

BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

In this issue:

Back to the Altar: An Inside Out Revolution

Mistakes Parents Make

Mind Your Language

I Will Go with My Family

Events & Notices

2024 Dates for Your Diary

Recommended Reading

Back to the Altar: An Inside Out Revolution

Pr Les Ackie

Among the Patriarchs of the Old Testament the building altars was symbolic of making the worship of God of primary importance. While it is no longer necessary for us to erect physical monuments, the necessity of giving God first place in our lives remains. It has long been said that, "The family that prays together, stays together." This is by no means a guarantee of family unity, but the basic principle holds true that families who take time for regular authentic worship tend to enjoy healthy, stable relationships. However, anecdotal evidence indicates that Christian families who worship together regularly are very much in the minority.

One of the greatest hindrances to family worship is lack of time. We tend to live at such a hectic pace that occasions which find all family members together at the same time are few and far between. This is all the more reason we should be intentional about making the most of our opportunities. Family worship should never be allowed to become a tick-box exercise in which we convince

ourselves that we have done our duty to God. The purpose of worship is to make contact with God and to experience His presence through our songs of praise, the testimony of His word and the opening of our hearts to him in prayer.

Another hindrance to this invaluable family gathering is the negative associations many have of their own family worship when they were children. Dragging children out of bed at 6:00 am for long, lifeless, formulaic family worship is not the best way to enthuse them about the practice. We are counselled, "Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time" (Education, 186).

We need to train our children that when they rise in the morning, their first thoughts should be praise and thanksgiving to God for the blessing of a new day. The incessant spiritual assaults upon our family are much too great for us to rush into the day without calling on God for strength and protection. We are admonished, "Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar."





Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations” (Child Guidance, 520). If ever there is a time when we need to bring our family together under the umbrella of God’s love, it is now. As we place Him on the throne of our hearts, by His grace, our children will too.

Isaiah stands out as the major OT prophet. His 60-year prophetic ministry covered the reign of four different kings through one of the most turbulent periods of the history of God’s people. As Elijah’s ministry was a foundational attack on the pagan worship of Baal, it symbolically represents the work to be accomplished within our homes to resist the prevailing influences of the secular world. Elijah’s message is one which unequivocally calls for commitment. He cried, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21).

Key to his strategy was the re-establishment of the worship of God. 1 Kings 18:30 states, he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down”. Ellen White states that, “If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and scepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life (Child Guidance, 517).

The importance of family worship cannot be stressed too highly in terms of building spiritual and emotional intimacy among family members. Malachi 4:6 informs us the effect of the spirit-filled message will be to draw hearts together. This idea is repeated in Luke 1:17. Referring to the ministry of John the Baptist, the Bible says that, “He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Effective Christianity is about building relationships first with God and then with one another. Our message should be one which facilitates the healing of relationships.



A key component of Elijah’s ministry is that it was steeped in prayer. James 5:16-17 states, “. . . The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly . . .” We are counseled, “It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening, by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a hedge about their children” (Counsels to Parents and Teachers, 110). Children need to have religion made attractive, not repulsive. The hour of family worship should be made the happiest hour of the day. Let the reading of the Scriptures be well chosen and simple; let the children join in singing; and let the prayers be short and right to the point (Christian Service, 210).



In recognition of the vital necessity of spiritual revival in our churches and homes, delegates at the General Conference Annual Council 2022, voted to endorse Back to the Altar, a global initiative described as an inside-out revolution, a daily place for God in every heart and home. Back to the Altar is a landmark global appeal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, calling all people into a daily personal worship time with God. Amid our busy, media-saturated lives, many are neglecting the essential communion with God that people are desperately craving.



It is seen in mindless consumerism, in gaunt looks and hollowed stares, in restlessness and digital immersion, in quiet desperation and loud communication, in immorality and violence. Jesus, the very Son of God (Matthew 3:17), the Word of God in human flesh (John 1:1), prized personal moments of deep connection with His Father. When His disciples and others would go to bed, Jesus would go to pray (John 7:53-John 8:1; Mark 1:35).

