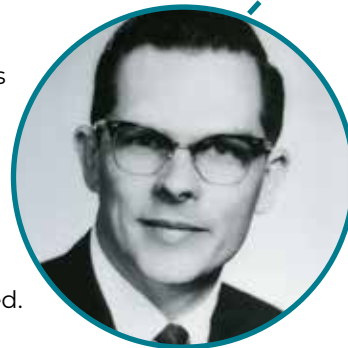
## PIONEERS IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### MEN LEADERS

In the 1960's several men took an active part in the children's ministries department: Curtis Barger, Tom Ashlock, and Ben Leibelt.



**1. R. CURTIS BARGER**, Associate Secretary, Sabbath School Department, General Conference was active in providing training for Sabbath School teachers for children. He was fascinated with Eric Hare's children's stories that he wrote a book about the life of Eric Hare. In 1974, he wrote *Juniors? Help!*



**2. TOM ASHLOCK** started his ministry as a missionary to Northeast India where he spent six years in raising church schools, helping children and parents, and serving in many areas of need. He then returned to United States to serve and then returned to serve in the Southern African Division. At the 1980 GC Session in Dallas, Texas, Tom Ashlock was elected as an associate director of the Sabbath School Department at the General Conference to serve from 1980-1985. During his term of service, he was responsible for developing a new Vacation Bible School program, with pencil activities being placed in the *Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure*.



**3. BEN LIEBELT** began his work in pastoral ministry and later went on to serve in several unions as presidents. During the years he served as an associate director of the Sabbath school department at the General Conference, he was an avid promoter of Vacation Bible School. He encouraged local churches everywhere to run Vacation Bible Schools to reach children within the church as well as children in the community.

### WOMEN LEADERS

At the same time, several women in North America who had a passion for children also developed materials for them. They were Maureen Luxton, Helen Craig, Louise Myers, and Alice Lowe.



**1. LOUISE MYERS,** Assistant Secretary of the Sabbath School Department at the General Conference directed the spiritual education activities of the cradle roll and kindergarten divisions of the Sabbath schools. She traveled extensively throughout the United States and to foreign lands to assist in the development and growth of the Sabbath school work for children. Louise Myers wrote a series of program books for the Cradle Roll and Kindergarten levels. In 1964 she wrote *How to Conduct Cradle Roll and Kindergarten Institutes and Workshops* which was revised in 1974. Then in 1967 she wrote *Teaching Tiny Tots*.



**2. ALICE LOWE,** served at the General Conference as the cradle roll, kindergarten and primary Sabbath school secretary in the late 1970's. She had such a passion for teaching Sabbath School that it was said that when she visited Britain in 1978 to train children's Sabbath School teachers, "she lit a trail of burning enthusiasm for teaching the children in Sabbath school." (reported from Messenger, British Isles, 1978).

She demonstrated teaching aids and techniques, showing the teachers how to make Sabbath School interesting and captivating for children. She inspired every one of her love, understanding, and devotion to the inestimable importance of bringing our children to a personal knowledge of their Savior. After Alice's training, many churches throughout the union fields began to organize workshops for training children's Sabbath School teachers. Then at the General Conference Session in Dallas, Texas, she was elected to serve as an associate Sabbath School director from 1980-1985. In 1981 Alice Lowe wrote *Building Little Christians* and a songbook for children, *See' n' Sing*.



**3. MAUREEN LUXTON,** the Education and Sabbath School director of the British Union was called to serve as an associate director of the Sabbath School Department at the General Conference in 1980. With her rich background and experience in education and her belief in the value of properly equipped teachers for the younger children in Sabbath School, Mrs. Luxton did a lot to reframe some of the children's Primary Sabbath School lesson quarterlies while she was there. She served till December 1982 when she passed away due to an illness.



**4. HELEN CRAIG,** former Sabbath School associate director for children's Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, and children evangelism served from 1985-1989. During this time children's ministries received its impetus from the vision and prompting of Helen Craig.



**5. Virginia Smith,**  
joined the Sabbath  
School Department  
for children's Sabbath  
School in 1989 after Helen

Craig retired. Then she continued to serve as the Children's Ministries director under the Church Ministries Department from 1990-1995. At the 1995 General Conference Session at Utrecht, Children's Ministries became a full department, the first to be voted on the floor. Virginia Smith went on to serve as the director from 1995-2002. During this time, she did a lot of organization and shaping of the ministry for the children of the world church. She pioneered in the teaching of Sabbath School using the Bible Timeline. The department also produced the first children's adapted version of Ellen White's *Great Controversy*. Virginia Smith traveled widely to the divisions to provide training for children's leaders on all levels of the church.



**6. Linda Mei Lin Koh,** former director of Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries of Southern Asia-Pacific Division joined the Children's Ministries Department at the General Conference serving from 2003-present. She expanded the work of Children's Ministries tremendously with the goal of resourcing and equipping the children's leaders through leadership certification courses produced every year. To nurture the faith of the children, the department has produced many resources, both digital and print, in the areas of health, prayer, Bible studies, community service, and others. In 2006, Linda launched the Kids in Discipleship initiative in the world divisions to equip parents to disciple their children. In January 2021, a website for children has been developed and come April, two new Apps for children will also be launched. Linda has presented seminars, authored books, and written articles for Adventist publications.

## CHILDREN'S WORK UNDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Although there was no organized departmental work for children, but at the 1985 General Conference session in New Orleans, the Church Ministries Department was created, which was formed from a merger of four departments: Sabbath School/Lay Activities, Stewardship and Development, Youth, and Home and Family Service. This department includes services and support for children's ministries work, but it was not until the 1987 world advisory that children's ministries emerged as a new ministry within the Church Ministries Department.

This new department has sponsored a number of books by our publishing houses for children's Sabbath school teachers:

- 1945 Eric B. Hare, *Those Juniors*.
- 1949 Clara M. Striplin, *Those Tiny Tots*.
- 1950 R. Breitigam, *The Challenge of Child Evangelism*.
- 1955 *Vacation Bible School Teachers' Guides*.
- 1955 *Vacation Bible School Manual*.
- 1974 Curtis Barger, *Juniors? Help!*
- 1980 Richard Lesher, *Tips for Teachers*.
- 1981 Alice Lowe, *Building Little Christians*.
- 1983 Habenicht and Bell, *How to Teach Children in Sabbath School*.



Church Ministries also sponsored songbooks for the children. Following is a list of Sabbath school songbooks for children:

- 1926 *Sunshine Songs for Boys and Girls.*
- 1932 *Joyful Songs.*
- 1951 *Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, book 1.*
- 1952 *Happy Songs for Boys and Girls.*
- 1952 *Sabbath School Songs (Songs of Praise).*
- 1955 *Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, book 2.*
- 1955 *Children Sing.*
- 1960 *Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, book 3.*
- 1964 *Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, Cradle Roll.*
- 1964 *Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, Kindergarten (these two a revision of Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, books 1, 2, and 3).*
- 1967 *More Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots.*
- 1975 *Primary Songbook.*
- 1980 *New Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, Cradle Roll; New Sabbath Songs for Tiny Tots, Kindergarten.*
- 1981 Alice Lowe, *See' n' Sing.*

This department, in cooperation with the Review and Herald and Pacific Press Publishing Associations produced Sabbath school quarterlies for children. These included the Kindergarten Sabbath School Lessons, Primary Sabbath School Lessons, Junior Sabbath School Lessons, Earliteen Sabbath School Lessons, and Mission (children's edition). The department also produced program helps for cradle roll, primary, and junior/earliteen Sabbath school leaders.

From 1985-1990, children's ministries received its impetus from the vision and prompting of Helen Craig, former Sabbath School associate director for children's Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, and children evangelism. From 1990-1995, Virginia Smith led out in the work for children's ministries as one of the various support ministries of the Church Ministries Department.





## EMERGENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The 1995 General Conference session at Utrecht marks a watershed for children's ministries. On July 4, 1995, A. H. Tolhurst proposed a motion from the floor that the Children's Ministries Department be established as a separate ministry, a separate department of the church. It was seconded and voted, and children's ministries became the newest department of the church, the only department in history to be suggested from the floor at a session. Virginia Smith became the first director of the newly formed department and she served from 1995-2002.

In 2003, Linda Mei Lin Koh who was the Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries director of Southern-Asia Pacific Division was called to the General Conference to lead out in the department after Virginia Smith retired. Her passion for nurturing the faith of our children and involving them in the life of the church has propelled the department to:

- Develop resources, both print and digital, for children and leaders;
- Initiate leadership certification and discipleship training; and
- Advocate for children as priority within the church.



## CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In the year 2000 a new children's curriculum was written for the world church. This was a product of creative thinking and evaluation by many representatives from all the world divisions. Known as *GraceLink*, this new curriculum stresses four core aspects of the Christian faith:

- **Grace**, God's part in the plan of salvation.
- **Worship**, our response to God's saving initiative.
- **Community**, how God's grace compels us to live together in harmony as the family of God; and
- **Service**, our response to God's love as we reach out in soul-winning and service to others.

With the advancement of technology, the development of podcast and animations of the *Gracelink* lessons were introduced to reach children of this digital age. They were well received by both children and parents as statistics showed a large number of hits each week.

After twenty years of using the *Gracelink* lessons, the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department decided to develop a new curriculum for children in the new quinquennium known as *Alive in Jesus*. Nina Atcheson from Australia is the managing editor for the development of this curriculum for babies all the way up to Earliteens.

Today, Children's Ministries has become a worldwide ministry with every division in the world field having a director to oversee the work of spiritual nurturing and training for children. Moreover, many unions and conferences also elect directors to minister to children and to disciple them in their faith development.



# 25-YEAR MILESTONES OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



- 1995** First director of the department elected was Dr. Virginia Smith
- 1996** First CHM World Advisory organized and held at Mt. Aetna Retreat Center, Hagerstown, Maryland.
- 1999** Children's Sabbath School curriculum *Gracelink* was launched beginning with the juniors and earliteens lessons Powerpoint.
- 2000** First Ellen White's book, *The Great Controversy*, was adapted for children entitled, *Michael Asks Why*.
- 2004** The departmental newsletter, *KidsNewsZone*, was published.
- 2005** GC Children's Ministries website was launched for children's leaders and teachers.
- 2006** Kids in Discipleship was launched in divisions for training parents to disciple their children with trainer, Pastor Don MacLafferty. Trans-European Division was the first division to provide this training for their union children's leaders.
- 2007** Leadership Certification program was developed to train children's leaders and teachers on all levels of the church.
- 2009** Celebration of the Year of the Child in all divisions to highlight the importance of children.
- 2011** Production of *Healthy Inside & Out*, the first 2-min audio spots for radio broadcast for children produced by Charles Mills.
- 2013** Production of the first video for children entitled *Creation Case* produced by Richard Aguilera.
- 2016** Launching of the first animation for children, *A Musical Journey* by Saustin Mfune, which is filled with fun songs about healthy habits and how to live a healthy lifestyle as they follow Jesus.
- 2017** First international conference held in Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the collaboration of the Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries.
- 2019** Facebook page launched at [www.facebook.com/AdventistChildrensMinistries/](https://www.facebook.com/AdventistChildrensMinistries/)
- 2020** First website for children launched at [www.faithfinders.com](https://www.faithfinders.com)



# PORTRAITS OF DIRECTORS: YEARS OF COMMITMENT

As we look back over these twenty-five years of ministry to children, we want to thank God for His blessings, guidance, and leading of our church in growing this ministry. We are grateful to our church leaders for electing dedicated, passionate, and committed children's leaders to develop this ministry to reach children within the church and in the community.

