BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

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Welcome to BUC Family

Pr Les Ackie

The beginning of a new year is often used as an opportunity to review priorities. There is no more important context to do this than within our families. Steven Covey said it well when he penned, “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).

The family is the primary agency that God has put in place to transmit His values from one generation to another. It is our intention that the BUC Family newsletter will play a role in supporting families. It will serve as one of many avenues to emphasise the importance of families for our individual and community wellbeing.

BUC Family will be published and distributed as an online resource on a monthly basis. The newsletter will include articles to inform, challenge and inspire. It will highlight useful resources and promote upcoming programmes and events. Please feel free to submit your posters and notifications and we will review them for inclusion. It is our hope that through these pages we can extend the influence of family, children's and possibility ministries to a much wider field.

It is our conviction that ‘as goes the family, so goes the church’. Let’s work together to enhance the lives of the families within our sphere of influence.

Pr Les Ackie
BUC Director for Family, Children, Possibilities Ministries and Safeguarding.

Adventist® Family Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Adventist Possibility Ministries

What is Adventist Possibility Ministries?

Adapted from the General Conference website

Formally known as Special Needs Ministries, Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM) is grounded in the belief that the gospel transforms the way we see ourselves, others, and God. How we perceive personal value while having bodies and minds that are less than perfect is changed when we understand the implications of the gospel message.

APM recognises disabilities and loss, but it does not stop there. Rather, it views these through the transforming lens of possibilities — what individuals can do and what they can become because of God's grace.

APM advocates for the recognition of dignity and respect of every person and helps to make possible the discovery of unrealised abilities despite stigmas associated with a disability or loss.

APM affirms that:

- All are gifted, needed, and treasured
- People go where they are welcomed but stay where they are valued
- Value is inherent through Creation and not determined by capabilities
- Each person is unique and has a God-given purpose
- Included in that purpose, is the call to enrich the lives of others which flows out of a sense of gratitude for what they themselves have received

APM is a 'movement', not a 'program', guided by the Holy Spirit to help us see through the eyes of a loving God the strengths and possibilities of seven unique people groups:

- the deaf
- the blind
- the physically immobile,
- those who have mental health challenges,
- orphans/vulnerable children,
- those mourning the loss of a spouse,
- and the support of caregivers.



We are APM – sharing the confident belief that we can be whole in Christ and called to service regardless of disabilities we may have.

We are Adventist Possibility Ministries. Join the journey! Discover the possibilities!

Learn more about the purpose and mission of Possibility Ministries in the "About" section of this website - Adventist Possibility Ministries.

Safeguarding - A Biblical Mandate

Pr Les Ackie

A quote of disputed origin claims that, “The measure of a civilisation is how it treats its weakest members.” While the source of the reference may be in doubt, the truth of the sentiment resonates the plethora of biblical calls to advocate and act on behalf of the vulnerable. The psalmist urges God’s people to, “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:3-4 ESV).

For Christians, the moral responsibility that flows from the heart of God to protect both children and adults at risk overarches government’s statutory requirements and guidance. The various safeguarding legislation within the four nations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are secular requirements that in broad terms reflect the biblical principles. Such legislation provides vital frameworks within which we discharge our scriptural mandate. When it comes to safeguarding, our faith must inform our actions.

The need to protect vulnerable groups has been a constant feature of the biblical narrative almost from its inception. The Mosaic law in the Old Testament warns of the severest punishments on those who mistreat the widows, fatherless children and strangers in their midst (Exodus 22:21-22). Jesus does not mince His words when emphasising His feelings towards those who take advantage of innocence. He states, “If anyone causes one of these little ones - those who believe in me - to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” Matthew 18:6 (NIV).

Isaiah upholds compassion toward the needy as a true demonstration of sacrificial love (Isaiah 58). James echoes the prophet by pointing to our attitude toward vulnerable people as the indicator of the authenticity of our faith. He states, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27 NKJV). Jesus Himself states that such compassion for the vulnerable is the standard by which He will separate “the sheep and goats” (Matthew 25:31-46). These passages, and many more like them, show that safeguarding is at the very heart of Scripture and should be one of our primary concerns.

Placing the needs and interests of vulnerable people at the heart of our ministry ensures that safeguarding becomes an integral and essential element of living out our gospel calling. The Bible charges every Christian to, “Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable” (Proverbs 31:8 CEB).

