

BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

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Beyond the Red Pill - A Perspective on Christian Masculinity, Pt.2 ([click here for Pt.1](#))

Pr Les Ackie

God made men and women different for a reason. Eve was given to Adam as a “helpmate” to complement him. As Evangelist E. E. Cleveland put it, “God gave Eve to Adam so that Adam would have the sense He didn't give him.” The original purpose of creation involved no hierarchy. According to Ellen White, “Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal” (The Adventist home, 25).

When God said, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:15), he was stating a basic fact that men and women need each other. Secularisation has so fractured the unity that God created that many in society now frame the relationship between men and women as a “battle of the sexes”. The well-worn phrase from radical feminists is that, “Women need a man like a fish needs a bicycle.”

In Western society, gender distinctions are falling like a stack of dominoes against the backdrop of gender equality, third-wave feminism and political correctness. LGBTQIA+ activism has aggressively claimed ground traditionally occupied by those who espouse a traditional Christian heritage. The church and the family are increasingly dismissed as outdated, repressive patriarchal institutions designed to oppress women and children. Those who advocate conventional family values are attacked with charges of bigotry, homophobia and misogyny.



The influence of postmodernism has placed Western values even more at odds with the Bible. Some who embrace ‘progressive Christianity’ have sought to appease social trends by making the Scriptures gender-neutral, even referring to God with a gender-neutral pronoun. In pushing back against societal trends, assigning arbitrary characteristics to masculinity and femininity would be a mistake. Men and women are more similar than they are different, but those differences are crucial. One of the many reasons progressives reject the Bible is its clear advocacy of a distinction between the sexes. Ellen White is consistent with this position. She said of Solomon, “From being one of the greatest kings

that ever wielded a sceptre, Solomon became a profligate, the tool and slave of others. His character, once noble and manly, became enervated and effeminate” (Prophets and Kings, 58). On a cautionary note, we must not fall into the trap of confusing effeminacy with gentleness. Gentleness is very much in keeping with masculinity. Ellen White criticised men who thought it beneath their dignity to speak tenderly, gently, and lovingly (Testimonies 4, 256). She commented that, “With tender earnestness, David entreated Solomon to be manly and noble, to show mercy and loving-kindness (Patriarchs & Prophets, 26). Once again, Jesus is our model in incorporating the virtues of courage, honour and sacrifice, with the softer virtues of gentleness, tenderness and compassion.



To get to the heart of authentic masculinity, we must look at God’s purpose in creating humanity. In Genesis chapter two, Adam is told that his responsibility in the garden was ‘to till’ and ‘to keep’ it. The original Hebrew words translated into English imply much greater significance than looking after real estate. The word ‘till’ in original Hebrew indicates labour in the service of others. The Hebrew word ‘keep’ means to protect and defend. This duty extended to Adam’s responsibility to his wife and, consequently, his family. God gave Eve to Adam “to be loved and protected by him” (The Adventist Home, 25). So, right from the very origin of man, we understand that the primary function of masculinity is to work in service and to protect.

These principles and responsibilities are to be discharged within the context of self-sacrificing love. Husbands are urged to love their wives “just as Christ loves the church and gave himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). What did Christ do in his love for us? He laid down His life. Men are further commanded to “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). Biblical masculinity courageously stands up for godly values.

The Bible emphasises courage, an essential quality of manhood. God told Job to, “Gird your loins like a man” (Job 38:3). In colloquial terms, ‘pull up your pants’. In other words, ‘summon your inner strength to prepare for battle.’ This courage is not the kind of “Here I am. Watch my smoke” bravado exemplified by Hollywood alpha male action heroes. It is the kind of courage that faces the inner fears and temptations that entice us to compromise our integrity, and which stands for the truth anyhow. We are told that. “The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall (Education, 57). These are the kind of men that the Enemy seeks to nullify in our homes, our churches, and our communities. This calibre of manhood can dispel the misconceptions about Christianity that cause non-believing men to give the church a wide berth.



