



June 2014

SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

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The Crucial Role of Fathers

Pr Les Ackie

On many occasions, the Bible portrays God as a loving father. Psalm 103:13 states, “As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” The New Testament actually refers to God as Father at least 275 times. Unfortunately, one of the effects of man’s fallen condition is that the image of God has become distorted dysfunctional models of fatherhood. Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven . . .” (Matthew 6:9), but this can be problematic for those who have had a negative experience of human parenting. Protestant reformer Martin Luther once said, “I have difficulty praying the Lord’s Prayer because whenever I say ‘Our Father’, I think of my own father who was hard, unyielding and relentless. I cannot help but think of God in that way” (*Gregorovius, Villa, 249*).

Dr Ronald Levant in his book *Masculinity Reconstructed*, states, “. . .men are supposed to be sensitive, caring, enlightened dads who are really there for and involved with their kids . . . The only problem is many men

don’t know how to be that kind of father, for the simple reason that their own dads weren’t that kind of father to them (107).

One of the sad realities of modern-day families is the tragedy of absent fathers. American president Barak Obama, commented that, “Too many fathers are MIA [missing in action], too many fathers are AWOL [absent without leave], missing from too many lives and too many homes” (*New York Times*, 16 June 2008). Echoing Obama’s comments, David Cameron called for a “responsibility revolution” encouraging fathers in the UK to take responsibility for their children (*The Times*, July 18 2008). Actor & comedian Bill Cosby appealed, “. . . we’re calling on men to come claim their children . . . You cannot be a man at all if you haven’t claimed your child” (*Baltimore Sun*, August 23, 2006

According to The Guardian reporter Jessica Shepherd, “One in six young children from single-parent families spend fewer than two hours a week with a father, grandfather or male role model, a poll has found” (*The Guardian Online*, 20 January 2009). Thom Crabbe of the Children’s Workforce Development Council states, “It is important that during the crucial first five years of a child’s life they have quality contact with both male and female role models. Working with under-fives is definitely a job for the boys” (*ibid*). Fiona Weir, Chief Executive of the single parent charity Gingerbread, concurs when she states, “Having both male and female role models in educational settings is important for all children, not just those of single parents.”

The crucial role of fathers cannot be overstated. Ellen White observed, “I saw that but few fathers realise their responsibility” (*The Adventist Home*, 211). Research indicates that the father’s role is one of the greatest predictors of the child’s failure or success with school and social relationships.

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

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The effect of absent fathers on boys includes, psychological maladjustment; academic/school under-performance; antisocial behaviour; difficulty establishing and continuing intimate relationships (*Shared Parenting Information Group (SPIG) UK*). In regard to girls, Melodie Mack of Healing Hearts and Family Counselling, “Sometimes dad's don't realize how important they are to their growing young ladies, and if they did, it may shock them” www.healinghearts-families.com. Girls with emotionally available fathers tend to have higher self-esteem; be more likely to get on with others; more likely to be more successful in education; more self-nurturing and socially independent; less likely to have abusive relationships; less likely to experience depression; less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; less likely to be truant or delinquent; less likely to experience body image problems and less likely to become sexually active at a young age.



When it comes to effective parenting, not just any dad will do. Children need fathers who are spiritually mature, emotionally available and sensitively responsive. God Himself sets the example, He assures us, “It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24). It is also highly significant that the Bible states that one of the effects of the last-day message to be given to the world will be to, “. . . turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers . . .” (Malachi 4:6).

Fathers must be intentional about spending time with their children. However, clocking hours with children is less important than how we relate to them when we are together. Fathers are counselled, “. . . associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate friendship with them, especially with your sons” (*The Adventist Home*, 222). Again dads are encouraged to, “. . . combine affection with authority,

kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them (*Ministry of Healing*, 392).

It is vitally important that fathers cultivate a balance between work life and home life. Mrs White goes so far as to suggest that, “If he [father] is engaged in business which almost wholly closes the door of usefulness to his family, he should seek other employment which will not prevent him from devoting some time to his children” (*The Adventist Home*, 221).

