

# SUPPORT

Magazine for Elder's Spouses of Dutch Caribbean Union — Year 2022



## MANAGE OWN HOUSEHOLD WELL

# SUPPORT



is a magazine made especially to nourish and strengthen all Elder's Spouses to press forward and be a support for their spouse, male or female, and for their other colleagues in the ministry.

Aware that God is everything for them, prayer will sustain them, and without discriminating, they will serve joyfully.

With eyes focused on eternity, let all honour and glory be given to God!

## CONTENT:

- 😊 **Every Home is a Church**
- 😊 **A Father to Be Proud of**
- 😊 **God Is In The Room**
- 😊 **Whose Fault?**
- 😊 **Woman's Work**
- 😊 **How To Make The Church Pleasant For The Families**
- 😊 **Poem: "Lord, look before you our family..."**

**NOTE:** All unnamed article is contribution of the editor.



The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are “the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23); and 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.

Parents may lay for their children the foundation for a healthy, happy life. They may send them forth from their homes with moral stamina to resist temptation, and courage and strength to wrestle successfully with life’s problems. They may inspire in them the purpose and develop the power to make their lives an honor to God and a blessing to the world.

“Life is a training school from which parents and children are to be graduated to the higher school in the mansions of God.” MH 348

May God richly bless our homes!

Kindly,

*Anna Maria Manuela Croes*



EVERY HOME IS



A CHURCH

## Parents to Be God's Representatives

Every family in the home life should be a church, a beautiful symbol of the church of God in heaven. If parents realized their responsibilities to their children, they would not under any circumstances scold and fret at them. This is not the kind of education any child should have. Many, many children have learned to be faultfinding, fretful, scolding, passionate children, because they were allowed to be passionate at home. Parents are to consider that they are in the place of God to their children, to encourage every right principle and repress every wrong thought. (Letter 104, 1897) If the moral qualities of children are neglected by parents and teachers, they are sure to be perverted. (Review and Herald, march 30, 1897).

## Bible Religion the Only Safeguard

Generally speaking, the youth have but little moral strength. This is the result of neglected education in childhood. A knowledge of the character of God and our obligations to Him should not be regarded as a matter of minor consequence. The religion of the Bible is the only safeguard for the young. (5T 24)

Happy are the parents whose lives are a true reflection of the divine, so that the promises and commands of God awaken in the child gratitude and reverence; the parents whose tenderness and justice and long-suffering interpret to the child the love and justice and long-suffering of God; and who, by teaching the child to love and trust and obey them, are teaching him to love and trust and obey his Father in heaven. Parents who impart to the child such a gift have endowed him with a treasure more precious than the wealth of all the ages—a treasure as enduring as eternity. (PK 245)



## Profession Is Valueless Without Home Religion

The daily acts of life tell the measure and mold of our disposition and character. Where there is a lack of home religion, a profession of

faith is valueless. Then let no unkind words fall from the lips of those who compose the home circle. Make the atmosphere fragrant with tender thoughtfulness of others. Only those will enter heaven who in probationary time have formed a character that breathes a heavenly influence. The saint in heaven must first be a saint upon earth. (Signs of the Times, november 14, 1892)

That which will make the character lovely in the home is that which will make it lovely in the heavenly mansions. The measure of your Christianity is gauged by the character of your home life. The grace of Christ enables its possessors to make the home a happy place, full of peace and rest. Unless you have the Spirit of Christ, you are none of His and will never see the redeemed saints in His kingdom, who are to be one with Him in the heaven of bliss. God desires you to consecrate yourself wholly to Him and represent His character in the home circle. (Child Guidance, 481.2)

The work of sanctification begins in the home. Those who are Christians in the home will be Christians in the church and in the world. There are many who do not grow in grace because they fail of cultivating home religion. (Signs of the Times, february 17, 1904).

## Parents as Educators in the Home Church

I speak to fathers and to mothers: You can be educators in your home churches; you can be spiritual missionary agencies. Let fathers and mo-

thers feel the need of being home missionaries, the need of keeping the home atmosphere free from the influence of unkind and hasty speech, and the home school a place where angels of God can come in and bless and give success to the efforts put forth. (CG 481.4)

Consider the family institution a training school, preparatory for the performance of religious duties. Your children are to act a part in church capacity, and every power of the mind, every physical capacity is to be kept strong and active for the service of Christ. They are to be taught to love

truth because it is truth; they are to be sanctified through the truth, that they may stand in the grand review that shall take place ere long to determine the fitness of each to enter the higher school and become a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. (CG 482.1)

### **They Must Lead Consistent Lives**

Everything leaves its impress upon the youthful mind. The countenance is studied, the voice has its influence, and the deportment is closely imitated by them. Fretful and peevish fathers and mothers are giving their children lessons which at some period in their lives they would give all the world, were it theirs, could they unlearn. Children must see in the lives of their parents that consistency which is in accordance with their faith. By leading a consistent life and exercising self-control, parents may mold the characters of their children. (CG 482.2)

### **Train Children as Workers for Christ**

Those who are united by the ties of nature have the strongest claims upon each other. The members of the family should manifest kindness and the tenderest love. The words spoken and the deeds performed should be in accordance with Christian principles. In this way the home may be made a school, where workers for Christ may be trained. (CG 482.3)

The home is to be regarded as a sacred place.... Every day of our lives we should surrender ourselves to God. Thus we may gain special help and daily victories. The cross is to be borne daily. Every word should be guarded, for we are responsible to God to represent in our lives as far as possible the character of Christ. (CG 483.1)

### **A Fatal Mistake Many Make**

Can we educate our sons and daughters for a life of respectable conventionality, a life professedly Christian, but lacking His self-sacrifice, a life on which the verdict of Him who is truth must be, "I know you not"? Thousands are doing this. They think to secure for their children the benefits of the gospel while they deny its spirit. But this cannot be. Those who reject the privilege of fellowship with Christ in service reject the only training that imparts a fitness for participation with Him in His glory. They reject the training that in this life gives strength and nobility of character. Many a father and mother, denying their children to the cross of Christ, have learned too late that they were thus giving them over to the enemy of God and man. They

sealed their ruin, not alone for the future but for the present life. Temptation overcame them. They grew up a curse to the world, a grief and shame to those who gave them being. (CG 483.2)