On behalf of the world church, GC Children's Ministries would like to express our gratitude to all the directors who have served faithfully in the years past and at present. You have used your creative gifts and talents to plan interesting programs to nurture the faith of the children in your territory. You have spent countless hours, worked tirelessly, and even contributed your own money when budgets were

limited. You never gave up because your love and passion for children continue to motivate you to "let all the children come, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Thank you and thank you again! Only in eternity will you reap the joy of seeing the many children whose lives you have impacted; whose lives have been transformed because you have introduced them to Jesus who is their Forever Friend. May God bless you and fill you with the Holy Spirit who will turbo-charge you with renewed energy for your ministry.

Linda Mei Lin Koh  
GC Children's Ministries



## **EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION (ECD)**



**Joy Gashaija**  
2003–2010



**Debbie Maloba**  
2010–Present



## EURO-ASIA DIVISION (ESD)



**Lydia Neikurs**  
1997–2002



**Larisa Andrusiak**  
2003–2005



**Svetlana Sirotkina**  
2005–2010



**Zhanna Kaminskaya**  
2010–Present



## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION (IAD)



**Evelyn Omaña**  
1997–2005



**Gloria Trotman**  
2005–2010

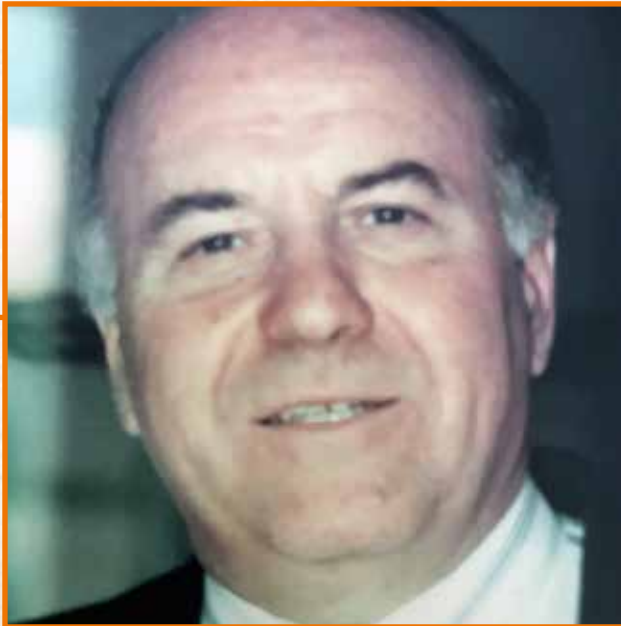




**Dinorah Rivera**  
2010–Present



## INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION (EUD)



**Jose Figols**  
1995–1998



**Corrado Cozzi**  
1998–2000



**Elsa Cozzi**  
2000–Present



## **NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)**



**Noelene Johnsson**  
1988–2006



**Phyllis Washington**  
2006–2014



**Sherri Uhrig**  
2015–Present



## NORTHERN-ASIA PACIFIC DIVISION (NSD)



**Mary Wong**  
1997–2002



**Joshua Shin**  
2002–2005



**Sally Phoon**  
2005–2015



**Lisa Clouzet**  
2015–Present



**Nilde Itin Lust**  
Associate  
2015–2018





## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION (SAD)



**Miriam Berg**  
2002–2003



**Raquel Arrais**  
2003–2005



**Mirta Samojluk**  
2005–2010



**Soledad Álvarez**  
2010–2011



**Graciela de Hein**  
2011–2018



**Glauca Korkischko**  
2018–Present



## **SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION (SPD)**



**Colleen Buxton**  
1991-1996



**Janet Rieger**  
1996-2004



**Julie Weslake**  
2004–2015



**Litiana Turner**  
2006–2010 - Associate  
2015–2021 - CHM Specialist/  
Director



## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION (SID)



**Eugene Fransch**  
2003–2005



**Caroline Chola**  
2006–Present



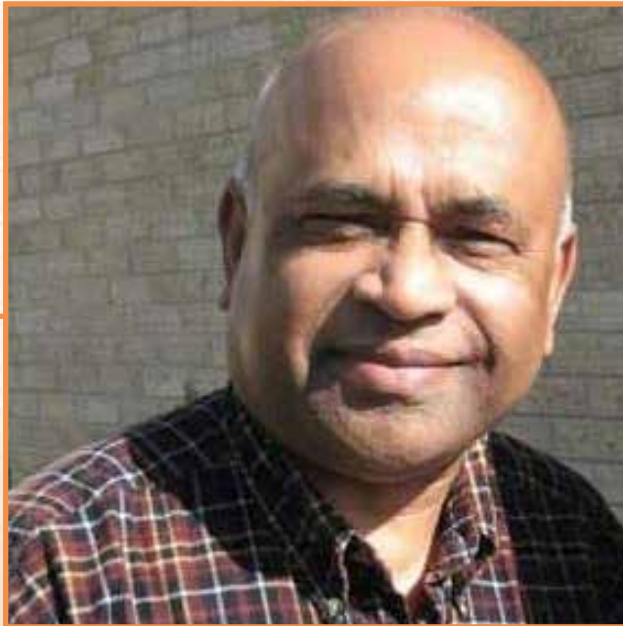
## SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION (SUD)



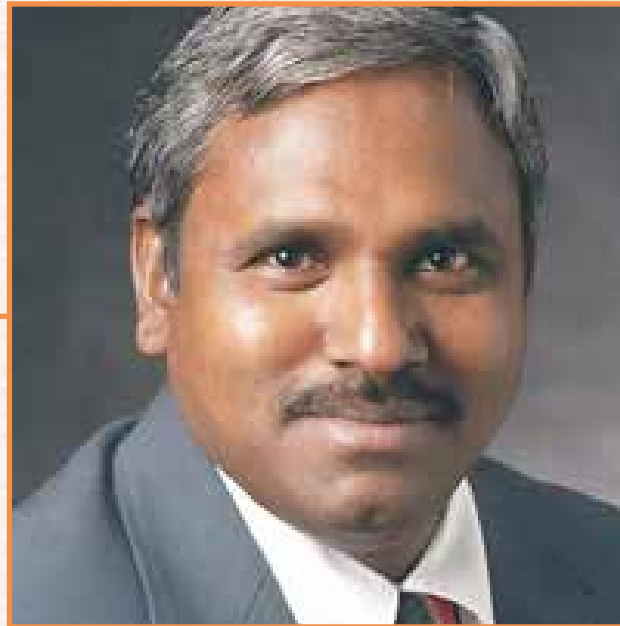
**Margaret Nathaniel**  
1995–2000



**AJ. Tito**  
2000–2005



**MC John**  
2005–2012



**Measapogu Wilson**  
2012–2013





**Victor Sam**  
2013–2015



**Mridula Lakra**  
2015–Present



## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION (SSD)



**Linda Mei Lin Koh**  
1996–2003



**Ellen Missah**  
2003–2005



**Octofien Sumendap**  
2006–2008



**Miriam Andres**  
2009–2015



**Orathai Chureson**  
2016–Present



## TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION (TED)



**Birthe Kendel**  
1995–2000



**Anne-May Wollan**  
2000–2010



**Clair Sanches**  
2010–Present



## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION (WAD)



**Emiliene Rasamoely**  
1995–2003



**Taiwo Roberts**  
2005–2010



**Omobonike Sessou**  
2010–Present





GC ATTACHED UNION/FIELD

**CHINESE UNION MISSION  
(CHUM)**



**Joyce Ng**  
2017–Present

**MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA  
UNION (MENA)**



**Amal Fawzy**  
2014–Present

GC ATTACHED UNION/FIELD

**ISRAEL FIELD (IF)**



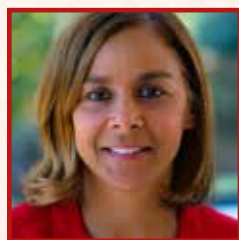
**Svetlana Shchelkunov**  
2007–Present



# KIDS' TALENTS FOR JESUS

Thank you, children, for your participation in our "Kids' Talents for Jesus" event in 2020 to celebrate **25 years of Children's Ministries**. Thank you for using your gifts and talents for Jesus. It is amazing that God has given to each of you many gifts and talents.

We want to thank our three judges who have taken a great deal of time to look through so many of your art and poetry pieces submitted to our office. We appreciate them with gratitude:



**Mrs. Tanya Holland**  
(GC Communication,  
Design Manager)



**Mrs. Wilona Karimabadi**  
(Editor, *KidsView*  
Magazine)



**Dr. Galina Stele**  
(GC Archives, Research and  
Evaluation Manager)

Children, you are precious and important in our Church. We love you all. May you continue to use your gifts and talents to share the love of Jesus in your home, school, and community.