The growth of the red pill community is, to a great degree, a reaction against society’s attempts to emasculate men. We have to be careful not to prescribe a “one size fits all” masculinity because no such thing exists. Even Jesus, in His perfection, provides a limited model for masculinity in that He was never a husband or a father, and we are told very little about His working life. Biblical masculinity arises out of an unswerving commitment to remain true to God’s word and is modelled on the character of the man Christ Jesus. Only through faith in Him can we “come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).



Act Now! Protect Christians and Children in Schools from Trans Ideology

Lorraine McDonald - BUC Education Director

Please be informed that the government has released draft guidance on gender questioning children and has opened a consultation on the matter. You are highly encouraged to participate in this important consultation.

On Sunday, 18 February, myself and Dr Brighton Kavaloh delivered a Zoom presentation giving the background to Government's consultation which you can access via this YouTube link - [Gender Questioning Children](#). The consultation was thoroughly explained, including the legislation behind it and how to access and respond to it. The programme will be repeated at [Camp Hill SDA Church on Sunday 3rd March, 2:30 pm](#). We strongly encourage everyone, whether you are a parent or teacher, to participate in the consultation. It is not necessary to disclose your personal information, such as your name. So, speak up and let your voice be heard!

Christian Concern is a Christian Legal Centre that seeks justice and protects the vulnerable, particularly in the area of education. They have provided easy to follow guidance on how to respond to the consultation. Visit: [Christian Concern](#).

The Government's guidance affects teachers, pupils and parents and will set the standard for what teachers and pupils can do. It is a significant step forward in protecting freedom of speech and telling schools they do not have to allow children to socially transition. However, the government still needs to be held to account and there are significant areas where the guidance should be improved.

Details: Please note that the consultation will close on **Tuesday, 12 March 2024**.

You can submit your response to the consultation by [following this link](#) and clicking 'Continue' at the bottom of the page. Alternatively, you can respond via email or post.

The draft guidance is available for [download here](#). We suggest you keep it open while you fill out the consultation. You can also download a printable copy of our guide to responding by [clicking here](#). If you are unable to use the online system due to exceptional circumstances, such as using specialist accessibility software that is incompatible with the system, you may request a Word document version of the form.

By email: gqcguidance.consultation@education.gov.uk

By post: Consultation Response - Guidance for schools and colleges: gender questioning children
Department for Education, Life Skills Division, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We need to "sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezekiel 9:4). We need to speak up! Have your say!!



To Judge or Not to Judge

Pr Les Ackie

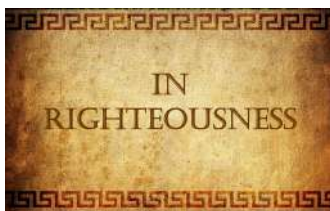
We live in a culture in which moral relativism is becoming more and more prevalent to the point where only THE most immoral acts are seen as evil and some even dispute whether there is such a thing as evil. Objective realities are being rejected as a standard for what is truth in favour of subjective feelings so that the emphasis is no longer 'the truth' but 'my truth'.

The upshot of this trend is that when truth is erased, anything goes because there is no longer a standard to judge what is right and what is wrong. Everybody does what is right in their own eyes, and anybody who advocates for the truth is a hater and a bigot deserving of censure. This is why Matthew 7:1 is a popular Bible text among non-Bible-believing people when issues of morality arise. The implication is drawn from Jesus' command to "Judge not", that nobody has the right to reprove anybody else for who they are or what they do. Many people use this verse in an attempt to silence their critics, interpreting Jesus' words to mean that all actions are equally moral.

To understand what Jesus means, we must not lose the context of His words. He clarifies His point with the follow-up, "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? . . . Hypocrite! (v3-4). The warning is against condemning others in the face of our own duplicity. Jesus advocates for judging when He counsels, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine" (v6). To heed the instruction we have to be able to differentiate who are the dogs and pigs and who are not. Again, He states, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits." There is a vast difference between hypocritical judgment and the judgment of discernment.



The reality is that we judge people every day, and quite rightly so. Without judging people, we cannot avoid 'bad company' (1 Corinthians 15:33). Without judging people, we cannot choose effective leaders. We make judgements when we select a spouse. Parents make judgements about who they entrust with their children. Judging others is not only permissible but also essential to our spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing.



