



## The Family: God's Invention



Family is a wonderful word that stirs up warm feelings in most people around the world. It is the first thing people think about when in danger and also when there is something good to share or celebrate. Family is the first thing in our thoughts after being away for school or work for a period. The truth is—after God—family is consistently the most significant group of people that makes us feel safe, secure, and warm.

Family was God's plan for the human race from the very beginning of time. It is the group from which we get our identity, our name, and our traditions. Family are the people we have a long-term relationship with, and, frequently, we feel the most comfortable with them. Family is almost always where we get the inner driving force that influences our goals and aspirations, and even our sense of well-being—who we really are or who we want to become.

Genesis 1:27, 28 describes the beginnings of the family like this: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.'"

The Bible—the inspired literature that describes God's conversation with human beings—shares in the first chapter of the first book that God created the family, emphasizing the high importance this basic unit in society has for God, and consequently should have for us. Despite God's plan for the happiness of the family, we all know things have not

always worked as well as they were supposed to.

In the face of disappointment and distress we are pleased to share that there is hope for today's family. Left to the popular attitudes in our society of thinking about ourselves first, second, and always—what can I get, rather than what can I give—families will continue to experience anguish, depression, gloom, hopelessness, and misery. The hope is in taking another look at the principles God meant for people to follow so that their families could be what He created them to be.

The truth is that there are no perfect families because there are no perfect people. So when we talk about a family that feels connected, we are not talking about a family without any problems. Rather, we are describing a family that enjoys relatively high levels of satisfaction and stability among its members. A family that is connected in a healthy way—spouses, parents, and children—are intentional about managing conflict in a timely manner and are committed to being patient, kind, understanding, and forgiving. While this kind of commitment is not easy, it is worthwhile and will contribute to the happiness, health, and quality of life of every family who puts it into practice.

Every member of the family must be purposeful about getting along with each other in meaningful ways every day—listening to each other, practicing being patient with each other when doing the opposite is so much easier because it comes naturally.

These are the habits that, if practiced daily, build stronger and healthier families over the years and make the members of the family feel safe, cared for, and secure, making it so much easier to deal with the difficulties that will inevitably experienced by every family. Family specialists often say that the quality of a family depends on the quality of their communication.

The quality of your family life will have much to do with the quality of your communication. Families who speak with each other regularly and lovingly experience a level of closeness that families who rarely or unkindly communicate with each other can never achieve. It takes determination to build a great family. But anything that is worth doing is worth doing well. So, make the commitment to communicate well, and watch your family blossom and grow in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

*-Adapted article from Hope for Today's Families  
Willie and Elaine Oliver, (2018)  
General Conference Family Ministries Directors*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY

- 10-20 Ten Days of Prayer
- 20 Men's Power Hour
- 12-14 Family Life Weekend
- 13 Launch of the Lay Certification Evangelism Training
- 13 IAD Launch of the Women's Ministries "Rescuing Values" Program
- 13 IAD Launch of the "Love Olympics" Program
- 13 Health Ministries Emphasis Day
- 15-18 Evangelism and Discipleship Conclave
- 20 Religious Liberty Day
- 19-21 Nassau Convention
- 26-28 Family Island Convention
- 27 Launch of "I WILL GO" Mentoring
- 28 Health Training Seminar



### ATCU PUSH INITIATIVE 2024 JANUARY

- Jan7-13 Family in Mission
- Jan14-20 Success for the Ten Days of Prayer
- Jan21-27 Elected Church Officers for 2024
- Jan 28-Feb 3 Commitment to Soul-winning



### BIBLE CLASS

Bible Class will resume on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. For further information contact Pastor Lynden Williams: [lwiliams@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:lwiliams@sbcadventist.org.bs) or 803-9793.

## TEN DAYS OF PRAYER

The Ten Days of Prayer initiative continues until January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The theme for this year is “**Priorities of Faith – Christian Virtues in turbulent times**”. Join us every morning at 5 a.m.  
**Zoom ID:** 934 3548 8307  
**Passcode:** 413860



## MUSIC MINISTRIES

All persons who like to sing in the South Bahamas Conference 2024 Convention Choir, are asked to attend rehearsals on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the **MARANATHA** church.

*-Annette Dorsett  
Music Coordinator*



## TREASURY TRAINING

There will be a special training for all SBC Head Treasurers on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. The training will cover budgeting with Ecclesia7. The Zoom link is available on our SBC Head Treasurers WhatsApp group. All Head Treasurers who wish to be part of this group may email Elder Okell Damastus at [odamastus@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:odamastus@sbcadventist.org.bs). Please include your name, church name, and WhatsApp number.

*- Elder Okell Damastus,  
South Bahamas Conference Treasurer*



## FAMILY MINISTRIES WEEKEND Families in Mission

All families are invited to a special weekend with Dr Willie and Elaine Oliver, Family Ministries Directors of the General Conference at the Centreville Church from January 12-14, 2024.



## 2024 CONVENTION

Convention for the South Bahamas Conference is set for January 19-21, 2024, at the William Thompson Auditorium on Jean Street under the theme: **Commissioned for Mission**. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Steven Gates of the Southeastern Conference in Florida.

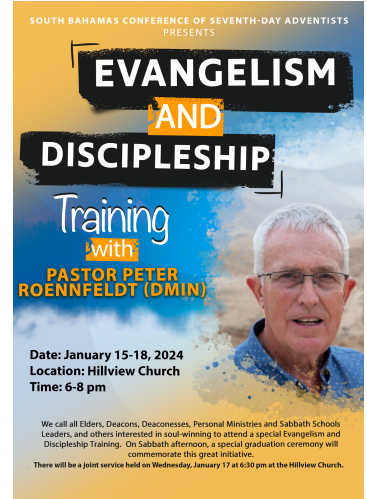
On Sabbath January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Children and Adolescent Ministries (CHAM) Department will host the CHAM Convention at the Living Faith Church. The Sunday Program will be at the Hillview Church. The Family Island Winter Conventions will be held on January 26-28, 2024.



## CONFERENCE TRAINING

We call all Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Personal Ministries and Sabbath Schools Leaders, and others interested in soul-winning to attend a special Evangelism and Discipleship Training from January 15-18,

2024, at the Hillview Church from 6-8 pm. Our guest presenter will be Dr. Peter Roennfeldt. There will be a joint service held on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Hillview Church. All pastors will receive training from January 15-19, from 8:30 am-12 pm at the Conference office. On Sabbath afternoon, a special graduation ceremony will commemorate this great initiative.



## YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS Youth Leaders Course

The Youth Department will host its yearly youth leaders' refreshers course on January 12-13, 2024, at the Living Faith Church.



*Please Email Weekly Announcements*

To: [sbclogos@gmail.com](mailto:sbclogos@gmail.com)

Or [logos@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:logos@sbcadventist.org.bs)

By Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

Visit the Conference website:  
<http://southbahamasconference.org>  
for the Logos publication archives and the ATW658 NEWS, as well as weekly programming.



## SUPPORT YOUR MEDIA NETWORK



Connect by TuneIn Radio  
@ WORD SBC 88 3FM  
On Cable TV Channel 988



@SBC MEDIA NETWORK

YouTube @South Bahamas Conference

SUNSETS  
Saturday, January 20, 2024  
@ 5:45 p.m.

*Have a Happy Sabbath!*