



Issue 3

BUC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living



A Publication of the British Union Conference Family and Children's Ministries Departments

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Family Ministry: A Divine Imperative

Pr Les Ackie

On October 8, 1919, the General Conference Committee created the Home Commission, which in practical terms established Family Ministry as an official ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In just over two years time, we celebrate the centennial of the inauguration of this essential ministry. However, it would be a failure of understanding to conclude that family ministry was an invention of the 20th century. Family ministry is a biblical mandate. From the moment that God put Adam to sleep and drew from his side the rib that became his life companion, Eve, family ministry was established. The responsibility of passing on our spiritual heritage has always rested with the family because the family is the primary agency that God has put in place to transmit His values from one generation to another. God decreed, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk

of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

The mandate stresses the importance of parents' task of spiritually educating their children. Ellen White reiterated this thought when she wrote, "Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home . . . There is no missionary field more important than this" (*The Adventist Home*, 35). The role of the church is to support families with this divine imperative. Christian market researcher George Barna has conducted extensive research, which indicates that the vast majority of parents who regularly attend church do not read the Bible regularly with their children at home or engage in any form of family worship. One of the primary reasons he cites is that they don't know how. Yet once again we are counselled that, "The family is a church, over which the parents preside (*Child Guidance*, 478)." Barna asserts, "We cannot legitimately pawn off our kids on a church and expect it to do the job we as parents have been given by God. However, we can partner with the church to compensate for our own areas of developmental weakness or inability" (*Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, 75). The agencies of the church, (Sabbath School, Pathfinders, Christian Schools, etc.), were never designed to usurp the parents' responsibility of spiritually educating their children, but to supplement it. This is where family and children's ministries come into the own. We also need to bear in mind that the dichotomy that we make between children's ministries and family ministries are false distinctions because children's ministry is family ministry. To paraphrase a popular saying we used to use in literature evangelism training, "You take the child by the hand, you take the parent by the heart."

Family ministry operates as a linchpin that facilitates the effective operation of practically every other ministry of the church, because whatever we experience, whether in the areas of health; challenges with our children; stewardship of our resources; education; disability, etc; all are experienced within the context of the family. Even our expression of worship and our evangelistic

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endeavours begin within the family. Steven Covey's famous quote captured the vital importance of family ministry when he stated, "I am convinced that if we as a society work diligently in every other area of life and neglect the family, it would be analogous to straightening deck chairs on the Titanic" (*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, 2).



If there were any lingering doubts about the crucial importance of family ministry, the Enemy's relentless attack upon the family provides convincing additional evidence. We must confront the sobering truth that, "It is Satan's studied effort to pervert the marriage institution" . . . "he seeks to destroy the happiness of the family. He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church (*Patriarchs & Prophets*, 338; *The Upward Look*, 136). In light of these realities, I must confess that it is a constant source of frustration to me that in spite of all the inspired authority and solid research for its effectiveness, family ministry remains somewhat of a 'Cinderella' department in the church - poor and neglected, yet with potential for great things.

If we accept the premise of the adage coined by Chuck Colson, "As goes the family, so goes the church", then it stands to reason that we should muster our spiritual energies and material resources to bolster the family units that comprise the church. I wholeheartedly concur with the founder of Faith at Home Ministries, Mark Holmen, who believes that we should not just have churches with family ministries, but rather, churches of family ministries. In other words, ministry to and with families should permeate all that we do. If we accept the validity of the inspired counsel and the research findings quoted above, then will need to modify the way we do church and how we allocate our resources. If we believe the counsel that "no work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers," (*The Adventist Home*, 182), then we as a church must be proactive in empowering families to take back the responsibility of passing on healthy spiritual values and practices to their children.

We must be intentional about educating family members to relate in healthy ways because the relational dynamics we cultivate in the home will impact the way we relate outside the home. Daniel Goleman, psychologist and author of Emotional Intelligence writes, "Family life is our first school for emotional learning. In this intimate cauldron we learn how to feel about ourselves and how others will react to our feelings; how to think about these feelings and what choices we have in reacting; how to read and express hopes and fears." We may know the Bible from cover to cover, but it is relational skills that allow us to follow Jesus example. We are told that, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled among men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, follow me" (*Ministry of Healing*, 143). As long as the family remains the foundation unit of the church we will need family ministry. While it may not be practical for every church or group to have a family ministry department, every 'church' should have a ministry to families. As Covey concludes, "We begin life in a family, we end life in a family. From beginning to the end, it's family" (*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, 2).