# GOLD RECOGNITION FOR ART

## EURO-ASIA DIVISION

KIDS' TALENTS FOR JESUS - GOLD RECOGNITION FOR ART

60



**Evangelina Bondarenko**  
12 years old



**Igor Odintsov**  
6 years old



**Alena Kaminskaya**  
11 years old



**Yana Zavadyk**  
12 years old



**Pollianna Kolosh**  
12 years old



**Evelina Peshkova**  
10 years old



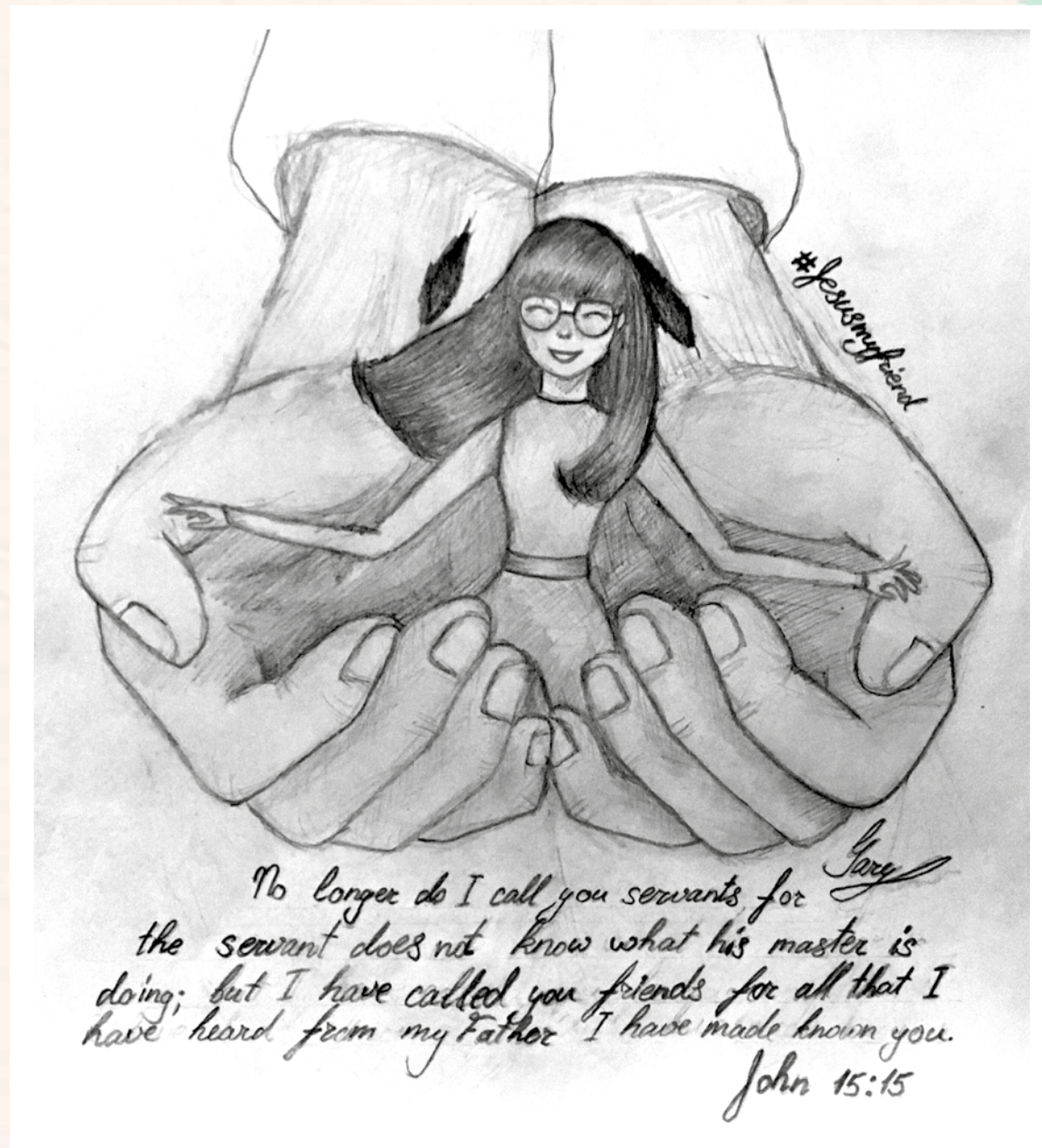
**Elina Bagautdinova**  
5 years old





**Anna Salnikova**  
7 years old

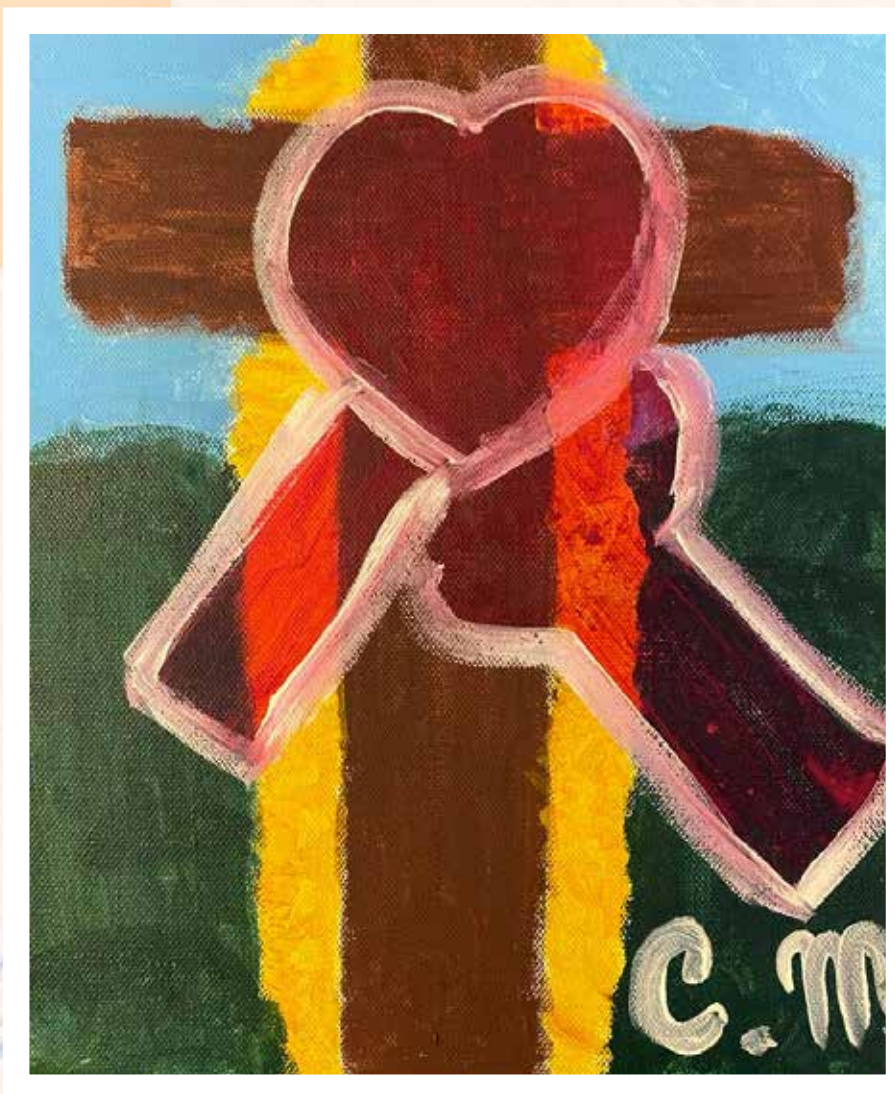
**Yaryna Yarosh**  
14 years old





**Razuvanov Sergey**  
6 years old





**Christine Mazza**  
10 years old



#### EXPLANATION OF THE ARTWORK

The painting wants to testify to the love of Jesus and his immense sacrifice, the passion (the red heart) and the two arms (friends) that come together with love in the heart, by the sacrifice (the cross). Everything blends into the beauty of the various colors (emotions), creating a concert of colors, sounds, emotions and values. The beauty of Jesus, the beauty of love, the beauty of friendship.



