



Issue 34

SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

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Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere - Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

Pr Les Ackie

The Message Bible renders The Great Commission, “¹⁹Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ²⁰Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). This mandate is not limited in its scope and therefore applies just as much in the context of our families as it does in our communities and in far-flung lands. Families are discipling units. The most natural first recipients of our gospel sharing endeavours are the people in our households. Children are not born believers, so parenting is among other things, discipling and evangelism. It is within the context of a godly family that we should first experience the saving grace of God.

The Bible indicates that the five purposes of the church are worship, growth, connecting, sharing, and serving. We are informed that, “Every family is a church, over which the parents preside (*Child Guidance*, 478). Therefore, these five characteristics should also be evident within our homes. It is within the family that children should experience

relevant age-appropriate worship and Bible study; begin to discover their spiritual giftedness; and be empowered for service. We often lament the fact that many of our church members lack motivation for outreach and service. Part of the problem is that our families have not effectively trained for service. As soon as children are able they should be given responsibilities. The power of the Spirit to transform motivations notwithstanding, those who are most primed for service tend to be those who have seen it modelled in their homes and have internalized and practiced the principles of faith-sharing and unselfish service. Family evangelism should not just be ministry within our families, but also ministry by our families. Ellen White states that, “The mission of the home extends beyond its own members” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 31). In other words, the more effectively we do our work for Christ in the home, the better equipped we will be to share the gospel within our communities.

In her excellent classic book *Out of the Saltshaker*, Rebecca Manley Pippert shares the idea that we are often frightened about evangelism because we see it as something that we do *to* people. However, evangelism is a way of life, and not an event or a project. It is a way of being as opposed to a way of doing. We do evangelism because we are evangelists - every believer having received at least one spiritual gift for the specific purpose of sharing the gospel (see 1 Corinthians 12:7). A primary task therefore of EEE is to facilitate every member gift-discovery. We are to facilitate people finding their ‘place’ and then ‘filling it’ by providing the opportunities and empowerment for outreach and service. The confidence to share our faith often requires us to expand our concept of evangelists and evangelism beyond the activities of those specifically gifted for soul-winning.

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

SEC FAMILY

God's design is that every convert is to be a disciple-maker not just for the benefit of others, but also for our own growth. Yet, our motivation to evangelise should come down to a very simple reality - we can't help it. Ellen White states, "No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus (*Desire of Ages*, 142). It is akin to Jeremiah's "fire in the bones" (Jeremiah 29:9) that will not allow us to remain silent. But we cannot share a testimony that we do not have. Effective evangelism therefore begins and ends with a living, vital connection with Him in Whom, "we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). As Pippert puts it, "We do not simply give the gospel, we are the gospel." Paul expresses this concept when he states, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men (2 Corinthians 3:2).



Our evangelistic endeavours are inseparably linked to the quality and depth of our spiritual experience with God, facilitated by a consistent practice of all the spiritual disciplines as a way of life. It is through quality worship both in our homes and in our congregations that we come into contact with the Divine and receive an experience that compels us to share. It is through reflective Bible reading that the written Word becomes the living Word in our hearts. It is through biblical meditation that we learn to hear the voice of God speaking His will to us personally. It is through the discipline of solitary communion with God that we are prepared to be in communion with others. It is through the disciplines of fasting and prayer that we learn to become empty of self that we might be filled with His Spirit. Without the empowerment of His Spirit all our evangelistic endeavours are simply "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals."

Paul counsels, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). This transformation is fundamental to our outreach because, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled among men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, follow me" (*Ministry of Healing*, 143). Regardless of which particular method of evangelism we employ, there is no substitute for loving engagement with people on a personal level. The willingness to share our personal story, to listen to other people's story and to show how Jesus can rewrite the script of our lives, no matter what our past has been, this gives power to our influence. Connecting with people in meaningful ways requires that we cultivate the skill of empathy - the ability to be able to step into another person's shoes and see the world from their perspective. John speaks about the opposite of empathy when he states, "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:17). God's love in our hearts will naturally connect us with the hearts of those in need of a Saviour. We are told, "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 9, 189).

