

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE **MINISTERIAL FAMILY**

February 6-13, 2015



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WELCOME

This year has been designated as the year of the pastor. In the IAD we honor our pastors. Many activities have been planned in this celebration. One has to do with the week of prayer for the pastor's family.

We have chosen the slogan of a well-known verse: "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it ..." Psalm 127:1. We want you to pray this week to ensure the presence of God is with us. If we put every day on this foundation, we are confident we will be victorious ministerial families

We have prepared this material with the idea that every ministerial family will dedicate a few moments for the special prayer for the needs that we have.

On Friday, February 6th at 7 pm EST we will start with a live show that will be broadcasted via the Internet. We invite you to log on to the website of the Division. If that is not possible, then you can have your own prayer session following the ideas in this material later. This is the only program that will be broadcasted. The material for the rest of the week is included here.

We invite you to meditate on the following statement of Ellen White:

"Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to the Lord wherever they pitch their tent. If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Fathers and mothers should often lift up their hearts to God in humble supplication for themselves and their children. Let the father, as priest of the household, lay upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice, while the wife and children unite in prayer and praise. In such a household, Jesus will love to tarry. MYP 325.1.

We ask God for every house where a pastoral family resides, be a house of prayer.

Welcome:

Leticia de De los Santos, *Shepherdess Director*

Héctor Sánchez, Ministerial Secretary

Pedro Iglesias, *Family Life Director*

Cecilia Moreno, *Family Life, Assoc. Director*





“UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY
LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT...”

PSALM 127:1

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

Live broadcast:

We invite you to tune the program start Pastoral Prayer Week

Friday, February 6, 2015

7 pm (Miami Time)

<http://webcast.interamerica.org>

Upcoming events:

April 02- From Trinidad

Ministerial Council Online for seniors and pre theology graduates

April 28 – From Medellín, Colombia

Ministerial Council Online no ordained ministers

October 13 – From Miami

Ministerial Council Online

Upcoming materials:

Special Magazine Ministry for pastors of other denominations: Fourth Quarter 2015.

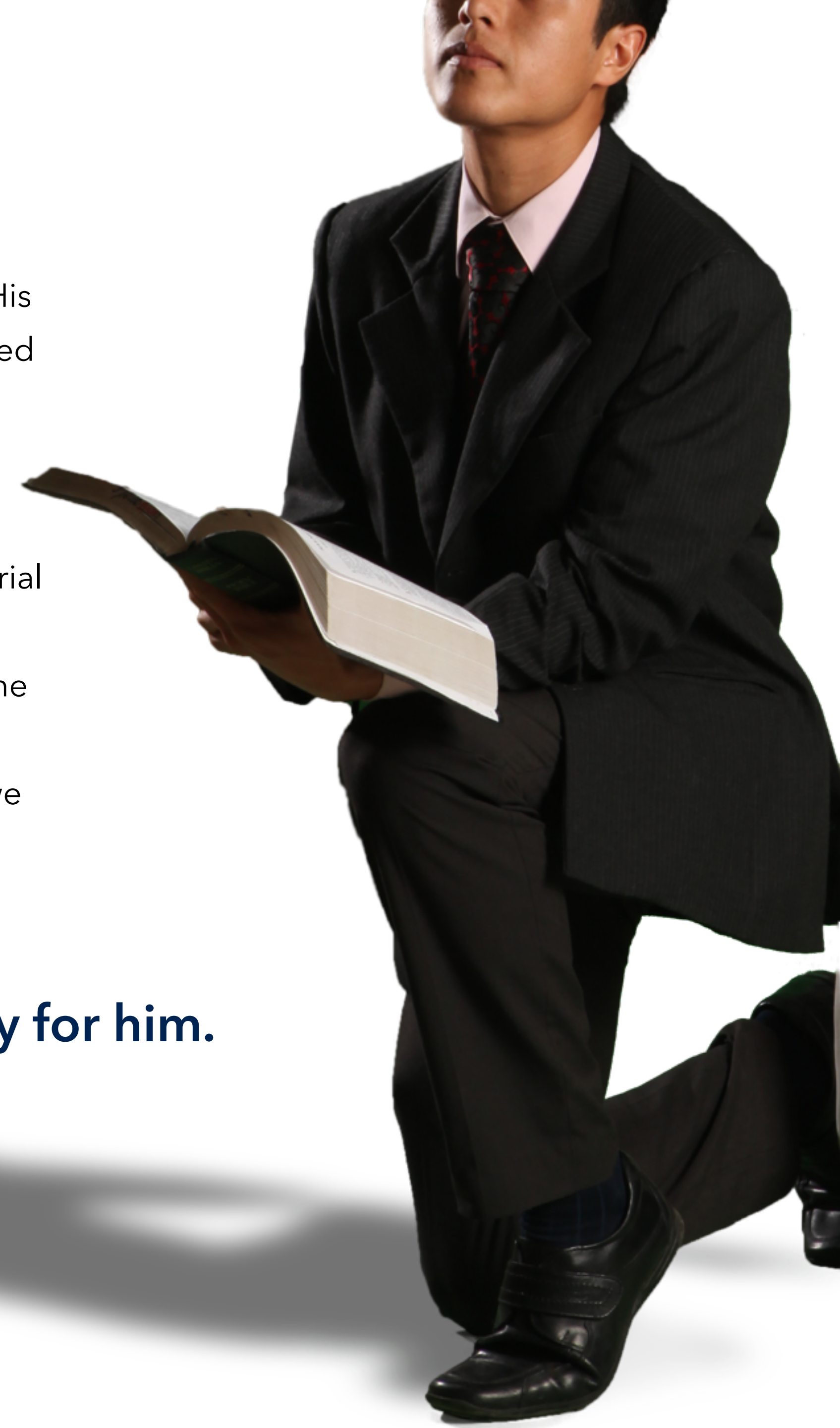
This year we will not only honor the pastor, but we will pray for him.