We know not in what line our children may be called to serve. They may spend their lives within the circle of the home; they may engage in life's common vocations or go as teachers of the gospel to heathen lands; but all are alike called to be missionaries for God, ministers of mercy to the world. They are to obtain an education that will help them to stand by the side of Christ in unselfish service. (CG 483.3)

### **Teach Them to Rely on Divine Aid.**

If you wish your children to possess enlarged capacities to do good, teach them to have a right hold of the future world. If they are instructed to rely upon divine aid in their difficulties and dangers, they will not lack power to curb passion and to check the inward temptations to do wrong. Connection with the Source of wisdom will give light and the power of discernment between right and wrong. Those so endowed will become morally and intellectually strong and will have clearer views and better judgment even in temporal affairs. (CG 484.1)

### **Salvation Assured Through Faith and Trust.**

We can have the salvation of God in our families; but we must believe for it, live for it, and have a continual, abiding faith and trust in God.... The restraint which God's Word imposes upon us is for our own interest. It increases the happiness of our families, and of all around us. It refines our taste, sanctifies our judgment, and brings peace of mind, and in the end, everlasting life.... Ministering angels will linger in our dwellings, and with joy carry heavenward the tidings of our advance in the divine life, and the recording angel will make a cheerful, happy record. (CG 484.2)

The Spirit of Christ will be an abiding influence in the home life. If men and women will open their hearts to the heavenly influence of truth and love, these principles will flow forth again like streams in the desert, refreshing all and causing freshness to appear where now is barrenness and death. (CG 484.3)



Your children will carry forth from the home the precious influence of the home education. Then work in the home circle, in the first years of the children's lives, and they will carry your influence into the schoolroom; that influence will be felt by many others. Thus the Lord will be glorified. (CG 484.4)

### **Age of No Consequence.**

An eminent divine was once asked how old a child must be before there was reasonable hope of his being a Christian. "Age has nothing to do with it," was the answer. "Love to Jesus, trust, repose, confidence, are all qualities that agree with the



### **How Early May Children Become Christians?**

In childhood the mind is readily impressed and molded, and it is then that boys and girls should be taught to love and honor God. (CG 486.1)

God wants every child of tender age to be His child, to be adopted into His family. Young though they may be, the youth may be members of the household of faith and have a most precious experience. They may have hearts that are tender and ready to receive impressions that will be lasting. They may have their hearts drawn out in confidence and love for Jesus, and live for the Saviour. Christ will make them little missionaries. The whole current of their thought may be changed, so that sin will not appear a thing to be enjoyed, but to be shunned and hated. (CG 486.2)

child's nature. As soon as a child can love and trust his mother, then can he love and trust Jesus as the Friend of his mother. Jesus will be his Friend, loved and honored." (CG 486.3)

In view of the foregoing truthful statement, can parents be too careful in presenting precept and example before those watchful little eyes and sharp senses? Our religion should be made practical. It is needed in our homes as much as in the house of worship. There should be nothing cold, stern, and forbidding in our demeanor; but we should show, by kindness and sympathy, that we possess warm, loving hearts. Jesus should be the honored Guest in the family circle. We should talk with Him, bring all our burdens to Him, and converse of His love, His grace, and His perfection of character. What a lesson may be daily given by godly parents in taking all their troubles to Jesus, the Burden Bearer, instead of fretting and scolding

over cares and perplexities they cannot help. The minds of the little ones may be taught to turn to Jesus as the flower turns its opening petals to the sun. (CG 486.4)

### **God's Love Should Be Taught in Every Lesson.**

The first lesson that children are to be taught is that God is their Father. This lesson should be given them in their earliest years. Parents are to realize that they are responsible before God for making their children acquainted with their heavenly Father.... That God is love is to be taught by every lesson. (G 487.1)

Fathers and mothers should teach the infant, the child, and the youth of the love of Jesus. Let the first baby lisplings be of Christ. (CG 487.2)

Christ should be associated with all the lessons given to children. (CG 487.3)

From the child's earliest years it is to be made acquainted with the things of God. In simple words let the mother tell it about Christ's life on earth. And more than this, let her bring into her daily life the teachings of the Saviour. Let her show her child, by her own example, that this life is a preparation for the life to come, a period granted to human beings in which they may form characters that will win for them entrance into the city of God. (CG 487.4)

### **They Need More Than Casual Notice.**

There has been altogether too little attention paid to our children and youth, and they have failed to develop as they should in the Christian life, because the church members have not looked upon them with tenderness and sympathy, desiring that they might be advanced in the divine life. (CG 488.1)

The Lord is not glorified when the children are neglected and passed by.... They require more than casual notice, more than a word of encouragement. They need painstaking, prayerful, careful labor. The heart that is filled with love and sympathy will reach the hearts of the youth who are apparently careless and hopeless. (CG 488.2)

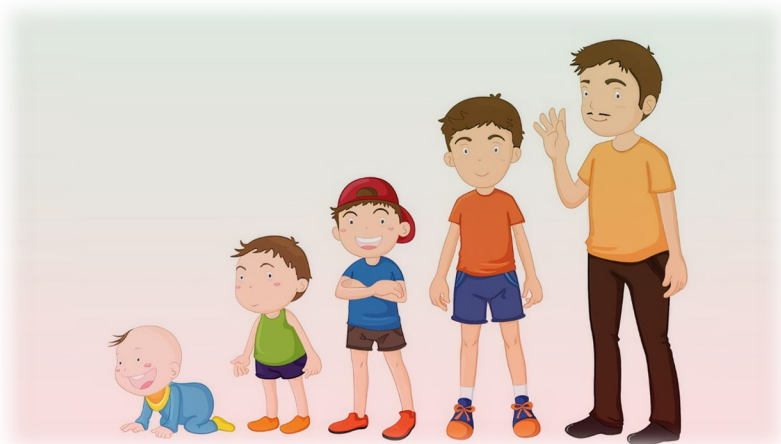
### **Jesus Says, "Train These Children for Me."**

Parents should seek to comprehend the fact that they are to train their children for the courts of God. When they are entrusted with children, it is the same as though Christ placed them in their arms and said, "Train these children for Me

that they may shine in the courts of God." One of the first sounds that should attract their attention is the name of Jesus, and in their earliest years they should be led to the footstool of prayer. Their minds should be filled with stories of the life of the Lord, and their imaginations encouraged in picturing the glories of the world to come. (CG 488.3)...

