



SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

In this issue:

Opposing Same-Sex Marriage: Why it Matters

How to Judge a Safe or Unsafe Relationship?

Quotable Quotes

Why Kids in Discipleship?

Diary Dates

Recommended Reading

Useful Links

Opposing Same-Sex Marriage: Why It Matters

As I follow the emotive debates on social networks, phone-in radio talk-shows and TV panels, a recurring question is leveled at opponents of the same-sex marriage - "What business is it of yours what same-sex couples do?" The question is particularly relevant in light of the fact that the Government has given assurances that they have no intention of forcing faith groups to perform such 'marriages.'

So why is it our business? It is our business because of the wider implications inherent in changing the law on this fundamental issue. Civil partnerships afford essentially the same rights as marriage, yet it is insufficient to satisfy supporters of the legislation. This shows that the issue is more than a debate over marriage. The debate has been promoted as both a human right and a civil rights issue likened to the fight for racial and gender equality.

While many seek to dismiss God as an irrelevance, we do not shy away from the fact that our objections are rooted in God's ideal for the family. This is our business because marriage is the institution that God has put in place for the transmission of spiritual, moral, social and cultural values for the nurturing of human life from generation to generation. In a diverse society, perceived rights will always come into conflict yet for us, God's purpose remains paramount.

The legalisation of same-sex civil marriage is our business because it represents a redefinition of the biblical concept of marriage and family. The effect of such a change affects all of us. To introduce such a fundamental change in the status of marriage, amounts to an act of reckless social and political experimentation.

Changing the law to accommodate same-sex marriage is a part of the slippery slope that will further undermine God's ideal for passing on His spiritual heritage to future generations.

Abraham Lincoln is recorded to have said that, "The strength of a nation lies in the homes of it's people." That being the case, any change which further threatens the biblical concept of the family is definitely our business. If you agree, you can register your views at <https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/v.asp?i=48356xhlqw> and www.c4m.org.uk

Pr Les Ackie



May 2012

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

Quotable Quotes

“A man has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”
Martin Luther King

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”
Anon

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”
Henry Ford

“If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders”
Abigail Van Buren

“Anybody can become angry – that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.”
Aristotle

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.”
Desmond Tutu

“No success in public life can compensate for failure in the home.”
Benjamin Disraeli

How to Judge a Safe or Unsafe Relationship

Questions to consider:

1. Am I growing spiritually as a result of my relationship?
2. Has the person I am building a relationship with made a definite commitment to Jesus Christ?
3. Am I encouraged to think independently and empowered for personal growth emotionally & intellectually?
4. Am I allowed to have differences of belief and behaviour, on issues of secondary importance?
5. Am I encouraged to maintain high moral standards?
6. Is my relationship characterised by honesty?
7. Am I free to enter dialogue, offer advice and critically evaluate the relationship?
8. Do I have ready access to information within the relationship or is the flow of information tightly controlled?
9. Am I encouraged to ask hard questions of any kind?
10. Am I encouraged to develop relationships outside of my immediate circle?
11. Is my relationship characterised by unselfish giving or self-serving?
12. How does the person I am associating with relate to other significant people in his/her life?
13. Does the person I am associating with demonstrate stability in his/her ability to manage emotion i.e. anger management, extreme depression, self-esteem etc.?
14. Does the person I am associating with demonstrate a healthy work ethic and practice good stewardship?
15. How does he/she react to unfavourable circumstances?
16. What kind of track record does the individual have in previous relationships?
17. Does my general interaction with the person leave me feeling better or worse about myself?

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

Why Kids in Discipleship?

Pr Les Ackie

A couple of years ago I attended a Family and Children's Ministry conference for which the keynote speaker was George Barna, the Director of the Barna Research Group. In his plenary address Barna shared the results of a study which surprised him so much that he concluded that his research must have been flawed. Having repeated the study, it produced the same results. The study was designed to ascertain the most effective form of evangelism for church growth. The research concluded that, "The most effective form of evangelism in the Christian church today is evangelism to children."

If we believe and accept the results of this research, it has far reaching implications for how we 'do church'. We would have to rethink how we organize and fund our current ministries. One of the greatest challenges we face however, is the shift in mindset to enable us to see our children as disciples for Jesus 'NOW' as opposed to some time in the future.

If all we did as a church was to retain and disciple our children, membership of the British Union might be in the hundreds of thousand as opposed to tens of thousands. However, the results of the last ValueGenesis study conducted in the Trans European Division indicated that we are haemorrhaging over 51% of young people from the church by the time they reach their 20s. Such a rate of loss is both unacceptable and unsustainable! In spite of the challenges we face, we have an opportunity to reverse the trend by intentionally empowering families to disciple their children.



