

FAMILY MINISTRIES

NEWS & MEWS

JAMAICA SDA CHURCH
88-28 163RD STREET
JAMAICA, NY 11432



Dr. Stephen Williams, Sr., Pastor

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

- ◆ SABBATH SCHOOL—9:15 AM
- ◆ DIVINE SERVICE—11:00 AM
- ◆ BIBLE CLASS—4:30 PM
- ◆ AYS — 5:30 PM



Changing Family Dynamics

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Changing Family Dynamics, What's Next? 1
- A Word to the Wise 1
- The Lord's Compassion 2
- Precious Jewels 3
- Strengthening Sisterhood 5
- Out with the Old, in with the New 6
- Brain-Wellness 6

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ◆ VOLUME 1 (1) MARCH 2013

Changing Family Dynamics? What's Next?

Family! What is a family? Family, *familia* (Latin); *familie* (Dutch); in any context, is a group of people that are affiliated by some affinity, or co-residence. In the human race the family is the primary establishment for continuing the process whereby an individual acquires a personal identity and learns the norms, values, behaviors, and social skills that are necessary to his or her social position. In other words, it is the primary "institution for the socialization of children." We say the socialization of children, because what we will become, we learn to be as children.

God created the first family (husband and wife) and placed them in a home. In that home, they were commanded to teach, build and continue the process. They were to see to it that little Adams and little Eves filled their home and by extension, little Adams and Eves were to continue up to a thousand generations. Sadly, that nuclear family disintegrated into single-parent (one person head of household); blended (couple with one



"Nuclear" Family



"Blended" Family

or more children from a previous marriage) and gay families (people of the same gender having a "marriage"). With the amalgamation of

the family unit in modern societies, how do we cope with the issues that present themselves? How do we include everyone, without offending anyone? How do we uphold the "nuclear" family without offending the "blended" family? How do we serve the needs of the various types of families without being labeled "hatemongers?"



"Single Father" Family

Should we support and serve the various family units without partiality; or should we just look about the needs of the families that are closely aligned to the "ideal" and forget about everyone else? (cont'd on page 2)

A Word to the Wise by Julie Ann Daley

So you got the job...now what?

McDonalds, Citibank, Home Depot, The Law Firm, The Hospital...You've aced the interview, you've charmed the employer and your first day is Monday. You've got it all planned out what you'll be doing with the money...a new iphone a new ipad a new...don't count your chickens before they hatch. As easily as you were hired, you can be fired. But don't worry, I got your back! There are a few things you need to keep in mind. The first is personal and the others are business.

1. Manage Your Finances!

If you don't already have one, open up a bank account....Preferably two bank accounts...but ideally, three; a checking account, a savings account and a 'don't touch' savings account. The checking account you will use for your bills and Tithe, your



savings account you will use for your 'miscellaneous' items i.e., entertainment and your #2 savings account should be an account that you decide NEVER to touch. Put something in there

every week. Be it \$5 or \$10....let it stay and let it grow. Don't get excited when it grows....get encouraged and motivated to let it grow even more. Don't tell your friends about it.....it's not for loans; it's for your future.

The LORD'S Compassion by Keisha Hamilton



*"God in His
unfailing love
forgives us and has
redeemed us in
spite of our
littleness and
imperfections."*



*"...we are not
left to blow in
the wind. He
loves us all!"*

I stumbled upon this adult section in a local newspaper. By curiosity, I decided to browse through it. I saw a number of girls in lingerie with price tags and men peddling the same wares. I felt sick in my stomach when I saw those young men and women selling themselves and are probably doing so with no shame. I began to think of so many reasons as to why these men and women would post their pictures in a newspaper and to make it worst, be half naked. I could not come up with one worthy justification. I am appalled by the actions taken by these men and women who, instead of looking for legitimate ways of generating income, cowardly compromise their integrity and self-esteem by offering themselves up for sale.

Whatever happened to men being a father figure in a family, a role model to other men and their sons; or bearers of rules of ethic and honor? Or whatever happened to women being a mother figure in the family, a role model to other women and their daughters; or bearers of morals and dignity? What are they passing on to society and generations to come?

I looked at these men and women as spoiled brats who preferred the easy way out. They probably lack something which I can't pin point. I was uncomfortable with it and could not understand why our men and women would stoop to such lows.

