

# BEACONLIGHT

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW  
5:14-16 *ESV*



| The official newsletter of Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church © 2013 | 140 St. Regis Crescent, Downsview, ON Canada M3J 1Y8 | www.mtzion.ca |

## | DISCIPLESHIP | The Five Focuses

### Focus on the Family and Fellowship

By SEREIVUDH LY

It has been several months now since we've implemented the new governance initiative --- The Five Fs (or Focuses). Let's continue to take a closer look at the importance of the Five Fs and how keeping them in mind will shape our ministry here at Mount Zion.

God commands me to love my neighbor as myself. The Bible says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31). I am designed to love and serve others because God wants me to be like Him. He loves me and He loves others. That's why God gives me a family, as well as a church family. Both are my laboratories for learning how to love God's people. It starts from loving my wife, then my children and out to my extended family.

Unfortunately, the problem is that I naturally cannot love others. Therefore, I have to experience the love of God in my life *first* before I can love others, especially those who are unlovable or make it difficult for me to love them. I have to learn to love God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength *first* before I can love my family members and others in the way God loves

me. This is the Focus that everyone needs to learn to prioritize in life --- FAMILY.

**...I have to experience the love of God in my life first before I can love others, especially those who are unlovable...**

Furthermore, God also commands me to be in fellowship with those whom He sent into my life. My family and I cannot live without others. The Bible says, "You shaped me first inside and then out, you formed me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). I discovered that I am very unique the way God created me. I am one in six billion people. God formed me to be in His family. God gave me different spiritual gifts, a unique heart/mind, and abilities that are set apart from others. God also allowed me to have a different personality and experiences in life. With all of these, I can do the work for God.

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# | EDITORIAL |

## Mixing + Mingling = Multi-Generational Living

By TIMOTHY CORPUS

**G**enerational living is a concept I am all too familiar with. I've lived in a home with three and four generations of extended family practically my whole life. Just imagine the sort of challenges we had to face simply being in that situation.

Today, I can look back and see just how God's blessings and grace are even more immense than the struggles we had to endure. While we live in an age and society that tells us that this "multi-generational living" is unhealthy, I believe that it offers many opportunities for intentional discipleship and healthy spiritual development.

Living generationally allows younger people to learn from the wisdom of their elders. Parents can effectively model to their own children what it means to "honour your parents" as they relate with their own aging parents. Elderly folk keep abreast of rapidly changing developments in society through their children's exposure to current times. Sharing meals together brings all generations to the same table and it is there we can share in the joy of godly fellowship. It is the home that ought to be our first church, where we learn about God and experience His grace.

Our local church family is one that ought to live generationally! It seems that we have gotten used to being separated by age or status: children's ministry, youth and young adults, singles, couples, seniors, etc. Our programs tend to keep us from actually engaging as generations.

We need to allow for more opportunities to mingle and learn from each other. We must lay aside our biases and step out of our comfort zones and see each other as family. That means that we will face many challenges but by God's strength we will exhibit love and grace toward one another. If we cannot be God's family with each other, how are we going to be that with the rest of God's family?



## Many generations of human beings united as one holy generation by God's Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ...

The Church is God's family. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we can come before God as his adopted children and call Him "Abba, Father". Through Jesus we are united as one holy generation extracting from all the ages of human history. The Body of Christ is actually the same generation, no matter what age they live in. Consider 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

In the book of Acts (2:17), the apostle Peter quotes the prophet Joel, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

As Christians, we need to deliberately mingle with other generations, yielding to the Holy Spirit as He works out the rough edges with us through this interaction. We ought to follow the example of the

first generation of believers as shown in Acts 2:42-47. We must make it a priority to meet regularly, break bread in our homes, eat together with glad and sincere hearts, praise God and enjoy the favour of all the people.

As the rest of the world experiences greater alienation with each other, we must reach out in compassion, demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit.



### FOR FURTHER STUDY

#### Verses to Consider for the Younger Generation

Ephesians 6:1-3  
Deuteronomy 32:7  
Hebrews 13:7

#### Verses to Consider for the Older Generation

Matthew 15:3  
Ephesians 6:4



**TIPS**  
for  
**BACK**  
- to -  
**SCHOOL**

**SLEEP**  
**TEXTING**

If it seems like teens are texting 'round the clock, well, some of them actually are. Did you know some teens text in their sleep?

