

Start or revitalize a ministry in your church

QUICK START GUIDE



FAMILY MINISTRIES



Quick Start Guide for the Family Ministries

Available from:
AdventSource
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Introduction

Welcome to the important job of leading your church’s Family Ministries program. As Family Ministries coordinator, your job is to assist your church family in discovering their part in God’s diverse family and reaching out to families in your community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission of evangelism is to provide resources, training, and networking opportunities that will instill hope and bring wholeness to families within the territory of the North American Division.

VISION STATEMENT

Reaching Families for Eternity.

Today’s families are different from the traditional definition: a mother, a father, and two children. Rather, today’s families range from families of one person to families of two parents with children, from single parents to newly married couples, and from group home families to a few friends sharing a roof. Families include grandparents raising grandchildren, married couples without children, teenage parents, empty nesters, foster parents, and even older siblings in charge of younger ones. Each and every member of the church is a family in and of themselves—and a part of the church family.

CONNECT
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Website: NADFamily.org



Facebook: facebook.com/groups/AdventistFamilyMinistries



Twitter: [@AdventistFamily](https://twitter.com/AdventistFamily)

Family Ministries is not just a one-time program or performance; it is a continuing ministry and a constant act of service. This is an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth within your own family, the families of your church and surrounding community, and beyond. This is not simply compiling a list of “Dos and Don’ts” to preach and expect each person to follow.



And because each family is different, the same guidelines won't work for everyone. Family Ministries is not a venue to prove our talent, creativity, or genius. Rather, Family Ministries provides an opportunity to reflect God's light into the world for the purpose of leading others to Him.

Duties

Ideally, both the pastor and the Family Ministries coordinator should be certified—or close to certification—by the Adventist Family Ministries Curriculum for Local Church Leaders. These certification classes may be presented at conventions and other training events for other Family Ministries coordinators. Please check with your local conference office for information about upcoming training events.

With or without the training, be sure you fully rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You must have a strong personal faith. This doesn't mean you have to know all the proof texts, constantly quote Spirit of Prophecy, or be a church member for five to fifty years. Personal faith means

that Christ is your intimate friend. He is your Love, and you know this by reading His love letter, the Bible, every day. It is your greatest wish to do nothing that would hurt or dishonor Him. Personal faith is not about what you know, but knowing you belong to Him.

Throughout your term as Family Ministries coordinator, you must devote specific time to understanding your church family and—more importantly—what each individual needs in order to have healthy relationships with one another and their heavenly Father. This will help you build your Family Ministries committee, evaluate the available resources, and establish a plan for what you can realistically accomplish with your time.

Remember to balance your personal life with your Family Ministries position. Yes, this is a ministry that demands your time and attention, but a fantastic ministry won't make up for a suffering personal life. Keep this in mind as you begin and continue your ministry.

"In order to be effective, the family ministries leader(s) must have an understanding of God's redemptive plan for dealing with the brokenness in relationships which sin has brought [both in marriages and with our everyday interactions with family and friends]. The leader(s) also must maintain appropriate confidentiality and know when and how to encourage individuals in critical situations to seek professional counseling" (*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, p. 126). This means creating and providing ministries—both social and healing—and simply offering an attentive and caring ear.

NAD FAMILY MINISTRIES
WEBSITE

Visit the Family Ministries website to find resources for your local church Family Ministries program. This website features job descriptions, resources, family and marriage conference information, newsletters, and more. Visit **AdventistFamilyMinistries.org**



Family Ministries Committee

The church board will help you select a committee with members representing specific groups in the church. Below is a list of people who could be included on the committee. Make sure your committee contains a representative cross section of the various age groups in the church. Departmental leaders are necessary as a part of the Family Ministries committee because they will have input at the board level. Their membership on the committee also prevents the possibility of contention over separate agendas.

Potential Family Ministries Committee Members

- Men and women
- At least one single person
- At least one married couple
- One or more parents
- Sabbath school leader
- Home and School leader
- Personal Ministries leader
- Community services leader
- Men's Ministries leader
- Singles' Ministries leader
- Women's Ministries leader

Steps for Getting Started

1. Craft a Mission Statement and List of Goals

In order to keep your efforts focused, it is important to create goals—both long and short term. After your committee is created, host a special meeting for this purpose. Discuss with one another and decide what you'd like to accomplish within the month, three months, six months, a year, and beyond.

