

BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

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The Eternal Value of Motherhood

Pr Les Ackie

Trends in Western culture increasingly seek to minimise or even disparage the vocation of motherhood. While the contributions of women in every sphere of society deserve respect, the subtle devaluing of motherhood risks overlooking one of the most profound callings God has entrusted to humanity. Mother's Day offers an opportunity for us to recognise the quiet strength, sacrifice, and love that mothers pour into our families.

In his tribute to the immeasurable influence of motherhood, poet William Ross Wallace wrote, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." Those words echo the Scriptures that repeatedly honour the role of godly mothers and the shaping power they have over the next generation. Long before studies in child development confirmed the importance of the early formative years, the Bible highlighted the spiritual impact of a faithful mother's nurture. Solomon wrote, "Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises

her" (Proverbs 31:28). A mother's influence permeates the lives of the children she raises. The praise she receives reflects the lasting character, faith, and wisdom instilled through years of patient care. This is why Ellen White asserted that "No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers" (Adventist Home, 182).

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it". Much of that training begins at home, and in many families, it is mothers who spend the most time guiding, teaching, and nurturing her children during their earliest and most impressionable years. Through everyday acts—reading together, playing freely, offering comfort in distress, correcting with love, and modelling faith—mothers lay the moral and spiritual foundations upon which a child's future is built.

The life of Timothy in the New Testament offers a beautiful example of maternal influence. The apostle Paul reminded the young evangelist of the heritage of faith he had received, "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy's ministry began in the quiet instruction and example of his mother and grandmother. Their faithful teaching planted seeds that would grow into a life devoted to God's service.





Mrs White recognised the quiet strength that often characterises motherhood: “The mother’s work often seems to her an unimportant service. It is a work that is rarely appreciated. Others know little of her many cares and burdens. Her days are occupied with a round of little duties . . . Yet she works with courage, knowing that God is her helper” (The Adventist Home, p. 233). This observation rings true for countless mothers whose efforts are largely unseen. The meals prepared, the tears comforted, the prayers whispered over sleeping children—these acts may appear small, yet they form the invisible scaffolding of strong families and healthy societies.

Despite all the benefits we may have received from the presence of loving mothers, it is important to acknowledge that Mother’s Day can be complex for some people. Not everyone has experienced the blessing of a loving or nurturing mother. Some carry painful memories of absence, neglect, or broken relationships. The ideal of motherhood is not always reflected in every home. Yet even in these circumstances, many can recall someone who stepped into the breach—a grandmother, aunt, foster parent, teacher, church member, or family friend who offered guidance, care, and encouragement when it was most needed. Their influence reflects the same spirit of self-giving love that characterises true motherhood. Honouring motherhood on this day can therefore also include gratitude for those who provided “mother love” when it was lacking elsewhere.

For many, whose mothers are no longer around to receive the tokens of our love, Mother’s Day provides a time to reflect on the gift that keeps on giving, the legacy of love received, values that continue to shape our lives, and memories that, in the words of J.M Barrie, allow us to pick roses in December.”

A Jewish proverb says, “God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.” The enduring honour of motherhood reflects something of God’s own character. Scripture frequently uses parental imagery to describe divine love. Just as a mother cares tenderly for her child, so God cares for His people. The patience, compassion, and protective devotion that mothers display provide a living illustration of God’s nurturing heart. It is also deeply significant that one of the final acts of Jesus before he laid down his life for mankind, was to make provision for the care of His mother (John 19:26-27). We have the privilege to give back to our mothers the love they showered on us.

Mother’s Day provides more than an occasion for flowers and cards. It invites us to reflect on the deeper significance of maternal influence and to express genuine gratitude for the mothers who have shaped our lives.

As we honour our mothers, may we remember the biblical vision of motherhood as a sacred calling. May we thank God for the women whose love and faith have guided us. And may we support and encourage the mothers among us who continue the quiet, powerful work of shaping the next generation for both this world and the kingdom to come.



‘Let Them Flourish’

When Every Child Belongs, the Church Flourishes

Lorraine McDonald - BUC Education Director

“I want my child to feel valued.”

“My child struggles to fit into church services.”

“How can I adapt Pathfinders or the Sabbath School lesson for children with additional needs?”

“Who will support children with special needs at VBS or Summer School?”

These are not isolated statements and questions. They are the heartfelt concerns of parents and carers in our churches today. Remember education doesn’t just happen in schools; it happens in various departments of the church.