FAMILY WORSHIP APP

This app provides family worship ideas that are fun, easy, and inspirational for the entire family



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Emotional Intelligence
 DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING
 NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND DISABILITY MINISTRIES

For Pastors, Elders and Children's Ministries Teams

Sunday 9th March 2018
 10.00AM - 4.00PM

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH LEEDS CENTRAL
 169 MEANWOOD ROAD/OATLAND PLACE, LEEDS. LS7 1JW

Lunch will be provided

Dr Les Ackie
 GUEST SPEAKER
 NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Inspirational workshops:
 KCFS, Holiday Bible School, Messy Church, Smart Love and so much more... Register today

For more information contact the NEC Children's Ministries Secretary:
 Kathleen Williams Tel. 0115 960 6312

Designs by KS Enterprise
 www.kendranesewell.com

Scottish Mission Family Ministries Leadership Training



9 - 10 March

2018



Speaker: Ps Les Ackie

(BUC Family & Children Ministries Director)

We believe that strong families make a strong church. Seeing how the devil is attacking and destroying families in our generation it is paramount that us as a church we to come together and equip each other through training so that we are not caught up by the devil's traps. This training will focus on equipping everyone with tools and resources that will help bind our families together and bring us together as a church to champion family relations.

Training will start on Friday the 9th of March at 18:00 and finish at 20:00
 Then continue on Saturday the 10th from 10:00 and finish at 16:00.

For more details contact:

Tarzan Bhebhe: mob. 07894573718, email: tbhebhe63@gmail.com
 Priscilla Bhebhe: mob. 07737122857, email: sibongile329@gmail.com

Venue: Glasgow SDA Church, 18 Turriff Street, Glasgow, G5 9SB



SAVE THE DATE & SPREAD THE NEWS !!!

Presented By: Janelle Victry
 Women's Empowerment Team ..

Mother's Day
 BANQUET & AWARD CEREMONY

On Saturday 10th March 2018
 Time: 6:00 PM - 1 AM
 VENUE: All Souls Church Hall,
 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UJ

Mama You Are My Mother and my Queen.
 Free roses for all mothers and lots of prizes and surprises.

Tickets On Sale :£15 | Kids Free

Special Performance by: Jada Marsh Violinist
 Aspiring YOUNG Classical Violinist from the Royal
 College of Music born in the Island of Trinidad and Tobago.

In aid of Women Affected by
 Domestic Violence UK

To Get Your Tickets Now Call
 Jan 07943967769 / 07985369537



Parenting CONVENTION 2

"TRANSFORMING TRAJECTORIES
 CHANGE OUR THINKING"

10am - 4pm 8 APRIL 2018

HYLAND HOUSE SCHOOL HALL, HOLCOMBE ROAD
 TOTTENHAM, LONDON N17 9AD

This Parenting Convention brings together several professionals who will share their experience, knowledge and expertise on changing trajectories and thinking. Sessions will consider parenting and children's mental health, the highs and lows of being a father. There will be an offering of smaller workshops on dealing with children's behavior, developing positive templates and the importance of establishing boundaries.

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A Parabolē Productions
GOSPEL MUSICAL
FAMILY TIES
 PARABOLÉ PRODUCTIONS
 SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018
 Written & Directed by Derek Lindo
 7.00pm
BULMERSHE SCHOOL
 Woodlands Avenue, Reading, RG5 3EU



INFO & TICKET SALES

Lydia - 07941540047
 lyjolie@yahoo.co.uk



SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES PRESENTS
rekindle the spark
 couple's retreat
 theme:
MARRIAGE ON THE ROCK
 25TH – 27TH MAY 2018
 DeVere Staverton Estate
 DAVENTRY ROAD, STAVERTON
 NORTHAMPTON, NN11 6JT
 speakers:
 PR FREDRICK
 & BRENDA RUSSELL
£240 PER COUPLE
 FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION
 CONTACT: LIGIA BUZAC - LBUZAC@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK - 01923 232 728
 REGISTER: WWW.SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK/EVENTS



LEAVES
GLOW! MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
 PROUDLY PRESENTS...
2018 COUPLES RETREAT
"REKINDLE THE SPARK"



Speakers:
 Dr JD Papu & Mrs Papu (From South Africa)

Date:
 15 - 17 June 2018

Venue:
 Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
 Beach Boulevard
 Aberdeen, AB24 5EF



Cost: £320 per couple
 (Please pay your £150 deposit by 31-01-18
 & the remainder by 31-05-18)

Account details:
 Marriage Enrichment Glow
 Account #: 88549860 Sort Code: 538136

Strictly first-come first-served, places are limited. Book yours now!!

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
 Thabi 07856841365, Pepsi 07748468947,
 Ndaba 07813620196, Vincent 07958040518

LEAVES

Are you single by CHANCE, CHANGE OR CHOICE?

Then, it is time, even PAST TIME that your local church became aware and involved with the needs and issues of the single and single-again people all around us.