"The phone will beep; they'll answer the text," Elizabeth Dowdell, a nursing professor at Villanova University, told CBS News. "They'll either respond in words or gibberish. [It] can even be inappropriate....The thing that happens, though, is that when they wake up, there's no memory."

The answer, Dowdell says, is a technology-free bedroom---or at least turning off the phone at night.



— Excerpted from *Thriving Family Magazine* August-September 2013

**REFLECTING ON SCRIPTURE**



Like most tweens, kids rarely leave the house in the morning without first spending a few minutes in front of the mirror. Use those brief but consistent moments to help them learn God's Word.

Using a dry-erase marker, write verses on the bathroom mirror to encourage or challenge your kids. They are spending time in the Word while they brush their teeth or comb their hair. After a week, wipe off a word here and there and leave the marker out for the kids to fill in the blanks. You'll be amazed at how a few minutes each day can help them learn Scripture!

Try it yourself. There's no better way to encourage young people than by modeling behaviour. Finding and making time in the morning for devotions can be challenging, especially if you're a parent. So, by creatively allowing scripture to be a regular part of your routine, you'll be immersing yourself in God's Word and ready to face any challenge the day brings!

— Adapted from *Focus on the Family*, Family Stages, Tween ages by Sarah Blakeley

**Combat Back-to-School Worries**

**When faced with concerns about school, you can foster a resilient attitude in your child by:**

**Maintaining a daily routine.** Children crave structure and feel safer with routine. Routine at home can also foster more positive and effective homework habits.

**Teaching your child self-care.** Kids don't inherently know how to add balance to their lives, so a parent modeling self-care is essential. Look for opportunities to

model balance in recreation, household responsibilities and personal pursuits.

**Nurturing a positive self-view.**

Sometimes it's hard to recall and focus on previous successes when we struggle with a sense of failure. Remind your child of previous times when she made good decisions, when she handled a difficult situation or person with grace, or when she mastered something difficult. Help her to learn how to laugh at herself.

— Vicki Caruana, Educator and Author

Excerpted from the article *Back-to-School Blues*

**Social skills for a new school year?**

Coach your child to be a peacemaker and a sought-after friend through games, Bible stories, music and more.

Find it all here:



Tools for growing Godly character  
[www.kidsofintegrity.com](http://www.kidsofintegrity.com)

## | DISCIPLESHIP | Family and Fellowship cont'd

The Bible says, "God made us what we are and in Christ Jesus God made us to do good works which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." (Eph 2:10). I can do the good works (ministry) for the Lord in fellowship with other believers. In addition, God gives me talents for the benefits of helping other people. God actually wired the universe in way so that we all would need each other. Nobody has it all together. I do

not have it all and you do not have it all. That is why we need each other.

In reality, God allows me to continue to live on this earth to practice to love and help others because when I get to heaven I am going to love God with all of me. I will not have an opportunity to learn there in heaven, but I can have opportunities to practice now. Where can I have an experience if it is not earth before heaven? The only one thing I am going to do in heaven is to serve God.

Consequently, I can serve God by serving others because on this earth it is impossible to



Image courtesy of seinhachurch.org

serve God directly. That's why at Mount Zion we're working on creating a strong fellowship among our church members. We call this Focus, "FELLOWSHIP". 

## | FAITH | Is Sabbath School Destroying our Kids?

Adapted from the article by Sam Williamson at ChurchLeaders.com

Could it be that we are watering down or even possibly destroying the beauty of the gospel message? Look at almost any church school curriculum. You'll likely find:

*Abraham was faithful, and God made him the father of a nation. So be faithful like Abraham.*

*Joseph was a good little boy (unlike his "bad" brothers), and God made him Prime Minister of Egypt. So be good like Joseph.*

*David had a pure heart (unlike his brothers), and God made him King of Israel. So have a pure heart like David.*

*Esther was an obedient girl. God made her Queen of Persia and she saved God's people. So be obedient like Esther.*

Finally, if we fail to be good, Jesus will forgive us (a "P.S." tacked onto the end).

