

**WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE  
CHILDREN'S & ADOLESCENTS' MINISTRIES  
DEPARTMENT**

***Plans & Projections  
2025***



*Theme:*

*Children of Courage: Boldly Sharing the Gospel  
in the Last Days*

*President:*  
*Director:*  
*Administrative Assistant:*

*Pastor Glen O. Samuels*  
*Mrs. Carol Smythe-James*  
*Mrs. Shadeka Haye-Campbell*





December 12, 2024

**To all our Pastors, Children's & Adolescents' Ministries Leaders**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we take a moment to look back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the courage and faith demonstrated by our children. We sincerely thank you for your remarkable leadership throughout 2024. Your commitment to guiding and nurturing our children has been essential in preparing them for this life and the life to come. We eagerly anticipate 2025 and your continued efforts in sharing Christ's love with our children.

This year's theme is "**Children of Courage: Boldly Sharing the Gospel in the Last Days.**" Let us remain dedicated to training our children, as Proverbs 6:22 reminds us: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We encourage our youth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ boldly. As Ellen White said, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" (Education, 271).

May God continue to bless us as we cultivate a fearless passion for sharing our faith. Let us stand firm in our beliefs and spread the message of hope and salvation to everyone.

Yours faithfully,

Carol Smythe-James, (Elder)  
Children's and Adolescents' Ministries Director, WJC

## Calendar of Events 2025

### Children's & Adolescents' Ministries

January 18.....	“Olympics toward Heaven” Launch Program
February 3-7 .....	The Children in the Family Growing in the Faith
March 15 .....	Global Youth & Children’s Day
March 29.....	Combined Ministries Baptism Day (Women and Children, Youth, Public Campus (PCM), Family, Sabbath School, Education, Deacons and Deaconesses)
April 20-26 .....	I’m Going to Heaven: Testimonies of Children and Adolescents
April 24.....	World Day of Children at Risk
April 25-27.....	Women, Children, Adolescents & Deaconesses Training
May 1-31 .....	Child’s Month
May 25-31 .....	Children’s Evangelistic Series
July 1-31 .....	Vacation Bible School
July 15.....	Child Preachers’ Training (Online)
July 26 .....	Children and Adolescents Day
August 20-23.....	Lay Workers’ Institute & Child Preachers’ Training
August 23.....	Lay Workers & Child Preachers’ Graduation & Convention
October 25 .....	End of the “Olympics to Heaven” program with Baptism of Minors

The Children's Ministries Department seeks to develop the faith of children from ages birth to fourteen; it seeks also to provide numerous ministries that will lead children to Jesus. Everything we do and everything we produce are aimed at nurturing the faith of children so that each one can become an active disciple of Jesus. The Bible makes it very clear that children are not to be hinder from the Kingdom of God: It says *"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matt 19:14, NIV).

The mission of the Children's Ministries Department is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. We seek to fulfil our mission by developing:

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, colour, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances;
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 neighbourhood or city, thus establish a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life;
5. **Cooperative ministries**, in which the department works with other ministries, such as the Family Ministries, Sabbath School, and others to further our shared goals.
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; and,
7. **Evangelism ministries**, in which children who are not enfolded in the church family will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach programmes such as; Vacation Bible Schools, Week of Prayer, etc.

## Responsibilities

As a children's ministries leader in the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, your responsibilities are centred around nurturing the spiritual growth and development of children within the church and community. Here are some key responsibilities:

1. **Teaching and Discipleship:** You are responsible for planning and leading engaging, age-appropriate lessons and activities that promote spiritual understanding and growth. This includes teaching Bible stories, principles, doctrines, and values that align with SDA beliefs.

**2. Worship and Fellowship:** You should create a welcoming and inclusive environment where children can actively participate in worship services and feel connected with their peers and church family. This may involve organizing children's Sabbath School classes, prayer meetings, and social events.

**3. Evangelism and Mission:** Encourage children to actively share their faith and engage in mission efforts. Provide opportunities for them to reach out to their friends, invite them to church events, and participate in community service activities.

**4. Support and Guidance:** Offer pastoral care, personal counselling, and mentorship to children and their families. Be a source of support, comfort, and guidance for children facing challenges or transitions in their lives.