**David Nicolas Ionescu**  
9 years old



**Luca Norbert Ionescu**  
6 years old



Jazmin Cruz  
7 years old



**Lara Alvarez**  
7 years old



## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



**Ann-Gaëlle Dorine Simon**  
10 years old



**Adeline Guerra**  
14 years old

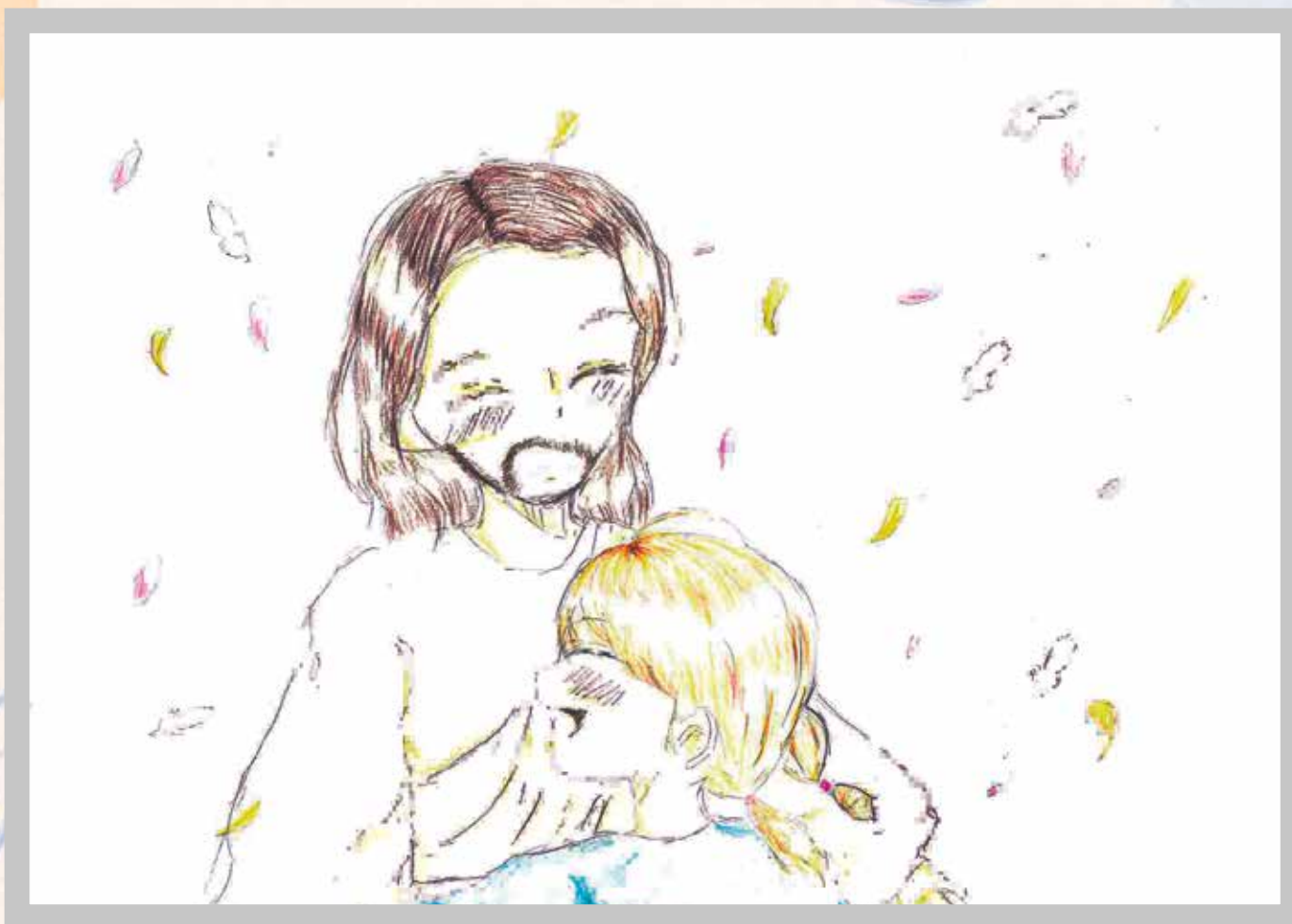


**Ameilia Coulter**  
6 years old



**Jephte Junior Warren Simon**  
11 years old

## NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



**Naomi Hiraga**  
12 years old



Rin Nagakawa  
11 years old



**Yuri Zenke**  
8 years old



**Tomorou Itou**  
10 years old



**Ryouta Arima**  
11 years old





## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION



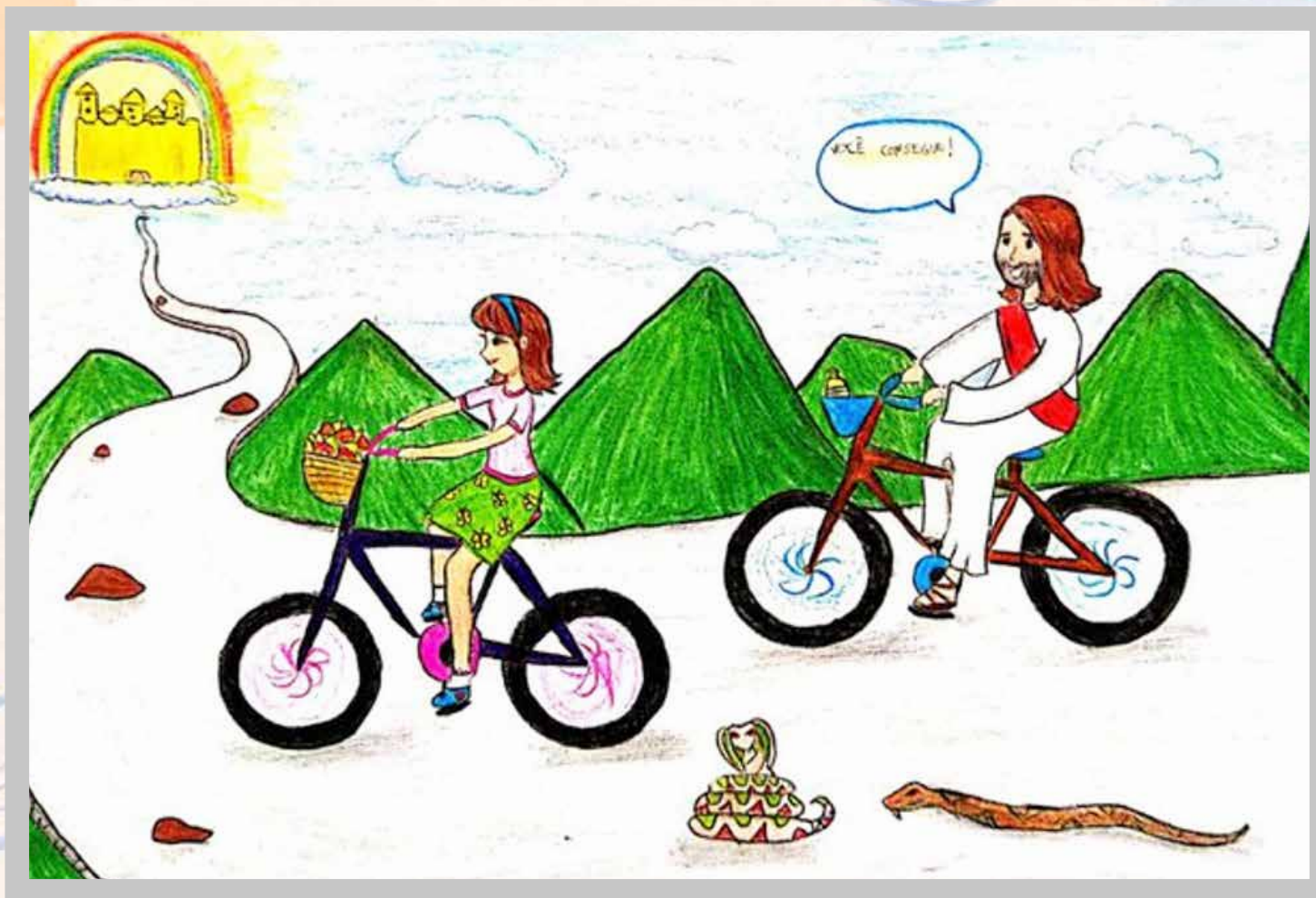
**Carla Elizabeth Silva Espinoza**  
10 years old



**Leticia Martins de Moura**  
12 years old



**Briana Valdivia**  
10 years old

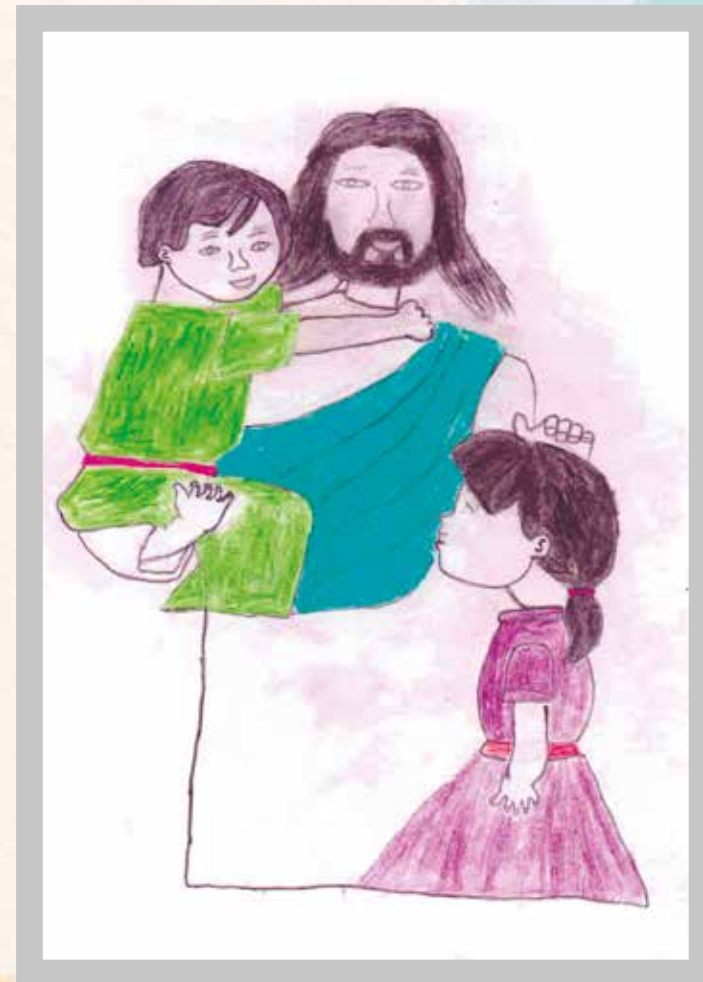


Isabela Gomes de Araujo  
11 years old

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



**Tefison Vololonandrasana**  
14 years old



**Narindraniaina Anjatiana**  
11 years old



**Mamilaza Fidelia**  
6 years old

## SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION



**Emily Hembrom**  
12 years old



**Bencarson Sangma**  
13 years old



**Nyati Bujuk**  
14 years old

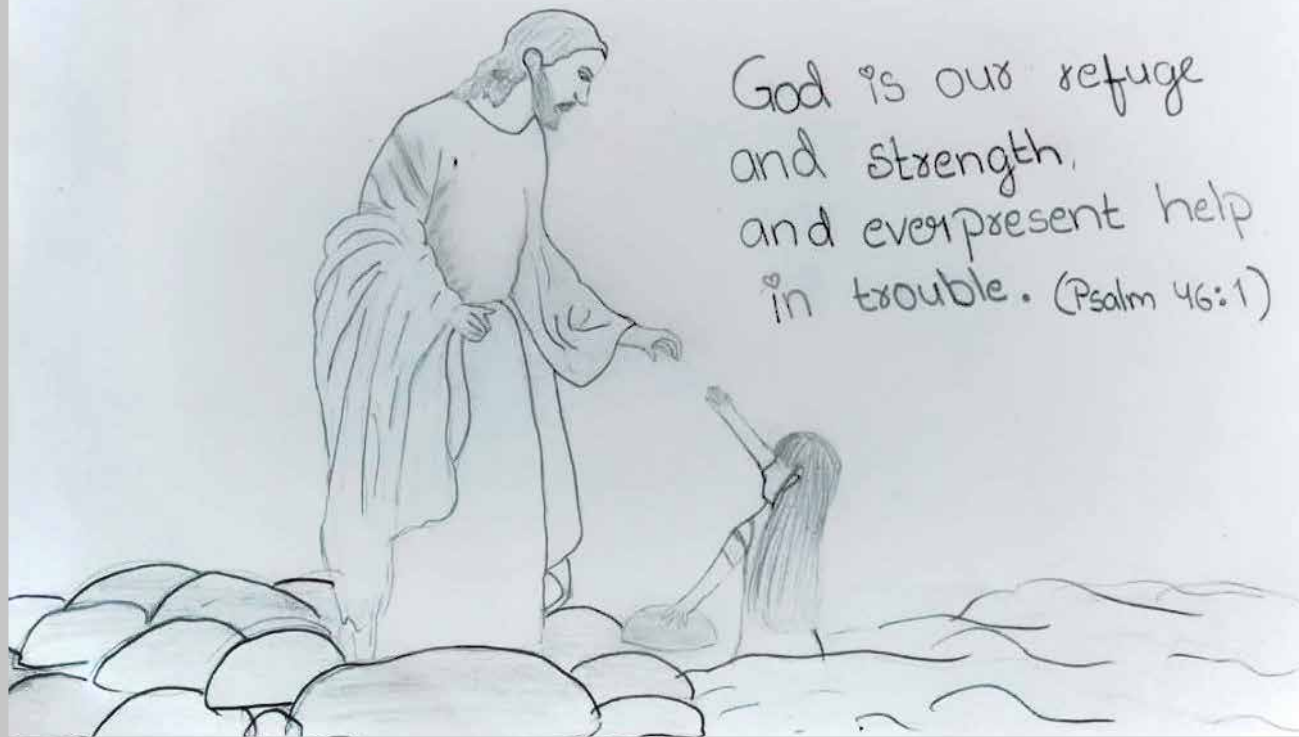


**Lalhlimpuii Basumatary**  
14 years old



Name: Velorine.

THEME: Jesus is my Best-Friend.