As an Education Leader, I hear these voices often. More recently, feedback from the church officers’ training events (SEC & NEC) confirmed what many of us already sense: **the need is growing, and many of our leaders feel under-equipped**. When this happens, families don’t usually complain - they just quietly disengage or look elsewhere for support. And the church is poorer for it.

Yet this is not the church God calls us to be.

A Timely and Hope-Filled Response

In response to this urgent need, the BUC Education Department, working in partnership with Possibilities and Children & Family Ministries, is hosting the **Let Them Flourish Conference**, taking place **17-19 April 2026**.

This first-of-its-kind conference has been prayerfully designed to equip **pastors, department leaders, and church members** with practical, ministry-ready strategies to create church environments where **every child and family truly belongs**.

This is not theory. It is hands-on, real-world support for the ministries we already run and the children we already serve.

What the Conference Will Offer

- **Practical workshops** led by experienced practitioners
- **Collaborative spaces** to share ideas and best practice
- **Accredited workshop modules** with recognition beyond the church setting
- **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** for pastors

Participants will leave better equipped, more confident, and inspired to make meaningful, lasting change in their local churches.

An Invitation to Every Local Church

We strongly encourage every local church across the BUC to **sponsor at least two department leaders** involved in children’s and youth ministries, such as Pathfinders, Junior Sabbath School, Teen/Youth, Children & Family, Possibilities, Education, or Community Services, to attend **alongside their pastor**.

When leaders learn together, change is more likely to be embedded, shared, and sustained.

Please prayerfully speak with your pastor and church board about attending. This conference is an opportunity not just to learn, but to shape the future culture of our churches.

Why This Matters

Our prayer is that **Let Them Flourish** becomes an annual opportunity to upskill pastors, leaders, and members so that our churches are places where **every child and young person is valued, supported, and able to thrive.**

Scripture reminds us:

“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.” (Isaiah 54:13)

This promise is for all of God’s children.

Take the Next Step

- Help shape the conference by completing the **Expressions of Interest form**:

<https://forms.gle/vRDq7AHXx73Ra4JW6>

- **Bookings are now open** and places are limited:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/let-them-flourish-tickets-1983307528206?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Early-bird pricing ends **16 March**, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We truly look forward to seeing you there.

Families who have children with additional needs need you and the church needs them.

‘Let Them Flourish’

Supporting Children with diverse needs

A TRAINING WEEKEND FOR ALL CHILDREN’S EDUCATORS IN A CHURCH SETTING

Salisbury Hall, Newbold College of Higher Education, RG42 4AN

17-19 April 2026

buceducation@adventist.uk

Guest Speaker
Dr. Shaun Brooks
Disability Ministries Director
Georgia Cumberland Conference

Early Bird £75.00 for weekend
incl: meals, resources
(Does not include accommodation)
After 16th March £100 for weekend

Conference Hosts and Speakers

Craige Young
UCY Founder / Dir.

Lorraine McDonald
BUC Education Dir.

Sophia Nicholls
ASNA Founder / CEO

Les Ackie
BUC Possibility Min. Dir.



YOUR POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.



27th-30th March 2026



Setch Road, Blackborough End,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1SL



Arrival: Friday- 3:00pm

Departure: Sunday -4:00PM or Monday-10:10 AM

2 BED LODGES @ £332.50 PER ROOM
OR £206.25 PP (MAX 2 PEOPLE PER ROOM)

2 BED ACCESSIBLE @ £332.50 PER ROOM
OR £206.25 PP (MAX 3 PEOPLE PER LODGE)

3 BED LODGES @ £295 PER ROOM
OR £195 PP (MAX 6 PEOPLE PER LODGE)

3 BED LUXURY LODGES @ £415 PER ROOM
OR £247.50 PP (MAX 6 PEOPLE PER LODGE)

3 BED ACCESSIBLE LODGE @ £295 PER ROOM
OR £195 PP (MAX 4 PEOPLE PER LODGE)

4 BED LODGES @ £280 PER ROOM
OR £180 PP (MAX 8 PEOPLE PER A LODGE)

5 BED HOUSE @ £285 PER ROOM
OR £185 PP (MAX 7 PEOPLE PER LODGE)

PET FRIENDLY ROOMS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ALL INCLUSIVE (MEALS PROVIDED)

GUEST SPEAKERS



PASTOR JOHN BOSTON

*of Southwest Region
Conference, Senior Pastor of
Fondren SDA church in Texas,
and the NAD
Evangelism institute.*

PASTOR DAVID NEAL

*Ministerial Secretary
Director – Stewardship,
Chaplaincy & Possibility
Ministries for the TED (Trans
European Division)*