### **Testimony of a Converted Child.**

Religion helps children to study better and to do more faithful work. A little girl of twelve was telling, in a simple way, the evidence that she was a Christian. "I did not like to study, but to play. I was idle at school and often missed my lessons. Now I learn every lesson well, to please God. I was mischievous at school, when the teachers were not looking at me, making fun for the children to look at. Now I wish to please God by behaving well and keeping the school laws. I was selfish at home, didn't like to run errands, and was sulky when mother called me from play to help her in work. Now it is a real joy for me to help mother in any way and to show that I love her." (CG 490.2)

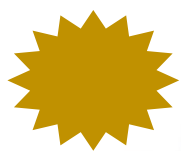


### **Direct From Infancy Through Youth**

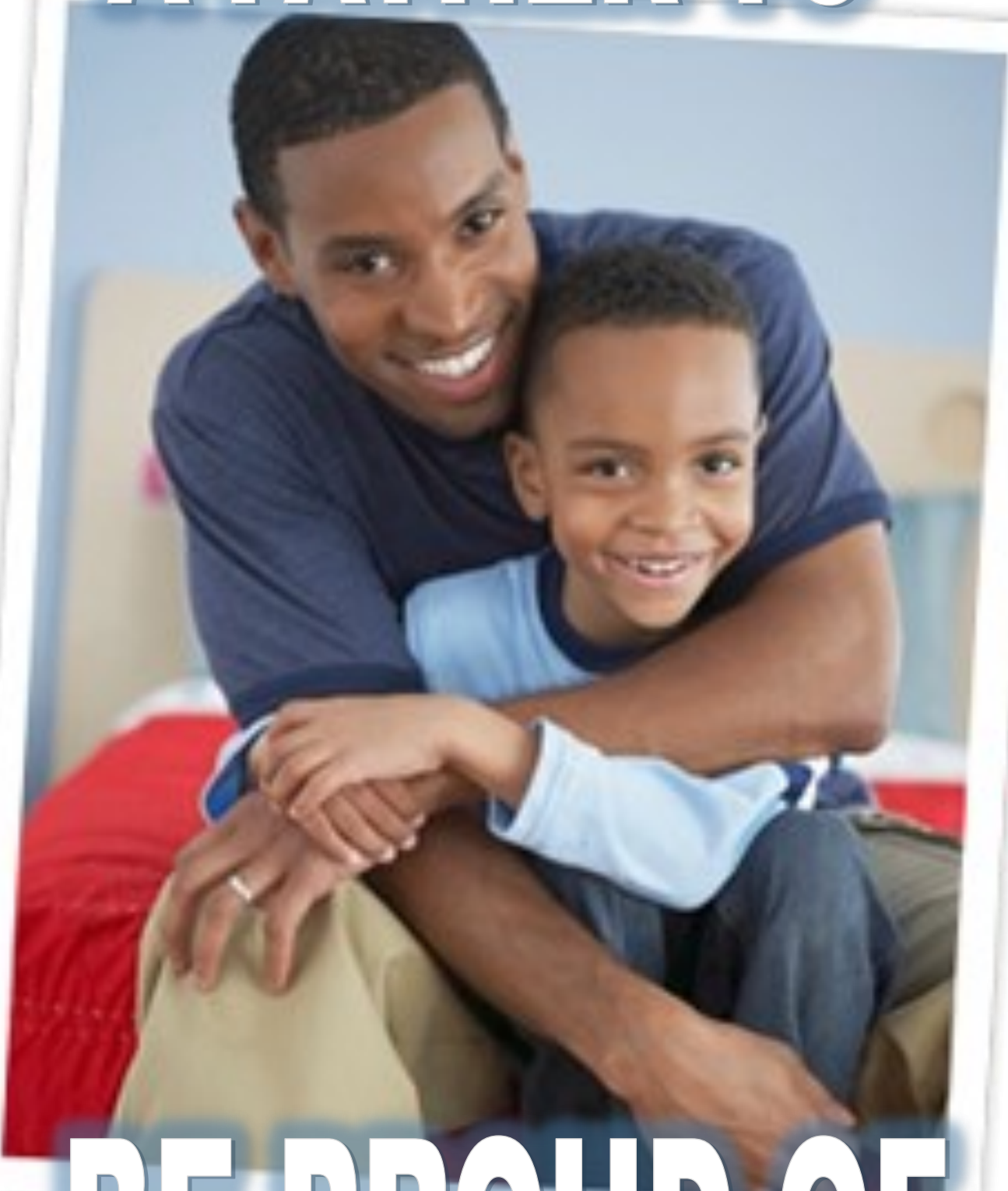
To allow a child to follow his natural impulses is to allow him to deteriorate and to become proficient in evil. The results of wrong training begin to be revealed in childhood. In early youth a selfish temper is developed, and as the youth grows to manhood, he grows in sin. A continual testimony against parental neglect is borne by children who have been permitted to follow a course of their own choosing.

Such a downward course can be prevented only by surrounding them with influences that will counteract evil. From infancy to youth and from youth to manhood, a child should be under influences for good. (CG 491.2)





**A FATHER TO**



**BE PROUD OF**

“Parents are the pride of their children”<sup>1</sup>  
(Proverbs 17:6).

AS A YOUNG BOY, I FELT GREAT JOY GROWING UP WITH A FATHER I could look up to. My dad worked in management at a public utility and he regularly helped some of our friends get summer jobs there. When a girlfriend of mine got hired, everybody kept asking her if she had met “the big man” yet— they were referring not to his size but to the fact that he ran the whole office.

“No,” she replied, “I don’t think so.”

“You will,” they told her, “but don’t worry, He’s a really nice guy.”

When the time came for the grand introduction, my girlfriend laughed as she realized she *had* met “the big man”— and my dad gave her a hug. When she told me about this, I can’t tell you how much my heart swelled that others looked up to my dad like I did. I knew my dad wouldn’t scandalize our family. He had a respectable job, and he was a man of character and integrity. I felt proud to be his son.