Back to the Altar is God's call to emulate His son: To begin each day with Him, to walk each moment of the day with Him, and to end each day in Him. Wherever we answer this call, that place is our altar! To put it more simply, we must "Live at the altar" (Ellen G. White, 1T 169). Back to the Altar is for anyone who wants to know God, walk with Him, prepare for the soon return of His Son, and prepare others to do so as well! Visit the GC [Back to the Altar website](#) for information and resources.

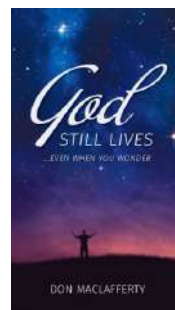
[Back to the Altar Resources](#)



[The Way](#)



[Prayer of the Lord's Messenger](#)



[God Still Lives](#)



[Rebuilding the Family Altar](#)



[10 Days of Prayer 2024](#)



Mistakes Parents Make

Rosamund Farrell - Former Counsellor at Cornerstone Counselling Services

Our aim as parents boils down to loving and effective parent-child relationships and communication that creates respect and self-discipline, no matter the generation.

Speaking from a parent/grandparent point of view, none of us gets it all right, but there are some mistakes we can avoid along the way and I would like to share some of those with you in this article. We prepare the path by wanting them not to fail; we project our lives onto them; we prioritise their happiness; we're inconsistent; we remove consequences; we lie about their potential; we don't let them struggle; we give them what they should earn; we praise the wrong things; we remove their pain and we do it for them.

We won't let our kids fail: "None of us wants them to fail, but if we remove their failure mode, they lose their ambition to excel. Don't confuse hurt with harm" (Proverbs 22:6).

We project our lives through our children: "We want our children to live our lives through them by pushing them into what we want them to be". We should find our own identity and not burden our children with ours (Romans 3:10-12).

We prioritise being happy: "We make children believe that happiness is their goal". Happiness is found when the focus is off ourselves and helping others. We are to give them direction. Let Jesus's life be the example for them to model. "Love the Lord our God with all our heart and love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40).



We are inconsistent: "We confuse our children in that they don't know which version of us to follow". Is it the one who says or the one who does? Inconsistencies breed insecurities. Let us model the standard we want, and they will follow (Hebrews 13:8).

We remove the consequences: "There are always consequences for our actions, the longer we delay implementing them the bigger they get". By allowing our children to face the natural consequences for their action, helps them make better choices in the future, (if they are not disastrous), so let us parent for the long term (Ephesians 6:4).

We lie about their potential: The early years is all about their giftedness, and value, but as they get older and they accomplish a task well, we exaggerate their achievement, which causes them to hold a distorted view of themselves. It begins with me!

In later life, maybe in a job situation where they may have missed out on a promotion, they become deflated because they were not affirmed in their true potential. "This may cause some young people to experience clinical depression because they had high expectations of themselves in less gifted areas". Affirm them in their gifts and watch them bloom in a healthy way (Ephesians 4:14-16).

We won't let them struggle: We are like helicopter parents, constantly hovering, waiting to land. "It's the experiences, good and bad, that make us who we are today. It's the struggles that help a butterfly break out of its cocoon" (James 1:2-8).

Don't give them what they should earn: Instead of allowing our children to work for what they want, we give in and hand it to them on a plate. Even if you have the means, it is good practice to let them earn it as it helps them to be more appreciative and satisfied from having done so. (2 Thessalonians. 3:10)

We praise the wrong things: Scripture doesn't tell us to praise our children every day but it does say about exhort or encouraging others. (Hebrews 3:13). For example, just because a child clean up the mess they made in the home shouldn't call for praise but thanks and acknowledgement, but if on the other hand, they use their initiative and help out without being asked when the need arises, they can be affirmed for their effort, taking into consideration the way they performed the task and their attitude, rather than affirming their smartness or beauty which is out of their control". Let our affirmation encourage them in meaningful ways. (Proverbs 25:11)

These mistakes mentioned above, shows the parent preparing the path for the child instead of the child for the path. Proverbs 22:6 says to start them in the way they should go and not get everything set up perfectly for them to succeed, and when they are old they will thank you for it.