HONORING THE PASTOR

More than a person, honoring your pastor is a way to honor and thank God for manifesting His love through imperfect beings, chosen and called to his time; beings willing to guide and feed his precious flock.

To demonstrate this, Inter-America held an event on Monday, 19 May 2014 where we conducted a special pastoral ordination ceremony in Miami which, practically, kicked off the Year of the Pastor. Then, from the 12 - 17 of October, with 24 district pastors and 20 ministerial secretaries of the unions, we toured the facilities of the world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, dining and praying with Pastor Ted Wilson and his wife. We journeyed in the footsteps of the pioneers of our church on the east coast of the United States, which was an unforgettable experience that strengthened the faith of the attendees. Beginning in 2015, we welcome the pastoral ordination ceremony online, in the Dominican Republic, with the presence of the pastor Ted Wilson and the presidents of the world divisions.

This year we will not only honor the pastor, but we will pray for him.





HONORING THE PASTOR'S FAMILY:

- 1** The pastor's wife needs to be honored. The responsibility of the pastor's wife is great. To accompany the pastor in this task requires souls to have much dependence God. They need to experience the assurance that God is on their side. This year we honor and pray for God's blessing on the wives
- 2** The pastor's children are part of a special family, the pastor's family. They need to know they are important and valuable. This year we will pray for them.

A photograph of a group of men in dark suits and ties, gathered in a church. They are standing in a circle, with their heads bowed and hands resting on each other's shoulders, suggesting a prayer or blessing ceremony. The background shows blue church pews and a woman with brown hair. The overall atmosphere is solemn and spiritual.

5 REASONS

TO PRAY FOR THE FAMILY PASTORAL



1

All family members need to cultivate a strong and consistent relationship with God through Bible study and prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit assist us to take time every day to strengthen this relationship.

2

The enemy of souls wants to destroy the pastor and his family. Many attacks can come upon them. The pastor is tempted, his wife and children too. Pray for God's help with the pastoral family to be victorious over the enemy.

3

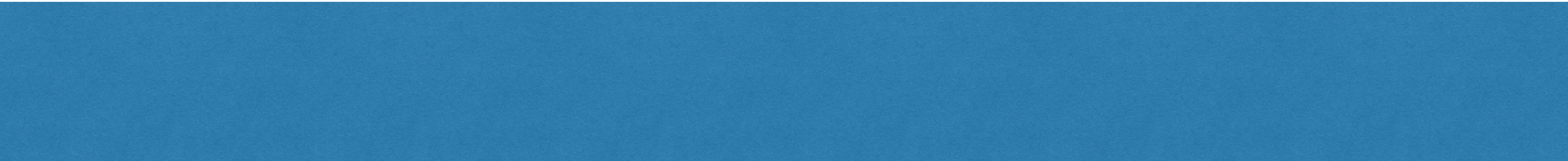
The pastoral family needs companionship, friendship, fellowship and support of other ministerial families. Pray to foster a warm atmosphere of brotherhood among all the pastors and their families.

4

The pastoral families need good health. Pray for the health of all family members.

5

We live in a dangerous world. Pastors and their families live in places that may be unsafe. Pastors must travel and face danger. Pray that God will protect the pastoral family.



Under God's will, we hope to carry out the following activities during the remainder of 2015:

- Ministerial Council Online for seniors and pre theology graduates: April 02 - From Trinidad
- Ministerial Council Online no ordained ministers: April 28 – From Medellin, Colombia
- Ministerial Council Online - October 13 – From Miami
- Revista especial de Ministerio para pastores de otras denominaciones: Cuarto Trimestre 2015.



PRAY TODAY FOR THESE REASONS IN THE **FAMILY**:

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SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2015

The pastor of your home

Introduction:

In theory, pastors know very well what should be the priorities of the ministry: God, home, church and everything else. However, in practice, these priorities could be in a different order, leaving the wife and neglected children, like sheep without a shepherd.

Points to consider:

"They made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept" Song of Solomon 1:6

"Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first. In the day of final reckoning, God will inquire what he did to win to Christ those whom he took the responsibility of bringing into the world. Great good done for others cannot cancel the debt that he owes to God to care for his own children".
Pastoral Ministry P. 85

"Treat your wife tenderly. She needs all the care and comfort and encouragement that you promised in your marriage." Pastoral Ministry P.85



Author:

Pastor Héctor Sánchez, ministerial secretary of the Inter-American Division.