Part of the discipline of parenthood is to be a person my children can feel proud of. *My* reputation will affect theirs; I don’t want them to have to feel embarrassed to “admit” that, yes, they’ve related to me. I’ve invited a few key people to keep me accountable for this very reason. I don’t want to do anything that would make my kids ashamed. And since I know the heart is deceitful, I want other men to warn me when I’m getting too close to the boundaries.

Luke tells us that Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, attracted God’s attention in part because she was “righteous in the sight of God.” She observed “All the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly” (Luke 1:6). Like Elizabeth, we must consecrate ourselves for the purpose of raising one of God’s image bearers. Andrew Murray reflects, “Every expectant mother should offer her body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, so that the very beginning of life in her may be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit.”

This consecration is an ongoing process. In fact, it’s a very healthy exercise as a mother or father to ask, “What would my son or daughter think if they knew I was doing this?” There are many reasons to pursue holiness, but raising children is certainly one of the most important ones. So often, we parents become so consumed with our kids “staying out of trouble” that we forget we can *get* in just as much trouble. All of us—young and old alike— are called to offer our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Kids desire parents they can be proud of— even in the most extreme situations. While he was in a Communist prison because of his Christian beliefs,

a father named Florescu was tortured with red-hot iron pokers and knives. When the torture didn’t break Florescu’s spirit, the Communists put starving rats into his cell through a long pipe, which meant Florescu could never get any sleep. As soon as he started to nod off, he’d literally get eaten, so he had to stay awake to defend himself. This went on for fourteen days, but still Florescu refused to reveal the names of other Christians in his fellowship.

Then the Communists brought in Florescu’s fourteen-year-old son and whipped the boy in front of his father. As the young man cried out, The Communists taunted Florescu, telling him they would continue to beat his son until he told them what they wanted to know.

Finally, Florescu had had enough. “Alexander!” he cried out. “I must say what they want. I can’t bear your beating anymore!”

Astonishingly, young Alexander answered with an even more impassioned plea: “Father, don’t do me the injustice of having a traitor as a parent. Withstand! If they kill me, I will die with the words, ‘Jesus and my fatherland.’”

Florescu never forgot his son’s words: “Father, don’t do me the injustice of having a traitor as a parent.” For Florescu’s son, having a father he could feel proud of was even more important than his own life.

Maybe that’s why Joshua’s famous line, “as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15), begins with *me*. Before my household serves God, I commit myself to serving God. “As for *me* and my household...”

I don’t want a traitor for a son, but, even more, my son doesn’t want a traitor for a father.

*Heavenly Father, you are a God we are honored and proud to worship. Help us to be parents our children can respect and admire. Win the battle for our hearts and minds so that we can live as positive examples for the children you’ve placed in our care. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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<sup>1</sup> [Devotions for Sacred Parenting on Apple Books](#)



**GOD**

**IS IN THE**

**ROOM!**

“Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens,  
you are there;  
If I make my bed in the depths,  
you are there  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
If I settle on the far side of the sun,  
Even there your hand will guide me,  
Your right hand will hold me fast.”  
(Psalm 139:7-10)

I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST A MOTTO  
FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE: “God  
is in the room.”

While God is *always* there, so often we act and think and behave and speak as if he were not. We fight, we argue, we laugh; we play games, watch movies, make love, and do just about everything without even thinking about the implication that *God is in the room*.

Even though we pray before our common meals, it amazes me how quickly I can slip back into thinking and acting as if the word *Amen* is a kind of curtain that I pull down in front of heaven. I've said my obligatory piece, and now I can carry on as if God has passed over us rather than taken up residence among us.

Think how differently we might treat our children in those frustrating moments if we responded to them with the knowledge that God is in the room. If we truly believed that he God who designed them and who is passionate about their welfare *was* literally looking over our shoulders, might we be a little more patient, a little more understanding?

Would we discipline our kids a little differently?  
Would we pay them more attention?

It's such a simple notion, but it can be so revolutionary: *God is in the room!*

I don't know about you, but I seriously doubt I would so casually raise my voice, or be quite so selfish or lazy if I could see God sitting in my kitchen or living room. Above all, I'd want my children to notice Him and acknowledge him, and I think I'd be more likely to focus on the kind of parenting that would please him at any given moment. I'd look to him for encouragement when a child seemed disheartened. I'd ask his advice when a child sought my counsel.

I imagine that after doing or saying anything, I'd want to look at him to read his expression.



This would be a blessing, not a burden, and it's something we can begin to practice. A women's group that I spoke to made up plaques: “God Is In The Room” that they sold so that members could post them in their homes as a constant reminder.

How would parenting change if we talked as if God were in the room? “Honey, how do you think God feels about your attitude right now? Is this pleasing to him?” “I know you're afraid, but God's here, in this house. He really is. And he's watching over all of us, so you can sleep peacefully.”

Tell it to yourself, every morning, every noon-time, every evening: *God is in the room*.

Tell it to each other, every time you're tempted to yell, or criticize, or ridicule, or even ignore each other: *God is in the room*.

Tell it to your children, throughout the day: *God is in the room*.

Let's keep telling it to ourselves and to each other until we practice it and live it, until we live and breathe with the blessed remembrance: God is in the room.

*God is in the room.*

#### PRAYER:

*Heavenly Father, because you are a loving God, we are so blessed to know that you are always in the room. Let us remember you with worshipful hearts and appropriate reverence. Help us to pass this same awareness on to our children. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



WHOSE FAULT?

A young married couple was contacted and invited to the services of the church. This is the record:

THE FIRST CALL:

“We are going to start as soon as the baby gets old enough to come.”

ONE YEAR LATER:

“Yes, we promised, but the baby’s in that stage where she cries a lot. I don’t get anything out of the services, and I know she disturbs other people. When she gets older....”

THREE YEARS LATER:

“I know you think we are awful, but we’re not coming to church because Julie doesn’t want to go. Why do you think she is different from the other children her age?”

ELEVEN YEARS LATER:

“I’m so glad you called. I want you or some of the elders to see if you can talk to Julie. She is running around with the wrong crowd. Perhaps if the church would provide some kind of entertainment for the young people, she might get interested.”

TWO YEARS LATER:

“Yes, Julie is married. They were awfully young, and he is not a member of the church, but we hope it works out.”