Psalm 23 highlights our heavenly parent. The Lord is our Shepherd, guide, leader, comforter, preparer, company in dark places, anointer and one who loves for a lifetime. If your child wrote a psalm about you, how would you want it to read?

Read Psalm 23 with your child and ask how it makes them feel about God as a parent, then share with them your desire to parent more like Him".

(Based on Tim Elmore's 12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid)



[Download 10 Days of Prayer Readings for Children](#)



Mind Your Language

Pr Les Ackie

Words are powerful. Solomon declares that, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). Our words have the power to build up and to tear down - to elevate or to deflate. When speaking to or about people with disabilities, we are often wary of saying the wrong thing. This is especially the case in the current culture where it is all to

easy to offend when no offence is intended. The fear of committing unintentional microaggressions can foster the kind of hyper-vigilance that leads us to disengage and avoid.

The appropriate use of language is an ever-present challenge. As cultures change, so to do the words and phrases that are deemed to be acceptable. Consider the history of words and phrases used to describe people with learning difficulties. The terms 'simpleton', 'moron', 'imbecile', 'idiot', 'feeble-minded' and 'retarded' were all socially acceptable at some point until society rejected them as insulting, prejudicial and discriminatory. These shifting norms are some of the reasons older versions of the Bible fall foul of the scrutiny of political correctness.

The task of using 'correct' language is further complicated by the fact that consensus does not always exist even among people with disabilities. The question of whether we should use 'people-first' or 'disability-first' language, is a case in point. Should it be 'autistic person' or 'person with autism'? Many people with autism prefer 'autistic person' because they own their autism as an integral part of their identity. Others view 'autistic' as a label. We can honour people by asking them their preference. On the whole, person-first language stresses the humanity of the individual and avoids objectification which is why we should avoid using the article "the" with a specific disability (i.e. 'the blind').

In general, when referring to people with disabilities, it is preferable to use language that focuses on their abilities rather than their disabilities. Therefore, the use of the terms 'handicapped,' 'able-bodied,' 'physically challenged,' and 'differently abled' are discouraged.

Terms like 'wheelchair-bound' can communicate a negative mindset when, as one wheelchair user stated, "My wheelchair liberates me."

Never use the word 'normal' to refer to people who do not have a disability in contrast to people with disabilities. Use a term like 'non-disabled' instead. Be wary of implying that people with disabilities deserve to be pitied, feared, or avoided. Terms like 'victim' or 'sufferer' should not be used to refer to people who have a disability or disease as this can be dehumanizing and implies powerlessness. We should also not portray people with disabilities as somehow more heroic, courageous, patient, or 'special' than others who do not have a disability.

One thing is guaranteed - we will make mistakes. When that happens, simply apologise and move on. Despite the challenges, Paul's counsel in Colossians 3:8 serves as a guiding principle, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Proverbs 15:23 indicates the need to be proactive in our communication stating that, "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer." Solomon also highlights the potential of our words, asserting that, "the tongue of the wise brings healing" Proverbs 12:18.