**Velorine**  
13 years old





## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



**Paul Emmanuel Gonzales**

13 years old



Auneth Luvi Chrishal Fernando  
7 years old



**Diane Rimi Das**  
11 years old



**Cayla Helickson**  
10 years old



**Aubrey Elaine Cisca Lowden Bukah**  
13 years old



**Arabella Mae Jerry**  
8 years old



**Raphael Jordan Pakpahan**  
6 years old

## TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION



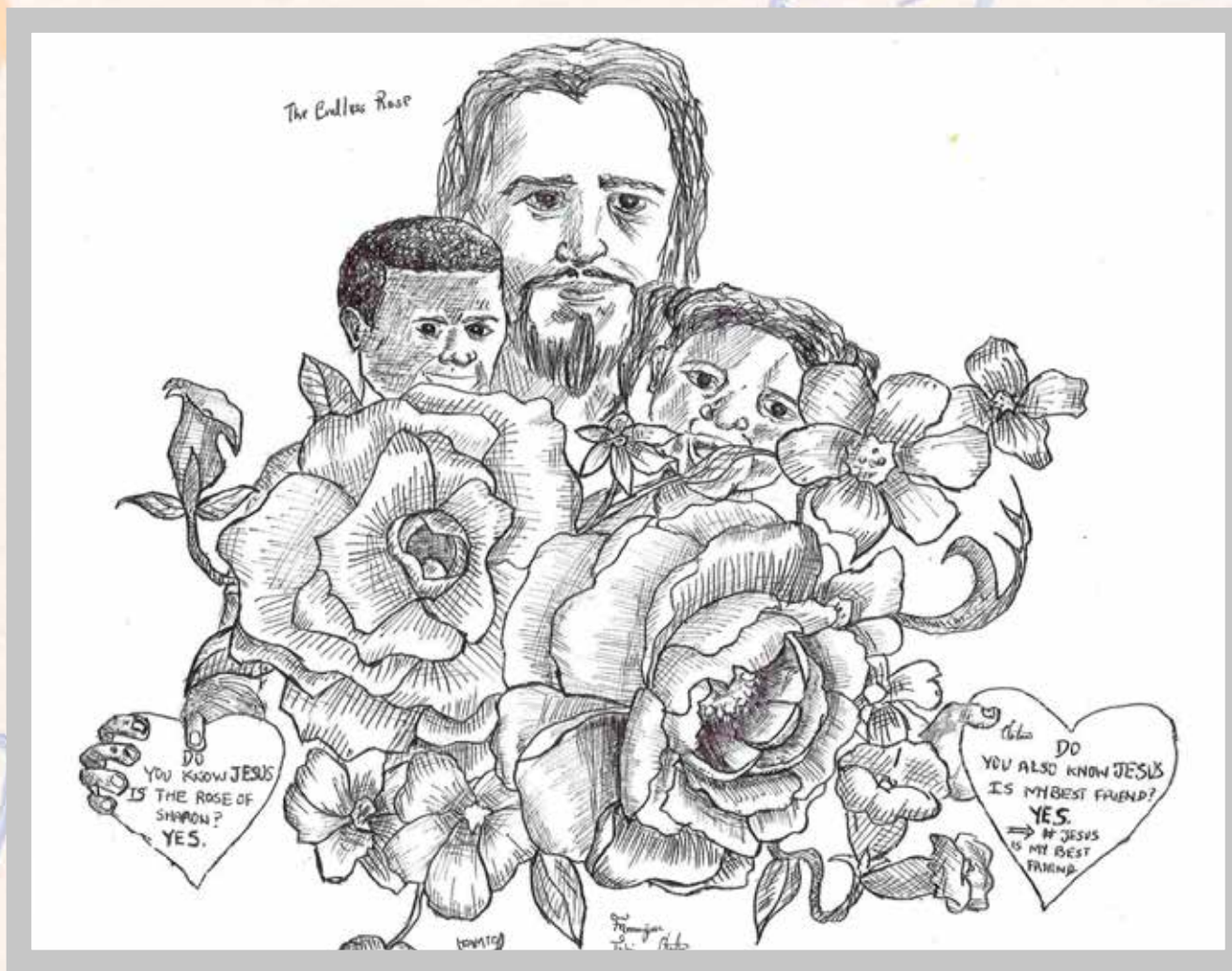
**Admira Krisan**  
8 years old



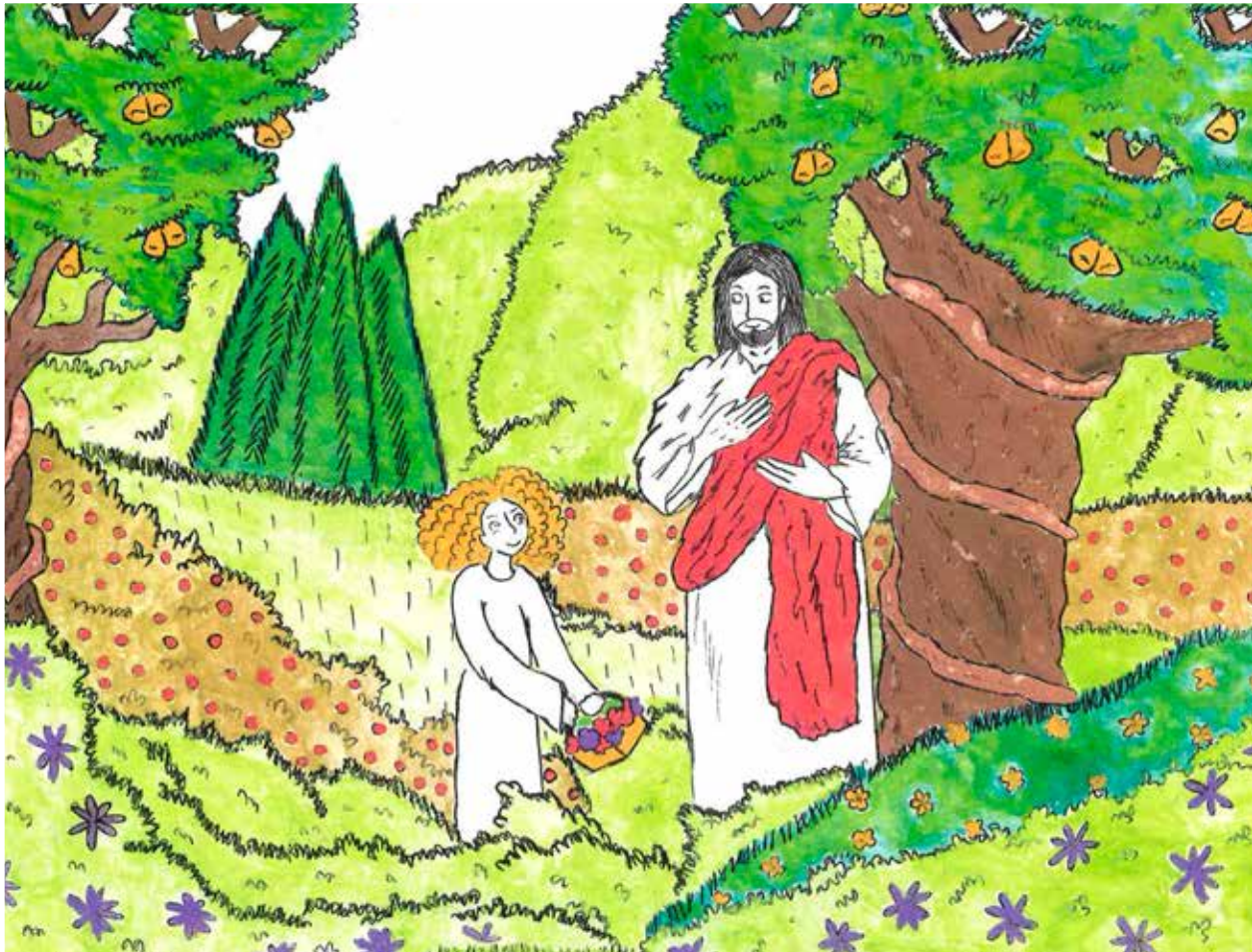
**Emareta Balliu**  
12 years old



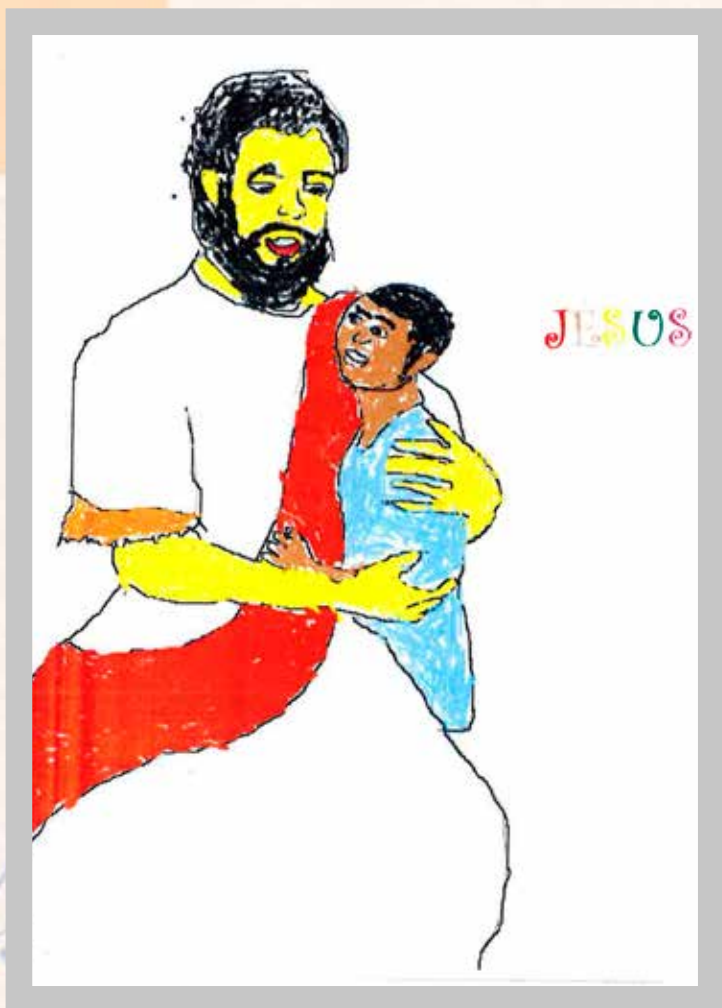
## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



