



# TREASURE CHEST

Quarterly/ Free  
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e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

Produced by Children's Ministry Network in W.A.

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Have you been passing on the baton to the next generation?

## ONE LINERS

- Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.
- Almost every boy would learn to write sooner if allowed to do his homework on wet cement.
- When children are not a lump in the throat, they may be a pain in the neck.
- A boy can wash his hands without getting the soap wet.
- Children need strength to lean on, a shoulder to cry on and an example to learn from.
- Advert: Dog for sale - eats anything and is especially fond of children.

### Online Christian Educational Toy Store in Perth

*Our increasing range of quality Christian educational and entertainment products covers children of all ages to even adults and include:*

- \* Playsets & Action Figures
- \* Puzzles & Games
- \* Computer Games
- \* Plush Toys
- \* Praise & Dance Kits
- \* Books and more



*Churches, schools and other Christian societies who wish to fund raise please contact us to discuss details.*

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## Vision

*"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision."*  
Theodore Hesburgh, American clergyman & university president;

A leader needs wisdom, creativity, faithfulness, enthusiasm and vision. If you have no vision, you have no direction for your ministry.

**VISION brings GROWTH:** I am not just talking about numbers, but the spiritual growth of your children. When God looked at Saul, he saw Paul. When God looked at Simon, he saw Peter... at Abram, he saw Abraham ... and so on. "You are ... you shall *become* ..." How do you look at the kids under your ministry? What values and characteristics are you intentionally building into them so that they shall '*become*'?

**VISION brings LEADERS:** Having trouble raising volunteers for your kids ministry? If you passionately paint a clear & exciting God-given vision for your kids ministry, then people will shout, "count me in!" and want to get on board and be part of your team.



**VISION brings LIFE:** If the kids see you as someone who is excited about your vision, and can sense that the kids ministry is not just floundering but has goals and direction, then they will be excited too. Do your kids know your vision for your ministry? Not just airy-fairy things, but practical realistic things that would make kids get excited. Especially short term projects that they can see the results of.

**VISION brings FINANCES:** If people in your church get bitten by your enthusiasm bug and can clearly see your vision for the kids in your community and can also sense that it is a great vision that will bring about change in people's lives, then even if they haven't the gifting or ability to join the team, they will quietly slip you money to help you in this exciting ministry. Even the church leadership may catch the vision and increase your budget allowance! (The age of miracles has not yet passed!!!)

**VISION leaks:** Your leaders and kids may be enthused by your vision, but, like a bucket with a hole in it, peoples enthusiasm about the vision can taper off over the weeks and months. That's why you need to occasionally remind yourself, your team and your kids of the vision ... because vision leaks.



[www.cmn.org.au/wahome](http://www.cmn.org.au/wahome)

## TRANSFORMING CHILDREN INTO SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

George Barna

Most parents believe that they are primarily responsible for the spiritual development of their children. However according to Barna's research, a majority of parents do not spend significant time during a typical week discussing religious matters with their children. The survey indicates that parents generally rely upon their church to do all of the religious training their children will receive. It's not that they are not willing, but they feel ill-equipped to do such work.



According to the research:

- ◆ parents typically have no plan for the spiritual development of their children.
- ◆ do not consider it a priority.
- ◆ have little or no training in how to nurture a child's faith.
- ◆ have no goals that they are seeking to attain in this matter.

The local church must work purposefully & actively together with parents to jointly help develop a child's spiritual growth.

Why not share some of your church's successes in working with families to help disciple children. Email them to [wa@cmn.org.au](mailto:wa@cmn.org.au) and we will be pleased to publish your ideas in the next Treasure Chest.

## The Child-friendly Church 10 Promises for our Children

1. We will help you to understand how much God loves you by the way we care for you.
2. We will help you feel welcome every time you come to our church.
3. We will listen to you and put you and your needs at the heart of our church.
4. We will make sure you always feel safe, comfortable and special.
5. We will be happy with you in your happy times and comfort you in your sad times.
6. We will welcome you when you use your special gifts in our worship services.
7. We will help you learn that Jesus loves you, died for you, forgives you and is making a special place for you in heaven.
8. We will be here when you wonder about life and God. We will listen to you and help you to find answers.
9. We will be here to guide and support you as you learn to follow Jesus in everyday life as a Christian.
10. We will encourage you as you discover your special ways to serve God and share His love with others.

[www.10promisesforourchildren.org](http://www.10promisesforourchildren.org) - Adventist UK



Check out these resources that may assist your church and their families in helping raise spiritual champions.

**Toolkit for Growing Great Kids** - a training program and a resource for educators in churches and community groups that helps engage parents in discussion and storytelling.

Details: [www.midst.suvic.org.au/toolkit/](http://www.midst.suvic.org.au/toolkit/)

**WOW Transition and Milestones Ministry** - Here is a vision to develop creative responses to the transitions and milestones of life.

Details: [www.midst.suvic.org.au/wow/](http://www.midst.suvic.org.au/wow/)

**Faith Journeys with Children** - Helps us understand how faith develops in some understandable ages and then to know how to sow relevant Spiritual Truths into a child's life in each of those faith stages.



Details: [www.midst.suvic.org.au/faithjourneys/](http://www.midst.suvic.org.au/faithjourneys/)

**Big Buds** - a program to help churches connect children into safe, mentoring relationships with adults from outside a child's family.

Details: [www.midst.suvic.org.au/bigbuds/](http://www.midst.suvic.org.au/bigbuds/)

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## Donut On A String - Game

This game is played with four people. Two kids sit on chairs (next to each other) facing the audience. The other two stand behind them with small poles about a metre long with string dangling at the end. On the end of the string is a chocolate covered donut (add choc sauce!!!!). The donut is to be held out in front of the kids sitting in the chairs. The first one to eat their donut, without using their hands, wins. The trick is that as they take a bite the donut will swing away from their face and come crashing back into it leaving chocolate sauce on their face :)



Don't forget a towel to protect their clothes and some wet washers to use at the end of this messy & fun game! Be aware of allergies when choosing participants.

This may be used as an introductory game as a springboard into some teaching on God. e.g. "Did you notice that at the start these donuts were like a circle or a ring? A circle has no beginning and no end to it. That reminds me a bit of what Father God is like. He has no beginning and no ending. God has always existed and he will never die. The Bible word that describes God is that he is 'eternal'. He has always been around and will always be around. So next time you see a circular donut, think of God who is eternal ... no beginning or end ... He has always been around and will be here to look after us."