Remember, committees change; people move around; life happens. Don't make unrealistic plans. Set goals that will help you bring your church family closer together and—more importantly—will bring more of the world closer to Christ.

This will be accomplished through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by good listening skills on your part and the committee's.

2. Research the Needs of Your Church and the Community

Families are the part of life through which many people experience the most joy, but also the most sorrow. Family Ministries leaders can reach out to families in the church and in the



community where the local church is housed. A church and community assessment is helpful in learning how to effectively minister to local families.

A simple assessment of the church is a good place to start: What was the Family Ministries committee doing before you took over? What were their goals? What was established? What worked, and what didn't work? Were any people left out? Discuss these questions with your committee. Your answers will help you identify problems and ways to make changes and improvements.

An assessment can be conducted in a variety of ways. The easiest and most straightforward method is to simply listen. Ask your fellow members to share their observations. Float about potluck and talk to people at each table— especially the stragglers. Bid farewells in the foyer after the service and ask what your fellow members need and want from the church. Write down your observations so you can remember what was shared during conversations with members.

If you would like to create a written survey, coordinate with your church's communication director to create a questionnaire that can be filled out and turned in with the offering. You can also post a survey on the church website. Make sure the survey includes your phone number and email address so people can contact you if they have questions or would like more information. The more outlets you provide, the more information you will receive. Throughout this process, keep an open mind.

If you do conduct a written survey, plan to collect the responses immediately. It's too easy for papers to be placed in purses or Bibles and taken away. Collecting surveys immediately upon completion will yield a fuller response. Don't be discouraged if what you thought should happen or needed to change isn't a concern for your church. Also, remember that unmet needs don't mean you are doing a poor job as Family Ministries coordinator. A need is simply that—a need. Don't take constructive feedback too personally.

Once you have become familiar with church families' needs, it's time to learn more about community needs. Listen to what community members say about their families' needs. Your efforts to serve families through ministry should reflect the needs they share with you. Remember that Christ knew what we needed and responded directly to those needs—He did not force His will on anyone.

You can learn more about families in the community by seeking information that has been compiled by other entities in the area. If such information already exists, it is helpful to access it and then determine what additional information will be needed to help the focus of the ministry. If such information does not exist, determine what type of information is needed to offer purposeful, intentional ministry that addresses the needs of community families. Also, contact charities in your community and ask about their needs.

In order to gather this information, you may require training to develop a comprehensive community assessment that is reflective of the felt needs. The skills for conducting a community assessment can be learned during a short workshop or seminar. The local conference Family Ministries department has access to trainers who can provide this service.



For more information, visit the Family Ministries website at AdventistFamilyMinistries.com or the Center for Family Wholeness website at Center4Family.org.

As you continue discovering the needs of families in your church and community, you will find that church and community members' needs often overlap. If something is a concern in your church, there is a good chance it is also a concern outside the church. Do your research, ask, and listen with comprehension to those in the church and community. Of course, remember kindness and courtesy. "A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity" (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 6, p. 84).

3. Brainstorming

Family ministry has often been seen as a program that is periodically used in the lineup of church days and special events. It will never live up to its "ministry" label if it never outgrows its "program/event" boundaries. The dictionary defines "program" as "a public presentation or performance." Programs come and go and are applauded for the moment, but seldom have any lasting effect for the local church and community. Programs alone are simply a flash of light that vanishes as quickly as it comes. "Ministry," on the other hand, is defined as "the act of serving or assisting." Only the ministries that are sustained and structured by the Holy Spirit into the church plan can provide an unending source of light, a constant beacon for families to see, accept, and follow to Christ.

Once you have established a mission statement and collected information about what your church family and community needs, it's time for the fun part: generating ideas. Based on your collected information, meet with your committee and discuss what events, programs, and ministries you can plan to best fulfill the needs of the people in your church and community.