Jesus also validated judging others by stating, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). In the context of this passage, Jesus advises against judging superficially at face value, but rather judge with wisdom and understanding. Spiritual discernment is an attribute of God's Spirit operating in our hearts enabling us to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (Timothy 4:2). The

ability to use our God-given discernment enables us to distinguish between right and wrong and helps to set us apart as His children. It is because of our commitment to His values that we can follow His counsel, "You shall do no injustice in judgment . . . In righteousness you shall judge your neighbour" (Leviticus 19:15).

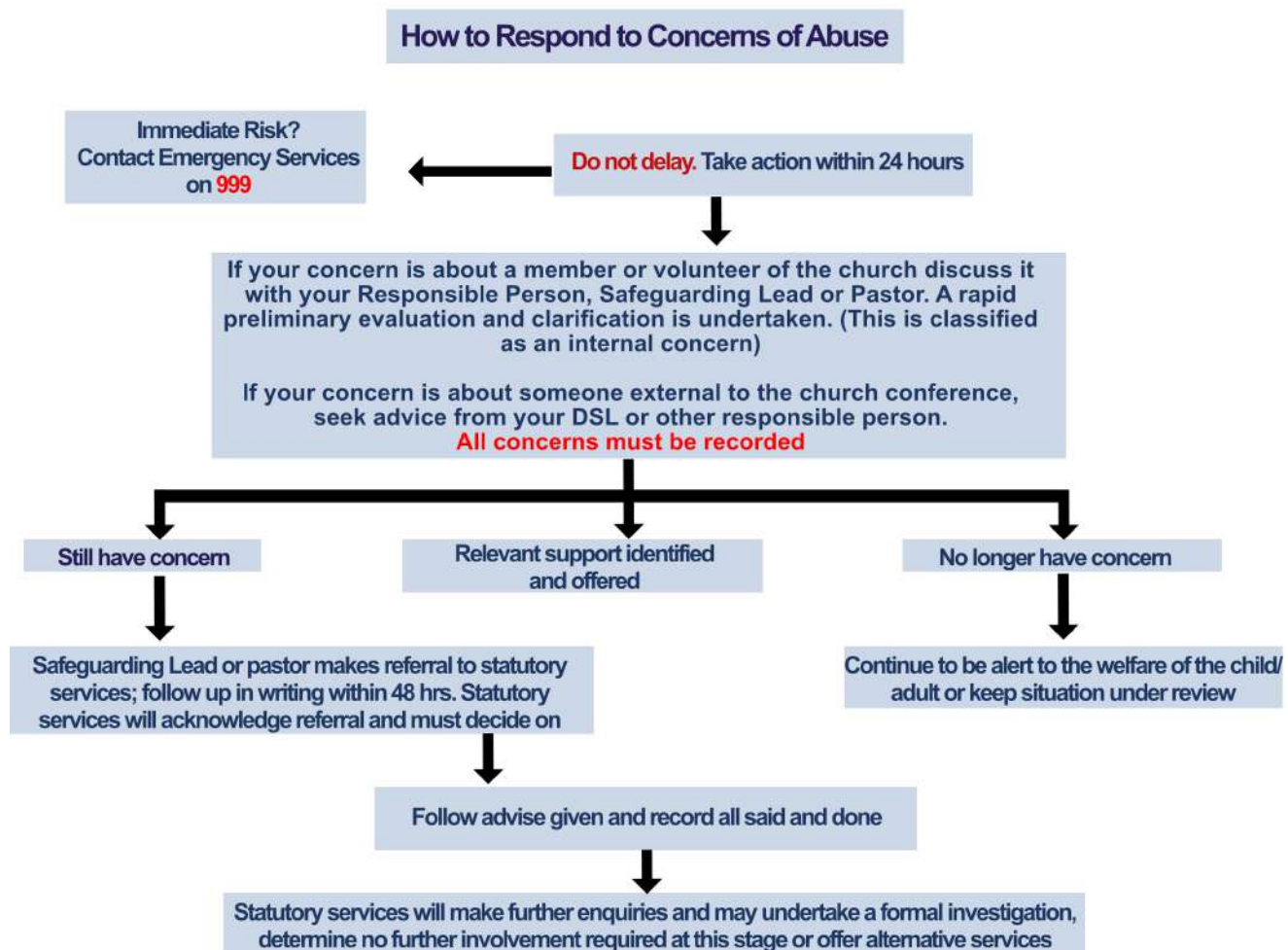


How to Respond to Concerns of Possible Abuse

Seventh-day Adventists believe that safeguarding the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of the vulnerable is integral to practically demonstrating the grace of Christ in our churches and communities. We recognise our duty and responsibilities as a church to provide an environment which seeks to eliminate the risk of abuse. We therefore take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of children and adults at risk. In doing so, we work in partnership with statutory and other agencies.