TEN YEARS LATER:

“Well, Julie has finally married a man who can give her the better things of life. This is her third husband, but she couldn’t get along with the others. I had hopes that this one would become a member of the church, but the preacher preached a sermon on marriage and divorce, and he says he will never attend that church again. There must be something wrong with that church or else it would have had a better influence on Julie. Maybe they need to change preachers. I don’t know....”

LORD, IS IT I?



**WOMAN'S WORK**

BRETHREN OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, I should be dumb before the greatness of my theme, and of the work which God has given me, but for the fact that he is in it all. I have before me a task that would be impossible, if God should not so translate to you whatever he has to say through me that we shall understand each other; but it is very necessary that we should understand each other, because of the interests that are at stake.

This morning I feel led to speak concerning the necessity which is upon us as a people; the necessity which has been upon the church in every age, and which God laid upon me more than 25-years ago, but which I have never yet been able to do just as I felt it should be done. I believe that I have been led up toward this morning's opportunity all these years. God has at last given me an opportunity— and O, how I praise him for it! He has given me an opportunity among a people who can understand the work which came upon me as an intolerable burden more than 25-years ago, and under which I struggled, and wept, and consecrated myself, starting out to *do things* that were impossible, but which must be made possible, which must be made practical.

There is an imperative command to the church: but what is the church? —A body composed of individuals. Therefore this command is spoken to every individual. Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. And where is that "every creature"? **Where is that every creature to be found?** [Voices: In all the world.] Yes, in all the world, but somewhere else. All the world is a very BIG place. [Voice: Right near us.] How near? — **Right in your HOME.** Everything that comes into the world that concerns human life anywhere must come in through the home. To this there is no exception. Everything, good or bad, which helps or hinders originates in the home; every need of every human soul originates in the home, and the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it was manifested in the earth, originated in that humble home in Nazareth. And in the progress of the work of the gospel in the world it long ago became manifest that this "every creature" was not being reached; there was something wrong somewhere: a world perishing in ignorance, under the dispensation of a perfect gospel, and no one able to discover where the lack was. It was about 30-years ago that the burden first became so intolerable in mission fields that it could not be endured. There was a power somewhere in every heathen land which prevented the progress of the gospel. A man might acknowledge the truth of the new religion; but he was strangely hindered in living it: and it was discovered that this hindrance was to be found in the harem and zenana.

The mother and wife might be a slave: but she had the power to make it very hard for the men in her family to be Christians. She had a power that was able to prevent the progress of the gospel, and make the work of the missionary very discouraging indeed...

As I said in the beginning, everything that is good or bad must originate in the HOME. For some reason the gospel has never gone as it ought to have gone. Our ministers have made confessions of weakness. Our brethren have seemed to be crippled. There has seemed to be something not discernible upon the surface, which has hindered the progress of the gospel; and I want to tell you, brethren, for these things, how much these hindrances may seem to come from the world, I want to tell you that if everything was all right in the HOMES which are represented by this people, the gates of hell could not prevail against you. **The hindrances are in the home:** and considering the necessities which are urging us forward, it is of the first importance that we shall put forth efforts which will be adequate to meeting this need, —that something shall be done by which these hindrances, these defects which are in the homes, shall be got out of the way; so that the ministry, our brethren who are going abroad in the work, shall go out feeling strong, courageous, refreshed; so that every man, as he steps over his threshold, and goes out to stand before the people with the gospel message, shall know that everything is all right in the homes of his people, in his own home, among his own children, in the atmosphere which he has left behind him, and which he carries with him.

**If there is something in the home which is continually chafing and fretting, if the children are not growing up as they ought to, if the affairs of the home are not pervaded by the Spirit of God, if its atmosphere is not sweet with fragrance of heaven, —how can a man go out, and be strong to proclaim the gospel of Jesus?** If, when he arises in the pulpit before his people to preach to them, there is something behind him, in his own home, which is chafing, fretting, making his heart heavy, and causing his brain to work all the time around a domestic trouble, how can he take up the sacred message, and make it clear to the people?

In the short time since this work began, I have had a marvelous revelation, through the letters which pour in upon me. I have been given to see into the homes of this people. There has been opened up before me the sore places in the heart of our Zion; and so I have come burdened.



I have set here all through this conference, burdened for the HOMES that are back of us— for the people who are not here, whom you represent, whom we all represent, hoping that this gospel might in some way do its full and complete work in the very center of this church.

The HOME is the heart of the church; and the mother in the home is its center of life. What the mother is, so is the home; and what the home is, so is the husband and father, either in his strength or in his weakness. It can not be otherwise. He may be a man of sincere and honest purposes, and with a tender heart. He may desire to do right; but if he realized that there is something that he cannot control, or cannot understand, in the home life; if it is not all going smoothly as it should go, if Jesus does not live there, represented in the life of the mother and the wife in his home, he is crippled and weak in spite of all that he can do or be. God has opened up to me the necessity that there should be a work done in the homes of this and every other people; and it should go from the women of our people.

**Our women must be able to live this message of a domestic gospel**, and it must be carried from our homes into other churches, and out into the homes of the world. There is many a man today in business life, professing to be an unbeliever, whose heart is turned from every tender thing, that would lead him to anything like a confession of his need, simply because he feels it to be hopeless. And all because he has seen how different is the life of the men and women who profess to be Christians as they live before the world, in the home, and he has lost faith in its power. It fails in the home, and he says, The place where I would like to have Christ manifested is in my home; failure there is failure everywhere. Many a man has said to me, If I could only see Christianity manifested in the home life, so that the home of the minister, the home of the man and woman who profess to be Christians, should be in harmony with their profession, I would be glad to seek it and to accept it.

Before the gospel can be taken to every creature, there must be the equipment of the power in those who stand in, and go forth from the center of this work. It will not be very long (the time is even now here) before those who represent this work will be set in that strong light before the world where their every act will tell for or against the truth. Everyone must be able to stand the test when it is criticized; when the world shall turn its telescope upon it, and analyze it. It must find the mother a true representative of Jesus Christ; the home atmosphere permeated with the very odor of

heaven; and the influences scattered abroad by the children, and, all who pass in and out over the threshold, such as shall tell for Christ.