We have a distinctive message that we have been commissioned to give to the world. That message will only be effective if it is given in the context of healthy, loving relationships. Our ability to cultivate authentic connection with other people correlates to how we relate to each other. Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Love is the key - our love for God will spill out into service for others. We are counselled that, "The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and loveable Christian" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 100). People are drawn in more often by the warmth of relationship than by the brilliance of theological arguments. The heart of 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' is captured in the sentiments of Paul expressed to the Thessalonians, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well" (1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV).



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SEC FAMILY

At the South England Conference we have embraced the theme ‘Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere’ because we believe that it reflects our mandate to proclaim the Three Angels Messages of Revelation chapter 14, to usher in the Second Coming of Jesus. Within the Family Ministry Department we have embraced the vision statement ‘Connecting Lives for Eternal Living’ because we believe that loving relationships lie at the heart of all of our evangelistic endeavours, both within our homes and our communities. May those who come within our sphere of influence see our good works and glorify our father in heaven (see Matthew 5:16).

Family Life Mission	Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere ‘Connecting Lives for Eternal Living’			
	Revival 2016	Restoration 2017	Reclamation 2018	Retention 2018
Departmental Strategy	Enhancing the participation in family worship for households within the South England Conference			1
	Increasing the utilisation of family themes as a method of evangelism			2
	Increasing the number of family life specialists to provide family life education within our churches and communities			3
	Increasing the awareness of specialists in the area of family life education and emotional wellness for church leaders			4
Departmental Targets	100% SEC families involved in some form of family worship	70% of Churches in some form of family evangelism	To train 30 individuals each year to complete Family Ministry Leadership Training	Completion of a directory of FM specialists by December 2016 to be updated continually online
	1	2	3	4

Hand in Hand
CONFERENCE
5-7 FEBRUARY EASTBOURNE, UK
2016
THE HOLY SPIRIT • MISSION • FAMILY MINISTRY & YOU...

<http://www.handinhandconference.com>

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Empty Nest.
It's time to spread **YOUR** wings.



Life After An Empty Nest

Willie & Elaine Oliver

General Conference Family Ministries Directors

The level of health of every marriage relationship is based on the habits the spouses practice toward each other on a consistent basis. If a husband and wife are kind, understanding, patient, spiritual, nice, dependable, honest, thoughtful, forgiving, helpful, and make their marriage relationship priority, marriage will be a little heaven on earth. The opposite is also true. By being irritable, impatient, sarcastic, unforgiving, selfish, dishonest, undependable, mean, spiteful, cruel, and disconnected for not making marriage their priority relationship, this type of marriage

relationship will become conflicted and devitalized.

What is commonly known as empty nest syndrome is a sensation of loneliness felt by parents or other adult caretakers (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) when one or more of their children leave home to go to school, get married, or simply move out on their own. While these feelings of loneliness are more likely to be experienced by women, men often experience them as well. These feelings develop when parents feel they are becoming less influential in the lives of their child or children, while the authority or influence of others (professors, spouses, friends, etc.) seems to be growing in importance.

It is essential for married men and women to understand marriage needs to be the primary relationship in their lives. As much as one loves one's mother and/or father, when one gets married, the spouse becomes the highest priority relationship after God. This is not our opinion, it is God's directive. In Genesis 2:24 God says: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This means marriage is the only relationship under the sun where we get to become one with another person. We cannot (must not) become one with our son or daughter, that oneness is only reserved for our spouse.

When children are born to a married couple, there is a tendency for the child (or children) to become the focus of primary attention. Because babies are helpless and need the attentiveness of responsible adults to survive and thrive we have the predisposition to go over board and become careless with each other. If husband or wife feels justified in taking this approach the marriage relationship will take a back seat and naturally deteriorate.