This is your time to toss ideas at one another, the big and the small. At this stage it is very important to be as inclusive as possible. As you entertain ideas about what you can do to strengthen family bonds, don't forget to create direct ministries for those in specific demographics: young adults, foster parents, in-home care providers, divorcees, those struggling with addiction, singles, empty nesters, those whose spouses have died, etc. But don't focus all your attention on the smaller groups; this is family ministry, and providing events and activities that everyone can be a part of is equally important. Church activities often separate family

"The Sabbath is often filled with meetings and other activities, even potlucks, that do not offer families the opportunity to share in the delights of the Sabbath as a family unit. The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy. In no better way can parents exalt and honor the Sabbath than by devising means to impart proper instruction to their families and interesting them in spiritual things, giving them correct views of the character of God and what He requires of us in order to perfect Christian characters and attain to eternal life. Parents, make the Sabbath a delight, so your children may look forward to it and have a welcome in their hearts for it" (Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, p. 536.2).



members from the moment they enter the church door until they regroup when they pile into the car to go home. Remember that ministry must be offered to everyone who is a part of the church and community.

Lastly, as you brainstorm how to best serve your church family and community, keep your mission statement and goals in mind. Ask yourself if each idea is realistically possible. How will this strengthen your church family's bond? What are the pros and cons? Who are you targeting? Is this a one-time event? Who might feel excluded? Is this something that can be sustained? Will you need to bring in outside professionals? Is this what the people in your church and community need, or is it what you think they need? How does this illustrate Christ's love and His integral part in each home? You may find that while some of your ideas are good, they may not best serve what you and your committee wish to accomplish.

For some starting ideas, check out Programming Suggestions on page 8.

4. Implementation

Now that you've chosen the best ideas with the committee and presented those ideas to the church board and pastor, you're ready to put your plans into action. Most of the time, basic logistics will take care of the planning and execution of your one-time events. However, with your sustained ministries and programs, it is important that you continue to advertise and educate your church family and community about ongoing support groups, counseling services, etc. (For more information and ideas on advertising your ministries and events, see How to Advertise Your Ministries on page 11.)

Like all good things, the best results come from proper planning. As Luke 14:28 reminds us, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" (NIV). It's never a good idea to begin colossal undertakings with pea-sized plans. For each of your events, create a firm plan and a fallback plan. This will allow you to work strategically toward the desired outcome.

Of course, the goal of each event is to strengthen the bonds between families and to shine the light of Christ's love, emphasizing the need for Him in all of our undertakings. But as you shine your church's light into the world, it is absolutely necessary to remember the appropriate legal and safety precautions.

Please be certain that only appropriately trained individuals facilitate your programs. There is liability for the church if you allow an unqualified individual to run your church's programs. More importantly, if events are run by inappropriate personnel, innocent people could be hurt.

Without exception, check references and verify credentials of any program, event, and ministry leader. If the chosen leader is a church member, ensure that they have been a member of your church for a minimum of six months. In accordance with North American Division policy, everyone who has any contact with children must be screened. Please check with your conference for information on current screening policies.



Also, when guest presenters are brought in, it is important to have a résumé or curriculum vitae and references on file. If the guest is professionally licensed, obtain a copy of the license. This may seem intrusive, but it is important that we do not unknowingly inflict harm when healing is needed. A few precautions will help maintain a safe environment for every person reached by your church's Family Ministries program.

Remember that your title and Adventist Family Ministries Curriculum certification does not make you a therapist or licensed counselor. Rather, this training gives you an overview of how to minister to families and helps you more effectively develop a Family Ministries program in your church. Don't hesitate to seek outside help if it is needed.

Each church has the opportunity to request the assistance and programming of the conference Family Ministries director at no cost to the church. If your conference does not have a Family Ministries director, ask what resources they can provide.

Lastly—especially if you are ever feeling overwhelmed with the current task—remember to leave everything in God's hands. "The Christian always has a strong helper in the Lord. The way of the Lord's helping we may not know, but this we do know: He will never fail those who put their trust in Him. Could Christians realize how many times the Lord has ordered their way, that the purposes of the enemy concerning them might not be accomplished, they would not stumble along complainingly. Their faith would be stayed on God, and no trial would have power to move them. They would acknowledge Him as their wisdom and efficiency, and He would bring to pass that which He desires to work out through them" (Ellen White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 576.1).