PASTOR LESLIE ACKIE

*Director for Family, Children's
& Possibility Ministries for the
BUC (British Union Conference)*



YOUR HOST ANASTASIA ROSS

*SEC Possibilities & Women's
Ministry Director*



WORKSHOPS

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- Ministry, as Your Hidden Talent
- Taking Care of You
- Inspired for Mission

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REGISTER NOW AT:

www.secadventistwomen.com
possibilities@secadventist.org.uk
www.sec.adventist.uk



BUC Children's Ministries Leadership Training

Seminar Dates

Sunday 18 January	Module 1—The Alive in Jesus Curriculum Pt 1
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 2—The Alive in Jesus Curriculum Pt 2
Sunday 22 February	Module 3—Raising A Mission-Driven Generation
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 4—Nurturing Children's Spirituality
Sunday 22 March	Module 5—Story Telling
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 6—Building Resiliency in Children
Sunday 26 April	Module 7—Ministering to Children with Diverse Needs
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 8—Teaching Children About Sex and Sexuality



Meeting ID: 989 618 9409

Passcode: BUCCM



Connecting Lives for Eternal Living





South England Conference
Children's Day of Fellowship
Jesus is Alive,
We Are Ready for Mission!

4th of April, 2026
JFS School
 The Mall, Kenton, London, HA3 9TE

 Morning Programme 10:00am-12:30pm
 Lunch 12:30pm-2:00pm
 Afternoon Programme 2:00pm-4:00pm

Entry via ticket only
Tickets are required
for adults and children
aged 2yrs+

For more details, please contact
 smattis@secadventist.org.uk

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1984287802232?aff=oddidcreator>

Auntie BK Peters
 NEC Children's Ministry Director
Speaker







SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE
Family Ministry
Leadership Training 2026
10 am-1 pm on Sundays

8TH OF MARCH
FAMILIES ON MISSION: EQUIPPING TEAMS
FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY EVANGELISM
DR. RIO ESPULGAR

24TH OF MAY
SINGLES' MINISTRY
ANNELL SMITH

26TH OF APRIL
MARRIAGE COURSE: A MINISTRY TOOL
FOR ENRICHMENT AND OUTREACH
DR. RIO ESPULGAR

28TH OF JUNE
LOVING WITHOUT AFFIRMING: IS IT POSSIBLE?
MINISTERING TO LGBTQ-IDENTIFIED
DR. HEZRON ADINGO

COUNSELLING: WHAT IS IT?
KOSSI SINGO

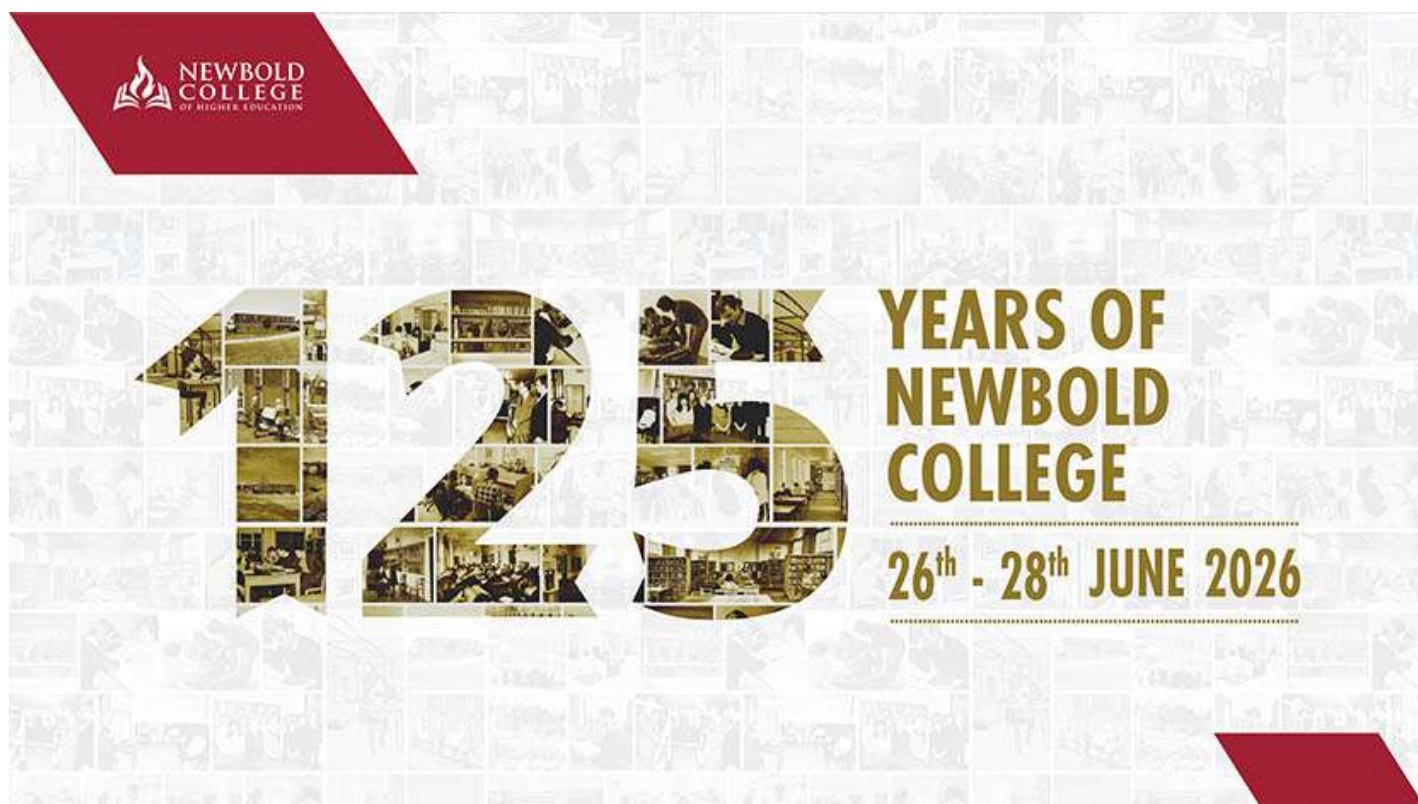
CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CHRISTIAN FAMILIES
PR. JOHN FRANCIS