I took a deep breath and looked deep in-

side for some reconciliation. After failing to find that peace or justification, I decided to take another look in the hope of finding another insight or perspective. BAM! As I looked, something hit me right in my gut. I felt an unknown feeling of sadness taking me over. I then began to consider the surmounting challenges these men and women must face to hit that bottom. Were they abused as children? Were they raised without a fathers or mother figure? Are they dealing with some inside demons that we can't see on the outside? Are they just free-spirited and feel they are within their own right to be and do what they want? I recalled the verse in Mathew 7 which asks us not to judge.

God in His Omnipotence knows us inside out. If it was not for *Justification*, none of us would be saved according to His standard; but He loves us anyhow. Maybe these men and women may have failed to live up to my own standards; but as a Christian, I am challenged to learn how to love them anyhow. I am not better than they are just because I do not face the same challenges they do. I simply have a different outlook; but on the inside we all are struggling with one issue or another. What you do, or what happened in your past **does not** determine who you are! Push past this need to look down on yourself or on others, and create a brighter future.

God in His unfailing love, forgives us and has redeemed us in spite of our littleness and imperfections.

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know everything,
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge
because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. (Anon)

PRECIOUS JEWELS



Directors Corner:

My goal is to help in the development of each child in the club; by reminding them that because Jesus loves them, they must always strive to do their best for Him. Ultimately, the goal is for each child to give his/her life to Christ by way of baptism. Our Motto is: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22: Proverbs 22:6



The Adventurers' Club is a sponsored ministry that is open to all children. The Club is subdivided among:

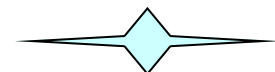
- ◆ Little Lamb for boys and girls age 4 years;
- ◆ Eager Beaver for boys and girls age 5 years; and,
- ◆ Adventurers for boys and girls, ages 6-9 years.

The Club seeks to foster cooperation between the Church, school and home to help children grow joyfully in wisdom and stature to be in favor with God and man. The Club provides creative ways for children to:

- ◆ Develop Christ-like characters;
- ◆ Experience the joys of doing things well;

- ◆ Express their love for Jesus in a natural way;
- ◆ Learn good sportsmanship, and strengthen their ability to get along with others;
- ◆ Discover their God-given abilities and to learn how to use them for the benefit of self and others;
- ◆ Discover God's world;
- ◆ Improve their understanding of what makes families strong; and,
- ◆ Develop parental support for the training of children.

Adventurers' Club meetings are held on Sabbath Afternoons. Parent/Guardian, please send your little ones to us. We have space for each child.



JAYS UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Community Cleanup Day—March 31, 2013 @ 7:30am
- ◆ Youth Week of Prayer—March 31, 2013 to April 5, 2013
- ◆ Every night @7pm except Thursday at the Church
- ◆ Youth Day—April 16, 2013 starting @ 9:15am, lunch to be served
- ◆ Bowling social @ 9pm, leaving from the church
- ◆ Ongoing Blood Drives/Health screening Starting in June 2013

Changing Family Dynamics? What's Next? (Cont'd. from page 1)

These are questions that societies struggle to deal with on a daily basis, both inside and outside of the church. We do not have all the answers. We do know, however, that these units, be it "nuclear," "blended," "single," or "gay"



"Single Mother" Family

make up homes, neighborhoods, communities, churches, villages, cities, and countries of the world.

Fortunately, as a church community and large family, we are not left to blow in the wind. We have a Creator and Father who loves us all! He cares for all of us. He has no pleasure in some of the choices that we have made, but nonetheless, He is waiting to help us navigate the chaos that we have made for ourselves. He bids us, "do not fear, for I am with

you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isa 41:10 NIV).

The LORD'S Compassion (Continued from page 2)

Through God's eyes, we are simply children who need help. Instead of forsaking us whenever we fail Him, He loves us with a compassionate heart. He freely gives and He only asks of us to accept His grace. He gave us Jesus not because we deserved Him; but simply because he so loves us! All we need to do is to accept His mercy which is freely given to whom ever believes.

Are we taking another look at those around us and seeing the need for compassion, love, care and ultimately, Jesus? We all need Jesus. He has been the game changer for me and He can change the game for you as well!