Each church is required to appoint a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** who ensures that Keeping Our Church Family Safe policy and procedures are followed. As well as advocating for the vulnerable, DSLs provide support, guidance and training to staff and volunteers.

Each department head is designated as a **Responsible Person**, appointed by the local church/management to be responsible for a specific sphere of activity involving children and adults. While these role carry specific obligations, **combatting abuse is everybody's responsibility**. Below is a summary of the actions to be taken where there are concerns about the safety of children and adults at risk of harm.



LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL TRANSITIONING



Must Attend, To Keep Yourself And Your Local Church Up To Speed With
Gender Questioning Children.

Government Consultation for Schools & Colleges in England
Sunday, 3rd March, 2024
2:30PM



Dr. Brighton Kavaloh
SEC PARL Director
(Public Affairs & Religious Liberty)

At The Camp Hill SDA Church,
Birmingham B12 0JP



Pastor Sam O. Davies
BUC Communication
Director

Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and
dignity; she can laugh at the days
to come. She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her
tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26



Please note the change of date.
The next module will now be held on Sunday 7th April



BUC Family Ministries Leadership Training

Family Life Education

Sunday 18 February	Module 1—Effective Family Ministries in the Local Church
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 2—Biblical Foundations for Family Ministry
Sunday 7 April	Module 3—Human Growth & Development
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 4—Families Dynamics - Systems Theory
Sunday 28 April	Module 5—Spiritual Parenting
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 6—Sex and Sexuality Education
Sunday 19 May	Module 7—Marriage Strengthening
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 8—Emotionally Intelligent Communication
Sunday 30 June	Module 9—Conflict Management
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 10—Family as a Centre For Evangelism



Meeting ID: 980 072 4322
Passcode: BUCFAM



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH week
5-11 February 2024

AUTISM AND THE CHURCH

MY VOICE MATTERS!

A Panel Discussion hosted by
Pastor Rio Espulgar | SEC Director for Family and Children's Ministries
Judy Clements OBE | SEC Director for Safeguarding
with support from SEC Cornerstone Counselling Services (CCS)

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024 | 7.00-9.30PM

 **zoom** Meeting ID: 812 1935 0300 | Passcode: 454491



SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY CAMP 2024

Friday 26th July to Sunday 4th August
More details to follow in the New Year



FORWARD
We Go!

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NEC Family Ministries department
Tel: 0115 960 0312 Email: jfrancis@necadventist.org.uk
 @necadventist

GROWING CLOSER, GROWING STRONGER

Family Ministries Webinars 2024

18.00 LONDON = 19.00 ZÜRICH = 20.00 BUCHAREST

8 JANUARY

LITTLE TIME - LOTS OF LOVE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 0886 9347

Passcode: family

11 MARCH

TEN "SECRETS" OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 981 9162 3388

Passcode: family

13 MAY

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 1849 2288

Passcode: family

9 SEPTEMBER

SAFE HAVEN MARRIAGE

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 929 6901 7660

Passcode: family

11 NOVEMBER

TILL TRAUMA DO US PART DR GÁBOR MIHALEC

Meeting-ID: 980 5593 4013

Passcode: family

12 FEBRUARY

NURTURING EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

8 APRIL

SOLUTION-FOCUSSED CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

10 JUNE

NAVIGATING THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MARRIAGE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 932 0794 3671

Passcode: family

14 OCTOBER

DEVELOPING YOUR EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 942 6976 9388

Passcode: family

9 DECEMBER

COMMUNICATING LOVE AND CARE THROUGH TOUCH

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 930 3884 8013

Passcode: family

For 2024 we have decided to focus our Family Ministry webinars on nurturing marriages. Although these webinars are focussed on couple relationships, anyone can join and learn skills that may also help them in their parenting, workplace relationships, dating and friendships.