5. Evaluation

A periodic evaluation will help ensure that your program is consistently meeting its full potential. Taking a moment to step back and compare the original goals with the outcome of the ministry allows you to see what is working well and what is not. Good intentions don't guarantee good results. Plans on paper may not always work as stated. Evaluation offers an opportunity to determine how to minister more efficiently and effectively.

Evaluations also show your church board exactly what your ministry does and how participants benefit. It improves the work of your Family Ministries committee by identifying weaknesses as well as strengths. It adds to the existing knowledge on a conference level about what does and does not work in certain demographics. It ensures that you are acting as a good steward with your available resources. Finally, it helps you gauge the effectiveness of your church's outreach.

Discussing events at committee meetings is a good place to start, but like your initial research into your church family and community, you simply need to ask participants and listen. With your church's communication director, create short questionnaires for participants to complete after an event. You can also ask participants to respond via email or an online forum. This information will be invaluable, as what you observed as a coordinator might be completely different from what the participants experienced. By comparing survey results from multiple events, you can have a ready view of the accomplishment of your goals.



Don't be discouraged if a program did not work out as well as you hoped—no one expects perfection. Take the sour comments with a grain of salt; look at the negative remarks as a way to improve your initial idea. And when you receive positive feedback, know that your programs are working and participants are experiencing benefits. Learn from both positive and negative feedback and incorporate that knowledge as you move forward.

Program Suggestions

Because your church and community are full of diverse families, it is important to try to include each group in Family Ministries. Plan some activities and programs families can enjoy together rather than dividing them according to age groups. It is also important to look for ways to involve people from all different types of families.

While you're helping parents assume their rightful place in the spiritual development of their children, don't forget about those without children. When you're planning a support group for those with addictions, don't forget to offer healthy outreach projects. As you pull together a finance class, don't forget household Bible studies. Listen to the needs of your church family and community, and you won't exclude anyone. It's wonderful to have smaller, specific groups, but it's fantastic to bring the entire church family together as a whole. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish. God has given each community a beautiful diversity; you can use that to your church's advantage.

You do not need to provide all of these programs alone. Any of your programs and ministries can be provided in collaboration with coordinators of other church ministries. The church is a body that works best as a whole. You can also collaborate with others in your community who may already operate or provide the areas of ministry your church family and community need.

Below is a list of programming suggestions for your church. Use it as a starting point for your own creativity.

Sample Programming Suggestions

- 12 Step Recovery Programs
- Parenting Classes
- Complete Household Bible Studies
- Marriage Strengthening Programs
- Empty Nesters Unite
- Communication Skills Workshop
- Family Service Projects
- Financial Management Seminar
- Teen Parenting Skills Class
- Singles Group



- Senior and Caregiver Support Programs
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Mentoring
- Married Without Children Groups
- Parent-Teen Relationship Building
- Loss Recovery Support Group
- Women's Support Group
- Caring for Your Aging Parent Support Group
- Literacy Programs
- Grandparents Acting as Parents Support Group
- Veterans' and Loved Ones of Veterans' Support Group

Celebrating Holidays and Other Special Events

As you plan your programs, remember to include traditional calendar events. Holidays and awareness months are excellent times to bring families together. These times also provide opportunities for reaching out to the community as they give a nationally recognized theme to your programs.

The following calendar provides a few holidays and noteworthy events you might include in your ministry:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| January | New Year (celebrating new beginnings) National Mentoring Month |
| February | American Heart Month Black History Month Christian Home & Marriage Week National Parent Leadership Month World Marriage Day Valentine's Day |
| March | Women's History Month Social Workers' Month |
| April | Child Abuse Prevention Month Adventist Youth Week of Prayer |
| May | Family Wellness Month Older Americans Month Skin Cancer Awareness Month Mother's Day Graduations Bermuda Day |



| | |
|------------------|---|
| June | Father's Day Children's Day Juneteenth |
| July | Family Reunion Month Independence Day Canada Day |
| August | Back to School |
| September | Baby Safety Month Family Togetherness Week JOY Sabbath Labor Day Grandparents' Day National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15) |
| October | Breast Cancer Awareness Month National Domestic Violence Awareness Month National Work and Family Month Pastor Appreciation Month Thanksgiving (Canada) |
| November | National Diabetes Awareness Month National Family Caregivers' Month Military Family Appreciation Day Native American Heritage Month Thanksgiving (U.S.) |
| December | World AIDS Month Christmas Kwanzaa |