NEWS WORTHY EVENTS

- ◆ Women's Ministry Prayer Breakfast
- ◆ Singles' Formal Event
- ◆ Couples' Meeting , every first Sabbath
- ◆ Singles'/Deaconess sponsored Sight and Sound Weekend

Lucy's Daycare: A Home Away From Home

Are you a new or expecting parent? Are you wondering where to leave your precious bundle of joy when you are ready to return to work? Are you looking for an intimate, Christian environment that encourages learning and self-expression? Lucy's Daycare is the place! Lucy's Daycare is:

- ◆ Licensed by New York State
- ◆ Certified to perform CPR
- ◆ Takes Children 6 weeks to 5 years

For registration information, please contact Aunt Lucy at (718) 949-4212

Elderly Communication Tips by Merle Adams



“Position yourself so your loved one can hear you clearly.”

As our parents and grandparents age, you may notice that it is more challenging to communicate effectively with them. The following tips are suggested to make communication easier:

1. Make sure the time is convenient. Just like you, your Mom or Dad follows a routine. For example, she usually wakes up at the

same time every day. She eats breakfast, lunch and dinner on a schedule. She may have certain daily activities she enjoys, like watching a particular TV program or getting her hair done. Be respectful. Make sure the time you want to stop by is convenient for her.

2. Make sure he/she is comfortable and seated in the most comfortable chair in the room. Ask if he/she needs anything to drink or needs to go to the bathroom before beginning your chat.

3. Make sure your face is well lighted. Hearing loss is common as we age. Many elderly people unconsciously read lips to better understand what is being said. If

your face is easy to see, it can be easier for your Mom or Dad to understand you.

4. Talk to the good ear, making sure it is closest to you. Position yourself so your loved one can hear you clearly.

5. Choose a time of day when he/she is better able to focus. Each of us has times of the day when we have more energy and focus. Does your Mom function better in the morning, afternoon or evening?

Does that match with your energy levels? Try to match your peak times. If both you and your Dad function best mid-afternoon, that is when you should have your chat, so you have a better chance that your ideas will be well received.

[<http://www.mreldercareonline.com/>]

A Word to the Wise (continued from page 1)

2. Do your job!

Find out what is expected of you and DO IT!! It sounds easy but you'll be surprised how many people pass through occupations doing what they perceive to be the bare necessities, but never do what they are responsible for. If necessary, keep the job-posting information as a reference or request a description of the duties expected to be performed by you along with deadlines; if there are any. Then, fill your day with what you know you are supposed to do.



3. Become an asset!!

You're being paid to work! There will come a time, if you are diligent, when your duties will be finished. Be industrious, be ob-

servant, and continue to find ways to improve your environment. Do what was not asked! Make an impression; improve upon what's already in place. Find out if your co-workers need assistance. There is always something to do. It may not be what you want to do but there is always work for you to do. If there is no work, there will be no job. Be thankful and 'WORK!'.

Always remember you are still being watched. There is a probation period for everyone. It may be explicit or implied but you do have probation period. If you are usually a 'slacker', the first 3 weeks of the job are not the time for these traits to shine through.

Congratulations. . .now work!!

“There is always something to do. It may not be what you want to do, but there is always work for you to do. . . . Be thankful and WORK!”

Strengthening Sisterhood by Faye Torrington

The theme of our Women's Ministries Department for this year is "Releasing Strongholds; Strengthening Sisterhood." According to the dictionary, a stronghold is a fortified place, like a wall around the city. In the spiritual logic, a stronghold symbolizes a wall of resistance to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. In 2 Corinthians 10: 3, Paul refers to this as the spiritual battle. It is the spiritual battle which the Christian must fight, not against flesh and blood but against a spiritual entity.

Sisterhood is defined as a friendly relationship among women based on shared respect, genuine concern, support and admiration for one another. Sisterhood is critical for living a successful Christian life. One of the ways we learn to be good Christian women is from other Christian women. Similarly, our young sisters look to us for examples of how to grow into strong and

mature godly women. The Bible says in Proverbs 27:17, Iron sharpens iron; so a man [woman] sharpens the countenance of his friend [sister]. What are

some of these strongholds? They are things such as pride, envy, backbiting, lying, deception, gossip, selfishness and, un-forgiveness towards one another.

Strongholds prevent us from coming together to experience the joy of sisterhood, and from connecting with one another on a personal level. They make us insensitive and indifferent to the needs of one another. The devil knows that when sisters come together to love and support one another, their families will become stronger, so he drives a wall of division between us.