Seventh-day Adventists are a highly favored people; and at first I believed them a perfect people. With longing eyes I looked upon those who had been brought up in these great principles. I envied them because of the high point of privilege which they occupied. I thought every one must be true because it cost so much to become a Seventh day Adventist. It must take all of self out of any man. I could see nothing to lead one to come in among this people, except an unconditional surrender to truth, a fidelity to truth which would lead to a renunciation of everything fleshly, everything not of Christ. Brethren, I believe that this view of what Seventh-day Adventists must be is just what God intends they shall be. I don't think I imputed one thing in the line of perfection to this people which God does not intend they shall reach.

Since I have come to be one with you, since I have accepted these reproofs as personal, since my life and my heart have been knit together with you in these bonds of Christian fellowship and labor, I have come to feel that we are all called together, that we are driven by every possible consideration, up to those heights of attainment which mean perfectness in Christ, perfectness in everything which belongs to the outgrowth and development of character. The world has a right to call upon us for perfectness. The time is soon at hand when it will not excuse imperfections in us; and in order that we may be able to meet the expectations of God and a lost world, there must be a great work done in these homes.

EVERY CHILD IS A PUBLISHER. A family of children is a publishing association. It publishes that which is supposed to be secret in the life of the father and mother. That which has been uttered in the secret heart of the parents; that which is supposed to be hidden in the four walls of the home, is taken abroad, and published upon the street corners, by that which the children themselves are.

By nothing have I been kept so busy since I came among this people, as by the inquiries of fathers and mothers as to how they should be able to correct the living of their children. "What can I do with my boy?" writes a father to me; and then he will go on to say that his boy is fifteen or sixteen years old, and has already begun to slip away; he is out on the street, has begun to form associations with street-boys, to smoke cigarettes, to use bad language; he has become unmanageable. What shall be done with him?

“Why is it that my child will not obey me?” is the cry that comes continually from fathers and mothers. I cannot, of course, go into the discussion of the why of all this in detail; but I will just indicate that which is at the ROOT of the whole matter. If it does not apply to you personally, it applies to somebody whom you ought to reach with the truth: *The child in the home deals by the father and the mother, and the principles which they represent, precisely as you—the father and the mother—deal by your Heavenly Father, and the principles which He represents.*

There is no deviation from that rule. The manner in which you deal by your Heavenly Father, and the principles which he represents, and which he has given, which he has taught in his word, which he has taught in human relations, determines the manner in which your child will deal by you and those same principles as you profess to represent them. I know that this is a hard thing to say; but it is an awfully hard thing to be. A continual cry is going up, “How can we save our young people!”

Yesterday I opened a letter in which one sister wrote for another. A mother and father, whose hearts were breaking, were too heartsick and sore themselves to write to me; and so this friend wrote for them, telling me about their boy. He had been a good, kind, gentle boy in the home; but she says a change is coming over him; he says that he “has got to begin to do for himself pretty soon, and that he does not see how he can do for himself, and keep the Sabbath.” Then this sister cries, “Oh, I am so discouraged! I am so disheartened. How can we preserve our young people against the day of our Lord’s coming!”

That is the cry. The obligation is upon this people to preserve their **children** unto the Lord’s coming. How shall we answer for our children? If the Lord comes and finds that our children are not with us, how shall we answer when our names are called in the judgement? How will our case stand if we cannot say, “Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given me”? ...

If you read in the first epistle of John fourth chapter, seventeenth verse, you will find this: “As he is, so are we in this world.” So we are here for no other purpose than to try to bring back to God that which Satan stole away from him. Each one is to help every other to get back to God; to bring the home back to the plane upon which it was started; to bring the business of the world up to the level of the gospel; to be true representatives of Jesus in every walk of life. We are here for that one purpose, and for no other; and God intends that we shall use everything which comes into our lives—

shall handle the affairs of this world, the material things about us— simply as opportunities for manifesting Christ, for witnessing for him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He has set us in families for that purpose. He has placed men and women together, in the relationship of husband and wife and parents and children, that there might be that intimate and close relation which would make it possible for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace to be illustrated, so as to become a living reality to the glory of God. He has placed fathers, mothers, and children in that intimate and close relation, that the children might be shaped, developed, educated, built up, and make able to go out into the world, and take it just as Satan changed it, at its very worst; and instead of being overcome by it, to overcome it, subdue it, and bring back, each man, for the use of God, at least one little section of the world (the home), redeemed from the curse.

He intended especially that the children in Seventh-day Adventist homes should go out clothed with more power than any other children in all the world could ever have. If the children in Seventh-day Adventist homes are not stronger to resist impurity and temptation, than any other children, it is because there is something wrong in the home.

The home was God’s first institution. He created it, like a machine, for a certain specific and definite work. He gave it its work; and for that work he set apart a certain proportion of power. Every good machinist, in making provision to apply power, will take into consideration three things: the work to be done, the amount and kind of work that the machine is to do, and the application of power according to that work. Then he takes into consideration the necessary friction that must be in the machine and in the performance of the work; and he makes provision for the application of power enough, over and above what is required for the work; to overcome this necessary friction. Then he takes into consideration that which must be left in reserve to meet sudden emergencies.

Now GOD was just that kind of machinist. The work to be done by the home was the production of men and women who should be able to go out into the world, and take it, as I said before, just as they found it; and instead of being overcome by it, subdue and overcome it. God never intended that any boy or girl should go out of a Christian home and go to ruin. Never! He made provision to apply sufficient power for the home to do its appointed work. Then he took into account the necessary friction; he weighed an evil heredity clear back to

Adam; he took it up, and weighed and measured it. He knew just what part it was going to play in the life of that child; he took up the evil influences that might be in the environment; he took up the temperament of the father and the mother, and he took up the saloon down on the corner, and the house of sin, and all the evil things that Satan could possible bring to bear.

I do not believe that God was ever taken by surprise by one thing that Satan ever did. He knew everything that the saloon meant to your boy, and what all the evil influences of the world meant to every boy and girl in any Christian home. He knew all about it; and in the face of all these things, he dared to say one thing to parents that is full of hope and inspiration and courage. In the second chapter of Acts we read concerning that wonderful manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is to come upon the church—the outpouring of the fulness of the Holy Spirit: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

**The promise of the Holy Spirit is to you and to your children.** This states plainly that there shall be sufficient power to run this machinery of the home, so that the children that go out of it shall be able to act like men and women, to be true and reliable; that they shall be able to go into the world, and stand for the truth.

