

To the physically challenged, the orphaned, the abused, the sick and the hungry child I say; you are not alone. God is with you. He hears your cries and sees your pain. To Him you are special, created in His image. You are original, you're one of a kind. A showcase of God's beauty for the whole world to see and most of all, He loves every part of you with all his heart.

On behalf of the UCCSA Children's Ministry, a very sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone, big and small who founded it fit to fill an envelope and contributed to the CHILDREN'S GIFT. The five Synods, your Regions and your local Sunday Schools will benefit greatly by your generosity so too will the many souls whom we will reach out to and endeavour to help through this project.

Abundant blessings From God Our Father's Hand to your generous heart.

Christine Snyders

UCCSA Children's Ministry Convenor

south africa synod
children's ministry
children's day 2013

Brief Overview of the The Children's Day Service

I look up from my books at the little grade two girl running towards my desk. Little Alizwa throws her arms around my neck and cries out as she buries her head in my neck: "Where were you on Monday? I was looking for you". "But you know I'm not at your school on a Monday." "But I needed you then", she cried. Hush now puppet and tell me why you needed me." I lift her onto my lap, wipe her tears but as I try to hug her, she jerks away in pain. On closer inspection, I discover the tiny body covered in bruises. "Who did this to you Alizwa" ? The story which unfolded was horrific. I was shocked to the core of my very being.

Day by day the media shares stories of such heinous acts. The statistics do not reflect the true numbers as hundreds of such cases do not get reported. The real truth? Abuse is rife in our communities. We live in a poverty stricken society. How many more Alizwas are there in the wider community? There might even be some in our very own local churches. Yet such kids are at Sunday School, Sunday after Sunday because it poses to be a 'home away from home'. Isn't it time such children are identified and the Sunday School or a matter of fact the church in it's entirety reach out to such kids ? Those in the community as well as those within the folds of the church ? (CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME) " God is calling us to participate in suffering and struggle". The first Sunday in June is " National Children's Day" on the calendar of UCCSA. The children's ministry of SA Synod started the "Children's Gift" in 2012 to lend a helping hand to those who suffer from abuse, are challenged by poverty, by disabilities and life threatening diseases. Through this project we also wish to bring about an awareness and teach our children to reach out, touch the lives of those suffering and try to make a difference. Today is the second year we distributed these envelopes. The idea wasn't very well received in 2012. The 50% which was allocated to the synod amounted to R25 000- This year we trust that we will receive considerably more so that we can do more and touch more lives and in so doing bring some joy to some suffering children.

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order of service

1. PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Jesus loves the little children - see inside back page*
2. Welcome and Notices
3. Call to Worship - see page 3
4. Lighting of Candle –see page 3
5. Prayer of Praise and Adoration (followed by the Lord's Prayer - sung)
6. Hymn No. 329- *God make my life a little light - see inside back page*
7. Sunday School item:
8. Scripture Readings:
O.T.
N.T.
9. Liturgy for the Children's Gift - see page 4.
Reach out and Touch Somebody's hand (sung) as envelopes are deposited.
10. Offertory Hymn165 see inside back page
11. Offertory Prayer -
12. Sunday School item:
13. SERMON
14. Prayers of Intercession + Lighting of Candle - see page 5
15. Lithany of Confession:- see page 6
16. Sunday School item:
17. Commissioning and Benediction Song - see page 6
18. Benediction
19. RECESSIONAL HYMN 385 - *Praise Him, Praise Him - see inside back page*

hymn sheet

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Everything is Beautiful
Jesus loves the little children
all the children of the world
red and yellow black and white
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children
of the world.

Everything is beautiful in
it's own way
like a starry summer night
or a snow covered winter's day
Everything is beautiful in its own way
under God's heaven the world's
gonna find a way

HYMN NO. 329

God make my life a little light
within the world to glow
a little flame that burneth bright
wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower
that giveth joy to all,
content to bloom in nature's bower,
although the place be small.

God make my life a little song
that comforteth the sad,
that helpeth others to be strong
and makes the singer glad.

God make my life a little hymn
of tenderness and praise,
of faith that never waxeth dim,
in all his wondrous ways.

