



SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

In this issue:

A Word of Welcome

Equal Civil Marriage
Consultation

Ten Commandments
of Constructive
Confrontation

The Heart of Parenting

Diary Dates

Recommended
Reading

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the first edition of the SEC Family Ministries Newsletter which will be published on a monthly basis. It is our hope that through the printed page we can extend the influence of family ministry to a much wider field.

We will be doing our best to keep you up to date with developments in the religious and political arena which impact our families. We will also be sharing thoughts and practical tips on how we can enhance the health of our relationships.

We would love to publicize the great work that is taking place within family ministries in our local churches and communities. So let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). Brief reports and pictures would be greatly appreciated.

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



Pr Les Ackie
Director for Family Ministry

Our Mission Statement

To train, equip and support individuals and families in order to enrich their experience of God and to empower them to pass on a legacy of healthy relationships to successive generations in preparation for Jesus' soon return

Our Vision Statement

Connecting lives for eternal living



April 2012

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Quotable Quotes

“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.”

Steven Covey
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families, 2

“Every family is a church, over which the parents preside. The first consideration of the parents should be to work for the salvation of their children.”

E. G. White
Child Guidance, 478

“By the way we conduct our marriages, we proclaim that Jesus Christ has won the victory over sin in the marital sphere too, or we confess that He is powerless to reconcile husband and wife, parents and children, old folks and youth.”

Elizabeth Achtemeier,
The Committed Marriage,
107-108

“Speak when you are angry and you’ll make the best speech you’ll ever regret.”

Ambrose Bierce

Equal Civil Marriage: A Consultation

Last month the Government began a period of consultation regarding a change in the law to allow same-sex couples to marry. However, they have stressed that this is not to debate whether the change should happen, but how it will happen.

The Government’s proposal also stresses that this change is to be limited to civil marriage and that it will remain illegal for same-sex couples to marry in a religious ceremony. The proposal also states that there is no intention to compel religious organisations to perform same-sex marriages and that it is not the Government’s policy to introduce future legislation to require them to do so.



While on the face of it this may appear to safeguard the rights of religious organisations not to perform same-sex marriages, the consultation questionnaire contains the following question:

Question 5: The Government does not propose to open up religious marriage to same-sex couples. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

In the event that a significant majority disagree with this proposal, it will provide a mandate for the government to extend the legislation to require religious organisations to perform same-sex marriages. We need to engage in the consultation process on an individual basis. A mass response is required to counter the numbers who will support an extension of the legislation.

We are requesting that all members sign the Coalition for Marriage petition which can be found at c4m.org.uk. At present the number of signatories is over 450,000. While this is encouraging, it is equally important, that individuals respond to the government’s questionnaire, which can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/.



We all have an opportunity to make a difference. Let’s add our voices to the fight for the family.



“It is Satan’s studied effort to pervert the marriage institution, to weaken its obligations and lessen its sacredness; for in no surer way could he deface the image of God in man and open the door to misery and vice.”
Patriarchs & Prophets, 338.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

Ten Commandments of Constructive Confrontation

1. Think about what you are going to say before you speak.

“The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.” Proverbs 15:28

2. Don't procrastinate.

The sooner you can calmly confront the person with your problem, the sooner healing can begin. “. . .do not let the sun go down on your wrath.” Ephesians 4:26

3. Don't withdraw in silence.

Most problems will not go away by themselves. Silence only leads to more frustration. *Exception:* When one or both of you is out of control. “A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold In settings of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

4. Be open to criticism.

Remember, all criticism is destructive before it can be constructive. It will usually hurt before it heals. “It is a badge of honour to accept valid criticism.” Proverbs 25:12, (Living Bible)

5. Resolve one issue at a time.

Oftentimes we bring up the past because our present argument is weak. “The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.” Proverbs 17:14

6. State your complaint objectively, kindly and privately.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.” Matthew 18:15

7. Let the other person know you are not dissatisfied with the entire relationship.

Remember, “It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars.” Proverbs 18:19 (Living Bible)

8. Avoid a win-lose situation. Learn to bend a little. Seek to compromise.

Negotiate! Don't make threats to terminate the relationship if the other person doesn't agree with you. “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” Romans 12:18

9. Don't accuse or attack the other person.

Use “I” phrases such as *I am very angry! I am extremely upset! This really bothers me.* Avoid “you” phrases such as *You make me so mad! You never do anything right! You don't care about my feelings!* “An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins” Proverbs 29:22

10. Seek a solution.

You may need to enlist a third person (counsellor, pastor, friend) who will listen objectively and not take sides. Sometimes a mediator can help you reach an understanding even if the two of you fail to reach an agreement.

The Heart of Parenting

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 presents to us the divine model for spiritual parenting. It begins with a call to, “love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Only as we embrace the love of God in our own hearts can we communicate that love to our children.

In her book *Child Guidance*, Ellen White counseled parents that, “You may be evangelists in the home, ministers of grace to your children. (478). The task of parents is somewhat akin to the role of John the Baptist - to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. We are called upon to be ‘ministers of grace’ as opposed to ‘ministers of religion.’ The ultimate goal of parenting is not just behaviour modification, it is character transformation.

By modeling God's love, grace and truth we make it easier for our children to accept Jesus when He makes a direct appeal to their hearts, because they would have already encountered Him through us.

As parents, then, our job is to raise what Christian researcher George Barna calls spiritual champions - individuals who are not merely church members but true disciples of Jesus Christ.