If not careful and caught early, this pattern may continue until the child or children leave home, rendering marriage a distant, often cold, and spark-free relationship. Those who are married and still child free, should be intentional about making their spouse the priority relationship even when children come. If they follow this course, when their children leave home they will still have each other for support, love, and affection, and the spark will still be in their marriage. If they have done differently, they should have a serious conversation with their spouse about the reality of their marital relationship. They should ask their spouse for forgiveness, then find a good Christian counsellor that can help them talk through the hurt and pain of the past in order to get a new perspective on the type of marriage they want to have. Dealing with this matter with the help of the right professional will clear the way to reignite the spark they once had.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven . . . ⁵a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5-6



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SEC Family Ministries Department Calendar of Events 2016

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Sunday 11 January	Evangelism Expo	Newbold College
Sunday 7 February	Family Ministry Training SEC Certificate in Family Life Education Pt 1	Stanborough Centre
Saturday 6 February - Saturday 13 February	Christian Home & Marriage Week (see GC Plan Book downloadable from SEC Website)	All Churches
Sunday 13 March	Family Ministry Training SEC Certificate in Family Life Education Pt 2	Stanborough Centre
Friday 18 March - Sunday 20 March	SEC Blended Hearts Marriage Retreat	Wokefield Park, Reading
Sunday 17 April	Family Ministry Training SEC Certificate in Family Life Education Pt 3	Stanborough Centre
Sunday 8 May	Family Ministry Training SEC Certificate in Family Life Education Pt 4	Stanborough Centre
July/August	Solofest - Singles' Day of Fellowship	TBC
Friday 15 July Sunday 17 July	Singles' Weekend Retreat - Cultivate Purpose & Let God (This is not an SEC FM event - see poster for details)	Wokefield Park
Sunday 7 August - Sunday 14 August	SEC Family Camp	Chapel Porth, Cornwall
Sunday 14 August - Sunday 21 August	SEC Lone Parent Camp	Chapel Porth, Cornwall
Saturday 3 September - Saturday 10 September	Family Togetherness Week (see GC Plan Book downloadable from SEC Website)	All Churches
Friday 14 October - Sunday 16 October	SEC Blended Hearts Marriage Retreat	Denham Grove, Uxbridge
Sunday 2 October	Family Ministries Training Divorce Recovery Ministry	Stanborough Centre
Sunday 13 November	Family Ministries Training Supporting People Coping With Loss	Stanborough Centre


For more information about any of the listed events please contact:
SEC Family Ministries Department, 25 St John's Road. Watford, WD17 1PZ
tel: 01923 232 728 fax: 01923 250 582 email: fm@secadventist.org.uk
web: sec.adventist.org.uk

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 **The SEC Family Ministry
Marriage Retreat** 

Blended Hearts

An exploration of biblical principles to nurture love, trust and emotional bonding


 **Presenters:
Irma & Les
Ackie**

18th - 20th March 2016

Venue: Wokefield Park, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3AE


Cost: £250 per couple (subsidies and split payments available for early booking)

Register at sec.adventist.org.uk/events

 **Deep Release**
training counselling

**2016
TRAINING PROGRAMME**


Essex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire,
Somerset, West Midlands




Deep Release Ltd
122 Hunter Avenue Shenfield
Brentwood Essex CM15 8PG

Tel: 01277 226121
Email: info@deeprelease.org.uk
www.deeprelease.org.uk

Click this link to access the Deep Release website <http://www.deeprelease.org.uk/>

 Adventist
Family Ministries

**SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES
LEADERSHIP TRAINING**



CONNECTING LIVES FOR ETERNAL LIVING

Venues: THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE,
609 St Albans Road WD25 9JL.
BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE,
St Albans Road, Garston, Watford Hertfordshire WD25 9JZ

CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LIFE LEADERSHIP

Modules covered:

- Leading Family Ministry
- Biblical Foundations
- Human Development
- Spiritual Parenting
- Families as Systems
- Communication
- Anger & Conflict
- Strengthening Marriage
- Family Evangelism


Attendees receive all seminar materials and more to facilitate effective ministry

Modules are presented on a cyclical basis to allow access at any point in the programme

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT


25 St John's Road, Watford Hertfordshire, WD17 1PZ
Phone: 01923 23 27 28
Email: fm@secadventist.org.uk

Register with Ligia at lbuzac@secadventist.org.uk or call 01923 232 728

 A supporting ministry sponsored by the
SEC Family Ministry Department

SEX AND THE SANCTUARY

Assisting young people to safely navigate the pitfalls of sexual temptation and fall in love with Jesus