Please share this poster and the links to these webinars with your networks. Thank you!

Karen Holford - TED and Rainer Wanitschek - EUD

Area 3 Convention
Inspired for Mission

The Power of Listening

DATE **SAT 2ND MARCH 2024**

Richmond Hill St Andrew's Church
8 St Stephen's Road
Bournemouth, Dorset. BH2 6JJ

SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:15
Praise and Worship (Area3) - Bournemouth

10:15 – 11:15
Seminars

11:30 – 11:45
Praise and Worship (Area3) - Portsmouth

11:45 – 13:00
Sermon - Pr Kwesi Moore

13:00 – 14:45
Free lunch for all

14:45 – 15:45
Seminars

15:45 – 16:00
Praise and Prayer (Area3) - Southampton

16:00 – 16:30
Plenary Session and Charge

There is a program for Children

SEMINARS

LISTENING: A SUPERPOWER FOR MISSION
Themble Napier, C
Counselling Coordinator

BUILDERS TOGETHER WITH GOD
Pr Kwesi Moore
Ministerial Association Secretary

SABBATH SCHOOL ALIVE
Pr Kwadwo Kwame Ampofo
Sabbath School Director

CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM
Pr Keyson Smith
Personal Ministries Director

Contact
Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt
07810420142

ADVENTIST CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE FAMILIES

LEON C. WILSON MA, MA, PhD
Dr. Leon C. Wilson is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Wilson's main research applies statistical models to understand the relationship of structural, inter-racial, and socio-economic factors to social psychological, health and mental health outcomes in families and individuals.

ARLYN DREW MD, MBA, PhD
Arlyn Drew is adjunct professor of Systematic and Christian Philosophy at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary with a dissertation on the Sanctification of Isaac. A trained Family Medicine physician and CEO, she is privileged to be a mother of six children and resides with her husband, Dr. Kevin Drew in Berrien Springs, MI.

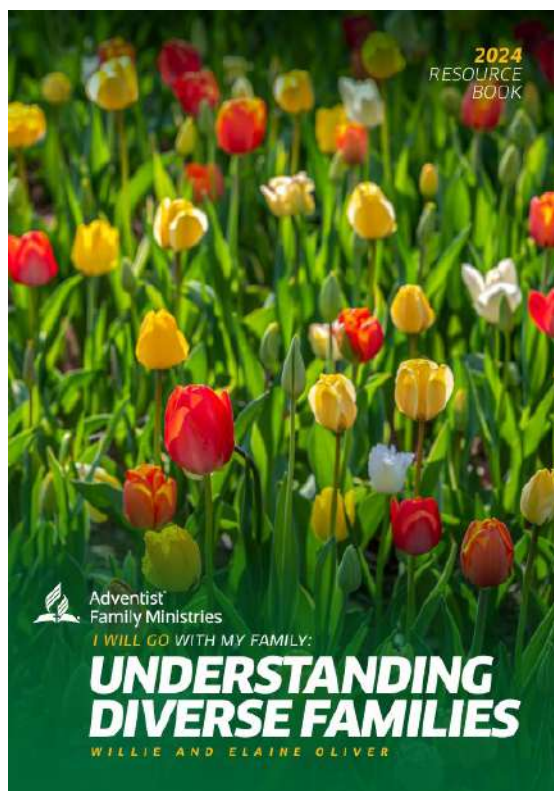
SAVE THE DATE JULY 18-20, 2024

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI

EARLY BIRD DATE: JUNE 1, 2024	REGULAR	10+ GROUPS	VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE
\$65 Professional	\$75 Professional	Get a FREE TICKET for every 10th person registered in a group	\$10 You will receive a link to have access to the workshop
\$40 Early Bird Student / Youth	\$45 Early Bird Student / Youth		

REGISTRATION NOW AT ANDREWS.EDU/GO/ACFRP

Family Ministries | Adventist Family Ministries | Andrews University



Ignite your FAITH
deepen your CONNECTION,
support your GROWTH!