Purpose:

Pray for the Pastor in his role as shepherd of his family.

Unions which will pray:

North Colombian Union Conference
North Mexican Union Conference
Puerto Rican Union Conference
Panama Union Mission

SOME TIPS

- 1 Keep the custom of family worship. Be sure to practice this habit with your children and wife. When the first are gone, read the Bible and pray with and for your wife. She will do the same for you.
- 2 Share with your family how way God called you to the sacred ministry. They will admire and respect you more knowing that God has directed your life
- 3 Dedicate a day of worship in the church to sit with your wife and children. This will give them more familiar unity, you will be fed spiritually and the congregation will have the proper image of the pastoral family.
- 4 Dedicate one day a week to be with your family. Sometimes it's hard to pick a weekday for various reasons. But, if you can, do it and you will see the results. Also, do not stop taking your family vacations every year.

With God's help, we resolve:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer in the family circle.



HUSBANDS AND WIVES NEED TO MUTUAL ATTENTION

Introduction:

The many occupations of the pastor and his wife may lead them to neglect their marital relationship. Such neglect can be dangerous. Both, husband and wife should not forget that love needs to be fed every day. Today we will be praying that this need is met in all ministerial homes.

Points to consider:

"It is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love. Only where Christ reigns can there be deep, true, unselfish" AH. 68.2

"There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels others. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy.... AH 107.2

Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the good qualities in each other. The consciousness of being appreciated is a wonderful stimulus and satisfaction. Sympathy and respect encourage the striving after excellence, and love itself increases as it stimulates to nobler aims. AH.107.3

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 8, 2015



Author:

Pastor Pedro Iglesias, director of Family Life Ministry IAD.

Bible reading

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain."
Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

Pray for husbands and the wives that they do not forget to cultivate their relationship so mutual love will increase.

Unions which will pray:

Central Mexican Union Mission
Chiapas Mexican Union Mission
Cuban Union Conference

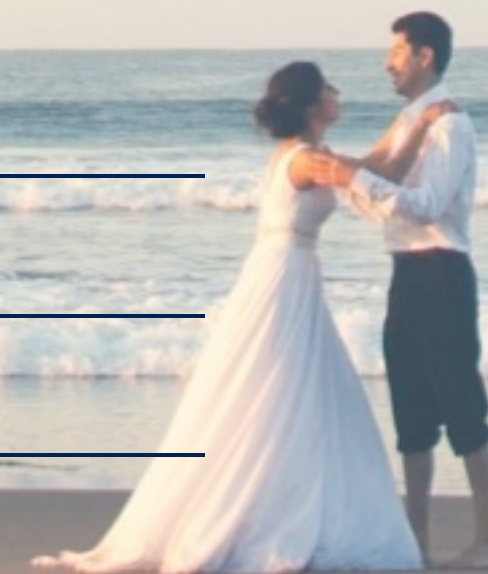
IDEAS TO CULTIVATE LOVE

- 1 Pray together one for other. Each one presents their spouse before God and intercedes on their behalf. Know the personal orders of their spouse and pray for them. You can do it in a family prayer or in private prayers.
- 2 Take time for the two to be together. The countless tasks to do give very little time together, talk to them or do activities outside the routine that gratifies each other. This will lead to a more deepening and enriching communication with your spouse.
- 3 Cultivate the habit of praising the virtues of each other. Rejoice in achievements. Support for individual companies that are very simple. Share the concerns and challenges they face in everyday life. In other words, do not struggle alone.
- 4 Do not forget the romance. Kissing, love you, flattery and all expressions of affection and love should always be practiced.
- 5 Remember that your commitment to marriage was made for a lifetime. Renew your wedding vows as whenever you can. It can be done formally as in a ceremony at church or it can be informally by the saying we will always love each other.

Our resolutions as spouses:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer in the family circle.



MY HUSBAND IS A PASTOR

Points to consider:

“The minister’s wife may be a great help to her husband in seeking to lighten his burden, if she keeps her own soul in the love of God. She can teach the Word to her children. She can manage her own household with economy and discretion. United with her husband she can educate her children in habits of economy, teaching them to restrict their wants.” GW.203.3

“Like her husband, the pastor's wife has also been called to share the ministry. And you can use their experience, their professionalism and their gifts to edify the church. “A responsibility rests upon the minister’s wife which she should not and cannot lightly throw off. God will require the talent lent her, with usury. She should work earnestly, faithfully, and unitedly with her husband to save”, GW.202.1

Every pastor's wife has her own personality, and should develop without being lost in that of her husband. Heaven will reward: “The wives of ministers should live devoted, prayerful lives ... If they would only lean confidingly, in childlike trust, upon God... what an amount of good they might do, what a help they might be to others, what a support to their husbands, and what a reward would be theirs in the end! "Well done, good and faithful servants," would fall like sweetest music upon their ears. The words, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," would repay them a thousand times for all suffering and trials endured to save precious souls”. 1T.452.3}

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 9, 2015



Author:

Leticia De los Santos, *Shepherdess Director*
Inter-American Division

Bible reading

“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.”
Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

Pray for the wives of pastors that God may bless them in their work, which is sacred as that of her husband

Unions which will pray:

Dominican Union Conference
East Venezuela Union Mission
El Salvador Union Mission
Mission Aruba

Practical Ideas for Pastor's Wife

- 1 God must take first place in your life.
- 2 The first mission field God has given you is your home.
- 3 God has given you spiritual gifts and you must use them for the edification of the church.
- 4 You do not have to full fill all of the expectations that others have of you.
- 5 Your lifestyle and your family are models for the church.
- 6 Try to support, pray for others, share your opinions, but do not assume the role that corresponds to your husband.
- 7 Watch your relationships.

