



Issue 41

SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

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The Intentional Family

Pr Les Ackie

The vital role of the family can never be understated. We are counselled that it is, “the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences” (*The Adventist Home*, 16). This being the case, we are compelled to make every effort to nurture, protect and establish the family in a position of primacy within the household of faith and our communities. However, it is often the case that we falsely assume that families know how to function in healthy ways. The Eastern proverb states, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” This wisdom is highly appropriate to the work of family ministry where we are called to train, equip and

empower others for more effective family living. The Psalmist admonishes us, “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:3). Such understanding is foundational because secular society’s definition of success and God’s definition of success are “chalk and cheese”. The secular world tends to prioritise possessions and accomplishments, but God looks at character development. Success lays in understanding God’s purpose for our lives and then allowing Him to fulfil his purpose in us, for us, and through us.

The process of learning, by definition, involves the acquiring of knowledge and skills we do not at present possess. As we learn, we will inevitably make mistakes. In his excellent book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*, Stephen Covey makes the surprising observation that in spite of a perfect flight plan, aeroplanes are off track about 90% of the time and that the only way the pilot can get the plane to its ultimate destination is to continually make corrections and adjustments. He uses this analogy to make the point that, in families, we are all fallible human beings who will inevitably make mistakes, but the key to success is to make the necessary corrections to get our relationships back on track. Turbulence in a relationship is an opportunity for growth and learning and that even when we mess up, we can always repair the relationship. Teddy Roosevelt commented that, “The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.” Developing healthy family relationships requires the courage to try new things because change doesn’t happen by accident. Ellen White stated, “Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now” (*The Adventist Home*, 252). Change requires innovation and a willingness to change our perspective. However, to use Covey’s illustration, it is vital that we have a ‘flight plan’ so that we are clear about the direction in which we want our families to go.

Aristotle said that “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit”. At the base of everything that is good about life is discipline, the decision to live intentionally by choice and not by default. This is essentially the ability to act based on principles and values rather than reacting based on emotion or circumstance. In the space between what happens to us and how we respond lies our power to choose, which determines whether we grow or diminish in character

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development. We are counselled, “Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to me; it is mine to exercise (*Steps to Christ*, 47). Our lives are our responsibility. No matter what other people say or do, we always have choice as to how we respond.

“THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.”

One of the key determinants for remaining on track in our relationships is to keep in mind what we are ultimately trying to achieve. The Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Covey, therefore, advocates the importance of writing a family mission statement. While we tend to assume that mission statements are limited churches and even business organisations, they are applicable to any system or entity that operates with a purpose, including the family. The prophet poses the question, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). The purpose of a mission statement is to provide families with an agreed plan of action based on shared values and four basic human needs, “to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy.” Family mission statements focus on possibilities rather than limitations. They help us to picture a special future for our families as God has done for us. He states, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). When we have a clear vision in mind, we are then able to prioritise. With all the legitimate calls our time it is possible that “the good can become the enemy of the best.” Pastor Henry Wright said it well when he stated, “We may need to leave aside that which is important that we may do that which is essential.” Jesus shared this principle when he stated, “Seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). In order to “keep the main thing, the main thing”, we need to become creative our allocation of time to plan ways to be available when our spouse and family members are free. In his book *Ordering Your Private World*, Gordon McDonald states that “The central principle of all personal organisation of time is simple: Time must be budgeted!”

Family members who are able to collaborate in creating a shared vision are able to think in terms of mutual benefit. They foster support and mutual respect because they appreciate that “the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts.” Collaboration between each person in the family contributes something for the benefit of all. They think interdependently – “we,” not “me” – and develop win-win agreements. They are able to embrace “The Golden Rule” to treat people as they would like to be treated. Such collaborative work comes from a willingness to look outside of self, to see the world from another person’s perspective. Covey makes the point that “we do not see the world as it is, we see it as we are.” Paul stresses the importance of understanding when he gives marital counsel. He states, “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7). He links our efforts to understand our loved ones with our ability to experience effective communication with God Himself. This ability to enter another person’s world is the foundation of empathy. It has been said that everybody walks around with an invisible badge that says, “make me feel important.” There are few things more important than listening in order to accomplish this because listening allows us to enter another person’s story. True intimacy becomes a reality when family members afford each other this special gift.