What's so bad about these Sabbath School lessons? Nothing really. Except that they lie about God, they lie about these "heroes of the faith," they lie about the Bible,

and they lie about the gospel. Apart from that, they are pretty good. Oh, they also create "younger brother" rebels and "older brother" Pharisees. Is the gospel our central theme, or is it a "P.S." tacked onto the end?

The gospel storyline. What is it, really?

The message of the gospel—the entire storyline of Scripture—is God's loving pursuit of people who run from Him as fast as they can and who live lives unworthy of His love. That's why it's called grace.

But our Sabbath School lessons teach us to be good little boys and girls, and God will love us and use us. It's the total opposite of the gospel. It's possibly a counterfeit of the worse kind; the inside out of the gospel. After all, nothing good comes from us. The wonder of the gospel is not the love of the beautiful; it's when Beauty kisses the Beast. The Beast isn't loved because he has changed; the Beast is changed when he is loved. Joy doesn't come when he's loved for his beauty; joy overwhelms him when he is loved in his hideousness.

So why do we burden our children with the unbearable load of "being good little boys and girls like the heroes in the Bible"? We wouldn't load a pack mule with the burdens and expectations we place on our children.

There's gotta be a better way! Let's teach the wonder of the gospel. Let's show our kids

that God loves us ... simply because He loves us. In our beastliness. That He loves us before we are good. That His love isn't vague sentimentality, but it cost Him His most precious Treasure --- JESUS --- to turn us into His prized possession; that the storyline of the Bible is God's Search and Rescue mission to find the dying Beast and kiss him into joyous life. We must teach the truth of:

*How Abraham was an idol worshiper and God loved him and pursued him;*

*How Joseph was a narcissistic boy and God loved him and pursued him;*

*How David was a murdering adulterer and God loved him and pursued him;*

*How Esther had sex outside of marriage with a nonbeliever and God loved her and pursued her.*

Our heroes weren't loved because they were good; they were good because they were loved. We may believe in the innocence of youth, but our children know better. They see the children in the schoolyard (and they see us at home!). They don't need the counterfeit gospel of pack-mule-moralism; they need the kiss of Divine Beauty. And so do we.

Besides, isn't that what the Bible in fact teaches? So, let's ask ourselves...WHAT are WE teaching? 



Images courtesy of dwellingintheword.wordpress.com



# SNAPSHOTS OF SUMMER



- 1) KITCHENER-WATERLOO COMPANY OFFICIALLY ORGANIZED, JULY 13, 2013
- 2) ONTARIO CONFERENCE ADVENTURER FUN DAY AT STORYBOOK GARDENS, JULY 28, 2013
- 3) VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - KINGDOM ROCK, JULY 21-27, 2013
- 4) MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY FORMED KITCHENER WATERLOO COMPANY
- 5) PATHFINDER FAIR AT PETTICOAT CREEK CONSERVATION AREA
- 6) ADVENTURER FAMILY SUMMER GETAWAY AT CAMP FRENDIA, JULY 7-11, 2013

Images courtesy of facebook.com/groups/mountziontsda

# | Q & A | BIBLE STUDY

## Fools and Their Folly

Taken from the article by Angel Manuel Rodríguez in *Adventist World*, June 2013

**Q:** The book of Proverbs often mentions “the fool.” Who is this person?

**A:** The writers of the Bible’s wisdom literature knew that not everybody is interested in acquiring wisdom. The sages believed that such an attitude damaged the quality of life. Therefore they invited all to search for wisdom. Those who didn’t seek wisdom were regarded as fools. Folly was basically a rejection of fullness of life. Two main Hebrew words are used in Proverbs to refer to fools: *kesil* (“insolent, fool”) and *'ewil* (“foolish, fool”). Let’s examine them both.

**1. The *kesil* Type of Fool:** These fools are indifferent to and uninterested in wisdom and knowledge (Prov. 1:22; 17:16). They despise words of insight (23:9) and have no real objective in life (17:24). They make no plans for the future, and consume everything they have (21:20). The basic problem is that they lack understanding and have not developed the ability to analyze and evaluate (8:5).

