



**Assisting
Children's
Evangelists
Worldwide**

Devotional

PETER AND HIS LORD

Luke introduces us to Peter in the fifth chapter of his gospel, and from that introduction we can learn so much to help us in our spiritual lives. But first of all, and before the events of Luke 5, we read in John's gospel about the most important event of all in Peter's life.

PETER WAS SOUGHT. (looked for) (John 1: 41) Peter had a brother called Andrew who had become a follower or disciple of John the Baptist. The day after John baptised the Lord Jesus, he was standing with Andrew and another one of his disciples, when they saw the Lord Jesus walking nearby, and John said to his two disciples "Look, there is the Lamb of God.". Andrew and the other disciple immediately started to follow the Lord Jesus. They spent some time with Him and began a life-changing relationship with Him. Andrew immediately thought about his brother Simon (Peter). He searched for him and found him and brought him to the Lord Jesus. That was the beginning of a new life for Peter. **Have you recently thanked the person whom God chose to search for you and bring you to the Lord Jesus? Have you sought your loved ones and friends?**

PETER WAS TAUGHT. (Luke 5:3) It was a strange teaching situation. Crowds of people were gathered around the Lord Jesus as He taught them at the lakeside. There were so many that the Lord Jesus got into one of the two boats which were there and taught from it. **AND THAT BOAT WAS PETER'S.** How well he must have listened and how much he must have learned. **The wonderful truth for us is that the Lord Jesus teaches us from His Word. We don't need to be in a boat. If we really want to learn, He will teach us in our living room, or our bedroom. The question is "Do we see our need to learn?"**

A MIRACLE WAS WROUGHT. (performed) **WHEN FISH WERE CAUGHT.** (Luke 5: 4-6) The Lord Jesus commanded Peter to let down his nets to catch fish. Peter said, "We have tried to do so all night but have caught nothing" But he obeyed and caught a great number of fish. **The Lord Jesus is willing and ready to do miracles in your life and service if you listen to Him and obey Him. Don't forget that every child you lead to Him has new life and that's a miracle.**

PETER WAS NAUGHT. (nothing) (Luke 5:8) It is interesting to see Peter's reaction to this wonderful miracle. He saw, in this miracle, something of the Lordship and purity of Jesus Christ. He also realised how sinful he was and that he was "nothing" compared to Him. **The more we look at the Lord Jesus and get to know Him, the more we will see our sinfulness and our need of Him.**

GLORY WAS BROUGHT. (revealed) (Luke 5:9) The miracles of the Lord Jesus always "manifested" His glory (John 2:11) Everyone who was present and saw the great miraculous catch of fish were astonished at the power of the Lord Jesus and had a glimpse of His glory. James and John, the sons of Zebedee,



"**WELCOME** one another just as Christ has also welcomed us to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7)

Paul wrote these words to the church at Rome and, in doing so, emphasised the importance of giving A **WELCOME** to others in true Christian fellowship. On that basis, as believers, we **WELCOME** you, as believers, to Mini Mag, and we give you a special **WELCOME** because we are united in our concern for the children, and we all want to see them trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. We all have this one goal to reach children with the Gospel. We, ourselves, have been in this ministry for **MANY** years and have gained much experience. We want to share the lessons we have learned with you through Mini Mag, and we give you a hearty **WELCOME** to download it each month and see if there is something there which will help you in your ministry.

who were partners and fellow fishermen with Peter were especially impressed with what they had seen.

MANY MORE FISH WOULD BE CAUGHT. (Luke 5:10,11) The Lord Jesus then called Peter, James and John, to stop fishing for fish and to follow Him and fish for men. "Do not Fear! Forsake all! Follow Me!" (Luke 5:10,11) **AND THEY DID SO** and they became fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)

There are many young fish to be caught. Is the Lord Jesus calling you to be A FISHER OF BOYS AND GIRLS?

In each of the last 50 issues of Mini Mag we have studied, in this teaching section, what the Bible teaches about children, and we have learned so much about them, and our ministry to them, from the Word of God. There is one book in the Bible which has much teaching about children and young people, and much teaching about the responsibility of parents, which we have not studied. And it was written and compiled by a man who was known for the great wisdom God had given him. Do you know which book I am referring to? It is the book of Proverbs. The word "proverbs" means "statements which are true" and the man who wrote them, or compiled them, in the bible book of Proverbs was King Solomon, the son of David and his successor on the throne of Israel. We need to remember two facts about Solomon and these "statements" which he wrote. Firstly he, the writer, was a man of great wisdom. God gave him the gift of wisdom (1 Kings 3:9-12) and it is recorded in 1 Kings 4:29-34 that his wisdom exceeded that of "all men". So, he knew what he was writing about. In addition, secondly, what is written here in Proverbs is not just the result of his wisdom. It is part of the word of God, given and inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, we must value this book and learn from it what he wrote about children, sons and parents. So, let us start our search and find verses and proverbs which will help us in our knowledge of, and our ministry to, children.