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS 18+

BACK TO BASICS
THE UPDATE

YOUTH CONGRESS 2024

MON 22-27 JUL
Rijswijk, Netherlands

Save QR Code to Registration

Standard Registration: €180
Late Registration: €200
Excluding the admin fee *Late registration commences 23rd April

Click the link to download the Resource Book
[Understanding Diverse Families](#)

Back to Basics: The Update
[Click the link to register](#)



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCS is here for you

CONTACT
0330 133 2495
 Dedicated listening line
0207 723 8050
 Office Number / Appointments
connect@ccscounseling.org.uk
www.ccscounseling.org.uk

**"I am not living,
 I am just surviving."
 Together we can make
 it happen.**

Often, it is not the initial experience that
 creates the overwhelming pain,
 but the lack of support.

Do not suffer alone
 Do not suffer in silence
 CCS is here to support you
 Together we can win your struggle.

CCS
 Cornerstone
 Counseling Service



**Facing Difficult
 times or issues,
 Need to talk?**

The first step is the
 hardest. Call the NEC
 Counselling Service Today!

07539 211 442

We can arrange
 for you to access
 support.

FORWARD
We Go!

North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 office: +44 (0) 115 960 6312 mobile: +44 (0) 7918619606
 22 Zulia Road, Nottingham, Notts - NG3 5DB
jfrancis@necadventist.org.uk • necadventist.org.uk

Seventh-day
 Adventist Church

Flourish!

Choose well - Think well - Live well

Creative wellbeing activities for all ages.

Click the link to learn more and download the resource
[Flourish](#)

THE NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

The COMING OF AGE

SERVICE Celebrating the Milestones...
SEPT 7 2024

PRESENT THE
COMING OF AGE SERVICE
IN YOUR CHURCH

*The first smile,
the first steps,
milestones
are to be
celebrated.*

CELEBRATE 4/5 YEAR OLDS
AS THEY START SCHOOL

CELEBRATE 11/12 YEAR OLDS
AND THEIR AMAZING
COMPLEX MINDS!

Order your 'Coming of Age' packs today
Cost: £6.95 for 11-12yr olds' pack and £2.50 for 4-5yr old pack.
Register online
For further information please contact the Children's Ministries Secretary
on 0115 960 6312
or email admin@necadventist.org.uk
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www.kendranesewell.com



EVERY
THURSDAY 8PM GMT

ADVENTIST SINGLES PRAYER MEETING

PRAYER MEETING FOR SINGLE ADVENTISTS
THURSDAYS 8PM UK TIME / 3PM EST
ROOM IS OPEN 24HRS A DAY TO PRAY
ZOOM ID: 846 3079 9939 PASSCODE: Pray

S.N.A.G.D. SDA Singles Ministry & Creative Spiritual Insights
invite you to join the:

LET'S BUILD Singles Devotional Project

WANTED

SDA WRITERS WHO CAN SHARE ON THE JOYS,
CHALLENGES, POSITIVES, NEEDS &
OPPORTUNITIES THAT SINGLES FACE

ELIGIBLE WRITERS

- Must be members of the SDA Church
- Single and willing to share their experience
- Married and willing to write on their single experience
- Can be Conference Directors or Church leaders

Entries should be
500-750 words long

Interested?

