



October 2015

SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

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Have You Counted the Cost?

Dr Richard De Lisser - SEC President and former Stewardship & Trust Services Director

Recently the British electorate were faced with a stark choice; vote for the Conservatives and accept the terms and conditions of austerity heavy, or vote for the Labour party and accept the terms and conditions of austerity light! Some may have thought that the British electorate having suffered under a coalition government would have opted for the latter rather than the former as they reminisced over the ravages of pay cuts and pay freezes in the public sector along with cuts in social services and welfare benefits. However having opted for further austerity in order to balance the books and pay down the deficit the electorate will see the greatest cut in public spending in a generation. The implication of this will impact the church for decades to come as charities step in the gap to provide food banks, clothes and other essential needs for a growing class of new working poor living in a post great recession era.

But what can we as church members do to help ourselves and others in these stringent times?

1. Reduce debt! Refuse debt!

Ellen G White says in the book *Adventist Home* page 392-393, "Debt is one of the nets that Satan sets for souls...Abstracting and using money for any purpose, before it is earned, is a snare...You ought not to allow yourself to become financially embarrassed, for the fact that you are in debt weakens your faith and tends to discourage you; and even the thought of it makes you nearly wild."

Those ancient warnings against moneylenders are just as relevant today as they have ever been, as households that have incurred credit card debts have pushed themselves to living beyond their means. Proverbs 22:7 cautions: "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."

2. Save more! Save much more!

Our children see us spend more rather than save more and they learn the same! We are good at taking them to the supermarket checkout and spending rather than taking them to the bank to deposit our savings. Children learn by example!

1 Corinthians 16:2 offers this advice for sticking to a savings plan: "On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come."

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

3. Be Fair to Others and Work Hard

Proverbs 22:16 warns: "He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty." As for employees, working hard is a recipe for success, my mother used to say, "Hard work has never killed anybody" Proverbs 10:4 puts it this way, "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich."

4. Avoid "Get Rich Quick Schemes or Scams"

If something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Proverbs 14:15 cautions that, "The naive believes everything, but the sensible man considers his steps."

Think you can get rich quick? Think again, says Proverbs 13:11. "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

The 'Wise Man' counsel's fraudsters in Proverbs 13:11 when he says that, "Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labour increases it."

5. Leave a legacy

What will you leave for those who are left behind when you die? Proverbs 13:22 promote the value of leaving a legacy: "A good man (woman) leaves an inheritance for his/her children's children."



6. Keep giving

In these times of austerity some may be tempted to give up on giving up to God. However there is a fail-safe way to survive and thrive in this fiscal famine, it is to remember God and His people.

Remember what Malachi 3:8-10 says: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Proverbs 28:27 says: "He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses." Solomon adds in Proverbs 22:9, "He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor." Jesus says, to the Rich young ruler in Mark 10:21 "Go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven," "When you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:3).

Remember to give to God and for God, who gave all to us and for us!

Have you counted the cost?

**Honour the Lord with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine
Proverbs 3:9-10**

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



Little Foxes

Pastor Jerry Smith

"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards for our vineyards are in blossom" (Song of Solomon 2:15; NRSV).

Solomon in his second chapter depicts two young lovers, nubile and feeling aloft with the heady emotions they have for one another. It is the time of life when nothing seems more perfect, more wonderful than the love one feels for the significant other.

Solomon's song of passionate love for another is heartfelt and earnest. The longing his words display are rarely encountered in our daily lives. They demonstrate a yearning for "the other", a yearning which entwines one's heartstrings with that of another human being, that revels in the beautifully simple pleasure of even just thinking upon that one (let alone sharing time in person with them). But after this introduction of the two lovers, and a request of the young man to the young lady to basically "come away" with him (perhaps on a country lane walk, enjoying the beauty of the season?), a snippet of hard wisdom - almost seemingly out of place here - is inserted:

"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin our vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom." This subtle little bit of imagery is dropped in the midst of Solomon's poem like a tissue by the side of the road: small, delicate, liable to be lost shortly in the lush upgrowth around itself. And yet, its function is eminently more important (and lasting) than a disposable hanky.