In Proverbs 1:8, at the beginning of the book, Solomon addresses "My son", and he continues to use this means of address fifteen times throughout the first seven chapters of



the book. The Hebrew word "son" which occurs on its own over fifty times in the book gives no indication of age. The only way we can know how old the one addressed, or alluded to, is to examine the context in which it is used. For example, the context of its use in this verse, and the following verse, could refer to youths or even children. The frequent use of the word "son" in the first seven chapters, indeed all 31 chapters, can best be understood as wise loving fatherly guidance to all age groups including children. But we are seeking specific verses or passages which will help us in our ministry to children, our special age group. So, let us start our search.

The first statement or fact concerning children which we look at is the well-known verse "Those that seek me **EARLY** SHALL find Me." This statement recorded in **Proverbs 8:17** shows the importance of seeking and trusting the Lord when young and **EARLY** in life, and that those who do so will always succeed. "Early" is the word used in the King James Bible. Some other Bibles translate the word as "diligently." These seem to be two different ways of translating the same Hebrew word. We can put the two translations together and say that those who seek the Lord early and diligently will find Him. Solomon therefore believed that a child, someone early in life, could seek the Lord and find Him.

Next month we will see what lessons we can learn, as teachers and parents, for our ministry to children, from this wisest of men.

Q&A KEY QUESTIONS ASKED BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

Question: You often speak about Five Day Clubs. There are many children in the town where I live and most of them do not attend Sunday School or church and have no contact with the Gospel. Could you explain what 5 Day Clubs are, and how we could use them to reach these children?

Answer: I am so pleased to know that you have a burden for these children and that you want to evangelise them. I have found 5 Day Clubs to be a very effective way to reach children with the Gospel.

These clubs are held, in the open air, on a daily basis, for one week, at the same place and at the same time each day. They are held during the children's summer holidays, when the weather is most suitable, and when the children are free. They can last an hour, and the best time is usually late morning or early afternoon.

► You need first of all, to choose a place where you would conduct your first Five Day Club. This should be a public area of grass on which the children will sit, and which is in the full view of the houses where the children live. Most housing estates have a suitable area of grass in the centre of the estate. Another possibility would be to have the club in the large garden of a believer's house.

► If you are going to be the one who leads the club, you will need at least two or three helpers. This would be a wonderful opportunity for some young, saved people from your church or Senior Youth Challenge group to get involved in Christian work.

They could help you by leading some part of the club such as chorus time with their guitars, or the bible quiz, or just watching for problems or disturbance of any kind. You would need to set up a training session or programme to prepare them. Child Evangelism Fellowship would be glad to help.

► You should then arrange your programme. It could consist of four parts.

1) Singing helps to attract attention and is an interesting way for children to learn bible truths

2) Memorizing a bible verse is an important part of the programme.

3) A bible quiz can be attractive and exciting, and especially effective, if based on yesterday's Bible lesson

4) The Bible lesson is the climax of the programme. You should use flashcards to teach the Bible lesson. You can buy a series of flashcards with five lessons and a teaching text from CEF Ireland like "The Wordless Book Visualised" or "God's Wonderful Salvation"

► Be sure to plan free time after the club finishes so as to be available for counselling children who want to be saved.

► It would be good to visit the houses close to where the club will be held a few days before it starts and inform the parents about the 5 Day Club and invite them to let their children come to it. It is good to use printed invitations which include parental permission.

NOW GO AHEAD. MAY CHILDREN TRUST THE LORD JESUS IN YOUR CLUB AND MAY THIS BE THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH CLUBS.

GOD'S WILL FOR THE NEWLY BORN

In our recent issues of Mini Mag we have been studying how we can best help our saved children to grow. We have seen how important it is to teach them to build their lives on the Word of God, how they can have assurance of salvation, how they can deal with, and be victorious over, sin in their lives and how they can pray. To-day we start a short series of studies which will help you to show them WHAT changes God expects to see in their lives as Christians, WHAT will be the results of these changes, and HOW these changes can be nurtured and developed. It is vital that our saved children know and understand what God has said in His Word about His will for them, and how He wants them to act in their home, their school and in their recreation. (Sample introduction) "If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, the Bible says that God has done something very special for you. He has given you a second birth (John 3:7) and you have become a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17) even though parts of the old person are still there. Now God wants you to do something for Him. He wants you to show that you are a new person by the good works that you do. (Titus 2:7, 3:8). The most important of these good works is your changed life. The changes in your life show that that you are a new person. Why does God want to see these changes in your life? He has three reasons.



1) His main reason is because these changes will bring honour and glory to Him. People will be able to see that God is changing you, and that He is giving you the power and strength to do things which are good, and they will praise Him for what He is doing for you, and in you. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." Your new life as a Christian is like A LIGHT THAT SHINES, and the more brightly it shines, the more your Father will be glorified and praised.