**WORDS ARE
POWERFUL,
USE THEM
CAREFULLY.**

Language and Disability

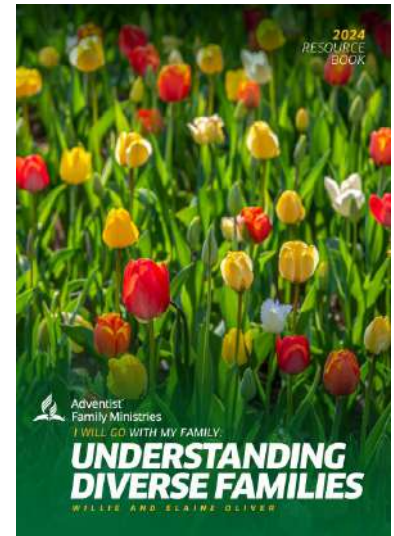
Acceptable Terms	Unacceptable Terms
Person – person with a disability	Cripple, crippled –The image conveyed is of a twisted, deformed, useless body
Disability – a general term used for functional limitation that interferes with a person's ability. for example, to hear, walk, learn, or lift. It may refer to a physical, mental, or sensory condition.	Cerebral palsied, spinal cord injured, etc. Never identify people solely by their disability
Person who has had a spinal cord injury, polio, a stroke, etc., or a person who has multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, arthritis, etc.	Defective, defect, deformed, vegetable – These words are offensive, dehumanizing, degrading, and stigmatizing
Deafness/hearing impairment – "Deafness" refers to a person who has a total loss of hearing. "Hearing impairment" refers to a person who has a partial loss of hearing within a range from slight to severe.	Deaf and dumb –This is as bad as it sounds. Inability to hear or speak does not indicate less intelligence
Person who has a mental or developmental disability. Person with a mental health condition Person with learning difficulties. Person with a communication disorder	Retarded, moron, imbecile, idiot –These are offensive to people who bear the label
Uses a wheelchair or crutches; a wheelchair user; walks with crutches.	Confined/restricted to a wheelchair, wheelchair-bound
Able to walk, see, hear, etc.: people who are not disabled. Non-disabled	Healthy –When used to contrast with "disability," "healthy" implies the person with a disability is unhealthy. Many people with disabilities have excellent health
People who do not have a disability or non-disabled	Normal –When used as the opposite of "disabled," implies the person is abnormal. No one wants to be label abnormal
A person who has (name the disability). Example: A person who has multiple sclerosis	Afflicted with/suffers from – Most people with disabilities don't regard themselves as afflicted or suffering continually. A disability is not an affliction; an affliction may have caused a disability
Seizures	Fits, attacks, spells
Accessible toilets/parking	Disabled-friendly toilets/parking
Little person, person of short stature, person with restricted growth	Dwarf (acceptable in some contexts), midget
Person with a brain injury	Brain-damaged
Congenital disability	Birth defect

I Will Go with My Family: Understanding Diverse Families - 2024 Resource book

Drs Willie & Elaine Oliver - General Conference Directors of Adventist Family Ministries

In John 17:20-23, the beloved disciple records one of the last prayers of Jesus, that His followers would be known for their love for each other; that their relationship would look like the kind of harmony He shared with His heavenly Father.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” (NLT)



[Click to Download](#)

In this prayer Jesus directed His attention to future generations of believers. He was praying for us and for believers who will come after us. His main concern in this prayer was for the unity of His followers, established on His unity with His Father (John 10:30, 38; 14:10, 20). In concert with love (John 15:12-13; 17:26), unity is uppermost in the life of believers because it displays the reconciling power of the ministry of Jesus in the world (John 17:21; cf. v. 23).

Remarkably, the great commission is about “making disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19); “every nation and tribe and tongue and people” (Rev. 14:6). Yet, the more differences there are among peoples, the higher the probability of misunderstandings and disagreements. Of course—as disciples of Jesus—it is our privilege to represent Him. However, what represents Jesus to the world is our “love for one another” (John 13:34-35). This kind of love is best modeled in family relationships; especially in the kind of family that has decided to live by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23), rather than engaging in “the works of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21).

Given the diversity of families in our congregations—married, single, divorced, widowed, never married, older, younger, with children, without children, disabled, neurodivergent and more—there is a high probability for tension, disaffection, apathy, and alienation. Still, “with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26; Mk. 10:27), as we trust Him to help us to “be holy as He is holy” (1 Peter 1:15, 16; Lev. 11:45).

Our prayer is that the 2024 Adventist Family Ministries Resource Book titled Understanding Diverse Families will serve as a valuable resource for pastors, Family Ministries leaders, and disciple-makers dedicated to supporting families navigate the chasm of difference with the heart of Jesus. That by so doing, all will be able to answer the prayer of Jesus to be one with each other, and be able to live out the vision of I Will Go with My Family.

Maranatha!