Covey concludes that anything that is alive needs to grow, or it will deteriorate, and this applies to family relationships. He uses the analogy of sharpening a saw to represent continual improvement in every aspect of our personal and family life. This “sharpening” takes place in the areas of the four basic human needs, the physical (to live), the social (to love), the intellectual (to learn) and the spiritual (to leave a legacy). The best thing we can do for our families is to be the best that we can be. Paul counsels “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord . . . you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward” (Colossians 3:23).



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Summary of the Stephen Covey's Seven Habits for Highly Effective Families

Habit 1: Be Proactive

Families and family members are responsible for their own choices and have the freedom to choose based on principles and values rather than on moods or conditions. They develop and use their four unique human gifts—self-awareness, conscience, imagination, and independent will—and take an inside-out approach to creating change. They choose not to be victims, to be reactive, or to blame others.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

Families shape their own future by creating a mental vision and purpose for any project, large or small. They don't just live day to day with no clear purpose in mind. The highest form of mental creation is a marriage or family mission statement.

Habit 3: Put First Things First

Families organise and execute around their most important priorities as expressed in their personal, marriage, and family mission statements. They have weekly family times and regular one-on-one bonding times. They are driven by purpose, not by the agendas and forces surrounding them.

Habit 4: Think “Win-Win”

Family members think in terms of mutual benefit. They foster support and mutual respect. They think interdependently—“we,” not “me”—and develop win-win agreements. They don't think selfishly (win-lose) or like a martyr (lose-win).

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand . . . Then to Be Understood

Family members seek first to listen with the intent to understand the thoughts and feelings of others, then seek to effectively communicate their own thoughts and feelings. Through understanding, they build deep relationships of trust and love. They give helpful feedback. They don't withhold feedback, nor do they seek first to be understood.

Habit 6: Synergise

Family members thrive on individual and family strengths so that, by respecting and valuing one another's differences, the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. They build a mutual problem-solving and opportunity-seizing culture. They foster a nurturing family spirit of loving, learning, and contributing. They don't go for compromise ($1 + 1 = 1\frac{1}{2}$) or merely cooperation ($1 + 1 = 2$) but creative cooperation ($1 + 1 = 3 . . .$ or more).

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

The family increases its effectiveness through regular personal and family renewal in four basic areas of life: physical, social/emotional, spiritual, and mental. They establish traditions that nurture the spirit of family renewal.





“Keep Me Travelling Along With You” - SEC Family Camp 2016

Michelle Daley

I ventured to my first family camp as a camping ‘newbie’ not knowing what to expect. On arrival, I discovered that my family and I were woefully unprepared for the coastal winds of Cornwall after leaving behind the sunny, hot weather we had experienced in Surrey.

But we were cheered by the hospitable and warm welcome of Pastor Simon Martin who was very helpful throughout the whole week. After the long journey, we were looking forward to supper, which did not disappoint. This was served up by the talented cook Millie, who helped to make the whole week a culinary delight. We were spoilt for choice and did not lack any good thing under her care at breakfast and supper!

The main speaker for the camp was the indefatigable Pastor Marcel Ghioalda from Crieff church who was joined by his lovely family. Pastor Marcel enthralled us for the whole week with his riveting testimony - and he never left out the children. He captivated them with true stories of children - just like them - and I am sure that the lessons they have learned will be imprinted on their hearts.



The week was packed with fun-filled activities, such as the Camel Trail which involved a scenic bike ride along the beach for 10 miles. The other days were enjoyed at the seaside, leisure centre and Paradise Park, as well as a special BBQ supper and family concert.