There are many more dates and monthly themes that you could include in your Family Ministries programming. These special days provide opportunities to reach out and develop relationships as you celebrate special occasions. Be creative and listen to families' needs as you select occasions to celebrate.

Advertising Your Programs

As Family Ministries coordinator, you will work closely with your church communication director to create surveys and evaluation forms. You can also work with the communication director to advertise your programs in a variety of ways so as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate. Work together to evaluate where your audience comes from. This will enable you to effectively utilize your advertising resources.



Below is a brief list of places to advertise your ministries:

In Person

- Church announcements
- Church school functions
- Retirement facilities and senior centers
- Door-to-door

Online

- Church website
- Social media
- Church email list

Print

- Local newspaper community calendar
- Posters/flyers at local charities and public sites (libraries, recreation centers, etc.)
- Church bulletin inserts

Conclusion

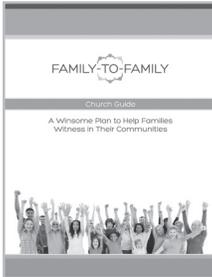
Remember to remain open to the Lord's still small voice and be willing to take the risk of going against those famous words, "We've never done it this way before." If you toss that phrase aside as you create ministry, you will be able to adapt to the constantly changing climate. Keep looking to the head of the church family, our heavenly Father.

Allow yourself to be used as a reflection of God's light. Let Him use you in creative ways. Let Him open your eyes, ears, and heart to the needs of your fantastically diverse church family and community. He will guide you to each individual in need and ensure that each and every member of God's family feels at home in the church.



Resources

The following resources are available from AdventSource. Find more resources at AdventSource.org or 402.486.8800.



Family-to-Family

Prepared by the GC Family Ministries Department

Family-to-Family is a one-year church plan to make the family the center of all evangelistic work. Participants will learn how to share the gospel with their neighbors, relatives, and friends.

Catalog #351201

Also available in Spanish.

Help! I'm a Parent: Christian Parenting in the Real World

By Claudio and Pamela Consuegra (AdventSource)

This series will inspire parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Use these resources at home, church, prayer meeting, Sabbath school, Home and School, or in a small group. Couples, single parents, blended families, foster parents, divorced parents, and grandparents will appreciate and benefit from these lessons.

Birth-Age 7

DVD Set with Two Participant Books
Participant Book

Catalog #351763

Catalog #351761

Ages 8-12

DVD Set with Two Participant Books
Participant Book

Catalog #351820

Catalog #351817

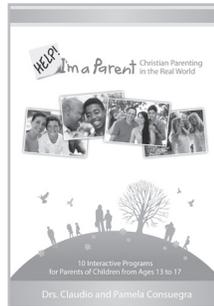
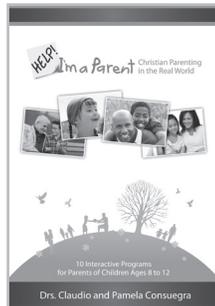
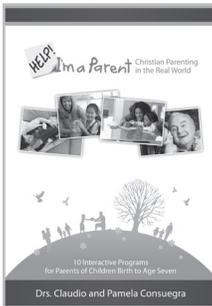
Ages 13-17

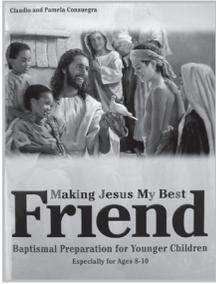
DVD Set with Two Participant Books
Participant Book

Catalog #351844

Catalog #351840

Also available in Spanish.