A good resolution for wives of pastors include: Deciding to give God first place in their life, give the family the priority it deserves and use gifts and talents for the edification of the church.

Resolutions for Families:

I invite you to write your own:

Prayer in the family circle.



PASTORS, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN

Introduction:

What a sad story! There was a pastor who had two sons. He loved them deeply. Just seeing they made him feel that his heart was bursting with excitement. But the work of the ministry was so heavy that he rarely spent time with them. In his mind, it was a great idea that someday they too would be pastors and would share the responsibilities and thus spend more time together. What the pastor did not know was that their children had developed asymmetric, willful, and sinful character. His absent and misunderstood love had allowed them to grow surrounded by negative influences that led them to reject the divine principles and embrace sin as their lifestyle

One day, through the influence of his father, they became pastors. But instead of building the church, they corrupted it. The terrible things they did were covered in religious endowment and protected by the authority of their father. The story for them, their father and the church ended dramatically. Sinfulness caused a tragedy in that the two sons were killed and his father died and his church suffered for many years as a the result of their bad influence (based on chapters 2-5 of 1 Samuel History)

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2015



Author:

Pastor Gamaliel Flórez, Education Director of the Inter-American Division

Bible reading


"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain."
Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

Pray for the children of pastoral families.

Unions which will pray:

French Antilles-Guiana Union Conference
Guatemala Union Mission
Haitian Union Mission
Curacao and Bonaire Conference



Is this the only story of lost children of pastoral families? Unfortunately not. Most importantly, the tragedy continues to this day. Nevertheless, it is God's will that none of the children of pastoral families be lost. The Lord desires that families be together in heaven.

There is one characteristic that God has given to human beings which he respects and will never go against: the free will or the human will.

To oppose it is like facing a wall. But, following God's method is the only way to work with greater chances of success. This method is the conquest of the will through love.

Pastoral parents should never take for granted that their children, by the mere fact of being, will accept the Lord as their personal savior and be faithful to the principles that you have accepted as the standard of living. The required effort of their salvation is the same effort needed for the salvation of the Church. The salvation of their children demands prayer, dedication and deliberate effort.

Points to consider:

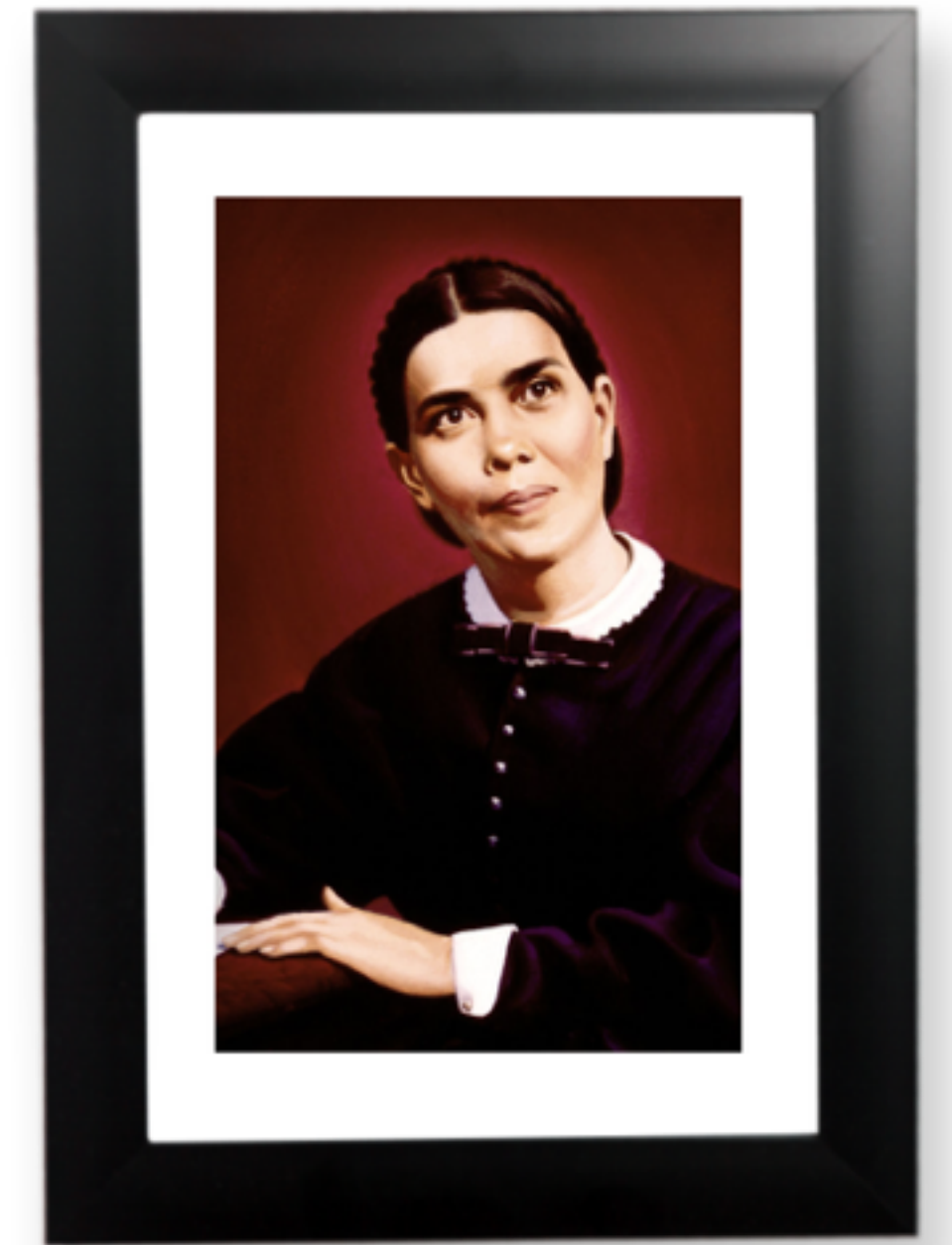
There are many valuable instructions, in the writings of Ellen White. You may know them well, nevertheless we should review them.