On Friday each family was able to choose their activity, and we went to Flambards amusement park, generously paid for by the camp organisers! All of the activities were included in the price which was an excellent deal. On the penultimate day, we enjoyed a lovely Sabbath worship and Bible games (which we won, and we were awarded with a special prize :-)). In the evening after the potluck supper, the traditional bonfire was lit, and we toasted marshmallows under the moonlight, camp style.



We met some wonderful families at camp, and my mind was almost made up to return but for the caravans - which do need some attention! But that was all part of the experience. However, a few inconveniences, did not dispel the smile on my children’s faces, who thoroughly enjoyed everything about family camp, especially the beautiful beaches which Cornwall has to offer. Special thanks to Pastor Les Ackie and his wonderful staff, who were a bonus to the family camp and helped to make the experience all the richer. See you next year!

FAMILY WORSHIP APP

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



SEC Family Ministries Department Calendar of Events 2016

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Sunday 7 February	Family Ministry Training SEC Family Life Education Certificate Pt 1	Stanborough Centre
Saturday 6 February - Saturday 13 February	Christian Home & Marriage Week (see GC Plan Book downloadable from SEC Website)	All Churches
Friday 18 March - Sunday 20 March	SEC Blended Hearts Marriage Retreat	Wokefield Park, Reading
Sunday 17 April	Family Ministry Training SEC Family Life Education Certificate Pt 2	Stanborough Centre
Sunday 8 May	Family Ministry Training SEC Family Life Education Certificate Pt 3	Stanborough Centre
Monday 6 June - Sunday 12 June	SEC Camp Meeting (Guest Family Life Speaker Dr Allan Walsh from Andrews University)	Camber Sands, Sussex
Saturday 6 August	Solofest - Singles' Day of Fellowship	Balham
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
Sunday 18 September	Family Ministry Training SEC Family Life Education Certificate Pt 4	TBC
Friday 14 October - Sunday 16 October	SEC Blended Hearts Marriage Retreat	Denham Grove, Uxbridge

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

14th - 16th October 2016




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

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

Register at sec.adventist.org.uk/events

Stronger Together

ASNA CARER'S WEEKEND
7-9 OCTOBER 2016
WYBOSTON LAKES
Great North Rd, Wyboston, MK44 3AL


Pr. Leslie ACKIE
Dr. Chidi NGWABA

Closing Date: 5 Sept. 2016

£180 SINGLE OCCUPANCY (£160 ASNA Members)
£150 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (£130 ASNA Members)

For more info contact ASNA on 01491 821104 or 07768 298 297
email: info@asna.info web: www.asna.info

ASNA Annual Carers weekend provides support for unpaid Carers. Come and be revived, meet new friends, develop new skills to improve your health and well being.




Parkside Community Fellowship & Parabolē Productions present

WHERE COULD I GO?

Written & Directed by Derek Lindo

SAT 15 OCT 2016
7.30pm

WILDE THEATRE
South Hill Park,
Ringmead,
Bracknell RG12 7PA

TICKETS
£12/ Conc.£10

BOX OFFICE
01344 484 123
www.southhillpark.org.uk

FOR INFO & TICKETS
Lydia - 07941540047
lyjolie@yahoo.co.uk






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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MONDAY MORNING MANNA

THE SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE'S WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL

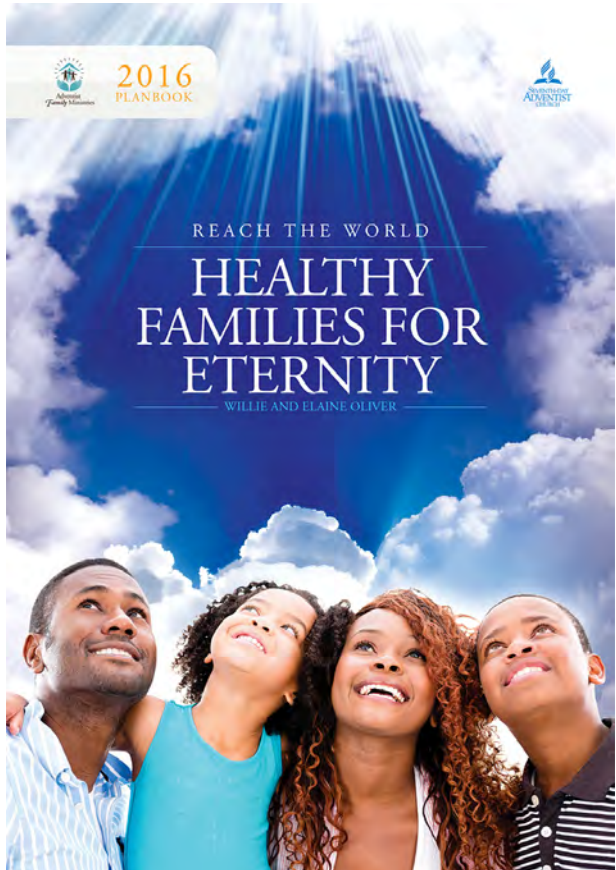
EVERY MONDAY AT 8AM GMT
Dial In Number: 0330 088 1904
Access Code: 458038#



Join Pastor Emmanuel Osei as he leads the Conference in Prayer and Devotion

Missed the Live Call?
PLAYBACK NUMBER: 0330 088 1907
ACCESS CODE: 458038#

CALLS COST NO MORE THAN CALLS TO GEOGRAPHIC NUMBERS (01 OR 02)