CIGI
NEC/BUC
MEN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

**EQUIPPING MEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS
IN BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY**

FEB 2 - 4

BOOKING DETAILS:
bit.ly/48etRLC

SPACES LIMITED @ EARLY BIRD £120
BOOK BY JAN 27TH
AFTER COST IS £150 PER PERSON.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE
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RG42 4AN

How To:
BUILD AND SUSTAIN AN EFFECTIVE MEN'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH
ENGAGE AND CONNECT WITH THE MEN IN THE CHURCH
ENGAGE NON SDA MEN
CREATE A WINNING TEAM

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PR CARLTON DOUGLAS
CASIMIRO SILVA
DR LESLIE ACKIE
DEVON BOYD
INNOCENT MUZA
PR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT
PHILIP JACKSON
PR LLOYD LAMBERT

FOR MORE INFO TEXT PASTOR ANDREW R-H ON 07931 732 490



**Family Ministries Leadership
Training (FMLT)**

Understanding, supporting, and reaching families

A joint TED/EUD training programme



[Visit the TED website for details](#)

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





BUC Family Ministries Leadership Training

Online 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 24 March	Module 3—Human Growth & Development
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 4—Understanding the Family as a System
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—Anger & Conflict Resolution
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 10—Family as a Centre For Evangelism



Meeting ID: 980 072 4322

Passcode: BUCFAM



Connecting Lives for Eternal Living



[Visit the BUC Family Ministries Webpage for more details](#)



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

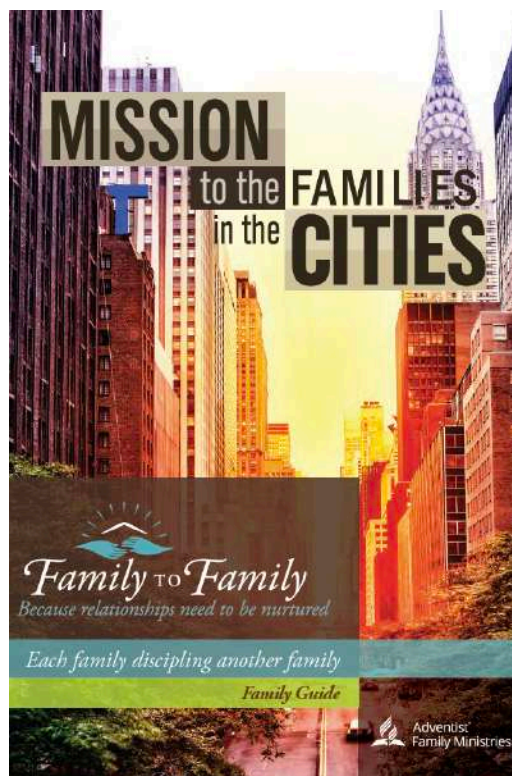
- Must be members of the SDA Church
- Single and willing to share their experience
- Married and willing to write on their single experience
- Can be Conference Directors or Church leaders

Entries should be 500-750 words long

Interested?

EMAIL: submit@snagdsdasingles.org



MISSION to the FAMILIES in the CITIES

Family to Family
 Because relationships need to be nurtured

Each family discipling another family

Family Guide

Adventist Family Ministries

Click here to download the Missions Resource
[Mission to Families](#)