"He who is engaged in the work of the gospel ministry must be faithful in his family life ... As the priest in the home, and as the ambassador of Christ in the church, he should exemplify in his life the character of Christ.."

Manuscript Releases 6:49, PaM.88.3

The Gospel read by the children's pastor is the life of their parents. They know how truly Christian is his pastor father and mother pastor's wife.

We cannot think that any man, however great his ability and usefulness, is best serving God or the world while his time is given to other pursuits, to the neglect of his own children.—The Signs of the Times, February 9, 1882. PaM 88.1 The reality of the life of a pastor is that there are always time deficit. So you have to learn to prioritize and distinguish what is important and what is urgent. Generally, the pastor is ready to leave their family alone to deal with other emergencies. Pastor will leave routine schedule of the church only if an emergency your family. It is crucial to spend time as a devoted father and a pastor.

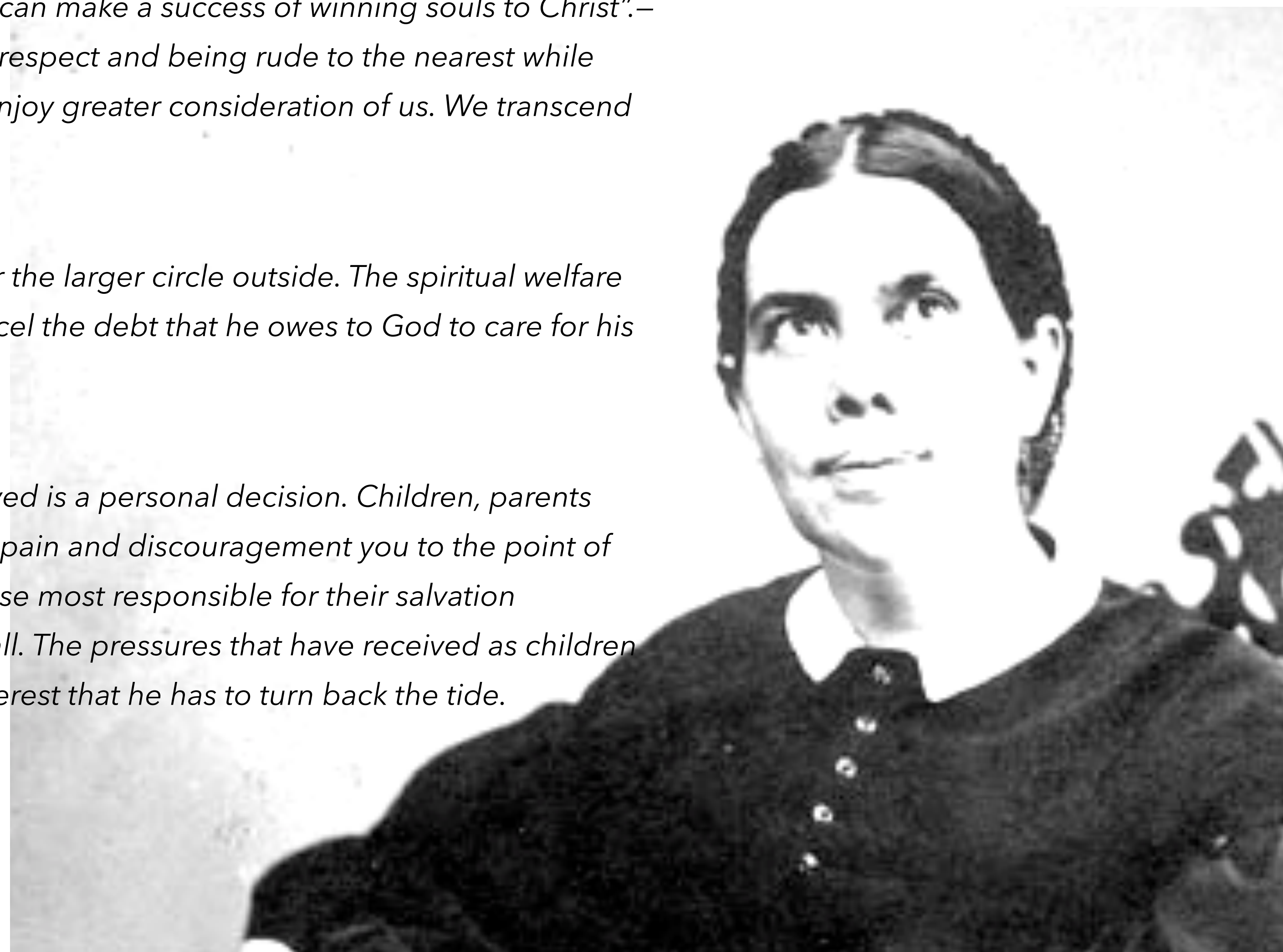


Points to consider:

"You must show in your family that kindly consideration, that tenderness, love, gentleness, noble forbearance, and true courtesy, that is becoming to the head of a family, before you can make a success of winning souls to Christ".— Testimonies for the Church 3:556. PaM 85.3 Is so easy to show disrespect and being rude to the nearest while being kind to strangers. But members of our family circle should enjoy greater consideration of us. We transcend in our wives and children by the love we show.

"Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first. ... Great good done for others cannot cancel the debt that he owes to God to care for his own children. " AH 353. A pastor is Pastor first place in his family.

Also the children are responsible for their own salvation. Being saved is a personal decision. Children, parents may at some point have committed an error that has caused them pain and discouragement you to the point of thinking that is not worth being a Christian. But remember that those most responsible for their salvation yourselves are. There is no excuse for being indifferent to God's call. The pressures that have received as children of pastors can not overshadow the love of God for you and the interest that he has to turn back the tide.





The Lord has a dream for pastoral families and has them in a perfect place where there is no pain, no suffering, and no separations. The Lord would meet them personally to take them to enjoy the glories of the Kingdom.

Pastoral families should make the **commitment** to be ready to meet the Lord Jesus when He comes. Until that day do everything possible to enjoy the joy of being servants of God.