**5. Safety and Child Protection:** Ensure that all activities and programs are conducted in a safe and secure environment. Follow church policies and protocols for child protection, including screening volunteers, obtaining necessary permissions, and maintaining appropriate ratios of adult supervisors to children.

**6. Training and Leadership Development:** Continuously improve your own skills and knowledge through training, seminars, and conferences. Identify and mentor potential leaders within the children's ministries, empowering them to take on leadership roles.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

1. To chair the Children's Ministries Committee
2. To represent the Children's Ministries Committee on the church board.
3. To coordinate all aspects of the ministry to children in the local church.
4. To relate closely with the Sabbath School Committee, the Children's Division leaders, the Vacation Bible School coordinator, and all the other children's Ministry leaders.
5. To facilitate two-way communication between the Conference Children's Ministries Department and the local church.
6. To seek opportunities to spend time with children in order to stay in touch with their thinking and their needs.
7. To take reasonable steps to maintain a high moral and ethical quality of leadership for the children by screening volunteer leaders and teachers.

8. To work with the pastor in events involving children, such as
  - Baby Dedication
  - Baptism
  - Children’s storytelling during Divine Hour
  - Junior deacons
  
9. To prepare statistical reports for the Conference Children’s Ministries Director. You can use the online portal or send it in a hard copy to the conference.

## **TRAINING CHILDREN TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**

This can be a rewarding and meaningful endeavour. Here are a few suggestions to help you get started:

1. **Teach Biblical principles:** Start by grounding children in the teachings of the Bible. Help them gain a solid understanding of God's Word and the importance of ministering to others.
  
2. **Lead by example:** Children learn best by observing and imitating adults. Set a good example by actively participating in the ministries of the church. Let them see your passion for serving others, and encourage them to follow suit.
  
3. **Age-appropriate involvement:** Provide age-appropriate opportunities for children to engage in ministry. For younger children, this could involve simple acts of kindness, such as helping with greeting or collecting donations. Older children can participate in youth groups, assist with community service projects, or join musical or worship teams.
  
4. **Training and mentoring:** Offer specific training and mentoring to children who express an interest in a particular ministry area. Connect them with experienced volunteers who can guide and encourage them in their chosen area of service.
  
5. **Celebrate their contributions:** Acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contributions that children make to the ministry of the church. This recognition will not only motivate them but also inspire other children to get involved.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES PROGRAMMES**

1. **Have children’s church at least once per quarter:** This will provide children with the opportunity to worship in an age-appropriate setting: They will be learning at their level of understanding and have the opportunity of participating in worship.

2. **Organize Bible Study Class:** Offer Bible study sessions tailored to different age groups, helping children understand and learn from the scriptures.
3. **Worship and prayer:** Include opportunities for children to participate in age-appropriate worship and prayer experiences, helping them connect with their faith. Seek to have them involved in the Divine Service on Sabbath.
4. **Assist children to develop their musical skills** by having a children’s choir and hosting Children’s Music Festival.
5. **Community outreach:** Provide opportunities for children to engage in community service projects, helping them understand the importance of giving back and making a positive impact.
6. **Conduct seminars** on topics such as:
 

Conflicts Resolution	Peer pressure
Time management	Dealing with Bullies
Self-esteem	Social Skills
7. **Conduct Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the months of July and August.**
8. **Have Welcoming Baby package once per quarter.** Use this as an opportunity to get acquainted with new mothers in the church and the community.
9. **Allow the children to lead out in mini-campaigns.** As best as possible, use the child preachers to be the speakers.
10. **Have a back-to-school treat for the children in the church and the community.**
11. **Teach Children to use social media to witness.**  
 Many children use social media, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, etc., regularly. Therefore, it is one of the most effective platforms to get children involved in spreading the gospel.



The children can:

- Create a prayer or devotional ministry through social media.
- Encourage their friends by text messages.
- Use social media as an opportunity to spread the love of Jesus.
- Give Bible studies to their friends.

12. **Conduct a Children's Baptismal class.** To prepare children who have expressed a desire to be baptized. Give children the opportunity to serve in the life of the church as this will enhance the child's spiritual growth.

After the child has completed the Bible study and is ready to become a church member, present his/her request for baptism to the church board. On the day of baptism, when the child will be examined publicly, ask the pastor to use the "Simplified Baptismal Vows." by Steve Case. This makes it easier for the child to understand the vows as he or she makes a commitment.

