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# CHURCH HISTORY



**These are the programmes of CEM:**

### 1. Evangelism:

**Goal:** To reach children of Nigeria, Africa and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Projects: We establish, organize and run:-**

- Children Bible Clubs in homes, streets, primary schools, handicapped homes and on Radio and Television, YES Club in Secondary Schools.
- Effective and result oriented Children Sunday Schools, and teenage churches through the training provided for Sunday School leaders of various churches.
- Children Outreaches like Holiday Camps, Rallies, Crusades, Holiday Bible Clubs, Joy Fairs and Picnics.
- Promotional Challenges; getting churches to see the need for evangelisation of children.

### 2. Qualitative Education:

**Goal:** To raise Christ-centered and intellectually developed children to influence the society.

**Projects: We organize and run:**

- Day Care Centers, Nursery/Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Children Evening Classes.
- Formal and Informal Learning centres.

### 3. Health care:

**Goal:** To cater for the physical well-being of the child among the neglected or unreached people groups.

**Projects:**

- Health Care Campaign
- Health Care Seminars/Workshops.
- Mobile Clinics.
- Total Child Health Centers and Hospitals.

### 4. Social welfare:

**Goal:** In conjunction with other welfare organisa-

tions, we provide for the children's neglected basic needs in order to help them fit into the society.

**Projects:**

- Identifying and visiting needy children.
- Establishing Counselling and Welfare Centers.
- Welfare Programmes and Aids for Handicapped and Motherless Babies.
- Education of refugee Children and Orphans.
- Bible Clubs for the Handicapped.
- Relief (Emergency).

### 5. Mission:

**Goal:** To send missionaries to places where children have not been effectively reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Projects:-**

- Research and Search for Open Doors.
- Short term Mission Outreaches.
- Establishing C.E.M in other lands.
- Recruit, train and send out missionaries.
- Organise Mission Camps for children with the aim exposing and involving them in mission work. i.e. Training children for missions.

### 6. Research and literature development

**Goal:** To produce and distribute adequate teaching and reading materials to meet the physical, social, mental and spiritual needs of the child, and to equip the adults for children ministry.

**Projects:**

- Writing and publication of children's materials like Bible Lessons, Songs, Missionary Stories and Devotional materials for children.
- Writing and printing of Promotional Tracts for adults and Gospel Tracts for children.
- Conducting Writer's Workshops/Seminars.
- Establishing a Printing Press.

### 7. Support mobilization:

**Goal:** To source for sustainable resources for the execution of CEM programmes and maintenance of the staff.

**Projects:**

- Creating awareness and recruiting financial partners for the work of the Ministry.
- Handles the co-ordination and maintenance of all the non-profit oriented efforts and investments of the Ministry.
- It is the praying arm of the Ministry.

### 8. Organizational development:

**Goal:** To have all human and material resources well developed to facilitate dynamism and



progress.

**Projects:**

- (a) See to the recruitment, training and welfare of the staff of the Ministry.
- (b) To get the Ministry established both structurally and procedurally.

**9. Training:**

**Goal:** To impact skill and enhance the knowledge of children workers so they can apply what they learn to change their behavior and others. To equip the would-be children's minister to minister wholistically to children.

**Projects:**

Organising and conducting training programmes such as:

- (a) Decentralised Basic Course for all children ministers.
- (b) Train The Trainers (TTT) course for all instructors/ mentors of the Basic Course and Children Sunday School Coordinators and Superintendents.
- (c) Children Missionary Workers and Staff (CMWS) Course in Child Evangelism.
- (d) The Child Development International Institute (CDII) that offers Diploma, Advanced and Certificate Course in Child Evangelism.

**10. Baby Ministry & Women Who Care**

**Goal:** Create adequate awareness on why and how to minister to babies. Organise women to actively be involved with caring for their homes.

**Projects:**

- (a) Baby Ministry workshops and seminars
- (b) Women Who Care conferences
- (c) Anti-Abortion Crusades
- (d) Esther Queens teenage girls camps

**11. Campus Link**

Mobilise, train & Equip students in tertiary institutions (Universities, Polytechnics etc) to be actively involved in children ministry.

**What CEM can do for you**

1. Organize and establish effective and result-oriented Children Sunday School in your church.

2. Train the Church's Children Workers, Children Pastors and Parents.
3. Open and run a Children Bible Club in your home, street or neighbourhood.
4. Act as Children's Consultants.
5. Organize Children Programmes like Children's Week activities in your church and Birthday parties for your children at home.