Some tips:

FOR PARENTS AND MINISTERIAL MOTHERS

- Remember that your children need a father more than a pastor. Do not base the relationship as a pastoral condition but as a father.
- Do not force your children to play roles in the Church they do not want to perform. Give them the privilege of discovering the joy of serving the Lord.
- The importance giving to people is demonstrated by what we give them. Your children will feel valuable to the extent you spend time with them.
- The greatest contribution of the pastor's wife in ministry is to be an excellent wife and mother. Do not allow the responsibilities of the Church to deprive you of your greatest ministry of being a wife.
- Cultivating an excellent marriage relationship will be the greatest contribution of the parent ministry for the salvation of their children.
- Remember, you represent God to their children.

FOR THE CHILDREN OF PASTORS

- Be grateful to God for being a pastor's son. Most guys from the Church want to be in your place.
- Remember privilege demands responsibility. Live up to what you are: a child of God assigned to be part of a pastoral family.
- When facing a change in your environment because of a transfer of your father, do not assume such a loss. Take it as a new opportunity to see new places, friends and enjoy other experiences.
- In the phrase "the pastor's son", no offense. Be proud of who think that your father is so good that it expects you to be as good as him.
- Understand that you were born to play a mission. Ask the Lord it is and begins to carry it away. You will experience the joy of serving God.
- Amaze yourself with Heaven. It will be the most exciting movement takes your family.

THE PASTOR AND FINANCIAL CULTURE

An approach from the perspective of the concept of Money, Debt and Savings

Introduction:

¿Are you determined to change your relationship with money and improve your quality of life? (Luke 14:28-32)

Which one of you, when doing your personal finances, doesn't first determine the amount of money required to meet your budget and to secure your family's financial future by creating savings to build a heritage and fulfill the mission entrusted?

Be careful way laying your foundation, that you don't allow debt to accumulate so much that you are unable to meet your family's financial obligation and secure their future, thus making you a mockery to others.

What Adventist Pastor, having 10,000 strengths can handle 20,000 more threats? And still prepare strategies when the time comes?

WEDNESDAY

February 11, 2015



Author:

Pastor Filiberto Verduzco, treasurer of the Inter-American Division.

