



1. Hello! I wish to introduce a resources web site of teaching materials designed to meet some of the challenges faced by our young people today.

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that I have introduced the site to people and it is significant that it should be in Poland because in a way it started here.



2. From 1988 my husband & I made short visits to Poland & Czechoslovakia (& Romania) with one of the missions (Christian Mission to the Communist World). We made some very good friends, such as Janina Gazda and Pavel & Dana Hanes who were on conference with us last year.

During these visits we were often asked for teaching materials for children.

Now I was aware of the strengths and weaknesses, and the gaps regarding such materials in the UK. It was at this time that God began speaking to me about writing materials myself.



3. I already had experience teaching History and some Religious Education at a traditional Christian boarding school.

I also had experience teaching children at church.

Having **now** worked with a very **wide range** of groups, this has broadened the way that I write resources.

4. I have increasingly focused on the 10-14 year old age group.

There is much concern for them in the UK.

Many lose interest in church and/or Bible teaching.

It is here that there are **still gaps** in resources.

Materials that are suitable for this age group can also be adapted for both older and younger groups. (This image was a 'selfie' that some of my 13 year olds took, photo-shopped and posted on Facebook. I love it because it portrays this age group so well. But they are now 18 and I do not have their permission to re-post it)



5. I have 3 main aims:

1. **Depth**

Those who've had strong Bible teaching when young feel they know it all. They easily get bored. They need to be taught at a deeper level. So I read around and e-mail Pavel Hanes when I need a theological opinion. (Pavel is an Associate Professor of Theology at Katedra evanjelíkálnej teológie a misie, University of Mateja Bela in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia.)

**Relevance**

Whether they have a church background or not, they need Bible teaching that relates to real life, not just cute stories. Bible culture is different from our own, & cultures are different shapes. But people don't change. People have pretty much the same problems over the centuries. We need to be in touch with our own culture and adapt teaching materials as necessary.

2. **Fun**: And of course they also need to **enjoy** the subject. It is easier to have fun in youth groups than in school but passionate teaching and interactive teaching methods make a great difference.

6. I now have my own **web site** for publishing materials. These have been tried and tested within real groups. I write for specific groups to meet specific needs and then I broaden the material afterwards, especially if I repeat material with a different type of group.

It **is** a **new** site. It **will** be a few more years before it can provide a full curriculum. Curriculum is a complex issue – there are many ways of writing one. We don't want to be too tied to any one curriculum in particular. However in the course of our work, we have noticed that the great commandment covers 4 important/key areas.



Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind. And Love your Neighbour as Yourself. Luke 10:27

Spiritual, intellectual/beliefs, lifestyle and pastoral - One long term aim is to provide a balance across these areas.

All these resources are interactive with suggestions for games, ideas for prayer stations etc. Not all of these ideas will fit every situation, but you are creative people, you know how prayer works and you know how to adapt materials.

Just a quick look at some titles –

## 7. Pastoral

This age group has many pastoral needs – e.g. value. They so often base their value on things like their appearance, or the number of friends they have. We can help them to understand what it means to be made in the image of God and base their value on that.

Some feel unwanted. Well - 'Was Ishmael just one of Abraham's mistakes? Or did God have a plan for his life as well? Is there really such a thing as an unwanted child in the eyes of God? Jesus' family tree – there were some nasty characters here. We can use this to help children.

## 8. Lifestyle

Their relationships with others are important. Relating to parents can get difficult at this age.

This particular outline on Joseph looks at forgiveness, which can be a really challenging topic. Lying – they know it is wrong to lie. Help them to look at why people lie and the effects that it has. Topics like this can be used in a general school situation where you have to be careful talking about God.

## 9. Spiritual

They need some understanding of the spiritual world as well as developing a spiritual life themselves.

Angels and the spiritual world: this was written for a church group who wanted to know about the creation of the spiritual world and the fall of Satan. We later added material to make it useful for unchurched groups who may have some New Age type beliefs.

The spiritual world has a dark side so there are resources to help with spiritual battles.

## 10. Beliefs/Jesus

No time for any details!

11. These are a few titles that have already been published and there are many more waiting to be edited and posted.

The name of the web site is [www.soulpace1014.com](http://www.soulpace1014.com) I have some cards here with the address if you would like to take a look at the web site.

Thank you for listening.