Their way of life is characterized by wickedness (10:23), and they are not interested in the results of their actions and words. Fools bring grief and suffering to their parents by disregarding their instruction (verse 1; 15:20). This type of fool lacks self-control (14:16, 29:11) and, consequently, is a threat to others (17:12). They live in a destructive self-complacency (1:32).

The fools of the *kesil* type cannot control their mouths. It gets them into trouble (18:7), because it is perverse (19:1), lacks knowledge (14:7), and brings them strife and beatings (18:6). Since they lack wisdom, the only thing they can share with others is their own meaningless opinion (verse 2; 12:23; 15:7). The wise should ignore the statements of the fool (26:4), although, in some cases, it is wise to answer them, lest the fools think they are wise (verse 5).

What fools need is a rod for their backs, i.e., self-discipline (verse 3). They are not, however, necessarily beyond hope. At times, the Lord puts the fool to shame (3:35), and wisdom makes herself known to them (14:33; 8:5). They can change their behavior through strong discipline (17:10). There is hope for them because they are not necessarily wise in their own eyes (26:12), and do not necessarily speak in haste (29:20).

**2. The *'ewil* Type of Fool:** This second Hebrew word is fundamentally a synonym of *kesil*, and designates those who lack understanding and wisdom. They reject wisdom as a way

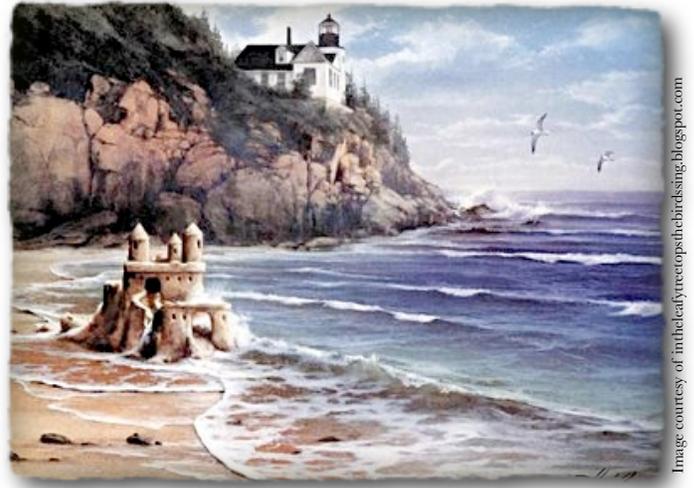


Image courtesy of [intheleafytree.blogspot.com](http://intheleafytree.blogspot.com)

of life (1:7). In fact, wisdom is beyond their comprehension—it is too high for them (24:7). Part of the problem is that they rejected the instruction and discipline of their parents (15:5). The *'ewil* types do not know how to relate to others. They lack self-control and are easily provoked (12:16; 29:9). They are, therefore, quick to provoke others (27:3; 20:3). Their foolishness is expressed not only by their actions, but also by their lips, which are full of folly (10:8). When the assembly meets at the gate to deliberate, fools have nothing to say because they lack wisdom (24:7). It’s better that they keep quiet, because “even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues” (17:28).

This type of fool (*'ewil*) has gone beyond the common fool (*kesil*). They seem to have reached the point of no return because they have no interest in the fear of the Lord (1:7; Ps. 14:1). Yet they believe that their way of life is right (Prov. 12:15). They even mock the idea of guilt, thus indicating the absence of remorse (14:9). It is impossible to remove folly from them (27:22). Wisdom has nothing to offer them because they rejected her. The fool *'ewil* will die for lack of understanding.

**3. Lessons to Learn:** Fools damage the quality of their lives and that of others. By contrast, self-control and the proper use of our words create a harmonious environment that enriches the well-being of those around us. The wisdom and power we need have been modeled in the person of our Savior. By looking at Him, we can also acquire wisdom, the wisdom that will make our lives a source of joy for all. 💡

*Angel Manuel Rodríguez served many years as director of the Biblical Research Institute. He is now retired, living in Texas.*



BASH WEEK



Canada's Wonderland & All Stars



Game & Clean up Day at Mount Zion



G. Ross Lord Park



Woodbine Beach



BBQ & Vespers at the Aguinaldos

Images courtesy of Lauren Rabena and facebook.com/groups/mzfc.youth

# | FAMILY | Youth & Young Adult Ministry

## TEEN TALKS EVERY WEDNESDAY

by RJ Becbec

Our teenagers have been meeting every Wednesday for the past few months. We have had discussions on issues within the church where they needed more information. The youth are at a point in their lives where they are wanting to know not only how the world works, but why it is the way it is. They have a thirst for knowledge and have been sharing what they know with each other. By the grace of God they have been growing closer not only to each other, but also to God.