SEC Men Ministry presents

REAL MEN REAL TALK

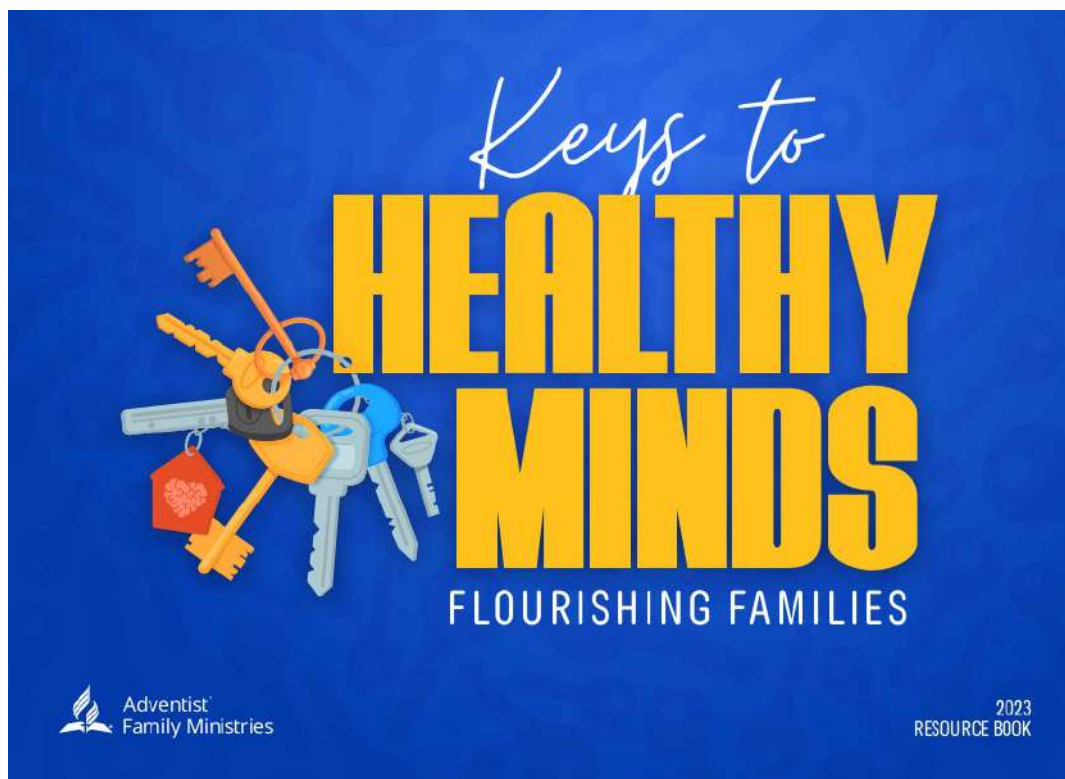
REAL MEN EMBRACING GOD'S PRESENCE

It's a forum where Men can talk about how they really feel about issues that matters to them.



EVERY MONDAY
 TIME: 7:30PM - 9:30PM GMT

FACEBOOK.COM/SECMENSMINISTRY



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



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



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCS is here for you

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

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Seventh-day
 Adventist Church



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

- 10 Days of Prayer: 10-20 January
- Men's Ministry Training Weekend - Newbold College 2-4 February
- Christian Home and Marriage Week: 10-17 February
 - ✦ Christian Marriage Day: Sabbath 10 February (emphasises marriage)
 - ✦ Christian Home Day: Sabbath 17 February (emphasises parenting)
- Mother's Day: 10 March
- Global Youth & Children's Day: 16 March
- Youth Week of Prayer: 16-23 March
- TED Family Ministries Leadership Training (FMLT), Slovenia, 22-28 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](#)

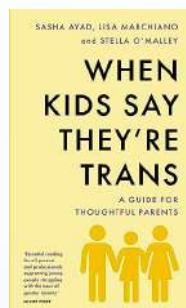
[TED Family Ministries](#)

[TED Possibility Ministries](#)

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

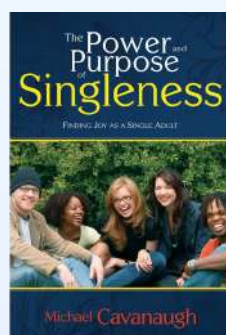
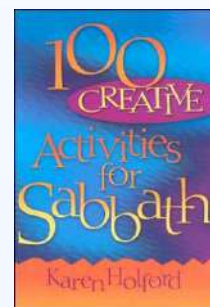
[Women's Aid](#)

Recommended Reading



Written by three professionals working in the field - Sasha Ayad, Lisa Marchiano and Stella O'Malley - *When Kids Say They're Trans* is essential reading for all parents and professionals supporting young people struggling with the issue of gender identity explicitly a resource for parents who want their children to flourish, but do not believe that hasty medicalisation is the best way to help.

Karen Holford seeks to restore Sabbath joy for twenty-first century families in *100 Creative Activities for Sabbath*. For parents and caregivers who want their children to treasure our Sabbath heritage, yet struggle with the challenges of modern living, this book is an excellent resource full of fun, innovative and inspiring ideas to make precious Sabbath memories that will last a lifetime.



In *The Power and Purpose of Singleness*, Michael Cavanaugh teaches that every person, whether single, married, or divorced, is a complete person, with ability, talent, skill, and promise. When you use your abilities to His glory, He will purify you and bless you beyond comparison. God has a place and a purpose for you! He explains that God wants to use your singleness to bring you closer to Him.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



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