Successful fathering is about accepting our role in the growth of a human being. More importantly, the primary role of fathers is to successfully reflect the image of God to his children so that through his example they may become acquainted with the character of God. Fathers are called upon to pass on a spiritual heritage to their children in order to prepare their hearts for eternity. To this end God states, “For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him” (Genesis 18:19, NIV).



**FATHERS
DAY**

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.


Deuteronomy 6:6-7

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SEC FAMILY

SEC CAMP MEETING
23-29 JUNE 2014

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS




TED N.C. WILSON
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT

 PASTOR STEVE RILEY COMMITMENT SPEAKER	 PASTOR ROYSTON PHILBERT PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER	 PASTOR RANA STEPANOVIC BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER	 PASTOR CHARLES WESLEY WRIGHT YOUTH SPEAKER	 BUFORD & CARMEN GRIFFITH FAMILY LIFE SPEAKERS
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PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS HOLIDAY PARK
PRESTATYN, DENBIGHSHIRE, NORTH WALES, LL19 7LA

Daily Committal Messages, Family Life Pleiary Sessions, Bible Study Sessions and Workshops, Health and Beauty Camps - Youth and Adults



ADVENTIST VOCAL ENSEMBLE
LOVE LEE
COMPOSITIONS

JAIME JORGE

ONWARDS UPWARDS



Join our Family Life Camp Meeting plenary speakers, Pr Buford & Carmen Griffith as they share from a wealth of family ministry experience

Tuesday, 24th June, 9:30am-10:30am
"Healthy Marriages in Unhealthy Times"

Wednesday, 25th June, 9:30am-10:30am
"Help! My Children Are Driving Me Insane"

Thursday, 26th June, 9:30am-10:30am
"Single, Satisfied and Saved"

Friday, 27th June, 9:30am-10:30am
"You Say That To Say What?"

SEC Camp Meeting: Pontin's Prestatyn Sands Holiday Centre, Central Beach, Barkby Avenue, Prestatyn, Denbighshire. LL19 7LA
Download a booking form from www.secadventist.org.uk



Inspiration for the Soul

23 - 29 June 2014
Camp Meeting
Radio
7:AM - MIDNIGHT

 Mike Johnson Music	 Richard de Lisser Family Finance
 Richard Daly Life Stories	 Leslie Ackie Family Life

LISTENING OPTIONS
www.lightfm.net
Channel 6, Pontins
Catch up at:
www.lightfm.net/replays

Email: radio@lightfm.net
Text: Start your message with LIGHT and send to 81025 (standard network charge)

777

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




FAMILY WORSHIP APP

This app provides family worship ideas that are fun, easy, and inspirational for the entire family



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The SEC Family Ministry
Marriage Retreat



Intimate Allies

Guarding the Foundations of Marital Love



An exploration of practical biblical principles to enhance spiritual, emotional and physical intimacy

19th - 21st September 2014
Venue: Latimer Place, Latimer, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1UG

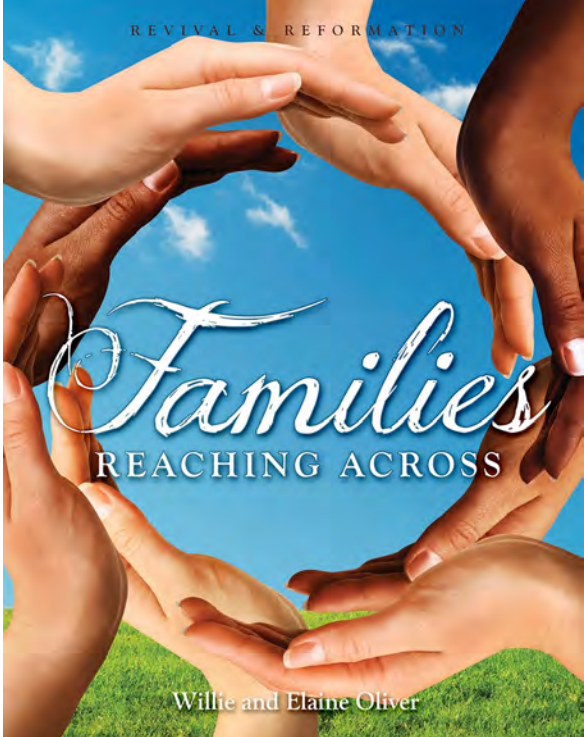
Cost: £240 per couple (subsidies and split payments available for early booking)