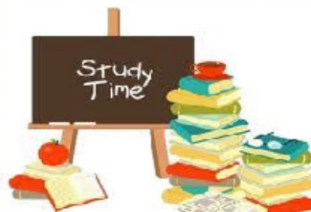
Thankfully, God provides an avenue which helps us to release these strongholds. In 2 Corinthians 10: 4, the Bible says that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. As sisters, the power of God is at our disposal to help us pull down fortresses or strongholds among us so that we can feel free to come together to experience joy of sisterhood. In the next issue, we will discuss some tips on how to strengthen sisterhood.



“As sisters, the power of God is at our disposal to help us pull down strongholds.”

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- After School: 2:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Monday-Thursday; Friday up to 5:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Go to the website's contact page or call: (646)-621-0331 Dr. Wilford Hyatt, B.A., M.S.Ed., N.D., A.A.D.P (NYS licensed)

Listed on NYC Department of Education's Independent SETSS registry

TUTORING SOLUTIONS:

Special Education Teacher Support Service (SETSS)

- ✦ English: Speaking, Writing (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics)
- ✦ Reading: Decoding(phonics); comprehension skills
- ✦ Writing: Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive Essays
- ✦ English for Second Language Learners
- ✦ Test Taking (preparation) Skills; Note-Taking; Homework Help
- ✦ Social Studies / Global
- ✦ Mathematics and Integrated Science
- ✦ Guidance in Writing College Papers

NATUROPATHIC WELLNESS (OPTIONAL)

Wellness Coaching

- ✦ Naturally and nutritionally improve health, attention, and memory.
- ✦ Get your customized, disease-targeted diet/feeding plan.

Out with the Old, In with the New! By D. R. H.

The Pope resigned! Effective February 28, Pope Benedict XVI stepped down as Supreme Pontiff. What do you know, the Pope has resigned! In six hundred years, it is the first time since a Pontiff will not die while holding the job. What is the significance of this event? Is this related to prophecy? One lady said to me last evening, this means that the world is coming to an end.



Pope Benedict XVI

People made all sorts of assumptions! Among the ideas floated around: there may be a scandal; something is going on behind the scenes; things are not as they seem; Popes do not resign, they die in office; they have another man who they can manipulate; he is not as out-going as Pope John Paul II. O my, don't be surprised if you hear that he is dead shortly, one lady said.

There should be no comparison made between he and his predecessor--one man was a peoples' person and a world traveler. The other man is a scholar, and a serious-by-the-book Catholic. One felt that he could do nothing else but to live and die a Pope; while the other believed that because of his age and declining health, he should step down so that a younger and more vibrant man can fulfill the role of leading over 1.2 billion people.

As one Cardinal puts it, "it takes a certain sense of humility to put pride and self-interests aside and focus on what is best for the Church." Looking at the whole thing, it must take some level of self-

Nothing Comes Easy! By Pammy Jensen

Scripture: Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

Nothing in life that is worth having comes easy! If we truly want to experience the happiness and contentment God wants for us, we have to be committed to the process. We must remember pain and difficulty can be a great opportunity to help us grow!

Today, no matter what is going on in your life; go in faith knowing that God is causing all things to work together for your good. Be thankful for the growing process He has you in right now. It always seems to be the hardest right before your breakthrough in life. Don't give up! Keep your heart open to what God is doing in your life. He is doing a great thing in you and you can live in confidence today knowing that He is Almighty God and you can trust his workmanship in you!

PRAYER

Father, I thank you for beginning a great work in me. No matter how difficult things might seem and no matter if I fully understand all that you are doing, I know I can trust you! I choose happiness today for my life because I know you are going to complete the great work you are doing in my life. I know that I will lack nothing because of your great love and plan for me. In Jesus name. Amen.

abasement to retreat from the spotlight back into "nothingness." Whatever may be the reason or reasons behind the Bishop of Rome's resignation, it will be in the news for weeks, even months to come.

Before the words were dry on paper, people were taking wagers as to who would be the next Pontiff. A two-day conclave was held and Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a Jesuit priest, became Pope Francis. They portrayed the Pontiff as a humble man who cares for the poor and downtrodden (typical persona of the Jesuits). Pope Francis calls for unity among all faiths **"Yes, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, . . . for my part, I wish to assure, in the wake of my predecessors, the firm wish to continue on the path of ecumenical dialogue, and I thank you, the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity."**



Pope Francis

As Seventh-day Adventists, we must be vigilant, sober and watchful for the last great crisis. "Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones" (9T 11).