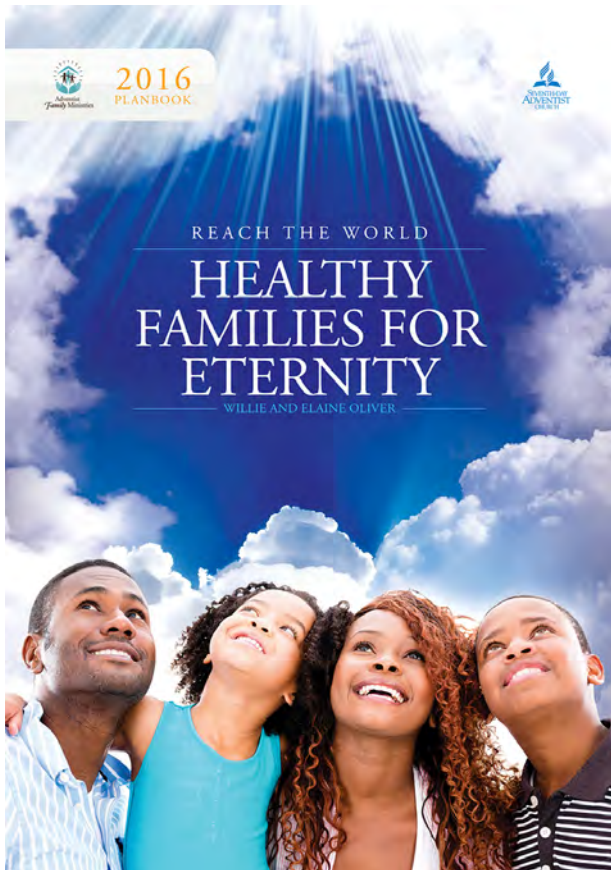


- Sexual Purity Weekend Retreats
- Youth Programmes
- Seminars & Workshops

Ages 13-19

Contact: Isha Prince or Khaya Chiweshe
protectingthepassion@gmail.com

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Click on the link to download the Family Ministry Planbook at <http://family.adventist.org/family-ministry-planbook.html>

SINGLES RETREAT 2016

15th-17th July 2016

Cultivate Purpose & Let God

Finding peace, happiness and spiritual fulfilment with yourself & how to create space for another person

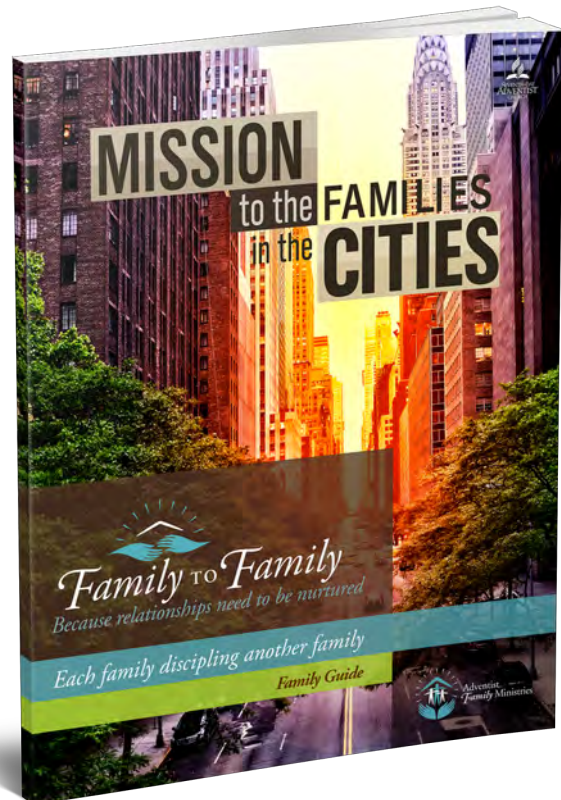
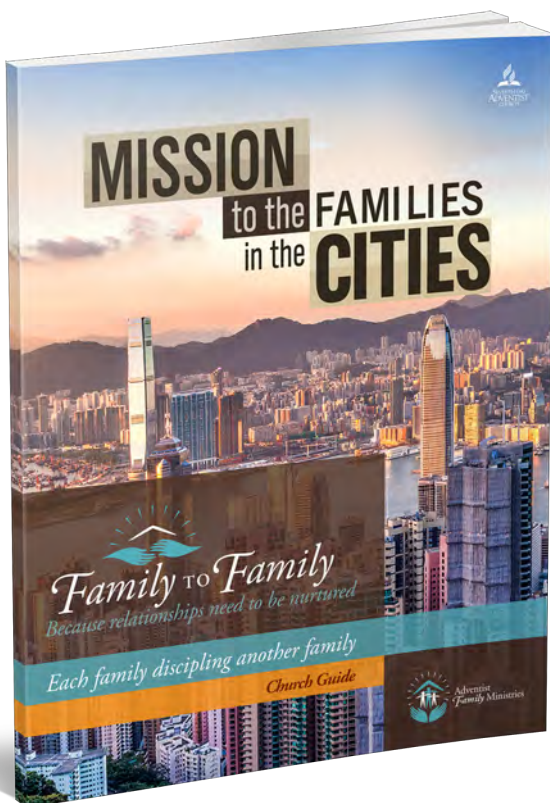