## WHY CHILDREN'S BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT?

Ellen G. White also recognizes that children do make serious decisions for baptism. She counsels the church in Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 169 that:

"Children of eight, ten or twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners, and of the way of salvation through Christ."

What response do we give children when they ask to be baptized? How do we go about preparing them to accept God's grace and to walk joyfully in His path? What resources do we use to get our primaries and juniors ready for baptism? What do they need to know before baptism? What is the best age for baptism? All these are relevant questions that need answers today.

Research indicates that a child around the ages of 7-10 years, receive a spiritual awakening. We should not hesitate or discourage children who genuinely want to give their hearts to Jesus. If we don't respond to their exciting decision to follow Jesus and be baptized, we may lose the golden opportunity to do so later for such a desire may fade away.



# Simplified Baptismal Vows

1. I believe in God the Father; in His Son, Jesus Christ; and in the Holy Spirit.

2. I accept the death of Jesus to pay for my sins.

3. I accept the new heart Jesus gives me in place of my sinful heart.

4. I believe that Jesus is in heaven as my best friend and that He gives me the Holy Spirit so I can obey Him.

5. I believe God gave me the Bible as my most important guidebook.

6. By God living in me, I want to obey the Ten Commandments, which include the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath.

7. I want to help as many people as possible to be ready for the soon coming of Jesus.

8. I believe God gives special abilities to His people, and that the Spirit of Prophecy is given to His chosen people.

9. I want to help God's church with my influence, effort, and money.

10. I want to take good care of my body because the Holy Spirit lives there now.

11. With God's power, I want to obey the basic principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

12. I want to be baptized to show people I am a Christian.

13. I want to be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I believe this church has a special message to give to the world.



# CHILD'S MONTH (MAY)

## BIBLE TEXTS



The children are to study one Bible text for each day for the month of May, Child's Month and share it with their friends and relatives. See calendar below.

MAY 2025 (CHILD'S MONTH)						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 1 Peter 3:15	<b>2</b> Matt. 8: 25,26	<b>3</b> Heb. 4:12
<b>4</b> Psalm 101:3	<b>5</b> Phil. 2:13	<b>6</b> Gal. 5:22,23	<b>7</b> Prov. 12:10	<b>8</b> Luke 11:28	<b>9</b> Neh. 9:6	<b>10</b> 1 Kings 18: 38,29
<b>11</b> Romans 12:6	<b>12</b> Lev. 19:28	<b>13</b> Romans 5:3	<b>14</b> Gal. 6:10	<b>15</b> Matt. 24:44	<b>16</b> Romans 1:16	<b>17</b> Gal. 6:2
<b>18</b> Prov. 14:17	<b>19</b> James 1:14	<b>20</b> Gal. 3:28	<b>21</b> James 3:5	<b>22</b> Eph. 2:8, 9	<b>23</b> 2 Thess. 3:3	<b>24</b> 1 Pet. 3:3,4
<b>25</b> Luke 12:34	<b>26</b> Rom. 8:28	<b>27</b> Matt. 5:14,15	<b>28</b> 2 Tim. 3:16	<b>29</b> Isaiah 55:12	<b>30</b> Psalm 51:10	<b>31</b> Deut. 31:8

### Special Notes

1. Have the children involved in soul-winning projects to prepare candidates for baptism.
2. Recommend that children access the Bovi App to be involved in witnessing to their peers and other family members: [bovi.app/iwillgo](https://bovi.app/iwillgo) (for members) or [bovi.app/healthy and happy](https://bovi.app/healthy%20and%20happy) (for non-members).
3. Recommend that a child/children preach on Children's Ministries Emphasis Day.
4. Endeavour to conduct Vacation Bible School (VBS).

5. Assign children to community projects during the month of May, child's month.
6. Motivate children to memorize the Junior Morning Watch Texts for the month of May.
7. Submit to the Conference the Children's Ministries report by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following the **END** of each quarter. You may submit the hard copy as well as use the electronic form: <https://forms.gle/bxrgrCWwLdfFPq07>
8. Subscribe to the West Weekly in order to receive up-coming events and reports of major activities conducted within the constituency of West Jamaica Conference.
9. Send in to the Conference major activities with pictures/videos that you wish to published or if you wish to make a special announcement in the West Weekly by emailing it to [communication@westjamaica.org](mailto:communication@westjamaica.org).