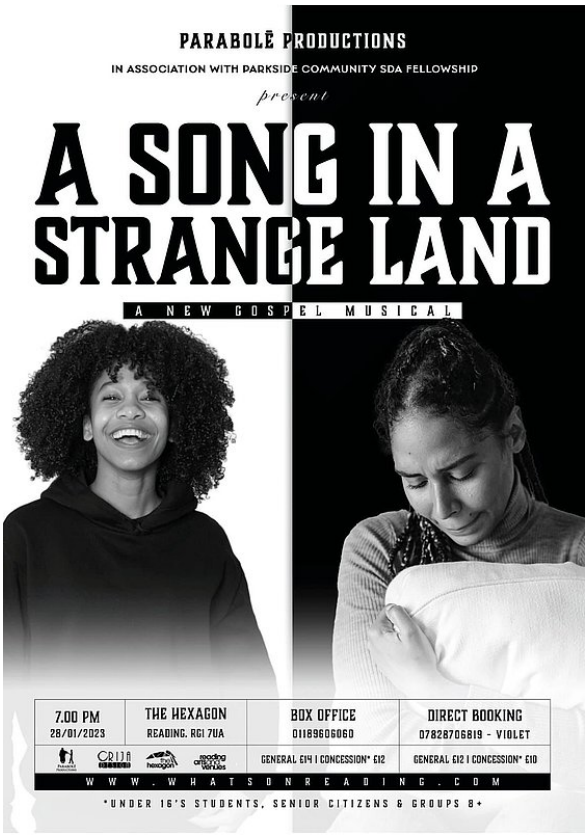
Upcoming Events













Adventist Singles Prayer Meeting

2023 Dates for Your Diary

- Christian Home and Marriage Week: 8-15 February
  - Christian Marriage Day: Sabbath 8 February (emphasises marriage)
  - Christian Home Day: Sabbath 15 February (emphasises parenting)
- Global Youth & Children's Day: 18 March
- Possibility Ministries Day: 22 April
- World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk: 27 May
- Special Needs Camp: 9-16 July
- Children's Sabbath: 22 July
- End It Now - Abuse Awareness Sabbath: 26 August
- Family Togetherness Week: 2-9 September
- World Orphans & Vulnerable Children's Day: 18 November



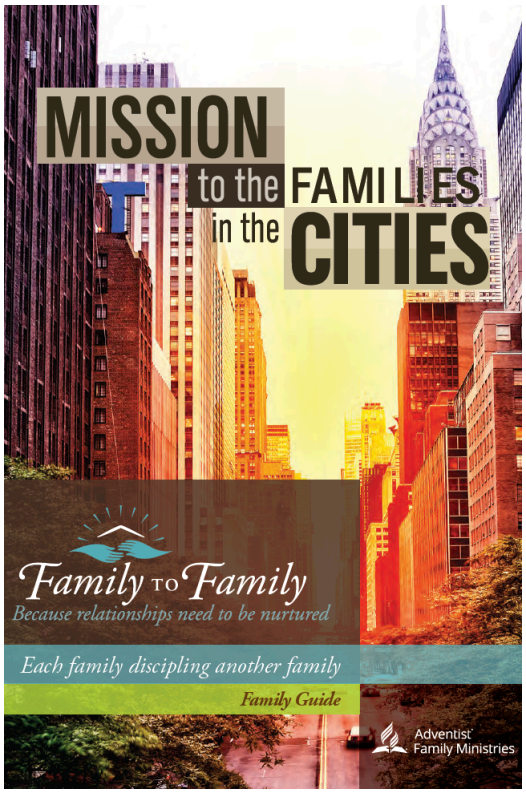




Family Ministries Resources



Click the link to download the Resource Book
Family and Mental Health



Click here to download the Missions Resource
Mission to Families

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

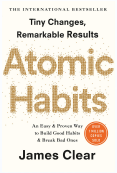
TED Family Ministries

TED Possiblity Ministries

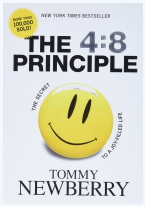
Through the Roof (Disability outreach)

Women's Aid

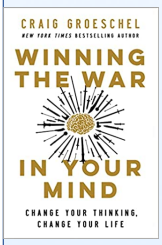
Recommended Reading



Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones. James Clear's bestseller provides practical advice to transform our lives through small and consistent changes in thinking and behaviour, starting now. Clear teaches that real change comes from the compound effect of hundreds of small decisions. While writing from a secular perspective, Clear's ideas sit comfortably with biblical principles.



The 4:8 Principle. Tom Newberry asserts that thoughts move us either toward our God-given potential or away. In Philippians 4:8, the apostle Paul challenges us to seek out and dwell on the positives in our lives. When used as a filter, this New Testament verse is the "true secret" to vibrant health, satisfying relationships, and lasting fulfilment.

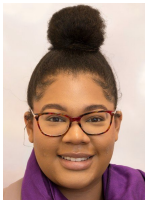


Winning the War in Your Mind - Change Your Mind, Change Your Life. The premise of this book is that our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts. Who we become in the future reflects what we think about today. Using biblical principles along with neuroscience and psychology, Craig Groechel challenges us to change our thinking so that God can change our lives.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



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