**Famuyiwa Enoch**  
13 years old



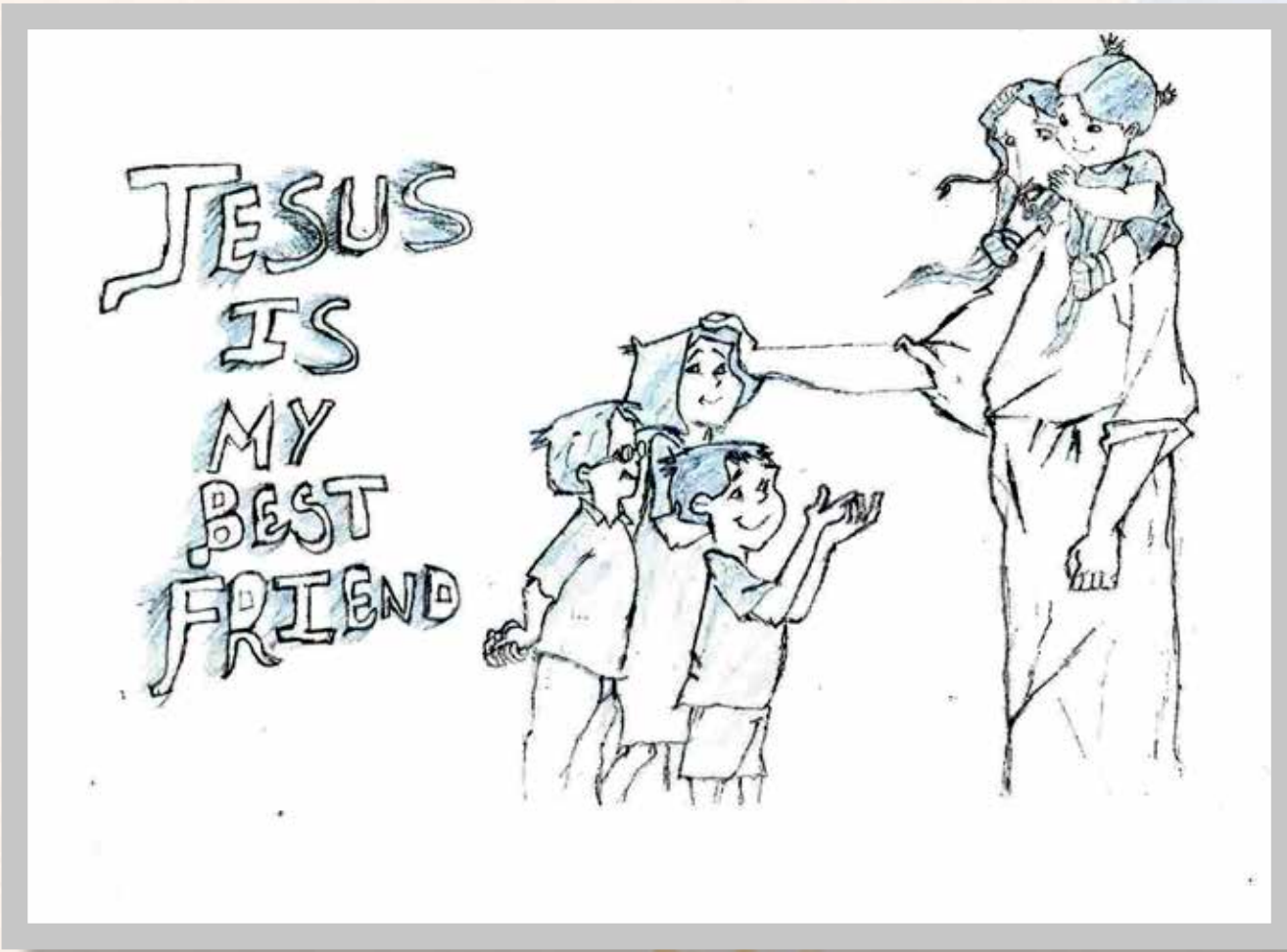
**Okezie Nmesoma**  
14 years old



**Roland Domeh**  
8 years old



**Andeme Terra**  
8 years old



**Franklin Alozie**  
13 years old



**Mounyaka Tamibe Anais**  
14 years old

## CHINESE UNION MISSION



**Meng Yue Lai**  
11 years old



**Gabriele Zanchetta**  
6 years old



**Jubilee Yong**  
5 years old

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA UNION



**Junsu Chung**  
6 years old



# ISRAEL FIELD



Aviel Azrya  
9 years old



**Tatiana Semenov**  
9 years old



**Mariana Novikov**  
6 years old

# GOLD RECOGNITION FOR POETRY

## EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

### **Jesus is My Best Friend**

From all of the diversity  
In the world  
Where do I belong?

In one room  
Packed up with people  
Why am I all silent all along?

Why am I a glue  
In the friend group?  
Every time I sit on the corner

All alone,  
I feel the wind passes me  
And someone sits next to me,  
I believe that someone  
Is my God. I always wonder why  
He wastes his time on me...  
But he always whispers to me,  
that his love is free  
And he will never leave me,  
Most of all he says  
"I am His Best Friend"

**Amran Abraham**

13 years old

## EURO-ASIA DIVISION

I am praising God every day,  
Because there are a lot of songs...  
When I help my mother,  
When I read the Bible.

I ask God's forgiveness,  
That He may forgive our sins,  
For in Him is victory!  
I want to always be with Him!

**Artem-Samuel Melyn**  
10 years old

**Славлю Бога кожен день,  
Бо багато є пісень...  
Коли мамі допомагаю,  
Коли Біблію читаю.**

**Прошу прощення у Бога,  
Щоб простив Він нам гріхи,  
Бо у Ньому перемога!  
Хочу завжди бути з Ним!**

### God's Love

He died for us on Golgotha.  
He saved life of a girl named Sopha,  
And Oleg, Roman and Sveta,  
He saved the lives of all people in the world.  
How great is the love of God?  
His blood was shed on the cross.  
He created seas and oceans for us.  
He created hills and meadows for us.  
He created for us all the animals,  
Birds, moles, elephants and snakes.  
God is our Friend and Father,  
He is our Savior and our Creator.  
This Friend will always help,  
This Friend will not let you down,  
He will be with you every day,  
He leads you on the right way.  
Everyone knows that the love of God is great,  
Everyone knows how He saved us from sin.

**Mariya Sivtsova**  
12 years old

ОН умер за нас на Голгофе  
Спас жизнь девочке Софе,  
Олегу, Роману и Свете,  
Спас жизнь всем людям на свете.  
Как велика Божья любовь?!  
Что на кресте пролилась Его  
кровь.  
Он создал для нас моря, океаны  
Он создал для нас холмы и  
поляны.  
Он создал для нас всех зверей,  
Птиц, Кротов, слонов и змей.  
Бог наш Друг и Отец,  
Он наш Спаситель и наш Творец.  
Этот Друг всегда поможет,  
Этот Друг не подведет,  
Каждый день с тобой Он будет,  
На путь верный Он ведет.  
Каждому известно, любовь Бога  
велика,  
Каждому известно, как Он спас  
нас от греха.

## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

### Jesus Is My Best Friend

Jesus is my best friend.  
Each time I lift my voice to Him in prayer,  
He is always there.  
When I fall, even though I may feel hurt,  
He picks me up and never lets me down.

Sometimes when I feel sad,  
I think of Him and He makes me glad.

Jesus is my best friend  
For He died on that lonely cross to save me from my sins.  
Imagine, even before I was born,  
He loved me and knew my name!

Jesus is my best friend  
He is always there for me  
And will never let me down  
And unlike my earthly friends  
He listens to me for hours on end  
Never getting tired of me.  
My best friend is Jesus and He can be yours too!!

**Amelia Lee Jones**  
9 years old

## INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

### Jesus Is My Best Friend

Jesus is my best friend  
He gives me energy in my path.  
He takes care of me,  
loves me and never forsake me.  
He tells me when to be careful of a friend  
Which can lead to emptiness.

When I get mad at Him and then I regret it  
He always receives me happy  
Thank you Jesus for being my friend  
I will always be grateful to You.

**Sephora Gelabert**  
9 years old

### Jesus Es Mi Mejor Amigo

Jesus es mi mejor amigo  
El me da energia en mi camino.  
Me cuida, me ama y nunca me des-  
ampara .  
Me dice ten cuidado con ese amigo  
Que puede llevarte al vacio.

Quando me enfado con el y luego me  
arrepiento  
El siempre me recibe contento  
Gracias jesus por ser mi amigo  
Yo siempre te estare agradecido .



### **My Best Friendship**

A lonely day,  
I thought I had a friendship;  
I asked Jesus for mercy  
And he saved me from the storm.

And He said: I still remember that day ...  
The day that I formed you,  
I did not abandon you  
Neither I forsook you.

From loneliness to friendship  
From falsehood to reality.  
From bad to good  
And from difficulty to happiness.

That age does not prevent you  
Have that friendship.  
Because if it is your will,  
You will get it with ease.

Friends come and go,  
But they never stop.  
Only Jesus comes and stays,  
Forever in your life.

**Ionatan Magdiel**

11 years old

### **Mi Mejor Amistad**

Un día de soledad,  
Pensé tener una amistad;  
A Jesús le pedí piedad  
Y me salvó de la tempestad.

Y dijo: Aún recuerdo ese día...  
El día que te formé,  
No te abandoné,  
Ni te desamparé.

De la soledad a la amistad,  
De la falsedad a la realidad.  
De la maldad a la bondad  
Y de la dificultad a la felicidad.

Que no te impida la edad  
Tener esa amistad.  
Porque si es tu voluntad,  
Lo conseguirás con facilidad.

Los amigos van y vienen,  
Pero nunca se detienen.  
Solo Jesús viene y se queda,  
Para siempre en tu vida.

### Winning With You

Give me, my Jesus,  
Joy to live.  
Walk with me every day  
And help me to grow.

Give me, my Jesus,  
Joy to live.  
Walk with me every day  
And help me to win.

Make me firm and strong,  
Side by side with you.  
Because I know  
you are my best friend.

Give me, my Jesus,  
Joy to live.  
Walk with me every day  
And help me to grow.

Give me, my Jesus,  
Joy to live.  
Walk with me every day  
And help me to win.

Walk with me every day  
And help me to win.