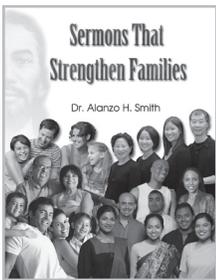
Making Jesus My Best Friend

By Claudio and Pamela Consuegra (Review & Herald)

This baptismal study guide will prepare children ages 8-10 for a wonderful walk with Jesus. It offers lessons with activities that parents and children can enjoy together such as fill-in-the-blank exercises, word games, and Bible crossword puzzles.

Catalog #014050

Also available in Spanish.



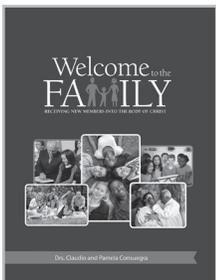
Sermons that Strengthen Families

By Alanzo Smith (AdventSource)

This book contains materials for sermons devoted entirely to family themes such as marriage, singleness, forgiveness, depression, rejection, self-esteem, and more. Smith combines Bible passages, modern-day parables, stories, quotations, statistics, history, and more to help you create relevant sermons on these topics.

Catalog #351350

Also available in Spanish.



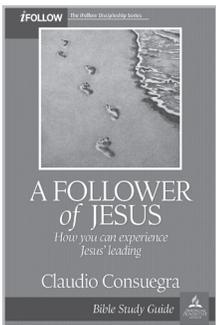
Welcome to the Family

By Claudio and Pamela Consuegra (AdventSource)

Welcome to the Family will help you integrate newly baptized members into the local congregation. Each two-hour program begins with a meal and music, followed by a time of learning about health, church dynamics, and, most importantly, family and relationship issues.

Catalog #351794

Also available in Spanish.



A Follower of Jesus

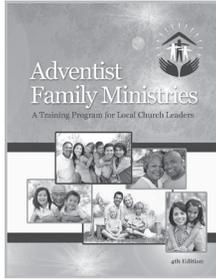
By Claudio Consuegra (AdventSource)

This iFollow Bible study guide looks at six ways Jesus established and grew His disciples. Whether you are a new member or someone who was baptized years ago, *A Follower of Jesus* will help you discover that Christ's way of growing disciples will strongly enhance your journey to heaven.

Catalog #417826

Also available in Spanish.





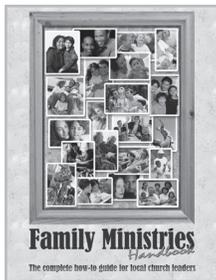
Adventist Family Ministries Training Program

By Claudio and Pamela Consuegra (AdventSource)

The Family Ministries curriculum includes ten modules written by Adventist family ministry educators. Each 90-minute module can be used as a training event for local family ministry personnel.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Curriculum | Catalog #351400 |
| Curriculum CD | Catalog #351295 |
| Participant Booklet | Catalog #351018 |

Also available in Spanish.



Family Ministries Handbook

By Audray Johnson (AdventSource)

The Family Ministries Handbook outlines the theoretical and philosophical frameworks for an effective ministry. You will find advice on committees and planning, sample survey forms, and a helpful family profile for your church.

Catalog #351330

Also available in Spanish.

Family Ministries Planbooks

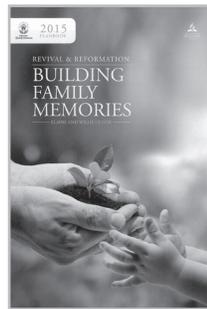
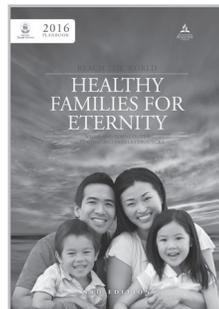
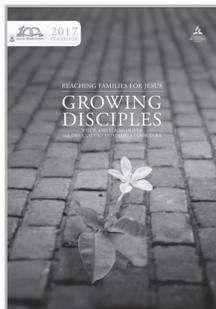
NAD Family Ministries (AdventSource)

These planbooks are full of resources to help you minister to the families in your congregation. Each planbook contains a yearlong curriculum featuring sermons, mini-seminars, articles, and related resources.