Bible reading

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain." Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

Pray that God will bless the finances of the pastoral family

Unions which will pray:

Union Honduras
Oceanic Mexican Union
Union of Jamaica

Points to consider:

“As individuals and as managers of the Lord’s institutions we shall necessarily have to cut away everything intended for display and bring our expenses within the narrow compass of our income”. 6T 209.2

That which lies at the foundation of business integrity and of true success is the recognition of God’s ownership. The Creator of all things, He is the original proprietor. We are His stewards. All that we have is a trust from Him, to be used according to His direction. Ed 137.4

"In business, the Christian is to represent before the world the way that our Lord would direct commercial enterprises. In every transaction must be written holiness to the Lord in the journal and ledger in scriptures receipts and bills of exchange". The Desire of Ages, page 509

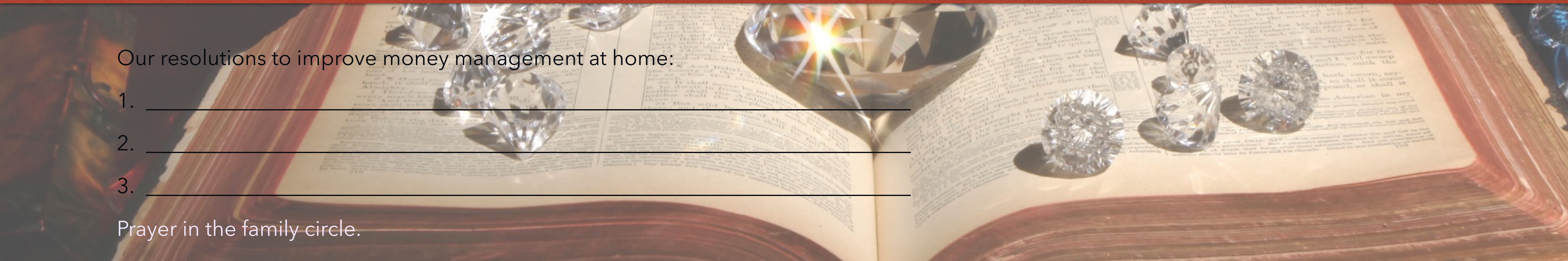
Ideas for Managing Money:

- 1 Lack of Vision medium and long term financial affairs
- 2 Culture "Emerging" in control and planning costs
- 3 "Huge" gaps in training and information
- 4 Inaccessibility and misunderstanding with the world of finance
- 5 There is a priority for immediate needs such as food and housing
- 6 Insufficient organization and management of household resources
- 7 The savings is not part of the habits of families
- 8 Money management is favored in cash
- 9 Debt is the category that most tend to control.

Our resolutions to improve money management at home:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer in the family circle.



FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRY

Introduction:

At the beginning of the New Year, we make resolutions, and then we forget them a few weeks later.

This year, 2015, we should do it differently, let's start on the right foot, instead of thinking about what I should leave or start, maybe I should think about what I should modify. Resolutions regarding health care should be part of the issue to be modified in our lifestyle.

Points to consider:

Genesis 2: 7 says, "And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

When God created man on the sixth day, He took his image, and I think he took time to mold the clay and put every detail in order in his work. He selected each item in the exact amount.

Synthesized each substance, tissue, organ and system in the body so that man was perfect, created with all its dimensions.

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2015



Author:

Belkis Archbold, Director of the Ministry of Health at IAD.

Bible reading

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain."
Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

to pray for the health of the pastoral family.

Unions which will pray:

South Colombian Union Mission
South Central American Union Mission
Southeast Mexican Union Mission
West Venezuela Union Mission

Man came out of the hand of the creator, perfect and full of life. More than a 1,000 years passed before their passion and appetite became corrupt and the general violations of physical laws became evident in the species.

It was never the intention of our Creator that disease would exist, we were created to live forever. Health is a treasure for man and God's gift to every human. You begin to recognize its value when you lose it.

Health care is a duty of each of us out of respect for the Creator of the universe.

1 Corinthians 6:19 says, Did you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you and you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

This means we have a responsibility to care for our bodies to try to honor God. Some of the ways we can care for our bodies is by eating a balanced diet, exercise, drinking water and practice good sleep habits.

This year instead of making resolutions we can change what we are doing. Let these healthy tips for healthy living.



Practical ideas:

- Let us watch our diet. Our energy and well-being depends largely on the type and quality of food we eat. Bulletin 12/2011 Life and Health.
- We are what we eat. The food we eat becomes part of our cells, tissues and organs. Therefore our health or disease depends heavily on our food.
- Let's put on our plate, more vegetables, more whole grains, more fruits and less fat, less sugar, less salt and less animal products.
- Let's move, if we walked about 30 min. (which is the minimum daily), will walk about 45 min - 1 hour daily. If we cannot walk, we go swimming, play sports, aerobics, ride bikes or any exercise that makes you sweat and expend energy. Exercise is life, your heart, muscle, brain, skin and other important organs of your body, I will thank.
- We will use water more often, both for washing our hands and body and drink. Do not wait to be thirsty for a glass of water. Water benefits our body in many ways. Allows nutrients, helps the brain in their electrical functions to moisturize nerve cells (neurons) are assimilated. Help to vital organs to fulfill their normal functions.
- We will have a physical and mental balance, through rest. The Creator left us his example concerning rest. Since the creation God so ordained. After working six days in creation, spread a very special day to rest.
- Thanks to this wonderful gift and example, we can enjoy a rest when we are tired. I push a special day for us to leave all the tasks of the week and rest on that special day Sabbath each week.
- Proper rest allows us to make good decisions and helps us be less irritable and cranky when dealing with our fellow men. Rest is not a luxury, but a necessity.
- This year, we learn to trust in the Lord, if before we prayed, we will increase those private moments with our God and Savior. **Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him**, Steps to Christ p. 62. Prayer is the means by which we are connected to God. This year we will stay connected.