Presenters: Les & Irma Ackie

Register at secadventist.com/events or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728

REVIVAL & REFORMATION



Families

REACHING ACROSS

Willie and Elaine Oliver

Family Togetherness Week 7-13 September

Download the Family Ministry Planbook from <http://family.adventist.org/revival-and-reformation-families-reaching-up.html>



For Single and Shared-Parenting Mums and Dads



free workshops

make new friends

social outings

learn new things

kids play

-  The Loop Young Families Club
-  @theloopyfc
-  theloopyfc@gmail.com
-  Email to gain access the WhatsApp Group

Like us on Facebook, Follow us on Twitter!



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Useful Links

AdventSource -
www.adventsource.org/

Adventist Parenting -
www.adventistparenting.com

Adventist Special Needs
Association - www.asna.info/

BUC Family Ministry-
[adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/
departments/family-ministries](http://adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/family-ministries)

The Ellen G. White Estate -
www.whiteestate.org/

GC Family Ministry -
family.adventist.org

Hope Channel - www.hopetv.org

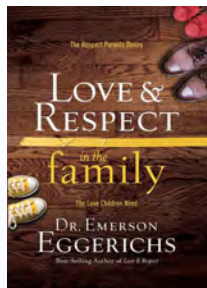
Kids in Discipleship -
www.kidsindiscipleship.org/

North American Division Family
Ministry - family.nadadventist.org

SEC Family Ministries
[secadventist.org.uk/who-we-are/
departments/family-ministries](http://secadventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/family-ministries)

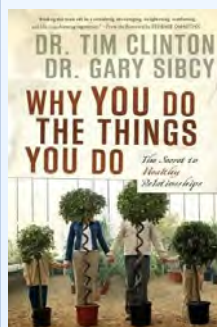
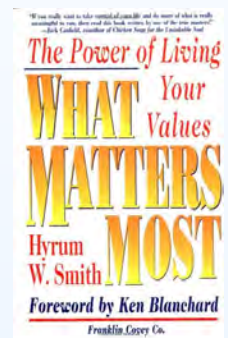
South Pacific Division Family
Ministry - [www.adventist.org.au/
family-ministries](http://www.adventist.org.au/family-ministries)

Recommended Reading



Love & Respect for Families. Children need Love. Parents need respect. Dr Emmerson Eggerrichs believes that it is as simple, and as complex as that! He explains that conflicts arise when frustrated parents feel dishonoured, while children complain, “You never listen to me!” This generates what he calls ‘The Family Crazy Cycle.’ This book teaches how to establish healthier patterns with children of any age.

One of the great challenges we face in life is the disconnect between what we espouse and what we actually live. In **What Matters Most**, Hyrum W Smith emphasises the power of living ones values. Many people experience conflicts between their actions and personal values. Dr Smith shares practical ways to help identify core values, create a plan to live out those values and to act upon it to the fullest.



In **Why You Do The Things You Do**, Clinton & Sibcy emphasise the powerful impact that our experiences, especially in our family of origin, have on our view of self and how we do relationships. The authors outline an understanding of why we relate to people in particular ways and how we can steer away from negative patterns, breaking free of past mistakes in order to create satisfying connections with spouse, children, close friends, and God.

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.



REAL Family Talk
with Willie & Elaine Oliver



Contact Us

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