



MINISTERING TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM



Autism affects one out of every 150 children. A pastor might have members affected by autism and yet not even know it. The church then, needs to know how to minister to the families affected by it.

Almost everyone has heard of autism, but they don't know much about it. Though many mysteries shroud this affliction, we know autism as a neurological disorder that affects a child's ability to communicate and develop social relationships.

Autism comes in different forms, with symptoms ranging from genius to severely impaired. Some children may look very typical until you get to know them better, or until someone points out specific traits linked with the condition.

The first step is awareness and understanding of this disorder. Most children with autism have sensory issues. This means that a woman's perfume, which we can barely smell, seems overwhelming to the child, and can cause a spontaneous outburst, even in the middle of church. This outburst can include a shriek and then panic.

Other senses are equally affected. As a pastor, you need to ask the family how you can help. Would a nursery help them to be able to listen to the service? Would they need a volunteer to sit with their child during church or Sabbath School so the parents can attend an adult class? Podcasting the sermon and uploading it to the church Web site can help when parents can't make it to church.

What about a children's club in the church? Are their leaders willing to modify and incorporate children with special needs into their programs?

Church members can minister to these families outside of church too. Asking what would be helpful is an important first step.

Encourage your typical child to befriend and help the autistic child by modeling typical behaviors. Never tolerate anyone teasing or berating them. Many children with autism are very intelligent despite their disabilities, and they have a lot to offer society.

Most of all, support positive steps the parents take to help the child. Autism is a complex disorder and parents need to try various approaches to deal with the situation.

Give special attention to these families. Learn how to interact with their child. Understand their needs.

Most of all, believe in our children with autism and praise them. They work so hard to be a part of our world. We know this is good for typical children, so how much more important for these children, who are so often misunderstood?

Try to see the child that God intended them to be and not see them as a disorder. With early intervention, children with autism can get better, and you can be a part of their healing.

Finally, pray for these precious little ones' healing and for their families. See them through Jesus' eyes, full of hope and potential.

- Article adapted from Ministry Magazine, Ketelsen, D.L. (2008) Ministering to families affected by autism

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 5 – 7 SBC Spanish Youth Congress #SYC
- 7 Joint Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- 7 VBS Leaders Workshop
- 7 Adventurer Club Inspections #ACI
- 7 Men's Ministries Certification Course begins (online)
- 12 – 13 Adventist Nurses Appreciation
- 12 – 14 ATCU Evangelism Conference
- 14 Mother's Day
- 16 International Day of the Boy Child
- 16 – 17 ATCU Mid-Year Meetings
- 20 World Adventurers Day #WAD
- 20 Education Emphasis
- 20 Men's Power Hour (MPH)
- 21 – 27 Health Week (SBC Health Ministries & AHPA)
- 26 – 28 South Bahamas Conference 2023 Convention
- 27 World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk (IAD)/CHAM Speech Contest
- 27 Baptismal Sabbath
- 27 Stewardship Emphasis
- 28 Health and Hope Promoters Certification
- 28 Joint Elders Meeting



CONVENTION 2023

Save the Date

Join us for The South Bahamas Conference 2023 Convention from May 26-28, 2023. Under the theme "Empowered by Christ, I will Go", it promises to be a time of spiritual revival. The guest speaker will be Dr. R Clifford Jones, Dean of Theology at Oakwood University. The Friday and Sunday services will be held at the Hillview Church from 7-9 p.m. The Sabbath service will be held at the Baha Mar Convention Center beginning at 9:00 a.m.



BIBLE CLASS

Bible class will resume in person at the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday @ 6:30 as well as on Zoom and via The YouTube Channel of the South Bahamas Conference. Topic: "What Shall We Eat" *Clean and Unclean in the Light of the Cross.*

MONTHLY MEETING BURIAL SOCIETY

The S.D.A. Burial Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 1st, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Grants Town Church Annex. We've had five (5) deaths in 2020, Six in 2021, Fourteen (14) in 2022, and two (2) in 2023. Members are encouraged to become financial and persons wishing to join the society are invited to attend.

-Elder R. Henry Moncur



CHAM & MUSIC MINISTRIES

Rehearsal for the South Bahamas Conference Children's Choir continues today at 4:00 p.m. at the New Providence Seventh-day Adventist church.

-Annette Dorsett

SBC Music Ministries Coordinator



COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Due to maintenance being done on our system, our regularly scheduled weekend programs for ATV 658 will be suspended for the month of May. Please feel free to visit our YouTube channel to watch our local shows.



ASI CONVENTION

The Inter-American Division's ASI convention will be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica from August 16-22nd, 2023. All interested persons are asked to call 556 0492 or email the Bahamas ASI Chapter at asibahamas242@gmail.com.



SDA MASS YOUTH CHOIR REUNION 2023

The Journey to our Reunion Weekend (September 22-23, 2023), is off to a prayerful and exciting start! On Friday, April 28, 2023, our Vesper Service, and 2nd Rehearsal Session would have taken place at the Maranatha SDA Church. Rehearsals during the month of May are scheduled for Mondays, the 8th and 22nd at 6:30 p.m. - stay tuned for confirmation on our venue. **"One Spirit-One Mission-One Voice"**.

-Allison M. Rolle, Former Director/Reunion Coordinator

JOHNSON PARK CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Join the Johnson Park church as they conclude their anniversary celebrations at the Gala Banquet Celebration on May 7th, 2023, at the Atlantis Imperial Ballroom. Persons interested in Gala tickets can contact Estelle Cherenfant, Barry S. Saunders, or Takara Lewis.



BREATH OF LIFE

Save the date. The Breath of Life SDA Health Ministry will be having Health Day, an all-day event, on May 20th, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. More information on this event will be provided at a later date.

Lucrecia Taylor-Rolle

Health Leader at Breath of Life Church



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Hispanic Youth Congress
Tema: "DAME FE..."



Viernes: May 5th

Vestimenta: Líder Juvenil JA

Foro Juvenil 1: "Dame Fe Para abrazar tus promesas"

Noviazgo y Matrimonio

Sábado: May 6th

Vestimenta: Conquistadores/Guía Mayor
Escuela Sabática- "Dame Fe Para mover las montañas"

Domingo: May 7th

Vestimenta: Deportiva

Feria de Soccer: "Dame Fe Para ver que aún existen milagros"

World Adventurer Day- May 20th, 2023

Morning Service- local churches. The Sermon and service suggestions will be provided to pastors and Adventurer Leaders this week. There will be a joint afternoon service held at the Good News Church at 5:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more on the list of Adventurer awards to be completed! It promises to be insightfully engaging!

International Pathfinder Camporee:

Date: August 5-11, 2024

Venue: Gillette, Wyoming

Registration opens for the International Pathfinder Camporee on April 30th, 2023. Registration cost: US\$ 225.00 (Non-Refundable). Payments are to be made in Ecclesia7 through your local church treasurer. Register with your local Pathfinder Club Director!

Registration Deadline: Thursday, June 1st, 2023.



Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: sbclogos@gmail.com

Or logos@sbcadventist.org.bs

By Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

Visit the Conference website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>

for the Logos publication archives & the
ATV658 NEWS.

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SUNSET

Saturday, May 6th, 2023

@ 7:42 p.m.

Have a Happy Sabbath!