**What you can do for CEM**

**You can:-**

1. Be a prayer-partner of CEM.
2. Be actively involved in and committed to CEM in any of these areas:-
  - a. Be a full-time worker.
  - b. Serve with CEM during NYSC programme (Children Missionary Worker).
  - c. Be a volunteer worker.
  - d. Be a teacher or helper in Children Bible Club.
  - e. Be a teacher of teachers (Course Instructor).
  - f. Be a teacher in Children Sunday School in the Church and other Christian groups.
  - g. Be a professional adviser or a Patron.
3. You can open your home for children meetings and programmes as Hosts/Hostesses.
4. You can support the work of CEM Missionaries financially by giving in cash and kind.
5. Serve as a contact person in raising support for CEM.

Since CEM is devoted to ministering to children and raising and training of children ministers, the Lord depends on us, his children, to see that this vision of developing the Total Child is fulfilled.

***IT IS BETTER TO BUILD  
CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR***



# History of SUNDAY SCHOOL

## THE ESSENCE OF STUDYING HISTORY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

- We study history of Sunday School so that we can know how it was established.
- History of Sunday school will enable us to appreciate the sacrifice and labour of great men God used to bring Sunday school to limelight.
- It will challenge us to look for ways to fulfill our ministry and make impact in our generation.

## 1780: ROBERT RAIKES AND THE FOUNDING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Robert Raikes (1736-1811) is known as the founder of the modern Sunday school movement. He was a friend of Whitfield and Wesley and received help from William Wilberforce.

Until Raikes, there were isolated occasional Sunday Schools but their influence was mainly restricted to one city, one town or one church. Robert Raikes however founded Sunday Schools for the whole church.

Raikes was touched by the plight of his city's poor children, who worked long hours in the factories six days a week and then spent their Sunday running through the streets causing mischief. In 1780, Raikes started a School on a Sunday morning at Mrs. Meredith's kitchen. He hired four women to teach them **the Bible, manners, right living and the basic of reading, writing and arithmetic**, which they could not have received in any other way. Raikes's efforts inspired people throughout England and in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Africa to start similar schools. Historians see the Sunday School Movements as the beginning of popular education (education for all children) in Great Britain. After laws were passed in 1802 restricting child labour, weekdays schools were started by two different Christian groups and the Sunday Schools became more like we have today.

Within 4 years, more than 250,000 children were attending Sunday School in England. For many years afterwards churches and individuals supported the schools in England to ensure that children would continue to receive training in Bible and character along with the other subjects.

Raikes died in 1811 but by 1831, Sunday school in Great Britain was ministering weekly to 1,250,000 children, approximately 25 percent of the population.

Bishop Ashbury introduced Raikes idea of Sunday Schools into America in Virginia in 1786. By 1810, the American version of the Sunday school movement had become a part of the church and the emphasis was more on Biblical teaching of children rather than on teaching children to read and write.

William Fox, a Baptist deacon, had been impressed by what he saw of Robert Raikes Sunday School and so he wrote to Robert Raikes about a plan to establish a Sunday School Society. In 1785 Fox established the 'Sunday School Society' where teachers were to be paid. By 1803, the plan of voluntary unpaid workers was established and the 'London Sunday School Union' was formed to replace the Sunday School Society.

Robert Raikes first idea was little more than to keep the children out of the streets and to protect the Sabbath. Then the children were taught to read and write. Then the Bible was introduced as the reading book. The next step was to commit the Bible to memory. Then the churches embraced the Sunday school.

However, in those early Sunday Schools there was not even the hint of possible conversion of children. The Bible was simply a book of 'task-lessons' to the young.

**J. CHARLES HADDEN SPURGEON 1834-1892**

It was Spurgeon who in 1886 introduced the wordless book in a sermon entitled 'The Wordless Book'.

Come Ye Children (1989) is a book containing sermons preached by Spurgeon on training and reaching children. The following are quotes directly from Spurgeon.

**On how old a child needs to be before they can be saved.**

*I will not say at what age children are first capable of receiving the knowledge of Christ, but it is much earlier than some fancy; and we have seen and known children who have given abundant evidence that they have received Christ and have believed in Him at a very early age."*

**K. 1856 D L MOODY: FATHER OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN AMERICA**

In 1856, D L (Dwight Lyman) Moody (1837-1899) rented four pews at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Chicago to provide lonely boys like him a place of worship. Then he joined the mission band of the First Methodist Church, visiting and distributing tracts at hotels and boarding houses.

The prayer revival that was sweeping the nation in 1857-59 affected Moody greatly. Discovering a little afternoon Sunday School on the corner of Chicago and Wells he offered his help. He was told there were already nearly as many teachers as students so he began recruiting. The first week he brought in eighteen children, doubling the Sunday School! Soon his recruiting overflowed the place.

He went to the shores of Lake Michigan in the summer of 1858 and taught children, using pieces of driftwood as chairs. He was dubbed "Crazy Moody" about this time, but respect came through the years as the title slowly changed to "Brother Moody," "Mr. Moody," and finally, "D.L. Moody."

Of himself of his sinfulness, of Christ's blood poured out for him, and of the "whiter-than-snow" cleansing provided for him.