Under the theme of Jesus in the Family, I recently had the privilege of helping to train five teams from both outside and within the SEC to initiate KID ministries in their local churches. Yet it remains a source of concern and disappointment that the vast majority of churches within our conference have not yet embraced the KID vision.

In KID we have a ministry that will not only enable children to experience a daily walk with Jesus and be empowered for service, but it will also equip parents and mentors to become disciple-makers in a way that will enhance their own spiritual walk and have an influence beyond the family circle.

Current research shows that there is a clear window of time in which to secure our children's hearts to Jesus. According to barnaresearch.org, people are most open to accepting Jesus between the ages of 5-13. After that time it becomes more difficult to make this life-changing decision.




When I trained for this ministry in 2006, the founder of KID, Don McLafferty confronted us with a question, which all parents and church leaders would do well to consider - "The Devil has plans for your children - do you?" Ellen White articulates our great opportunity when she states, "You may be evangelists in the home, ministers of grace to your children, *The Adventist Home*, 478. KID is an effective tool to aid this essential ministry.

Please visit the BUC website for further information <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/childrensministries.php>

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

SEC FAMILY


Diary Dates



30th Anniversary
The Winning Way
 SEC CAMP MEETING 2012
 11th - 17th June

More Abundant Living
 Family Seminars

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



Tuesday, 12 June
 Back to Basics: Understanding Family Dynamics


Wednesday, June 13
 'The 'Obedience Trap' & 'The Pepsi Foundation'

Thursday, June 14
 Getting the Best Out of Your Marriage . . . Kissing & Hugs


Friday, June 15
 "When Love Hurts . . . The Pain of intimate Partner Abuse"

Barrington Brennen
 Marriage & Family Therapist


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



The SEC Family Ministry
 Marriage Retreat



Strength to Love
 Spiritual Foundations for Marital Unity



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

Presenters:
Les & Irma Ackie

Date: 5th—7th October 2012
 Venue: Wyboston Lakes, Great North Road, Bedfordshire, MK44 3RA
 Cost: £210 per couple
 Register @ www.secadventist.com or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232



SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEEKEND



Families 1st

CONNECTING LIVES FOR ETERNAL LIVING
 Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire
 21-23 November 2012

CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Come and enjoy a weekend of faith, training and fellowship in the beautiful surroundings of Wyboston Lakes

- Biblical Foundations for Family Ministry
- Communication
- Anger & Conflict Resolution
- The Family as a Centre for Evangelism
- Leading out in Family Ministries

Cost per couple	£180
To share a twin-bedded room	£110 per person
Single room	£125 per person

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
 25 St John's Road
 Watford
 Hertfordshire
 WD17 1PZ

Phone: 01923 23 27 28
 Fax: 01923 25 05 82
 Email: fm@secadventist.org.uk



Family Togetherness Week 13-20 October

Download the Family Ministry Planbook from at www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/familyministries.php

Register @ www.secnews.org.uk or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728

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

South Pacific Division Family

Ministry - <http://adventist.org.au/family-ministries>

General Sites

Association of Christian

Counsellors - 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/

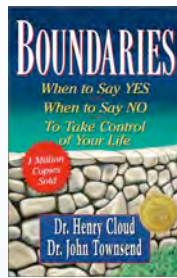
Through the Roof (Disability outreach) -

www.throughtheroof.org

Women's Aid -

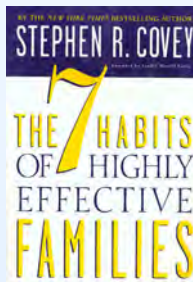
www.womensaid.org.uk/

Recommended Reading



Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend show how healthy spiritual, emotional and physical boundaries are essential to all healthy relationships. From a sound biblical foundation, the authors emphasize practical relational principles of ownership, responsibility and freedom. **Boundaries** should be essential reading for every Christian who wishes to cultivate healthy self-management and fulfilling relationships.

Don't be put off by the title **1-2-3 Magic for Christian Parents**. The 'Magic' refers to how relatively easily these principles for effective discipline work. The author gives practical counsel to eradicate obnoxious behaviour, encourage good behaviour and strengthen relationships with children aged 2-12.



In **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families**, Steven Covey applies the practical wisdom of the 'Seven Habits' to the family context. These are: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood, Synergize, Sharpen the Saw. Covey's work encourages families to be intentional about creating the type of family they wish to be.

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