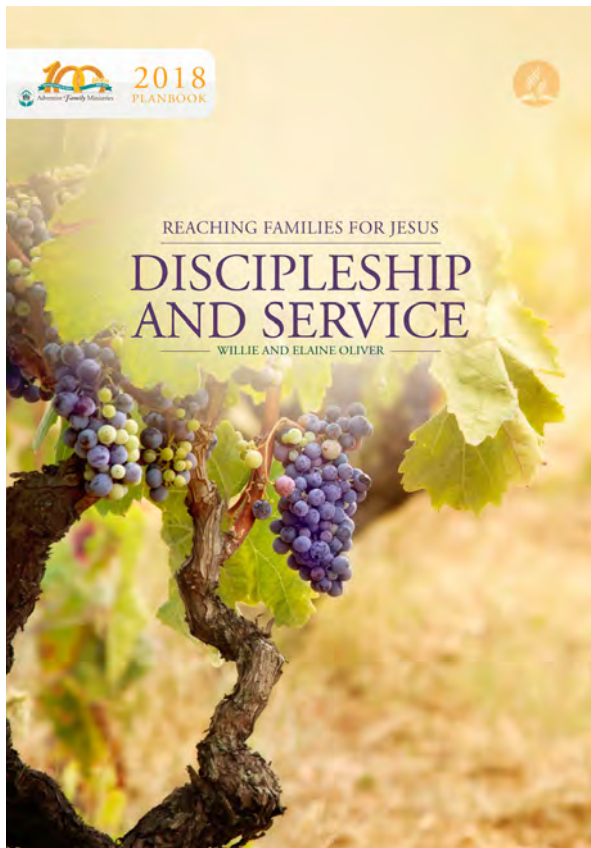
It is time to develop a new way of thinking, to be bold and innovative.

So, begin a ministry today to the singles in and around your local church and help them to see that they are the church and help them come to a place of ministry.



The time is Now!

The opportunity is there!! What will you do? Start a single adult ministry today. For help, contact the SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT for more information



Click on the link to download the Family Ministry Planbook at <http://family.adventist.org/family-ministry-planbook.html>

Family Camp

5-12 AUG 2017 £340/PER CARAVAN

Chapel Porth Caravan Site, Goonvrea St Agnes, Cornwall. TR5 0RN

NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

be still project

NRPf

S E M I N A R

The Be.Still.Project presents No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPf) Families and Current Changes in Immigration Law

This seminar seeks to raise awareness and understanding of immigration control and it's impact on families.

The Seminar will focus on:

- * Immigration Law - an update
- * Solicitors
- * Children's Services
- * Homelessness
- * Health Care
- * Education & Employment
- * Community Support

To book this seminar please contact:
SARAH BASHORUN (DipSW/HE, BSc)
 at sarah@thebestillproject.co.uk
 visit www.thebestillproject.co.uk

Please be advised that seminars will last approximately 2 hours. For other available workshops and seminars please enquire via email.

Can You RELATE?

Are you going through a difficult time?

Contact a member of the StressTherapist.net team today for confidential help and support and to speak with a qualified Adventist Psychotherapist.

Email: support@stresstherapist.net or Tel: 07828 438849

www.stresstherapist.net

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Click on the link to your welcome packs at <http://resourcesforlife.eu/shop/>



“Our children need to be immersed in giving back to God, not only money but also their time and every aspect of their lives.” Pastor Todd Frias, SEC Stewardship Director
Contact your local treasurer or the SEC Stewardship Department for supplies

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Useful Links

AdventSource -
www.adventsource.org/

Association of Christian
Counsellors - www.acc-uk.org/

Barna Research -
www.barna.org/

Care for the Family -
www.careforthefamily.org.uk/

Family & Parenting Institute -
www.familyandparenting.org/

Family Friendly Church Trust -
www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/NewSite/ffc.php

Focus on the Family
www.family.org

In Discipleship -
www.indiscipleship.org

Prepare Enrich -
www.prepare-enrich.co.uk/

Through the Roof (Disability
outreach) -
www.throughtheroof.org

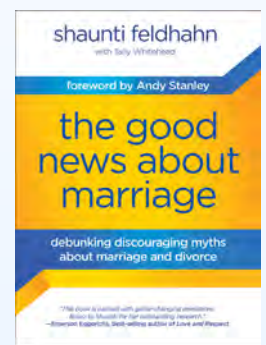
Women's Aid -
www.womensaid.org.uk/

Recommended Reading



Fearless Parenting. Conscientious parents who long to bring their children up as good Christians and good citizens face an uphill battle. In a culture of rampant narcissism and moral anarchy, righteous living isn't easy and it isn't popular. In this hopeful book, world-renowned researcher George Barna and nationally respected counselor Jimmy Myers offer parents a plan of action to raise healthy, godly children in a morally bankrupt culture.

The Good News About Marriage. Christian researcher, Shanti Feldhahn argues that divorce is not the biggest threat to marriage. Discouragement is. You've probably heard the grim facts: Half of all marriages end in divorce. The divorce rate inside the church is the same as outside. Most marriages are just holding on. But what if these "facts" are actually myths?

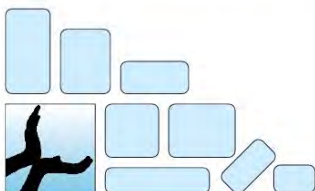


Church + Home: The Proven Formula for Building Lifelong Faith. In this practical guide, Mark Holmen shows how pastors and church leaders can help reestablish the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured. Holmen provides the tools you need to revolutionise your approach to family ministry. Discover how to build a bridge between your church's programs and your members' homes!

Cornerstone Counselling Service

0207 723 8050
ccs@secadventist.org.uk
sec.adventist.org.uk/counselling

Contact us to speak with a counsellor about issues that trouble you, or to make an appointment.



CONTACT US

BUC Family & Children's Ministries



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