Guest Speaker:
Pastor
Dewayne Frazer

Venue: De Vere Venues | Wokefield Park | Goodboys Lane | Reading | RG7 3AH
Price: £149/person (double occupancy) & £159 (single occupancy)
Limited spaces.....book your space now for this empowering event, you will surely be blessed and uplifted.

A non refundable deposit of £50 is required to secure your place by 30 January 2016 and the full amount should be paid in by 31 March 2016.
We accept payment in instalments.
Bank Details: Lloyds Bank Sort Code: 308676. Account no: 60146660
Please put: TSR as reference

For enquiries, please contact:
Christina Mthombeni: 07926 102 187 or Sister Patience: 07908 713 561



Click on the link to download the Mission to the Families guides at <http://family.adventist.org/mission-to-the-families-in-the-cities-family-to-family.html>

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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

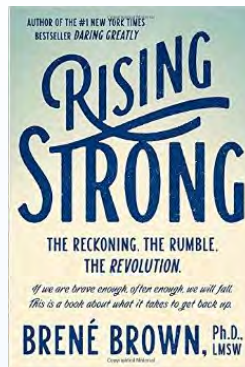
Kids in Discipleship -
www.kidsindiscipleship.org/

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)

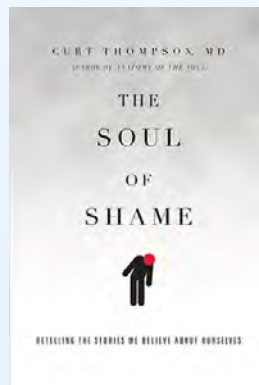
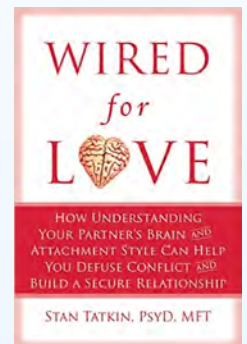
South Pacific Division Family
Ministry - [www.adventist.org.au/
family-ministries](http://www.adventist.org.au/family-ministries)

Recommended Reading



The physics of vulnerability is simple: If we are brave enough, often enough, we will fall. In *Rising Strong*, Dr Brené Brown tells us what it takes to get back up, and how owning our stories of disappointment, failure, and heartbreak gives us the power to write a daring new ending. Struggle, can be our greatest call to courage, and rising strong our clearest path to deeper meaning, wisdom, and hope.

Wired for Love. Dr Stan Tatkin teaches that every person is wired for love differently, with different habits, needs, and reactions to conflict. The good news is that most people's minds work in predictable ways and respond well to security, attachment, and rituals, making it possible to actually neurologically prime the brain for greater love and fewer conflicts.



The Soul of Shame. We're all infected with a spiritual disease. Its name is shame. Whether we realize it or not, shame affects every aspect of our personal lives and vocational endeavours. It seeks to destroy our identity in Christ. Psychiatrist Curt Thompson's expertise and compassion helps us identify our own pains and struggles and rewrite the story of our lives and embrace healing and wholeness.

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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