



Intimacy vs. Isolation: Embracing the power of Love



Isolation kills. The World Health Organization has recognized loneliness as “a global public health concern” and launched an international initiative to address it. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, chronic isolation is as detrimental to human health as smoking 15 cigarettes per day. Social isolation has been linked to a variety of adverse health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, heart disease, dementia, and stroke.

Intimacy versus isolation. It’s not just a developmental task. It’s a framework for understanding the war between good and evil. God is fighting to restore humanity to love and intimacy with Him and one another. By contrast, the enemy is battling to isolate us from our Creator and fellow created beings.

God has placed a craving for intimacy deep within each human heart. In addition to craving God, humans are also designed for intimacy with one another. This includes many forms of closeness, including bonds of romance, family, and friendship. “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18).

This craving for both divine and human closeness was present in the heart of Christ, who came “in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7) and became like us “in every respect” (Heb. 2:17). Not only did Jesus share in our physical vulnerabilities such as hunger (Matt. 4:1), thirst (John 19:28), and fatigue (John 4:6), He also shared in our emotional vulnerabilities.

God is fighting to restore humanity to love and intimacy with Him and one another. By contrast, the enemy is battling to keep us isolated from our Creator and fellow created beings.

Christ’s heart was hurt when three of His close friends (including Peter) would not stay awake to pray with Him (Matt. 26:40-45). Reflecting on this painful experience, Ellen White wrote: “The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul, He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort...” (Desire of Ages pg. 87).

As painful as it was, Peter’s neglect and rejection likely paled compared to the sense of isolation Christ felt in relation to His Father. Jesus was accustomed to the hardheartedness of the disciples but had always found comfort and solace in the Father’s embrace. From eternity past, He had experienced unparalleled intimacy with the Father (Prov. 8:30; Zech. 13:7).

To restore human beings from isolation to intimacy, Christ first experienced isolation Himself. To be the sin-bearer, He experienced the Father’s protective displeasure against sin. The crushing pain of isolation was heard in Christ’s cry of agony: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46). Why have you withdrawn your intimacy and abandoned me to isolation? Suspended between heaven and earth, Jesus experienced the most intense isolation and loneliness that has ever crushed a human heart.

Christ did not merely give up the beauty, safety, and security of heaven. As significant as those sacrifices were, He gave up immeasurably more. He gave up the closeness, warmth, empathy, and emotional safety. He traded infinite intimacy with His Father for human abuse and neglect. He voluntarily chose isolation and exclusion so that He might offer us intimacy and embrace.

“By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan’s purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man, but in Christ, we become more closely united to

God than if we had never fallen ... In Christ, the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together...Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.” (Desire of Ages, pg. 25)

*Elise Linné Harboldt,
Revised article from Adventist Review, 2024*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER

- 1-7 Family Unity Week of Prayer
- 2 8 Weeks 2 Wellness Monthly Meeting
- 7 Family Unity Day of Prayer
- 7 Lay literature distribution community impact
- 9-12 IAD’s Ministerial Retreat
- 9-13 Pathfinder Scarf Week
- 13-15 Pathfinder Camporee/World Pathfinder Day “Jesus Camps with You” 14 Mission Promotion
- 14 CHAM Leadership Training
- 14 Pathfinder Day
- 14 Health Ministries Emphasis Day
- 15-21 IAD’s Health Week of Prayer
- 21 Men’s Power Hour (MPH)
- 22 Men’s Health – Prostate Awareness Focus
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting
- 28 CHAM Leadership Training
- 28 Baptismal Day
- 28 Sabbath School Visitors’ Day



ATCU PUSH INITIATIVE 2024 SEPTEMBER

- 1-7 Students and Teachers returning to school
- 8-14 Spirit of Forgiveness, Love and Unity
- 15-21 Pathfinders
- 22-28 South Sudan



BIBLE CLASS

Bible class will be held online on Zoom and YouTube on Sunday, September 15th, 2024, at 6 p.m. For further information contact Pastor Lynden Williams: at williams@sbcadventist.org.bs.



ASI BAHAMAS

The Asi Bahamas chapter is raising funds for their Ghana 2024 Mission trip. All are invited to support this endeavor at the ASI

Stew and Souse out on September 29, 2024. For more information contact 556-0492.



GRANT'S TOWN CHURCH

Grant's Town Seventh-day Adventist Church Renovation Committee
We are seeking quotes for restroom and roof repairs. For more information, please contact:
Sis. Betty Hanna - 428-4051
Sis. Magnal Thompson - 422-0358
Elder Michael McCoy - 454-0816



MT. THOMPSON CHURCH

All are invited to join the Mount Thompson SDA Church for Bible Class on Sabbath afternoons at 2 p.m. The Bible class is accessible via YouTube and Zoom. Zoom ID: 508 626 8046
YouTube Channel: MountThompsonSDA



WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHOIR

All women who would like to sing in the Women's Ministry Choir that is scheduled to sing on the Opening Night and at Divine Service at the Women's Ministries Retreat in October, are asked to attend a rehearsal this Sabbath afternoon, beginning at 6:30 pm at the MARANATHA Church.
-Annette Dorset



ATCU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Atlantic Caribbean Union will host its 2024 women's conference under the theme

Rescuing Your Value for Mission. The conference will be held at Atlantis, Paradise Island from October 11-13, 2024. The international guest speaker will be Jill Morikone, 3ABN Vice President.



**BAHAMAS ACADEMY
Alumni Weekend**



**MEN'S MINISTRIES CONFERENCE
Attention All Men!**

Dates: November 15-16, 2024
Location: SuperClubs Breezes, Cable Beach, Nassau, Bahamas
Theme: "Powered By God"
Join us for an inspiring and empowering weekend filled with fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth. This convention is designed to strengthen our faith and equip us to be powerful men of God in our homes, churches, and communities. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with other men and experience the transformative power of God. Mark your calendars and prepare to be "Powered By God"! For more information and to register scan the QR code or visit <http://bit.ly/3SY7XXJ>.



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Pathfinder Day

All pathfinders, master guides, and adventurers are gearing up for Pathfinder Day! This will be held on September 21, 2024, under the theme Jesus Camps with you! The South Bahamas Conference Youth Department will hold a joint afternoon rally to celebrate Pathfinder Day.



Youth Month Nominee Registration

Under the theme: Homecoming: Let's Make More Memories, National Youth Month 2024 is almost here! All church youth leaders are encouraged to nominate an outstanding youth and adventurer, by October 6, 2024, using the link below:
<https://forms.gle/P88JWmWVEbpBZiUL7>



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 and the ATV658 NEWS, as well as weekly programming.



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SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH
Saturday, September 21, 2024
@ 7:06 p.m.

Have a Happy Sabbath!