**Miriam Alves**  
14 years old

### Vencer Contigo

Dá-me meu Jesus,  
Alegria para viver  
Acompanha-me cada dia  
e ajuda-me a crescer

Dá-me meu Jesus,  
Alegria para viver  
Acompanha-me cada dia  
e ajuda-me a vencer

Faz-me firme e forte  
Lado a lado contigo  
Pois eu sei que Tu És  
o meu melhor amigo

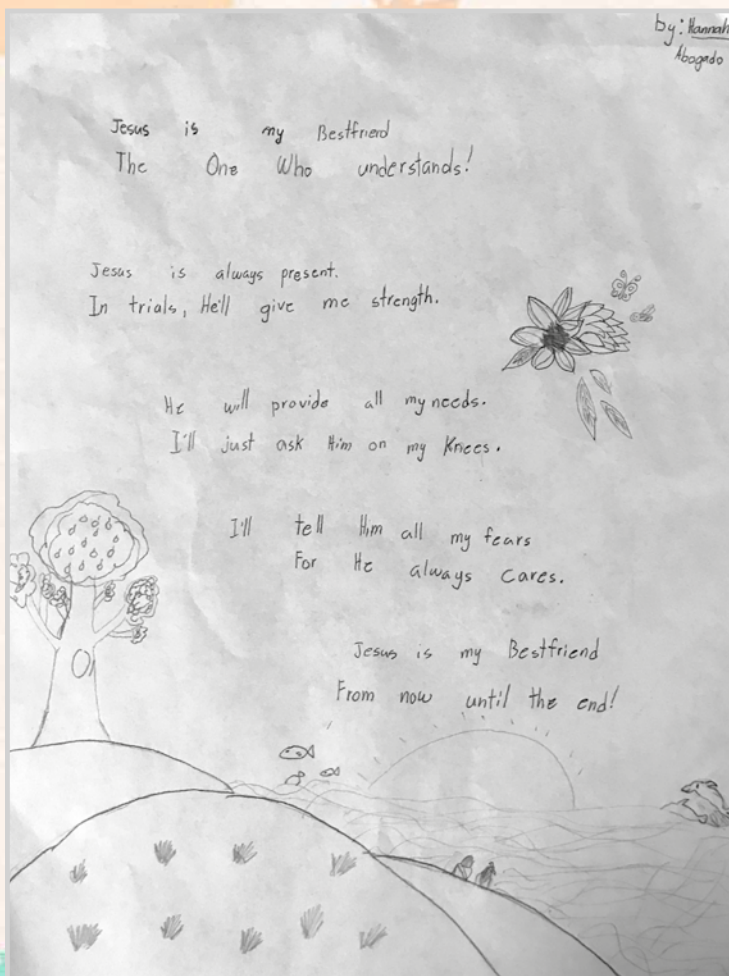
Dá-me meu Jesus,  
Alegria para viver  
Acompanha-me cada dia  
e ajuda-me a crescer

Dá-me meu Jesus,  
Alegria para viver  
Acompanha-me cada dia  
e ajuda-me a vencer

Acompanha-me cada dia  
e ajuda-me a vencer

"Poem has been put to music"

## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



Jesus is my bestfriend  
The One Who understands!

Jesus is always present.  
In trials, He'll give me strength.

He will provide all my needs.  
I'll just ask Him on my knees.

I'll tell Him all my fears  
For He always cares.

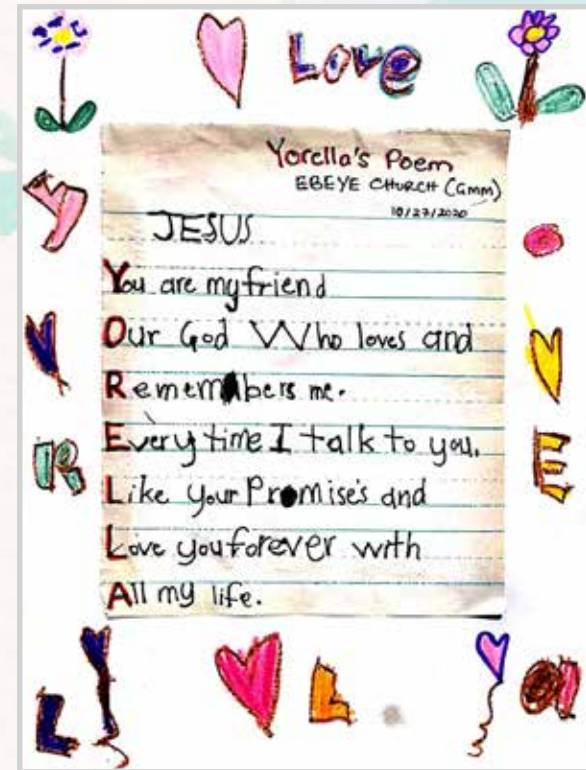
Jesus is my bestfriend  
From now until the end!

**Hannah Abogado**  
9 years old

**Jesus, Wonderful Jesus!**

I love Jesus,  
He won't leave us!  
The messianic King.  
To Him we will cling!  
He died on the cross,  
To save us from all loss!  
He made the little kitten,  
To play with a mitten!  
He made the little puppy,  
To bark at a ducky!  
He loves you and me,  
As you can see!

**Stephanie Paris**  
9 years old



**Yorella Tinaeda Holoapa**  
6 years old

## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

### Jesus is...

#### I

Jesus is my best friend  
With Him, the life makes sense  
I talk to Him about everything  
That happens in my world.

Jesus is my protector  
Always when I feel pain  
I ask Him for help  
To win the fight.

Jesus is my adviser  
He is my big bud  
He talks in my ears  
What must be chosen

#### II

Jesus is my creator  
He made me with much love  
So, so much special  
I am His likeness, after all.

Jesus is my saviour  
He surrendered Himself  
To save every sinner  
Yes, He is my redeemer

Jesus is my choice  
He does good things  
Jesus is to me  
Everything

**Julia Couto de Santana**  
10 years old

### Jesus My Best Friend

I

Jesus my best friend  
He always keeps me company  
Praying and studying her word  
He talks to me all day.  
Faithful and true friend,  
You are my wise advisor  
I always stay by your side  
With you I am the first.  
Find a real friend  
Beware of hatred and evil;  
That vice advances without mercy,  
Finding sadness and loneliness..

Our best friends  
Are like caring angels  
They guide you by doing you favors;  
But they are never traitors.

II

Love your friend all the time  
Since he is like your brother  
The poor and the afflicted  
Reach out your hand.

If you reflect in time  
You will not have to regret;  
And looking at your future  
Your path will decide.

These lines I recite to you  
With a lot of joy  
And I ask God from heaven  
Keep us company

**Nolan Cieza**  
11 years old

## SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

### Jesus is my best friend

When I am weak, He gives me strength.

He is my king, my Lord and Saviour.

He is my best friend.

Wherever I go, whatever I do, He is  
always by my side.

He cares for me and this much I know,

He is my comforter. What a friend He is!

He is my strong tower, a mighty fortress.

I call Him anytime and everywhere.

He is faithful, my redeemer and my guide.

Jesus, Jesus you are my best friend.

By: Wandile Mlalazi

**Wandile Mlalazi**  
13 years old

### Covid – 19

Its invisibility makes it more dangerous  
It has forcefully made everyone stay at home  
Churches, shops and schools have closed  
Life has taken a different direction

Thousands lost their lives daily  
The nation at wide is in tears  
Each one is fearing for their lives  
Everything is upside down

This pandemic has changed everything  
No more camp meetings, camporees and fairs  
Masks and sanitizers have become part of our lives

But, we have a special friend in Jesus  
He says He has prepared a plan for us  
And if we stay home and eat healthy we are safe  
As Job says "I know my redeemer lives and that in the end,  
He will stand upon the earth"  
Jesus will free our world of this terrible Covid-19

**Ngcali Manxusa**  
13 years old

### Jesus Is The Best Friend

Jesus Is the One and Only Best Friend  
He does not push back any children  
nor youth coming unto him  
He showed this love for us by giving himself as sacrifice  
Of atonement for you and me

Whether you are rich or poor  
Do remember that  
He is the only tree of life under which you may find security  
In His beautiful Paradise

Friends, Jesus Himself  
was beaten and tortured  
Whipped in our place  
To show us His love for us poor sinners as we

Thus, for all of us  
Never give up and be always strong  
Whatever people harsh against you  
These are not as harder as being nailed down  
Never cease to pray if ye want to become a winner

**Solonandrianina Ellie**

11 years old

### Jesosy No Sakaiza Tsara Indrindra

Jesosy Ilay Sakaiza tsara indrindra  
Tsy mifidy Izy na ankizy na tanora  
Ka ho marik'izany dia nataony sorona  
ny ainy  
Ho famonjena anao sy ahy

Na manana ianao na tsy manana  
Dia izao no tsarovy  
Izy ilay hazon'aina hialofana  
Tsy inona izany fa Ilay Paradisa soa

I Jesosy koa anie ry zareo  
Dia nokapohina  
Novonoina, nokaravasiona  
Noho ny fitiavany antsika mpanota

Ho antsika rehetra  
Aza kivy fa mahereza  
Amin'ny zavatra rehetra ataoon'olona  
Izany ve mafy nohon'ny nofantsihana ?  
Mivavaha hatrany hahazo hery  
Mba ho tonga ho mpandresy



## SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

### **A Promise to Jesus, My Best Friend**

When I am feeling sad and weary,  
Like how rainy days make me teary  
Jesus picks me up by His embrace  
I feel better and blessed by His grace

And now I am on my happy days  
The sky's blue and I see sunshine's rays  
Looking up, He's smiling from above,  
My heart giggles, I feel all the love

Oh Jesus, He's with me everywhere  
He's the best of all my friends, I swear!  
For all the things He does for me,  
I'm thankful, so as my family

So a promise has been made  
That faith to Him will never fade  
I will be obedient and be kind  
And share His good words to humankind.

**Ysabelle Joie C. Caisip**  
10 years old

### **My Journey With Jesus**

The sea is tough,  
The waves are rough  
Trouble is near  
But don't be scared, my best friend is here.

Through any problem, thick and thin  
Even when life's biggest challenges begin,  
He's there to get me through it  
Just pray and call the Holy Spirit.

A lot of miracles, he can do  
A blind man's wish to see came true  
He's turned water into wine  
Even so, he wanted to be a friend of mine.

So come with us to our journey  
With every encounter, you'll surely see  
Wherever I, go, Jesus, my friend is with me  
How great of a friend Jesus will truly be.

**Sophia Miele Bilasano**  
13 years old

**Jesus Is My Best Friend I Ever Need**

Jesus is my best Friend, that's the truth,  
Jesus will never leave me nor you,  
He is there to protect us day by day,  
He forgives us wholeheartedly, come what may.

Jesus is the Light that will lead our life,  
He doesn't want us to go into strife,  
Because He loves us, no matter who we are,  
And He's always near, never far.

Even in this COVID-19, the uncontrollable pandemic,  
Even though this challenge seems so big,  
Jesus is our Healer, Savior, and Redeemer,  
That's why my life is no darker!

Jesus is the friend all I ever need,  
He is never ignorant or mean,  
He came to earth to die for our sins,  
This is my message now to Him:

"Jesus, You're the best friend I've ever known,  
With You with my side, I am never alone,  
Thank you so much for your tremendous love,  
And for your ministry from heaven above".