It is not known when the gold page was added, but it brought another dimension to the book, depicting the love of God and the glories of His heavenly home. Nine years later, **D. L. Moody** used the book of colours at a children's service where an estimated 12,000 were present to hear his message on "a book with four leaves-black, red, white and gold."

**Ruth Overholtzer**, wife of Child Evangelism Fellowship's founder, J. Irvin Overholtzer, discovered the book in 1924. It was being published in London at that time. Fifteen years later, CEF added the final colour, green, to represent Christian growth.

**. PAYSON HAMMOND**

In the mid 1800s, there was a revival in Scotland. A young evangelist by the name of E. Payson Hammond was visiting from Connecticut. One day at the end of a service, he stumbled across a group of children in a vestry, age no older than about 8 or 9, fervently praying in their own prayer meeting. It surprised him that they could pray so fervently with no adult present. It stirred him so much that he could not stop thinking about it. "What did it mean? How could little children pray like that? What had brought these children together without even one adult present?"

The answer came back forcibly to Hammond's mind. "Because they are born again!"

That day, Hammond made a vow. He would spend his entire life leading children to Jesus. Hammond kept his vow and spent the rest of his life leading thousands and thousands of children to Jesus throughout Britain and the United States of America.

One of his assistants was Josiah Spiers who was to become one of the most important people in recent history in helping children find Jesus through the establishing of Scripture Union.

**M. 1867: SCRIPTURE UNION**

In 1867, Josiah Spiers spoke to fourteen children in a drawing room in Islington, London, and began the pioneer work of sharing Christ with children in a way that relates to their real needs. This led to the founding of the Children's Special Service Mission, or CSSM, which was later to become Scripture Union.

In 1879, Scripture Union introduced a system of daily Bible reading.

Scripture Union continues to work with churches to make God's Good News known among children and youth through a variety of creative methods. These include outreaches, missions, and daily Bible reading programs for children and youth.



**1886: THE WORDLESS BOOK**

Charles Spurgeon introduced the Wordless Book, first designed with only three pages - black, red, and white - in 1866. Preaching at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, his sermon was entitled "The Wordless Book." Mr. Spurgeon told of an old unnamed minister who had put three pages together and often looked at them to remind

**9. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY****1937: JESSE IRVIN OVERHOLTZER AND CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP:**

Jesse Irvin Overholtzer was raised in a church that taught that praying and religion were for grown-ups. At the age of 12, he longed to be right with God, and asked his mother for help. He was told, "Jessie, you are too young."

When it became too much to bear and his questions were not answered, Jesse decided that if he could not get right with God, he might as well sin as much as he wanted. The next eight years were filled with rebellion and darkness.

Finally, at age 20, Jesse Overholtzer accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

Mr. Overholtzer enlisted the help of leading evangelicals of his day, Dr. Paul W. Rood and Dr. Harry A. Ironside. In May 1937, in the state of Illinois, Child Evangelism Fellowship was incorporated. CEF is currently ministering in over 150 countries.

**10. TO THE PRESENT DAY****VIVA NETWORK - CHRISTIANS PASSIONATELY CONCERNED FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

Viva Network could be called the Christian version of UNESCO. It is a global movement of Christians. Viva Network co-ordinates the Christian response to 'children at risk' through the development and support of networks. Viva Network is based in Oxford, UK works in 40 countries, through 69 networking initiatives and 16 national collaborations, linking over 7,000 projects, together reaching 1.8 million children. The work is supported from centres in Costa Rica, Malaysia, Uganda, and the UK.

They create networks among Christians caring for children, because, they believe, collaboration brings greater effectiveness. Their work provides vulnerable children with more services of better quality, plus a bigger voice speaking up for their interests.

Viva Network is a global movement of Christians passionately concerned for 'children at risk', committed to every child having the opportunity to become all that God intends.

**E. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ORGANISATIONS WITH A WORLDWIDE INFLUENCE**

- § Children's Bible Ministries International provides teaching resources and training in children's ministry through their "Life Changers" curriculum throughout Asia and Africa, particularly to countries that have little or no visualised teaching curriculum available. Kids Games – is reaching into almost every country with a unique program of using games to reach children. See [www.kidsgames.com](http://www.kidsgames.com).
- § Logosdor is a children's ministry organisation with a global vision. Their website [www.max7.org](http://www.max7.org) is a resource assisting churches worldwide to reach children for Jesus.
- § Kidsreach
- § Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade.

**CONCLUSION**

Dean Stone notes "ministry to children is the most **strategic** ministry of the church. He says excellence in ministry in a local church begins with infancy and works its way on up."

The changed lives and challenging testimonies of children have drawn many people into the Kingdom of God. Their simple trust, honesty, enthusiasm and joy often melt the hearts of people who would not have been reached otherwise. Children have already proven a strategic gateway into un-reached people groups. Sadly, this is something the church at large seems to ignore.