The most effective way to raise a spiritual champion is to be a spiritual champion. So let's allow God's love to saturate our hearts that our children may be drenched in His love.



“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

SEC FAMILY

Diary Dates



The SEC Family Ministry
Marriage Retreat



Strength to Love

Spiritual Foundations for Marital Unity



Presenters:
Les & Irma Ackie

An exploration of practical solutions for the inevitable challenges that threaten spiritual and emotional harmony

Date: 4th—6th May 2012

Venue: Wokefield Park, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Berkshire, RG& 3AH

Cost: £210 per couple

Register @ www.secadventist.com or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728



Join Pastor Barrington Brennen as he shares from a wealth of family ministry experience



Barrington Brennen
Marriage & Family
Therapist

Tuesday, 12 June

“When love hurts . . . the pain of intimate partner abuse”

Wednesday, June 13

“Getting the best out of your marriage”

Thursday, June 14

“Understanding the teen in your life”

Friday, June 15

“Singleness, a gift from God”

SEC Camp Meeting: Brean Sands Holiday Park, Pontins Brean Sands Holiday Park, Burnham on Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RJ
Download a booking form from www.secadventist.org.uk

Kids in Discipleship Leadership Training 17-20 May – British Union Conference Office

The Kids in Discipleship ministry is designed for families and focused on children. KID is an exciting way to nurture children and families, by training parents and mentors to disciple their own children for Jesus Christ. This training will equip and train groups to lead this ministry in their local churches. If you have parents of 5-12 year olds in your church, we would like you to pray about bringing a team of 4-5 lay leaders and your pastor to the next KID Leadership training. Please visit the BUC website for further information: <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/childrensministries.php>

BUC Certificate in Family Ministry Leadership Training 23-25 November - venue to be confirmed

Please make a note of the next residential Family Ministry Training event at the end of November. Although, this may still seem a long way off, start planning now, and encouraging your church board to sponsor your attendance.

We recommend all Family Ministries teams attend this training, which offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about ministering to the families in your church and community, and planning effective and useful programmes. In two weekends over two years you will cover all the modules needed to achieve the Certificate in Family Ministries Training.

Family Togetherness Week 13-20 October

The Family Ministry Planbook for 2012 can be downloaded from the BUC website Family Ministry Department at <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/familyministries.php>

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

Useful Links

AdventSource -

www.adventsource.org/

Adventist Parenting -

www.adventistparenting.org/

Adventist Special Needs Association - <http://www.asna.info/>

BUC Family Ministry-

www.adventistinfo.org.uk/

GC Family Ministry - <http://family.adventist.org/>

Kids in Discipleship -

www.kidsindiscipleship.org/

North American Division Family Ministry - family.nadadventist.org

family.nadadventist.org

South Pacific Division Family Ministry - <http://adventist.org.au/family-ministries>

adventist.org.au/family-ministries

General Sites

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

www.acc-uk.org/

Care for the Family -

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/

Christians Against Poverty

<http://www.capuk.org/home/index.php>

Family & Parenting Institute -

www.familyandparenting.org/

Family Friendly Church Trust -

www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/NewSite/ffc.php

Heritage Builders -

www.heritagebuilders.com -

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

www.prepare-enrich.co.uk/

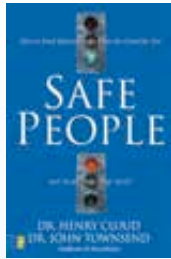
Through the Roof (Disability outreach) -

www.throughtheroof.org

Women's Aid -

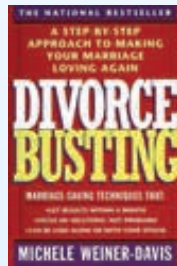
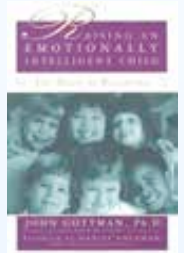
www.womensaid.org.uk/

Recommended Reading



Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend show how we can find the people who will help us down the path to healing and avoid those who may damage our emotional health. *Safe People* provides practical criteria for establishing healthy relationships and avoiding unsafe people.

In *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child*, John Gottman identifies a five-step "emotion coaching" process to help teach children how to recognize and address their feelings, which includes becoming aware of the child's emotions; recognizing that dealing with these emotions is an opportunity for intimacy; listening empathetically; helping the child label emotions; setting limits; and problem-solving.



Divorce Busting 'does exactly what it says on the tin' providing practical guidance to change the dynamics of marriages in difficulties. Michelle-Weiner Davis' solution-focussed approach avoids dwelling on the past but rather focusses on the changes which are necessary to make the future different.

Seventh-day Adventist Families Worldwide
Praying 7 Days a Week
at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Join families around the globe praying for:

- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on families
- God's protection over families
- God to use our families as agents of hope and salvation
- Our relatives, neighbors, and friends' openness to accept Jesus
- Other families' prayer requests

Cornerstone
Counselling Service

0207 723 8050
or ccs@secadventist.org.uk

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

CCS is a confidential service provided by professional counsellors. Supported / sponsored by Family Ministries of the SEC of SDA's. A registered charity.

Contact Us

SEC Family Ministries

25 St John's Road

Watford WD17 1PZ

fm@secadventist.org.uk

Pr Les Ackie, Director:

01923 656 510

lackie@secadventist.org.uk

Anna McLarty, Secretary:

01923 656 530

amclarty@secadventist.org.uk