Just think what it would be to this message if the children in our homes everywhere, as they go among their young companions in school, and in the work of life, should second the message which the father preaches on the Sabbath day from the pulpit; so that people might say, “I believe in that man’s preaching, because I know his children;” “I believe in that woman’s testimony, because I know her home, because I know her children.” Do you not think this would help in the work of spreading the message!

I want to tell you that IT IS POSSIBLE, EVEN NOW, to do a work for these children who have gone astray, that will bring them back. That is the thing, my brethren and sisters, upon which I have set my heart. The burden that is upon my soul in this day, is that there shall be revived in the homes of this people a power which shall bring the children back by the force of the love of the truth—the force of God that is in it. But before that can be done, a work must be done for and by the **mother**.

I have had letters from mothers who were upon the verge of suicide. More than one mother has written to me, “Your letter came just in time. I was so discouraged.” I have had letters from women who had already, in their discouragement begun to slip down that incline which leads to unbelief and infamy. You and I may not know just what it means to be caught in such a fog; but the very fact that any poor soul could be so caught has aroused all the sympathies of my heart. I said, years ago, that I will, by the grace of God, keep my heart alive and quick to any such need as that, and that I will answer to the very extent of my ability to that need. That is why I am here; and that is why God gave me this work,— because he knew that my heart was alive to these things.

One thing is apparent to me. I have been seeking for a solution of the problem of these conditions. How can such things be among a people with such principles? Is the question; and this is the answer, as it has come to me: AS THE SWEETEST THINGS, WHEN THEY TURN SOUR, BECOME THE MOST OFFENSIVE, SO TO TURN AGAINST THE GREATEST LIGHT AND TRUTH IS TO FALL INTO THE GREATEST DARKNESS AND EVIL.

This people have had wonderful light. All through these years, thirty-five or forty years, the light has been pouring in upon this people; and yet there are invalids, physical and moral, among us. This is to be accounted for by the fact that we have not walked in the light which God has given us. The truth has been held in unrighteousness, and to hold any truth in unrighteousness, is to make poison of it. The one thing that is before us as a people is to look everything squarely in the face, in the clear light which God has given us, and try to get ourselves ready to meet every emergency and every need, so that we may be ready to go out into the field, and do the work which belongs to us to do.

Seek ye the Lord, all ye that are his ministers!

Faith unfeigned, in its largeness and fulness, is needed just now.

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Address by Mrs. Sarepta Myrenda Irish Henry, Best known in the Seventh-Day Adventist church as the founder of Women's Ministries.

# HOW TO MAKE THE CHURCH



*Survival Guide for Parents*



**PLEASANT  
FOR THE FAMILIES**

**N**ot that it was about to become a red card Saturday. Dressing my six-year-old son and two-year-old daughter in their Saturday clothes and getting them into the car was already a titanic struggle. And taking them from Sabbath school to divine worship was another. Stephen was interested in using his magazine *The Children's Friend* as a sword in an imaginary fight, and Juliane went straight to the second-floor railing where she stuck her head between the bars and came pretty close to throw herself in a swan-style to the concrete below.

During the divine worship the children were restless and boisterous. When the pastor—my husband—began his sermon on the book of Daniel, I was exhausted. How did my mother keep me still in church? Ah! Now I remember with a hint of envy, she didn't have to. Mom sang in the chorus and someone else took care of (and probably) silenced me. The morning footprints were clearly visible in my eyes as we left the balcony and I led my flock toward my husband's office. I could close my eyes and hear the sermon through the speaker, while Stephen and Juliane played quietly under the bench with their church toys.

A few minutes later I looked at Juliane, who was now climbing on my lap. There was a tear in her best Saturday dress: "the one I had hanging in the cloakroom for a year waiting for her to grow up to fit her well. I was just starting to say, "Julie, how did that happen?" when I saw another tear, and another and another. Then I saw the desk scissors on the floor. "Julie" I screamed.

She started crying, and I was starting to feel horrible when I pushed her and her brother out of the door and we headed toward the car. Two church members saw us as we made our dizzying exit. "Why do I have to attend church? I screamed inwardly. It's excessively hard! I haven't known what a Sabbath of Rest means in the past six years!"

### **Exodus after Sabbath School**

But not all Sabbaths are as bad, or I would have lost my religion a long time ago! But going to church is usually exhausting. My children are small, active and sociable. And they still can't read. I come to every church meeting with a mixture of pleasure and terror.

Apparently, I am not alone in this. Many other families just don't make the effort to go to church anymore. Just stand at the door at the close of the Sabbath School and watch how many leave.

### **Are children welcome?**



After six years of parenting, I have become convinced that we should make our churches more enjoyable for young families. It is not enough to shake our heads and say that "today's parents do not have the idea of how to discipline their children, as we did." We must recognize that many do the best they can.

Toddlers, after all, are toddlers. As James Dobson said in answering a mother's question: "Most two-year-olds cannot fold their little hands and sit still in church, any more than they can swim across the Atlantic Ocean. They twist, agitate, and consume every moment of the time they are awake."

The mother should not punish her son for his uneasiness, Dobson said. "She should leave him in the nursery where he can shake the foundations without disturbing the worshippers" (*The Strong-willed Child*, p. 67).

Churches in many denominations offer daycare and special childcare services on a regular basis. But Seventh-day Adventists have a strong "corporate culture" that holds that children should be in church with their parents. Few Adventist churches have daycare services. This need can alienate some potential members and visitors. Some of our non-Adventist friends, accustomed to having these attentions provided by their protestant churches they have never come to hear my husband preach because they are not willing to go through the struggle of being in church with their children.

How many other young families who might join our church don't do so because we don't offer the care their children require?

Evangelists know this, and in campaign planning they routinely include a budget to care for children. Children can receive a spiritual blessing adapted to their age, while their parents dedicate themselves to their worship and study without interference.

### Becoming friendlier

Doug Murren, a pastor who saw his congregation grow from a handful of attendees to nearly 4,000 in a single decade, stated in his book *The Baby Boomerang*; that "any church that genuinely invests in children will grow."