**Shealtiel Elisee D. Abas**

10 years old

### **My Best Friend**

When I open my eyes, I see wonders  
The bright sun and the blooming flowers.  
I kneel and pray cause I know,  
Through them, Jesus, my best friend says "hello"!

When I feel so sad,  
To the rescue comes my dad.  
I kneel and pray cause I know,  
Jesus, my best friend gave me dad who pampers me so.

When I doubt myself of what I can do,  
My mom is whom I can talk to.  
I kneel and pray cause I know,  
Jesus, my best friend gave me mom who cheers me "Go!"

When I find no hand to hold,  
When I fear what might unfold,  
I kneel and pray cause I know,  
Jesus, my best friend guides me to and fro.

Thank you God,  
For sending your son so beloved.  
I will always kneel and pray cause I know,  
I have Jesus, my best friend who loves me so.

**Atarah Catacata**

8 years old

## WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

### The Life I Live

Life is sweet with you in it  
Love is best like the food I eat  
Jesus my love is the life I live

New like the dawn, with hope to live  
Bright as the sun is you in me  
Jesus my love is the life I live

Guide my step and the path you lead  
Hold me strong, never let me leave  
Jesus my love, is the life I live

Dancing is bit, to this drum you beat  
Love you more to end of life live  
Jesus my love, is the like I live

Best is your gift, daily to them I met  
God is love, love so sweet  
Jesus my love, is the life I live

**Esther Nna**  
9 years old

### Jesus My Best Friend

Whenever I'm in trouble or when I am afraid  
Jesus helps me  
Work my problems out  
and the hurt just seems to fade.

Whenever I'm feeling low  
Jesus helps me out not to feel so bad.  
He makes my life worth living.  
Jesus really makes me glad.

He's always there when you need a friend.  
On Jesus you can always depend.  
When you take your problems to him,  
He gives you peace and joy within.

It's nice talking to Jesus  
because he understands what you need.  
If you have sadness in your heart  
he will help you out indeed.

I'm glad I know Jesus  
because now I have eternal life.  
I'll be up there in Heaven  
where there will be no strife.

So if you are not saved  
and you want to know this friend,  
ask Jesus to come into your life  
and your broken heart he will mend.

**Nancy Adjei**  
13 years old

### **Jesus Is My Best Friend**

Jesus is my best friend,  
I know him and he does,  
He gives me all I want.

Oh what a good friend!  
He comforts my soul and  
Feeds my soul with joy.

Oh what a friend I have in Jesus!  
Leading me to the path of righteousness  
Promising me an everlasting home heaven  
And telling me how exciting his coming will be.

Oh what a friend like thee!  
He forgives my sins and renew my heart.  
Jesus is my friend and he will always be my friend.

**Rhoda Okyera**  
8 years old

### **He Is A Friend To Me**

He give me food and makes me strong  
He is so good, he can't be wrong  
He's father to me all day long  
Beside him, there's not a song.  
Jesus is my best friend.

He is never wrong when he leads the way  
Might and strong, cannot lead astray  
He is the truth, life and way always  
For me, he has the final say  
Jesus is my best friend.

He stops the mighty waves  
Oh yes he's mighty to save  
In his arms, I'm safe and brave  
Give me a shield against the grave  
Jesus is my best friend

**Victor Ogbulu**  
10 years old

### **Jesus Is My Best Friend Ever**

Jesus is my very best friend.  
Through all the pain through every tear  
Jesus holds me and I do not fear  
Jesus shows me much love and care  
No one on earth would ever compare

Jesus is my way, my truth and my light  
He is the reason I walk by faith and not by sight  
He helps me get through every single day  
Though the devil keeps throwing pain in the way

I trouble him a lot never give him a rest  
Jesus doesn't leave me, he is still the best  
I know he will hold me till the very end  
Yes he is the very best friend ever to have

**Oziomachi Isaac**  
13 years old

### **Jesus My Best Friend**

Jesus is my best friend  
I'll always love him till the end.  
He loves me even when I go astray  
Even when I get lost in my ways  
He is not far away.

As I grow older  
Our friendship began to crumble  
Because I started straying  
But when I realized and harmonized  
He is still my friend.

How glad I am to have a friend like him  
Joy filled my heart as the sunbeams  
A friend who turns my sadness to gladness  
How blessed I am to call him a friend  
He is a friend that suits all situations.

**Victor Ikpete**  
13 years old

### Jesus Is My Best Friend

Jesus is my best friend  
He loves me so much  
I also love him,  
I pray to him every day,  
And he always answer my prayers  
He is always there for me in times of troubles  
I will never stop loving Jesus

How? How?  
How can I live without a friend,  
I have a friend named Jesus  
He is my best friend,  
Have you ever wondered how a friend  
Can be so helpful kind and faithful  
I will never stop loving Jesus

How faithful and wonderful he is,  
How I love Jesus  
He first loved me,  
Jesus always think of me  
He helps me in everything  
I will never stop loving Jesus

Jesus died for me,  
He forgives my sins  
He is so precious and mighty  
He makes me live in hope  
I will never stop loving Jesus  
Indeed, Jesus is my best friend.

**Hilda Okodie**  
10 years old



## CHINESE UNION MISSION

### Jesus Is My Friend

Jesus is my friend  
He is there at the end  
He gives us directions  
when we need corrections

He makes me happy  
when I am unhappy  
His hugs are so soothing  
I can feel my happiness blooming

He knows the way  
all night and day  
I love Him such  
And I love Him much

He protects me  
from all the bees and flea  
He will lead us to victory  
and not a bit strictly

And when I need a shoulder to cry on  
He will be there as quick as a yawn  
I know I can trust Him  
with every bit of my limb

He knows everything  
and everyone knows He is the king  
His hand always extends out to me  
and He's my best friend three

**Hayoon Chun**

11 years old

# MERIT/CREATIVITY RECOGNITION FOR ART

## **Euro-Asia Division**

- Valeriya Odintsova (8 years old)
- Irina Lozovskava (8 years old)

## **Inter-European Division**

- Miriam Hutanova (5 years old)

## **Northern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Shion Ogawa (7 years old)
- Ken Suzuki (9 years old)
- Anna Hiraga (9 years old)
- Neiro Inamori (11 years old)
- Yuuri Tomiyama (11 years old)
- Niko Nagata (11 years old)
- Haruna Sakamoto (11 years old)
- Hano Nakamura (12 years old)

## **South American Division**

- Ana Laisa Mota (12 years old)
- Janice Chavez (12 years old)
- Giannina Faqundez (12 years old)

## **Southern Asia Division**

- Gangonglung Panmei (10 years old)

## **Southern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Chansovansolika Kong (11 years old)
- Ven Karona (11 years old)
- Yolin Jayawardena (7 years old)

## **Trans-European Division**

- Bence Gango (13 years old)
- Ester Balliu (6 years old)
- Benjamin Pacsai (10 years old)

## **West-Central Africa Division**

- Eliel Dotou (14 years old)
- Eliel Tenou (14 years old)
- Elie Djossou (13 years old)

## **Chinese Union Mission**

- Leanne Wan (5 years old)

## **Israel Field**

- Maya Greg (13 years old).

# MERIT/CREATIVITY RECOGNITION FOR POETRY

## **Northern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Ria Yu (8 years old)

## **South American Division**

- Laura de Mainas Ximenes (12 years old)
- Brisa Camila Cuellar Via (9 years old)
- Daniel Pimentel (9 years old)

## **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division**

- Tsirahona Riakampitiavana (14 years old)

## **Southern Asia Division**

- Jonathan Marak (11 years old)
- Grace Bors (9 years old)
- Wisdom Gonmei (8 years old)
- David Lalpekhlua (10 years old)

## **Southern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Shirel Perera (6 years old)
- Deonovan Helickson (6 years old)
- Adrianna Shiro Y. (9 years old)

## **West-Central Africa Division**

- El-Joenai Abbey (13 years old)
- Success Onyebuchi (10 years old)
- Kossi Nyaku (11 years old)

# SPECIAL MENTION FOR ART & POETRY

Great creative artwork and poetry but didn't quite reflect the theme Making Jesus My Best Friend.  
Thank you for participating! Do continue to use your gifts and talents for Jesus.

## **Euro-Asia Division**

- Oksana Zalomskaya (13 years old)

## **Inter-European Division**

- Amy Bosqued Roth (10 years old)
- Raisa Maya Moraru (11 years old)
- Timotej Hutan (9 years old)

## **Inter-American Division**

- Annelia Graham (14 years old)
- Asia Fonseca (9 years old)
- Ayden Prentice (10 years old)
- Charisse Woodley (14 years old)
- Wislene Masson (12 years old)
- Jhilinn Rivers (8 years old)

## **North American Division**

- Ishema Rugamba (5 years old)
- Riza Rugamba (7 Years)

## **Northern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Akito Ijichi (10 years old)

## **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division**

- Augusto Quimua dos Santos (10 years old)

- Ntokozo Awakiwe Tshuma (5 years old)
- Unathi Tshuma (10 years old)
- Razafinjatovo Williams (10 years old)
- Randrianantenaina Tsilavina (8 years old)

## **Southern Asia Division**

- Aden John (10 years old)
- Enoch Lakra (5 years old)
- Sam Beryl (13 years old)
- Tamanna Lakra (10 years old)
- Taniya Riches (12 years old)

## **Southern Asia-Pacific Division**

- Jathniel Rei D. Abas (7 years old)
- Rachel Socheart (12 years old)
- Visoth Socheart (10 years old)

## **Trans-European Division**

- Dominik Danilo Rajz (8 years old)

## **Chinese Union Mission**

- Susanna Zhang (14 years old)

## **West-Central Africa Division**

- William Asare (12 years old)

# GOLD RECOGNITION FOR MEDIA PRODUCTION

## Inter-European Division

- Marco Sayko (12 years old) – Developed a video to show about bullying and how Jesus can help us to treat our friends kindly and protect them.

## North American Division

- Gabrielle Williams & Azaliah Campbell (13 years old; 9 years old) – Developed “Jesus is My Best Friend.” animated story.
- Hannah Kwan (12 years old) – Developed and produced an audio drama on the birth of Jesus who came here as her best friend.



# SPECIAL MENTION FOR MEDIA PRODUCTION

Very creative video presentations in sharing your gifts and talents through testimonies, storytelling, singing, or craft-making, though not quite in line with the criteria of media production. Thank you all for participating.

## Inter-European Division

- Amber Bosqued Roth (7 years old) – Developed a video storyboard on how she can do many things with Jesus as her friend and videotaped by Amy Bosqued Roth (10 years old)



We will showcase your presentations on our  
GC Children's Ministries YouTube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/AdventistChildrensMinistries>

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD















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