Might it be that Solomon self-medicates here (as well as writing out a prescription for his lady-friend) because he has already noticed that even in the midst of seeming perfection and bliss, there are still those things that tend to detract from the truly amazing experience, marring it ever so slightly, sucking out some of the pleasure that would otherwise be experienced uninterrupted? Thus, "the little foxes".

Homer Simpson has become well-known for the phrase "Why you little..." whenever he loses his cool with his son, Bart (with it usually leading to some kind of violence being inflicted on the boy). The point is: even when an antagonist is small, it may still cause us a great deal of frustration, so much so that our otherwise "perfect day" ends up being ruined (or at least left with a slightly off-putting memory attached).

When it comes to relationships, it is often the "little things" that begin to wear away at the relationship. The frustrations not shared, the annoyances never discussed and worked through. It is these kinds of things which "nip" and ruin the otherwise wonderful crop of fruit that might bring delight to the harvesters. And it is exactly these little things that need to be "caught"/"trapped," and dealt with in an appropriate fashion. In other words, we need to nip the nippers in the bud. This kind of "flower", if allowed to survive, will only bear poisonous shoots, thorns that prick, and roots that tend to dig deep, resist much, and give little.

But foxes are crafty, and won't just usually go away if you shake a fist, boot, or pellet gun at them. In fact, they tend to proliferate madly, if allowed the chance (I live in England. I know firsthand what I'm talking about here). Thus, if you're going to take them down, you had better be quite deliberate about it. It will take work. Determined effort. But if you and your beloved are willing to work on it together, you can be quite sure that those little annoying critters trying to sneak into your pristine shared garden will have a much harder time doing so with the both of you "on-duty" and being watchful.

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



SEC Lone Parents Campers Face F.E.A.R

By Samantha Lipyeat

After settling into our caravans, we had the first of many delicious meals, provided by our resident cooks. The following worship session introduced the theme for the week 'Face Your Fears and Live Courageously'. We learned the acronym F.E.A.R. - False Evidence Appearing Real. This theme became an indicator of our experiences for the week.

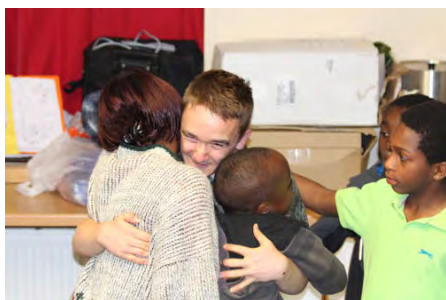
The first day, it . . . (you guessed it) rained, so we went shopping (some of us taking longer than others). However, in the evening, after another delicious meal, the staff looked after our children and we had Parent Time, where one of the leaders talked with us about our personal parenting, building healthy relationships with our children and setting firm boundaries. The session was interactive, profound and compassionate.

On Tuesday, you guessed it, rain again, but we ventured out regardless, to Paradise Park. We decided to stay in the indoor area until the rain stopped. Most of the children and parents had a fantastic time on the 'Drop slides', but some parents were quite bluntly terrified. A few tried to bravely face their fears and if you want to know what happened, ask Jeeves! The pictures speak for themselves but I personally laughed my head off when I saw them. It was wonderful to watch the brave sit side by side with the terrified to help them conquer their fears and go down the slides. Children were helping parents, teens helped adults, and little children just chucked themselves off! When the sun came out, we saw many beautiful birds, animals and other creatures.



On Wednesday, we took advantage of some sunshine by tackling the Adrenalin Quarry! Speaks for itself right? Well those of us who were scared on Tuesday, had an awesome opportunity to conquer some heights, and many of us did, with a lot of screaming, but a lot of joy. On Thursday, we were treated to an evening out dining at an Indian restaurant while the staff entertained our children.

There were many opportunities to go to the Beach, a favourite for many. On Friday, we took on the challenge of cycling the Camel Trail, a great Chapel Porth tradition ('Ouch!, bring a spare cushion'). Some conquered this fear! The teens hurtled along the path, the smaller children brave and daring, the mothers were in some pain. Some of us walked back and we waited for each other. Along this adventure were beautiful, serene, views of Cornwall.





I asked various age groups what they loved the most and answers ranged from the traditional camp concert, meeting lots of new friends, Go Karting, the beach, 'Parent Time'. A highlight for all was the 'The Balloon Prayer' on Sabbath morning where we were invited to write our prayers on helium-filled balloons which were then released in the sky as a symbol of our prayers ascending to God. The sermon encouraged us to take another view of F.E.A.R - Face Everything And Rise.