### **Resources**

1. Bible Timeline and Children's Ministries Handbook are available on the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists web site to help you with the children.
2. Download from Grace link.net, Sabbath School lesson videos to help the children with their lessons.
3. Download Bible Adventures for Young Readers from <https://children.adventist.org/bible-adventures-for-young-readers>. This Bible study uses creative, kid-friendly approach to the 28 fundamental beliefs, which will introduce children to the pillars of our faith.
4. Download Adventist Tool from google play store.

## QUOTATIONS FROM ELLEN G. WHITE

1. "We know not in what line our children may be called to serve. They may spend their lives within the circle of the home; they may engage in life's common vocations or go as teachers of the gospel to heathen lands; but all are alike called to be missionaries for God, ministers of mercy to the world." (*Child Guidance*, p. 486)
2. "Satan is ever at work to hold the children in his snare. But as parents take up their work in the fear of God, His angels will come to their aid. Those parents who train their children for the Lord will be entitled to His divine help. Angels will inspire the children to respond to a life of unselfish service." (*Child Guidance*, p. 549)
3. "Young though they may be the youth may be members of the household of faith and have a most precious experience.... They may have their hearts drawn out in confidence and love for Jesus and live for the Saviour. Christ will make them little missionaries. The whole current of their thought may be changed, so that sin will not appear a thing to be enjoyed, but to be shunned and hated." (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p.169)
4. "Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. To them, God can reveal His truth and salvation. Jesus calls the little ones that believe in Him, the lambs of His flock. He has a special love for and interest in the children...The most precious offering that the children can give to Jesus, is the freshness of their childhood." *Reflecting Christ*, p. 373)
5. "Those who love God should feel deeply interested in the children and youth. To them God can reveal His truth and salvation. Jesus calls the little ones that believe on Him, the lambs of His flock. He has a special love for and interest in the children....The most precious offering that the children can give to Jesus, is the freshness of their childhood." *Reflecting Christ*, p. 373.
6. "The Christian worker may be Christ's agent in drawing these children to the Savior. By wisdom and tact he may bind them to his heart, he may give them courage and hope, and through the grace of Christ may see them transformed in character, so that of them it may be said, 'Of such is the kingdom of God.'" *Desire of Ages*, p. 70.
7. "God wants every child of tender age to be His child, to be adopted into His family." *Counsels to Teachers and Parents*, p. 169.

## Resources

1. Bible Timeline and Children's Ministries Handbook are available on the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists website to help you with the children.  
<https://children.adventist.org/>
2. Download from Grace link.net, Sabbath School lesson videos to help the children with their lessons.
3. You can download Child Guidance to get more information on how to train children  
<https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/8/toc>
4. Download Bible Adventures for Young Readers from <https://children.adventist.org/bible-adventures-for-young-readers>.  
This Bible study uses creative, kid-friendly approach to the 28 fundamental beliefs, which will introduce children to the pillars of our faith.



**WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT  
QUARTERLY STATISTICAL FORM**



Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter Ending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete this form and return it to the Conference Children's Ministries Department by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following the END of each quarter. If you have other information to share, kindly use additional paper. You may submit form by hand; email: [children@westjamaica.org](mailto:children@westjamaica.org); or by fax: (876) 940-3080.*

ACTIVITY	QUANTITY
1. Number of children under age 15 in the congregation	
2. Number of baptized children under age 15 in the congregation	
3. Number of children baptized during this quarter	
4. Does your church conduct baptismal classes for children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Have you participated in the certificate programme? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. Certificate level completed (✓) Level 1 _____ Level 2 _____ Level 3 _____	
7. Number of other leader/teacher training events conducted. Specify: _____ _____	
8. Did your church conduct Vacation Bible School? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number of children attending Vacation Bible School. a) Number of Seventh-day Adventist attending _____ b) Number of non-Seventh-day Adventist attending _____	
9. Number of other evangelistic outreach programmes conducted for children Specify: _____ _____	
10. Number of service/outreach opportunities in which children participated. Small groups: _____ Visitation: _____ Food Distribution: _____ Giving out Literature: _____	
11. Does your church observe Children's Ministries Day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**STATISTICS**

DEPARTMENT	BEGINNERS	KINDERGARTEN	PRIMARY	JUNIORS	REAL FAITH
No. of Children					
Teachers					