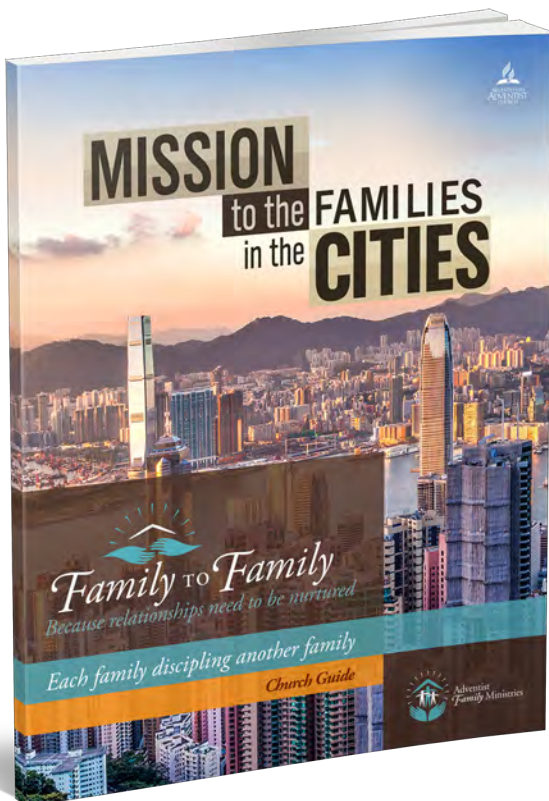
2016 PLANBOOK

REACH THE WORLD

HEALTHY FAMILIES FOR ETERNITY

WILLIE AND LAINE OLIVER

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

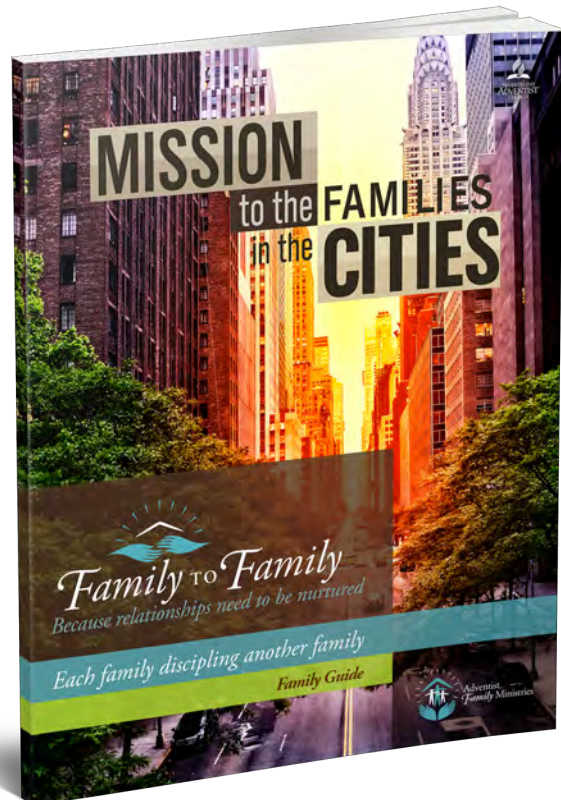


MISSION to the FAMILIES in the CITIES

Family to Family
Because relationships need to be nurtured

Each family discipling another family

Church Guide



MISSION to the FAMILIES in the CITIES

Family to Family
Because relationships need to be nurtured

Each family discipling another family

Family Guide

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/

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

Barna Research -
www.barna.org/

Care for the Family -
www.careforthefamily.org.uk/

Family & Parenting Institute -
www.familyandparenting.org/

Family Friendly Church Trust -
www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/NewSite/ffc.php

Focus on the Family
www.family.org

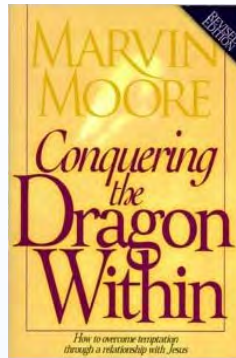
In Discipleship -
www.indiscipleship.org

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

Through the Roof (Disability
outreach) -
www.throughtheroof.org

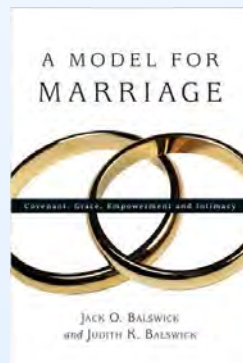
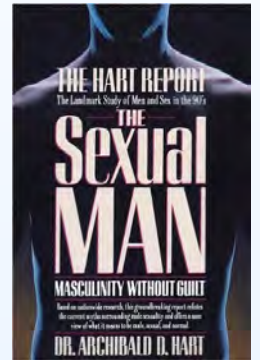
Women's Aid -
www.womensaid.org.uk/

Recommended Reading



Conquering the Dragon Within. This book is about victory over the temptations and failings that make us less than God wants us to be. Drawing on the distilled counsel of the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Twelve-Step recovery movement, Marvin Moore shows us that a relationship with Jesus is the key to transforming our characters. He shares effective spiritual strategies for defeating the enemy and resisting his temptations.

The Sexual Man. Based on groundbreaking research, *The Sexual Man* refutes the current myths surrounding male sexuality, providing a psychologically sound, biblically respectful view of what men secretly think and feel about important sexual issues. Learn what satisfies men sexually and what the limits should be, how to ensure healthy sexual development throughout life and how to have a fulfilled and guilt-free sex life.

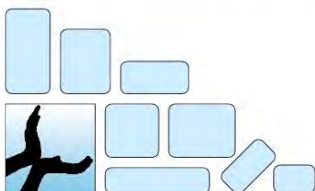


A Model for Marriage. Jack and Judy Balswick offer a vision of marriage that is both profoundly spiritual and thoroughly practical. Drawing insight from Christian theology and from social science research, the Balswicks bring together their years of teaching, writing and being married to each other to produce a book of faith and wisdom for facing the challenge of marriage in the twenty-first century.

Cornerstone Counselling Service

0207 723 8050
ccs@secadventist.org.uk
sec.adventist.org.uk/counselling

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



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