OFFERTORY HYMN 165

We give Thee but thine own
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we thy bountless thus
as stewards true receive
and gladly, as Thou blesses us,
to Thee our first-fruits give.

For hearts are bruised and dead,
and homes are bare and cold,
and lambs for whom the Shepherd
bled are straying from the fold.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 385

Praise Him, praise Him
all you little children
God is love; He is Love.
Praise Him, praise Him
all you little children
God is love; He is love.

Thank Him, thank Him
all you little children
God is love; He is Love.
Thank Him, thank Him
all you little children
God is love; He is Love.

Love Him, love Him,
all you little children,
God is love; He is love
Love Him, love Him,
all you little children,
God is love; He is love .

lithany of Confession

We are yours God, silent now
but filled with new awareness
of all our possibilities. Still
now but full of energy for
our ministry to children.
Prayerfully we come to hear
your word and celebrate
the gospel which makes us
new beings, we are only
just discovering inside
ourselves.
With hope we approach
you in worship to
celebrate Children's Day!

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION SONG

(sung to the **Tune**: **Blest be the tie that binds**)

Until we meet again
walk gently in His way
Dwell in the hollow of
God's hand
rejoice and serve and pray

Call to worship

Leader Creator God on this day we pray!
Congregation: Your compassionate love for children
Leader To You O God we lift our hearts
Congregation For the precious gift of children
Leader We praise the arms that welcomed children
Congregation In a loving touch and embrace
Leader We give thanks for a hand that reached out
Congregation To raise a child to new life
Leader For the joy of transformation we give you glory Lord!
All: We reach out to be touched, by YOUR gentle loving hands.
Empowered by YOUR spirit
O Lord, let the praise of children and infants be heard
Hosanna to the Son of
David!!

lighting of candle

We light this candle for every family where brokenness prevails, for every physically challenged child, every poverty-stricken, orphaned and abused child. May God's love shine in their hearts and strengthen them for every challenge they have to face.

liturgy for the children's gift

Leader: We bring our gifts to the altar
Congregation: in humble thanks to you!
Leader: For the precious gift of children and parenthood too!
Congregation: We give YOU thanks O LORD!
Leader: For the gift of spiritual parents who fulfil their baptismal vows,
Congregation: Of guidance and of nurturance along YOUR loving way!
Leader: These gifts we bring for nurturance
Congregation: Of each hungry little soul!
Leader: For guidance on the path of truth you patterned as a child!
Congregation: May all they need to know
O Lord,
to love you more
and more
help them to live their lives
in fellowship with YOU.
Take this our seed
and let it grow beneath
your guiding hand, to help
our children grow like you
when YOU were just a child
in wisdom, love and fellowship.

(Reach out and Touch Somebody's hand (sung) as envelopes are deposited.)

Reach out And Touch

Somebody's Hand

Make this world a Better Place

If you can.

Repeat

prayers of intercession

FOR FAMILIES:

Lord in YOU every family on earth receives its name. Illumine all homes with the light of **YOUR love!**

Lord of healing, we call on **YOU** where brokenness prevails and children are scarred!

Spirit of healing, heal their wounded souls!

FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN:

Father of love, their frame was not hidden from YOU when they were formed in the secret place! You poured **YOUR** loving spirit to overflowing into their hearts, a tenacity of spirit to persevere was a gift more precious than gold! With amazement we've watched O Lord, **YOUR** children excel, though physically challenged. The grace YOU bestowed O awesome God leads us to reach out and touch their untarnished souls to meet life's challenge to the glory of our Saviour and Lord.

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE:

We pray for children who are victims of abuse. Children that feel ashamed, disgraced and humiliated, yet reaching out and crying from deep within for love, for tenderness, for compassion.

Lord use us as your

instruments to draw them

to your heart, to enwrap

them with the cloak of love

restoring their broken spirits

to a spirit of joyous

laughter!

FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN:

Father God YOU have taught us through religion that YOU our Father accepts us your children as pure and faultless . You also taught us that our duty is to look after widows and orphans in distress. We pray for orphaned children yet mindful of YOUR promise to be a Father and a Mother to them. Use us as YOUR instruments of Spiritual MOTHERS and FATHERS to nurture them in love, to welcome them into our hearts in a spirit of YOUR unconditional LOVE.