We will learn to hear the voice of the Lord when he gives us these tips:

"Behold, I will bring health and healing: and I will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth." Jeremiah 33: 6

"If you diligently obey the voice of the Lord thy God, and works which was right in his eyes; if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his statutes, none of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians I will send to you; for I am the Lord your Healer. Exodus 15:26

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, even as your soul prospers." 3 John 2

Our resolutions:

Prayer in the family circle.



FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2015



Author

Pastor Roberto Herrera, P. Affairs/R. Liberty
Director IAD

Bible reading

"Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain."
Psalm 127:1

Purpose:

Pray for the pastors' homes in search of a revival and reform that includes the family.

Unions which will pray:

Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission
Belize Union of de Churches Mission
Caribbean Union Conference

PASTOR'S HOME: THE PLACE TO START THE REVIVAL.

Introduction:

Highly esteemed colleagues, we are happy to welcome you to a new day of this special week for all Inter-American pastors and their families. Today, I want to propose a conversation on a topic that is nothing new but has everything important and therefore urgent. I am referring to the spiritual atmosphere that should exist in our homes. We're not talking about your spirituality as pastor, nor the atmosphere of spirituality that should be in the church. Today, the question is: How does your ministry is influencing the spiritual life of your wife, your children and those living with you? We have been told that "Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home.... There is no missionary field more important than this." (The Christian home, p. 206). So first let's review some instructions that our God has given us.

Points to consider:

1

The true character of the minister revealed in the home "What reveals our real character is not so much the religion of the pulpit like that of the family. The minister's wife, his children and those who are employed to help in your family are better prepared to judge mercy on him. A good man will be a blessing to his family. His religion will top his wife, his children and his assistants ". (The Adventist Home, p. 322)

This matter of having our homes spiritually it is so important that the Lord has also said: "Whoever fails to be a faithful and wise shepherd at home, surely fail to be a faithful shepherd of the flock of the Lord in the church." (Pastoral Ministry, p. 103)

2

The spiritual welfare of your family comes before everything. "No apology has the preacher for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle. The spiritual welfare of his family is first. On the day of ultimately setting, God will ask you what you did to bring Christ to those whose arrival in the world took responsibility. The much good he has done to others can not cancel the debt he has with God as to care for their own children. "(Gospel Workers, 215)

3

God will honor the pastor's family that is well-ordered. "Fathers and mothers who put God first in his family to teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men presenting to the world a well ordered and disciplined family, a family that loves and obeys God, instead of rebelling against him. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; his name is a household name, revered and glorified. Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme, and where children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible and the Creator. Such families can claim the promise: I will honor those who honor me. "(The Adventist Home, 291)

Practical ideas:

When looking at how high it is our calling in Christ to have and keep our families healthy spiritually, I consider it necessary to share with you some practical ideas to help in this process.

1- Be an example to your family. The best way to bring Christ into your home is by having Him in your heart. The best way to teach your children and motivate your wife to love and obey God, is by allowing them to see that in your life. Nothing has more power for good or evil than personal testimony. Why do you think your wife and kids will get excited with the Bible, prayer, and being in the presence of God if they do not see you living that experience?

2- Treat your wife with tenderness, consideration and respect: It will not do you much good to have worship, read the Bible and pray, if relations with your wife are not healthy and free from all suspicion. If your wife thinks you're not an honest man, or good to her it will be virtually impossible to have a Christian home. Anything good in the home begins with a good marriage.

3- Recognize your children as your first and most important sheep to shepherd. Nothing you can do or say in church, however successful it may be, can cover the ball and the error of a pastor who neglects to give their children that to which they are entitled: a good example, faithful instruction and appropriate restriction in an atmosphere of love and respect. Ellen White wrote: "We cannot think that any man, however great his ability and usefulness, is best serving God or the world while his time is given to other pursuits, to the neglect of his own children.—The Signs of the Times, February 9, 1882. { PaM 88.1;

4- Make attractive religion. Never try to force his wife or children to be religious or spiritual, instead try to introduce religion in a way that appeals to them. When it comes to religion in his family, always keep a good mood to talk, practice courtesy and show sympathy for their loved ones. At the same time show that religion is very important that demands respect and obedience. Talk of the rewards that await God's children, the new earth, the divine promises and love and grace of Christ, all this will make religion attractive.

Resolutions for Families:



By **sharing** this with you, we moved by the desire to encourage you in the Lord to take better care the most important thing you have, **your family**. And of your family, the most transcendent, is **spirituality**. May God give you the wisdom to help you so you can reach the kingdom of heaven with your wife and the children God has given you. **So be it, amen!**

Prayer in the family circle.

“UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT...” PSALM 127:1



""UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY
LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT..."

PSALM 127:1



PRAY FOR GOD CONTINUE BUILDING OUR HOMES.