I share this belief. Here are some suggestions that will help make churches more child- and parent-friendly.

**1.** Always include something in every worship service that recognizes children and let them know they are welcome. Jesus did. He put the children on his knees and possibly told them some parables tailored to their level of understanding. Perhaps some of those recorded in the Gospels were nothing but children's stories that Jesus told when He invited them to come to Him.

**2.** Provide young families with their own space. Designate some special benches and then respect them. If you need absolute stillness to worship, choose a seat that meets your needs, rather than waiting for the children to give you that complete peace. (Usually, the front rows have few children. Sit there.)

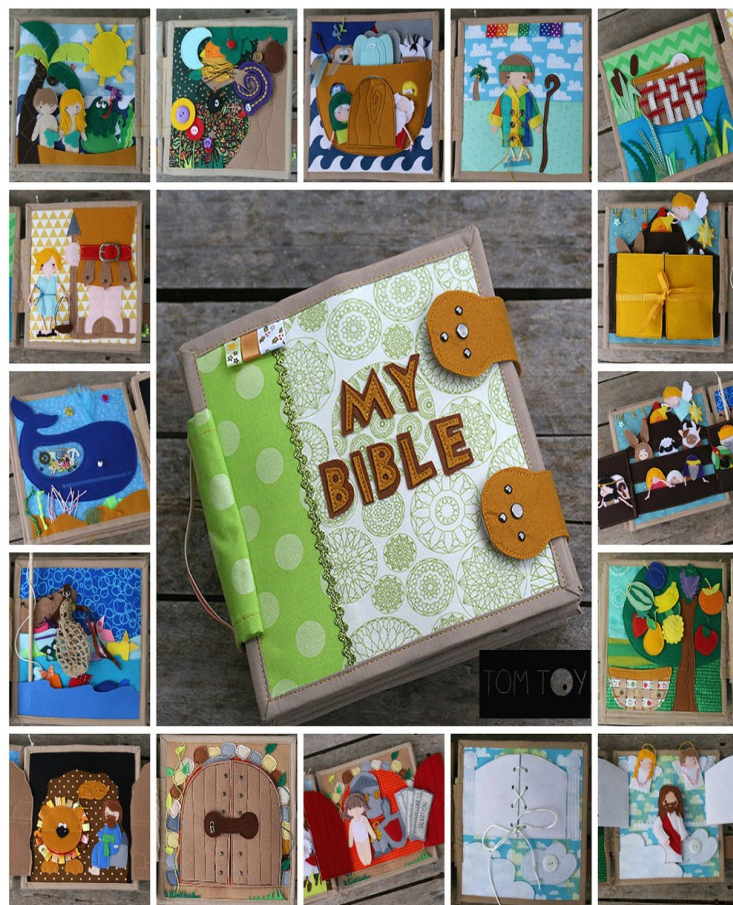
**3.** Regularly acknowledge the often heroic effort young parents make to bring their children to church. A kind word of how precious it is to see children and their parents gives people encouragement to return, instead, a word of criticism can make them leave crying so as not to return.

**4.** If you see a child who finds it particularly difficult to stay in church, offer to take him or his mother to the mother's room, or to take a short walk. Parents will feel very grateful and you will surely make a new friend.

**5.** If you can't sustain a daycare or children's program weekly, try at least once a month. It can function throughout the worship service or at least during the sermon. Our church does, and I look forward to the day it does all month! You can use some Vacation Bible School activities, take a nature walk, perform some characters from Bible stories, and — if you're short on personal — show a Bible video. There is some good material available.

**6.** Distribute a newsletter for children and include some activities for those who are too young and cannot read.

**7.** Consider setting up a "book lending library," of quiet activities to occupy the little boys during the service: items such as felt material, coloring books, etc. They should be checked in advance before worship and returned afterward. This would give the children something special and new to count on during the week. Every parent could contribute with something.



### SOME RESOURCE IDEAS:

- [graphics silent books for kids in church - Bing images](#)
- [Felt Quiet Book - Bing images](#)



**8.** Consider following the example of the Church of Estes Park, Colorado, which provides children's "visit packages."

**Do we really want to banish children and their parents from the church?  
It may then be more quiet,  
but it would rob us of our future.**

**9.** Occasionally organize an open-air church where young families can enjoy worship, study, and fellowship without having to pre-occupy themselves for the perfect decorum of their children.

**10.** Set aside a special place where parents can leave diapers, clean bottles, and church games during the week.

**11.** Recognize that children have unique personalities and that they are not miniature adults. Some may sit quietly in church and enjoy worship, while for others it is virtually impossible. Be patient! Children grow over time and you want your/ their relationship with the church to be positive.

**12.** Don't frown. Let parents and their children know that they are welcome and loved, no matter how their children behave. We are usually attracted to courteous families, with good manners, and avoid boisterous and difficult ones. But who needs our love and help the most? Jesus did not say, "Let the children come to me as long as they stand still. He instructed us, "Do not prevent him, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

There is nothing more beautiful and comforting than the smile on the face of a little "heir to the kingdom." Our churches and our lives are enriched by our children. They will be our future if we welcome them into our environment today.



Lord, look before you our family.  
We thank you for the roof that shelters us;  
For the affection that unites us;  
For the peace that you gave us today;  
For the hope with which we await tomorrow;  
For health, work, sustenance, the clear sky  
with which you gladden our lives;  
For the friends we have everywhere and  
for those who give us friendly help.  
Fill our smallness with peace, Lord.  
Cleanse our hearts of latent grudges.  
Instill in us goodness and strength to suffer and persevere.  
May your grace move us to understand  
and forgive those who give us offense.  
Help us to endure with courage the ingratitude of others.  
Give us strength, joy and peace of mind.  
Keep us in the affection of the friendly heart;  
soften the heart of the enemy.  
Protect us in all our healthy efforts, if such is your will.  
If it is not, give us fortitude so that when what happens  
is destined for us, let us have courage in danger, firmness in tribulation,  
temperance in anger and vicissitudes;  
and even unto the gates of death,  
loyalty and affection to one another.  
Lord: for the love of Jesus Christ we implore you for mercy and help.

Roberto Luis Stevenson