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS
MARK AND SHARON SEMPLE

LEADING WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
DR. LES ACKIE

ZOOM ID
880 8135 7517
PASSWORD
SECFMLT





[Newbold College 25th Anniversary](#)



Cambridge SDA District
Super Wellness Weekend

**BUILDING
 FLOURISHING
 HEALTHY
 FAMILIES FOR *Mission***

20-22 March 2026

WEEKEND SCHEDULE
 FRI ONLINE
 SAT IN PERSON - (Haverhill Church)
 SUN COMMUNITY COOKING SCHOOL

CO-HOST
 SANDRA STURLONG
 Health Director

CO-HOST
 EDITH SAMAMBWA
 SEC Health Ministries,
 Director

GUEST SPEAKER
 MAY SOLOMON
 Former KZN Conference
 Health Ministries, Director




**YOU ARE NOT
 ALONE**

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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.




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

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

07539 211 442

Please contact
 our co-ordinator
Dee Kyriacou who
 will assess your
 needs and
 assign you to
 a counsellor
 for support.

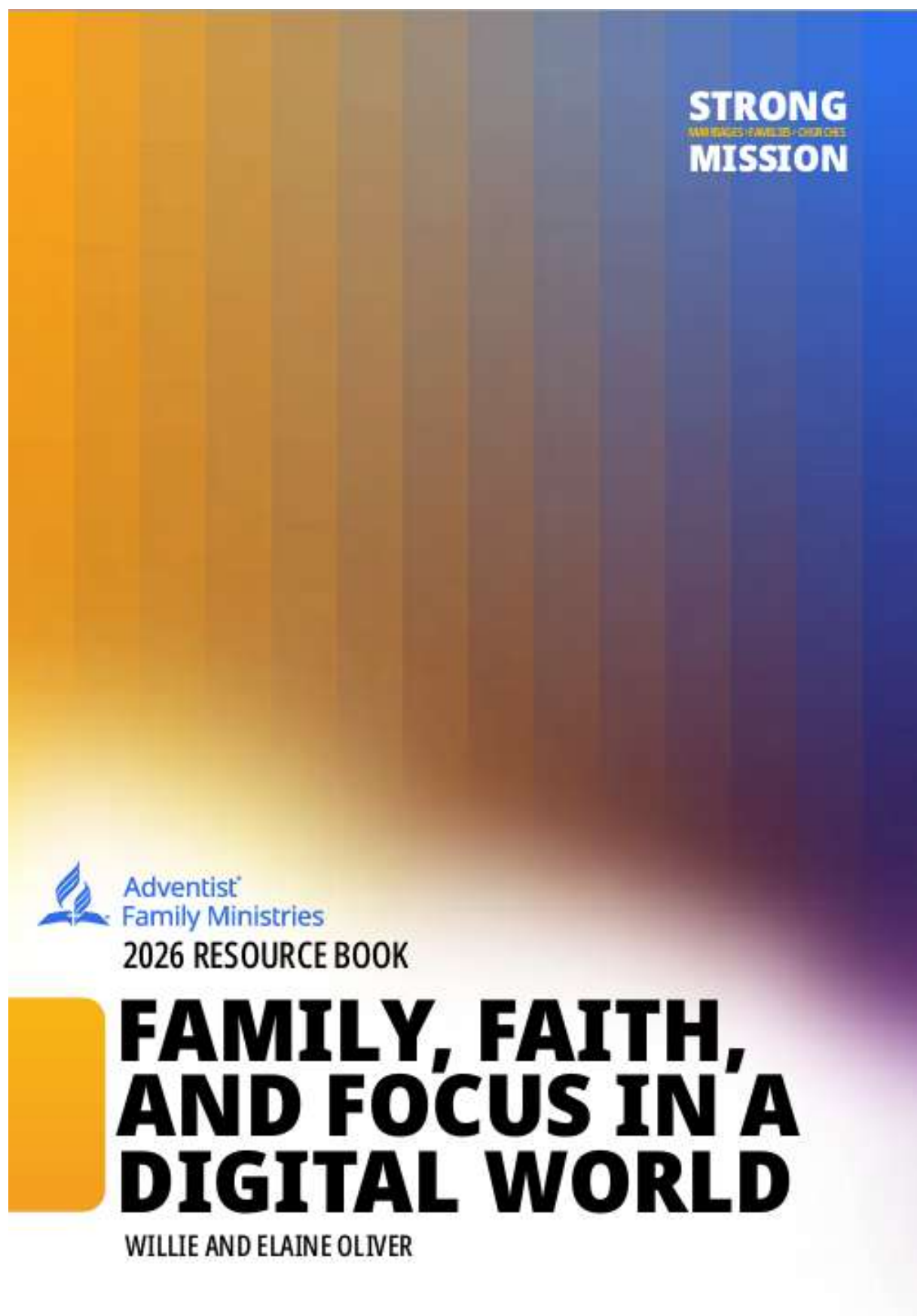
**Transformed by
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The Seventh-day Adventist Church values every human being as part of God's creation. We are committed to safeguarding all children and adults at risk who take part in our services and activities.

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Seventh-day Adventist Church commits to:

- Promote a safe environment for children and adults at risk of harm
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Provide compassionate care and support for survivors of abuse
- Ensure that those working with children and adults at risk are trained and supported
- Raise awareness of safeguarding responsibilities throughout all church programming and provisions
- Work collaboratively with safeguarding agencies