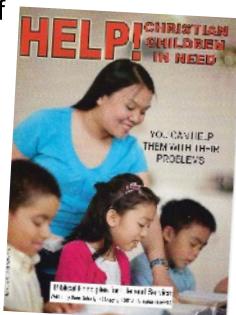
2) God wants the light of your changes and good works to be a witness to people who are not saved. They could look at you and think "I want to be like him." The Bible says that God wants His children to be "blameless and harmless" and that He wants us to "SHINE AS LIGHTS or witnesses among those people who don't love Him." (Philippians 2:15)

3) God wants to see the changes and good works in your life because they are good for you. They will make you healthier and stronger, and they will help you live a better and longer life. (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Next month we will outline and examine what we should teach our saved children to encourage the growth and development of changes and good works in their lives.



Did you know that ACEW has published fifty-one 8-page booklets to help children's workers in both their lives and in their ministries to children. These booklets cover many subjects and answer many questions. Some of them were produced to evangelise unsaved young people; some deal with the practical problems facing young Christians; some give spiritual help to young people and teachers; some provide teachers and summer missionaries with help for their ministry; and some have been written to give to pastors and Christian leaders to encourage the evangelism of children. You can see all of these at our website www.cefbookministry.com and you can download those you could use free of charge.



Two of the booklets have been specifically directed towards your ministry to saved children, and to help you in that ministry. The titles of these two booklets are "HELP CHRISTIAN CHILDREN IN NEED PART ONE AND TWO". You will receive much help and guidance from them for your important ministry.



ILLUSTRATIONS FOR SAVED CHILDREN

A little boy called Jeff, and his father, visited a church which had beautiful stained glass windows. Jeff saw that the windows had pictures of people in the Bible with names on them---St Matthew, St Mark, St John and St Paul. He looked at them and admired them for a time, and then his father asked him "Do you know what a saint is Jeff?" "Of course, I do, because I can see the answer" Jeff replied, looking at the windows. "A saint is a person the light shines through". We might smile at his answer, but it is true. The Bible teaches that every boy or girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus is a saint. This means that the light of changes and good works shines, or should shine, through boys and girls who are saved, and that light shows others that they are saints.

When a baby is born, its parents are very happy and dream about what he will be when he grows up. But they know that it will take a long time for the baby to grow, to know all the things he needs to know, and to do all the things he needs to do. In the same way when you were saved you were just a baby Christian. You need to grow. You are not perfect, but you

are moving in the right direction. God will help you to make changes and do good works. You need, like all babies to learn how to eat, how to talk, how to walk and how to grow. Have you, as a baby Christian, any idea how you could learn to do these four things.

Changes often take a long time; they happen little by little and day by day.

Rod was having a really rough time in school. The other boys in his class knew he was a Christian and they took every chance to tease him, make fun of him and laugh at him. Rod became more and more angry with them and shouted at them. He began to plan how he could get his own back at them and find some way to really upset them and hurt them. But one evening, as he was praying before getting into his bed, he began to think differently. "God wants me to love these boys, to be nice to them and pray for them". The next time they made fun of him, he smiled at them, shared his sandwiches with them, wished them well and offered to help them if they ever had any need or problem. What was he doing? He was obeying his Lord and Saviour and letting his light shine. His "good work decision" had changed what he was going to do to them. And don't forget that light shines brighter in the darkness and helps to remove that darkness. God could use the light from Rod to bring light into the darkness of the boys in his class.

74 Years and Still Learning:

The author's experience and the lesson he learned

73 years ago I had just started to work with CEF in my native Ireland. I was still trying to work out what God wanted me to do. Then I read in a CEF magazine that CEF workers were expected to start and lead evangelistic meetings for children IN THE OPEN AIR. That was a step too far and too much for me. How could I possibly do this? Then I received a letter telling me that there was to be a CEF conference in Wales and that part of it would be to do open-air work with children. I thought to myself "That's my opportunity! I'll go to the conference in Wales and do my first open-air meetings with the children there, where no one knows me, and no-one will laugh at me." Can you imagine what happened? I went to the conference. It rained solidly for the full four days of the conference, and there was no open-air work. As I went home, it seemed to me that, through this experience, God was saying to me "I want you to start your open-air work in your own area and where everyone knows you" And that was what happened!!!

I chose an open space near the centre of the town where I was a schoolteacher. I ventured out nervously, one

A NERVOUS NOVICE

afternoon, with my flannelgraph board and a canvas sheet on which the children would sit. I was really nervous. I did not know anyone who had ever done this before. What if the Principal of the school where I was teaching should walk past while I was conducting the meeting and singing choruses with the children? But I spread out my canvas sheet, set up my flannelgraph board and invited all the children I could see to come and sit on the canvas sheet so that we could sing and listen to a story. Soon over 30 children were sitting listening to me. They sang choruses, learned bible verses, and listened to my Bible lesson. My nervousness disappeared and I enjoyed the thrill of evangelising children in the open air. This ministry was to be repeated hundreds of times in the future and would result in less and less nervousness.

The lesson I learned that day was never to let your nerves, or your fear of what others might think or say, stop you from doing what God wants you to do.

The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Administrator of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's over 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.