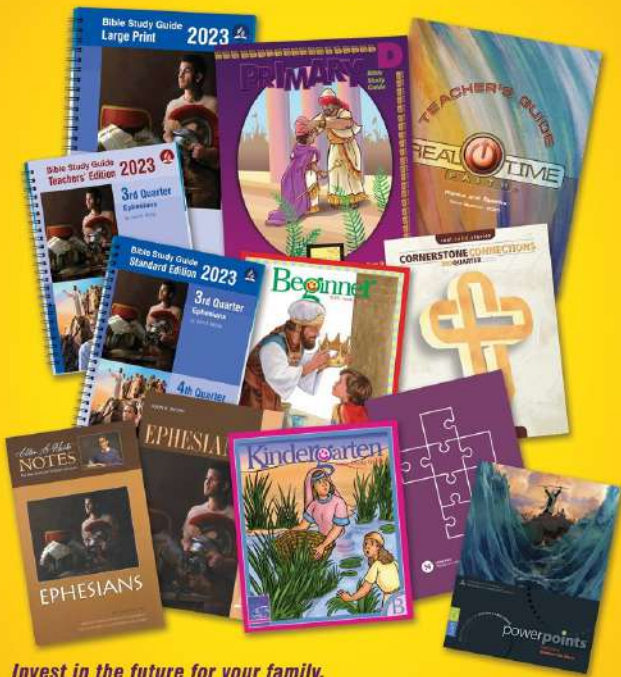
EMAIL: submit@snagdsdasingles.org







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Click the link to download the Resource Book [Keys to Healthy Minds](#)

Please visit the BUC website for information and resources



Adventist®
Family Ministries

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Children's Ministries

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[Click this link to access the site](#)



Click the link watch past episodes of [Real Family Talk](#)



If you have something to say on family matters, children's spirituality, safeguarding, disability, relational themes, emotional wellbeing, men's issues, or would just like to let others know about what's happening in your church or community for families, why not put it in writing and submit it for publication? Email awright-stephenson@adventist.uk

2024 Dates for Your Diary

- Mother's Day: 10 March
- Global Youth & Children's Day: 16 March
- Youth Week of Prayer: 16-23 March
- Possibility Ministries Day: 20 April
- BUC Men's Day of Prayer: 27 April
- World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk: 25 May
- Special Needs Camp: Date to be confirmed
- Father's Day: 16 June
- Children's Sabbath: 27 July
- Education Day 17 August
- End It Now - Abuse Awareness Sabbath: 24 August
- Family Togetherness Week: 1-7 September
 - ♦ Family Togetherness Day of Prayer 7 September
- Pathfinder's Day: 21 September
- Creation Sabbath: 26 October
- Week of Prayer: 2-9 November
- e-Week of Prayer for Youth and Young Adults: 9-15 November
- World Orphans & Vulnerable Children's Day: 16 November



Useful Links

[AdventSource](#)

[Adventist Possibility Ministries](#)

[Adventist Single Adult Ministries \(ASAM\)](#)

[Adventist Special Needs Association \(ASNA\)](#)

[BUC Family Ministries](#)

[BUC Safeguarding](#)

[Care for the Family](#)

[GC Children's Ministries](#)

[GC Family Ministries](#)

[In Discipleship](#)

[Prepare Enrich](#)

[TED Children's Ministries](#)

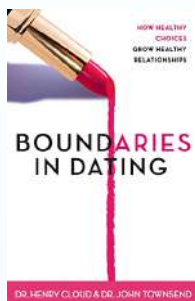
[TED Family Ministries](#)

[TED Possibility Ministries](#)

[Through the Roof \(Disability outreach\)](#)

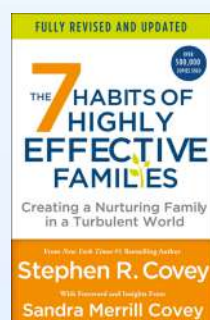
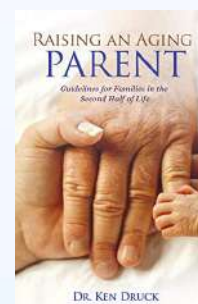
[Women's Aid](#)

Recommended Reading



In *Boundaries in Dating*, Drs Cloud & Townsend provide a guide toward dating intentionally. This book is intended for those who wish to have some spiritual guidance in their dating relationships. It helps to answer questions which should be a part of any dating relationship: 'Where is God in all of this?', 'What role does God play in our dating relationship?', 'How do I reflect God's values in my approach toward dating?

Raising an Aging Parent is about learning how to build stronger, kinder, more compassionate, and deeply loving families in the second half of life. Ken Druck defines the playing field of daunting challenges and fertile opportunities that exist between aging parents and their adult children. Readers create a custom master plan for their family with a host of best practices to guide them.



In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*, Steven Covey applies the practical wisdom of the 'Seven Habits' to the family context. These are: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood, Synergize, Sharpen the Saw. Covey's work encourages families to be intentional about creating the type of family they wish to be.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



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