- Follow legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice in order to protect the vulnerable
- Implement, maintain and regularly review the procedures outlined in our safeguarding policy



Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility

[Click here to download safeguarding posters for your local church](#)

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

Dejected

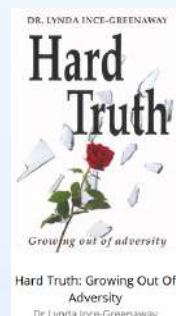
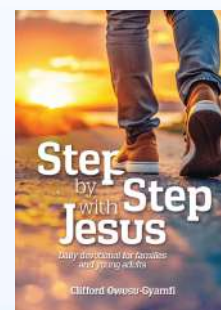


or Redirected?

By Alison Awuku

In *Dejected or Redirected*, Alison Awuku closely examines the work of psychological researchers on the topic of rejection, along with the trustworthy counsel of Holy Scripture, the testimonies of others, and her own lived experience. She empowers us and equips us to handle rejection with this practical guide, which is especially useful for young people.

Step by Step With Jesus. Clifford Owusu Gyamfi's devotional offers a fresh perspective each day, infusing your daily routine with spiritual vitality. The engaging topics, scriptural insights, and practical applications will draw you into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Step by Step with Jesus is a personal invitation to walk hand in hand with the Saviour, step by step, day by day, growing and maturing in your faith.



Hard Truth: Growing out of Adversity, tells the remarkable story of the Lynda Ince-Greenaway's journey towards healing and resilience. The book is a dynamic and compelling story that will inspire readers. It is a story that is personalised, educational and inspirational no matter where people are on their journey. Hard Truth intensifies the importance of self-reflection and personal empowerment. It is written for audiences everywhere and for people of all ages.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



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