There you go! - A wonderful week, full of excitement and fun. The English weather did not stop us as we went forth. So come next year to Lone Parent Camp at Chapel Porth.

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

The SEC Family Ministry
Marriage Retreat

Blended Hearts

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



Presenters:
Irma & Les
Ackie

23rd - 25th October 2015

Venue: Denham Grove, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5DG

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

Register at sec.adventist.org.uk/events

A TWO DAY PRAYER CONFERENCE FOR MOTHERS AND MOTHERS TO BE



what do you Want?

exploring the longings of a mother's heart



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8 Highbury Grove
London N5 2EQ
Registration: 9.15am (refreshments)
Starts: 10am prompt

SUNDAY 18 OCT 2015
MOTHER'S PRAYER BRUNCH
Advent Centre
37 Brendon Street
London W1H 5JE
Registration: 8.30am
Starts: 9am prompt

BRING PACKED LUNCH

For tickets and registration for both days please go to:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mothers-prayer-conference-weekend-what-do-you-want-tickets-18125623227

For more information please contact **Barbara Lawrence** on **07940007331** or **Toyin Aworinde** on **07533793253**

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GOD'S HEART



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SPEAKER
Pr. Maureen Rock


Contact **Sophia Nicholls/Helen Batten** on **07768 298 297** / info@asna.info or www.asna.info

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SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING



CONNECTING LIVES FOR ETERNAL LIVING

Venues: THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE,
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BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE,
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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**

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/

NAD Adventist Singles Ministry
www.adventistsingleadultministries.org/

Official SDA Church Statements
<http://www.adventist.org/information/official-statements/>

End It Now - Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women
<http://www.enditnow.org/>

F.O.C.U.S. Singles Ministries
<http://www.focusnyc.org/default.aspx?ad=0>

Mankind Initiative - Support for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse
www.mankind.org.uk/

Raising Voices - Preventing Violence Against Women & Children
<http://raisingvoices.org/>

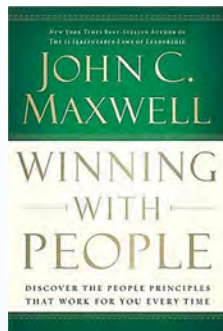
Refuge - For Women & Children Against Domestic Violence
<http://refuge.org.uk/>

Respect - For Perpetrators of Domestic Violence
<http://respect.uk.net/>

Real Family Talk
realfamilytalk.hopetv.org/

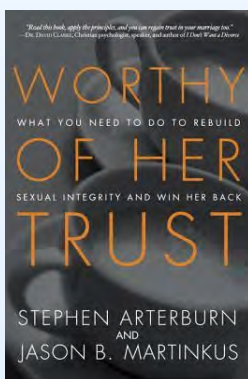
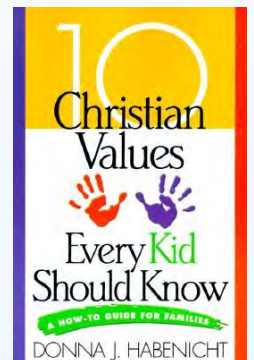
Sounds of Encouragement
www.soencouragement.org/

Recommended Reading



Winning with People. Some people are born with great relationship skills, but those who are not can learn to improve them. In *Winning with People*, John Maxwell has 25 'people principles' that anyone can learn. He poses the key questions: Are we willing to focus on others? Can we build mutual trust? Are we willing to invest in others? Can we create a win-win relationship?

In **10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know**, Donna J. Habenicht, a child development specialist, provides more than 1,000 strategies for teaching children respect, responsibility, self-control, honesty, compassion, thankfulness, perseverance, humility, loyalty, and faith in God. This how-to guide is an invaluable, easy to read, practical resource for assisting families in the task of passing on a spiritual heritage.



Worthy of Her Trust. Few challenges in life are as difficult as regaining a wife's trust—and few are as ultimately worthwhile. Stephen Arterburn & Jason B. Martinkus assert that trust can be rebuilt in a marriage after sexual indiscretion. With patient, loving, self-sacrificing effort, it's possible that one day a wronged wife may risk her heart with her husband again. And she may even have more respect and love for him than before.

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

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