## YOUNG ADULTS MEET FRIDAYS

by Lauren Rabena

For the past year our young adults have implemented weekly meetings that run simultaneously with youth vespers on Friday evenings. Although it's been tough for some of our young professionals and collegiate members to attend these meetings regularly due to other commitments and responsibilities, it is the hope of the Young Adult Ministry to further define and clarify its mandate as it seeks to engage more of its members to become involved.

One exciting aspect of these meetings is that they are held at the homes of our own members. We've had the privilege of being hosted with the warm hospitality of the Solijon, Lospe, Gamez, and Salamanca families, respectively. Those that attend

have greatly enjoyed the energy and interest of the various topics that are discussed during these meetings. For example, the Young Adults follow the Adult Quarterly Sabbath School Lessons and become deeply immersed by the practical and spiritual applications from the teachings of Christ in our everyday lives.

The heart and ardent spirit that is experienced during our gatherings has revealed a desire for more frequent and consistent meetings in the near future.

## BASH WEEK 2013

by AC Aguinaldo

The MZFC Youth and Young Adults were blessed to have a successful bash week from July 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. Collectively, we overcame our fear of heights at Canada's Wonderland, accumulated perspiration on our eyebrows during church clean-up day, and developed golden brown skin at the park and on beach day. All in all we had tremendous fun as we fellowshiped and spent time with each other, not only in fitness activities, but through prayer and devotionals.

All glory goes to our God, and we praise Him mightily for the zeal in our young people! Renewed and refreshed, our minds and bodies are prepared to face a new school year with eagerness to live for and serve the Lord.



To learn more about our activities, find us on FaceBook: [facebook.com/groups/mzfc.youth/](https://facebook.com/groups/mzfc.youth/)

Please tear along this line

## | COMMUNICATE |

Do you have a comment or suggestion for the Editors of Beacon Light?  
Is there a question or concern you want the Church Leaders to answer?  
Have a special message or sentiment you want to share with our members?

### WE WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS.

Please take the time to fill out the other side of this form and drop it in the comment box located in the lobby or simply email us at [EDITOR.BEACONLIGHT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EDITOR.BEACONLIGHT@GMAIL.COM). If you wish to remain anonymous, please DO NOT leave your name. THANK YOU!



Image courtesy of mashable.com



# | NEW&NOTEWORTHY |

*A Message...*  
from the  
Church Clerk

- Have you recently changed addresses, telephone numbers or email addresses? It is important that we have your most current details on file so we can provide you with the information you require in a timely manner.
- Would you like to subscribe to Canadian Adventist Messenger, a FREE, monthly magazine published for members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada?
- Would you like to become a member of Mount Zion in the near future?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please feel free to approach any member of the Church Clerk Team for more information and we would be more than happy to help you with your needs.

*Mae Camato, Church Clerk  
Rowena Velasquez, Assoc. Church Clerk  
Velma Cuizon, Assoc. Church Clerk*



## the MARRIAGE CONNECTION

**Date:**  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2013  
**Location:**  
GLOBAL KINGDOM  
MINISTRIES

The Marriage Connection is an interactive seminar designed to spark conversations between married couples and help them dig deeper into their relationship. Full of hands-on exercises that create opportunities for discussion and reflection with your spouse, the Marriage Connection is a fun way to help you develop the vibrant, strong marriage you've always wanted.

BIBLICAL TEACHING | INTERACTIVE SESSIONS | NON-THREATENING ATMOSPHERE  
WORK WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH | FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES | CONNECT WITH PASTORS



MORE INFORMATION OR BUY TICKETS AT  
[focusonthefamily.ca/marriageconnection](http://focusonthefamily.ca/marriageconnection)



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