Growing Disciples Catalog #351833

Healthy Families for Eternity Catalog #351810

Building Family Memories Catalog #351776



Family Profile Form



Name _____
Last First Title (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address _____
Street Address - Apartment Number

_____ City State Zip/PC

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Family visitor who contacted _____

Date of contact _____

| Name | Age | Gender | Relationship |
|------|-----|--------|--------------|
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Comments _____

Family Ministries Coordinator Ministry Description

Introduction

The strength of the church is based in the spiritual life of its members and families. God expects families to have mutually satisfying relationships (Malachi 4:6). He desires that husbands and wives experience unity (Matthew 19:5,6), that parents “do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

The guiding principles of the Bible direct Christians to nurture the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of the individuals, couples, and families who constitute the fabric of fellowship in the church. When the church ministers to the needs of families as Christ did, they are restored to wholeness. Families who feel complete, and have harmonious relationships, are more likely to be dedicated to God’s goals (Colossians 2:10).

Family crises cannot be the only motivation for family ministry. Healthy family functioning is a primary goal. A family should provide for the transmission of values, and be a witness for God in the world of His power to unify and engender the happiness of each person. The family is the ordained place where human beings can experience love to its fullest extent—romantic love, friendship love, and redemptive love.

Families need to be taught the meaning of love. Love fosters health and decreases stress. “Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred” (Proverbs 15:17).

Families need to develop stable relationships patterned after God’s relationship with us. He has declared, “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). God’s love is unconditional, enduring, and responsible.

The family is probably the best illustration God has of what He is like. A family that is spiritually healthy will manifest characteristics of humility, patience, hope, and loving acceptance.

Duties of the Family Ministries Coordinator

The major functions and tasks of the family ministries coordinator are the following:

- 1. Needs assessment.** Work with the pastor to survey the needs of the church: couples, single persons, single parents, children, teens, young adults, mature adults, etc., finding which topics are of interest to them. Your conference family ministries director may be able to assist you.
- 2. Program development.** The family ministries coordinator works in cooperation with other church leaders to implement family life programs. This involves planning, promotion, recruitment and training of volunteers, delivery of the programs, and evaluation. Although a number of very detailed and user-friendly program helps are available, successful programs still require considerable attention to detail, good organization, and strong communication for many weeks in advance.

- 3. Chairing the Family Ministries committee.** It is recommended that even in the smallest congregations a committee be selected for family ministries instead of following the tradition of making it a one-person assignment. Family ministry is about relationships and helping people learn to be Christ-like in their relationships. This needs to be modeled in a group setting because it is “caught as much as it is taught.” Even if the committee only meets once a quarter and includes people who hold other offices in the church, it should become a support group as well as a working unit. As chairperson, it is your responsibility not only to put together an agenda and moderate the discussions, but to facilitate times of personal sharing, prayer, and learning.
- 4. Playing the family advocate.** The Family Ministries coordinator sits on the church board and should represent the needs and concerns of family life there. It is easy for a board to become involved in the organizational and financial issues of the church and forget that congregations are essentially clusters of households and people trying to live out their faith together. It is your responsibility to help the board keep in view the relational needs of the members of the church and make family life a real priority in all that the church does.
- 5. Acting as an information source.** The congregation will depend on you as a primary source of information about ministry. It would be a good idea for you to start a list of Christian counselors to whom you can feel confident making referrals. You will want to guard against getting too involved or “playing psychologist” (unless you are one), but highly developed listening skills will make it easy for other church members to share their concerns and needs with you and ask for information. This informational task includes regularly taking the opportunity during personal ministries time, Sabbath school, or worship to share with the whole congregation the information that comes to you from the conference and in resource materials.

Family Ministries

This Quick Start Guide for Family Ministries is full of important information to help you start or revitalize a ministry at your local church. This guide contains a job description, instructions for getting started, tips for maintaining a successful ministry, troubleshooting suggestions, recommended resources, and more. Whether you're new to this ministry or an experienced volunteer, this Quick Start Guide will inspire you with lots of great ideas you can immediately put to use in your local church.

Other titles in the Quick Start Guide series:

- Single Adult Ministries
- Men's Ministries
- Women's Ministries
- Children's Ministries

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