

NEWSLETTER

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Adventist
Family Ministries



'The Lord is my shepherd!' Psalm 23:1a



EVERY BLESSING FOR 2023!

We have had three years of pandemic, almost one year of Russian/Ukrainian conflict, plus concerns over global warming, rocketing fuel and cost of living prices, and financial recessions. But God is bigger than all of these, and He holds each of us in the palm of His hand, aware of all that is troubling us, and all that is bringing us hope and joy as well.

Journeying through the years

Although it's very familiar to each one of us, the 23rd Psalm is a message of hope. God is the best shepherd ever! He is constantly watching over us, providing for our physical, spiritual, and emotional needs as a very loving Father.

He is close to us, protecting us, comforting us, leading us, and supporting us, whenever we are going through dark, lonely, and troublesome places. And He will bring us through the tough times and celebrate with us all at a wonderful feast that He will spread before us. Surely His goodness and mercy will be with us always.

Whatever we have experienced in 2022 and wherever the path takes us through 2023, we know that He is constantly at work, making everything beautiful in its time, Ecc. 3:11.

One of the great joys of growing older is that I can see more clearly how God has made many of the messy parts of my own life more beautiful over the years, in ways that I could never have imagined.

It is my prayer this year that we will 'see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly, day by day' (adapted from Richard of Chichester).



Hotel Splendid, Budva, Montenegro



He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

TED Combined Advisories 6-10 March 2023

The most urgent and important news for you is that we will have a combined advisory in Montenegro in March. This will take place in the beautiful Hotel Splendid which is right on the Adriatic Coast, and has a wonderful restaurant, spa and swimming pool complex.

The Family Ministry and Children's Ministry advisories will take place at the same time, and we have yet to work out the detailed timetable.



Family Ministry and Children's Ministry Advisories

This year's advisories will be joined for Family Ministry and Children's Ministries as follows:

- Tuesday, 7 March 14:00 - 17:00
- Wednesday, 08:30 - 17:30

There will be evening worship from 18.15-19.15, which will be for all the participants present, not only Family and Children's Ministries departments.

On Wednesday afternoon, the GC FM leaders, Dr Willie and Elaine Oliver, will meet with all the FM leaders, and the ChM leaders will have a separate meeting with Karen Holford to explore the new Sabbath School lessons for the children that will start in 2025.

If you cover both departments, you would need to choose the track that will be most useful to you, but please note, that a similar training in the new Sabbath School lesson will be offered at another time.

Please prepare a brief summary of your department's greatest joy/achievement in the past 3 years, your greatest challenge, and your greatest hope/need for the future.

Important!

- Please note that you will receive a more detailed letter about the advisories.
- You only need to attend the combined advisory for the days of your advisories.
- Please arrange to arrive in time for your first session, arriving the previous day if necessary, and leaving at the most suitable time for return travel after your advisory finishes. Thank you!
- Dress is smart casual.
- We are looking forward to seeing you there!

FM Webinars



'Generation Z' by Jonathan Tejel

Monday, 6 February 2023

We continue to hold regular FM webinars. They are usually on the first Monday evening of each month, except when they fall on public holidays. We take a break in July and August.

These webinars are designed to give you extra knowledge and skills to use in your own ministry, and to enrich the lives of those who want to know more about a topic.

Upcoming webinar posters can be found on the [TED website](#) and on the TED FM Facebook page.

The webinars are open to anyone who is interested in the topic, so please share the details and posters with your leaders and families.

We are not able to send out the information individually, except to you as leaders. It's up to individuals who are interested to check the TED website for the next webinars.

Most webinars are recorded and uploaded to our [website](#) within a week.

Upcoming FM webinars

- February, 6th – Jonathan Tejel
'Generation Z'
- March, 6th – Marius Munteanu
- April, 3rd – Julia Wanitschek
- May, 2nd – Karsten Stank
- June, 5th – Karen Holford –
'Managing Anger'

Webinars' archive

- [A Fresh look at Forgiveness](#)
- [Balancing Your Emotions in an Unbalanced World](#)
- [Spiritual Abuse – Love Shouldn't Hurt](#)
- [Prepare for ...landing!](#)
- [Nurturing Character](#)
- [The Crucial Role of Fathers](#)
- [Help With the Final Chapter](#)
- [Biblical View of Human Sexuality](#)
- [Inspired Families](#)

You can find more webinars on the [TED website](#).

If you would like to be added to the TED FM page, please email Karen on kholford@ted.adventist.org

Special days 2023

- **February 11-18:** Christian Home and Marriage Week
- **May 13:** Reach the World: In the Community
- **September 3-9:** Family Togetherness Week of Prayer
- **October 14:** Pastor Appreciation Day
- **October 28:** Creation Sabbath – For more information, please view the [Creation Sabbath website](#).
- **November 4-11:** Week of Prayer

You can find more information about the special days on the General Conference Family Ministries website.



Photo by Kindel media/Pexels

Family Ministry Leadership Training

THIS YEAR'S TOPICS:

- **Spiritual Parenting (Karen Holford)**
- **Family Ethics (Friedensau Staff)**
- **Human Sexuality (TED Sexuality Think-Tank)**
- **Intergenerational Worship (Karen Holford)**

For online booking [click here](#) or contact Deana Stojković on dstojkovic@ted.adventist.org

This year our annual Family Ministry Leadership Training (FMLT) will take place in Germany at the Friedensau Adventist University, close to Berlin. This event is open to family ministry leaders at Union and Conference level, and members of their teams.

We have a certain number of places each year that we can sponsor, where the local field would struggle to pay for the accommodation. Travel costs are met by your local field. Although we try to be as family-friendly as possible, it is not always easy to accommodate young children. Some families have brought a relative to the event to care for any young children, and they cover the expenses of their relative.

The Family Ministry Leadership Training is fun, interactive, and practical. You will also have access to ready-made seminars that you can translate, adapt, and use straight way. We are in the process of making videos of all the training seminars for FMLT so that we can offer online learning, but we would like all participants to attend at least one FMLT event in person, because of the importance of growing a network with other Family Ministry leaders.

'Let's Talk About Sex' Conference

During the FMLT training we will host a weekend conference talking about sexuality. The catalyst for this event started during the Youth Congress in Lahti last summer. During a couple of seminars related to sexuality, it became apparent how much pain and confusion young people are experiencing related to different aspects of their sexuality. We want to find ways to help them with this important area of their lives that affects their physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health. We plan to do this by creating useful resources and providing training for their leaders

A sexuality think-tank, a group of experienced Adventist professionals, was set up to consider the issues and address them. This is work in progress, but we invite pastors, youth leaders, youth mentors and family ministry leaders to join us as we explore the challenges that young people are facing today. Please contact Deana at dstojkovic@ted.adventist.org for prices and booking information.

'Let's Talk about Sex' Conference

Friedensau Adventist
University

14-16 April 2023

'Flourish!' and ADRA

During the past year, I became involved in a large project to support the psycho-social wellbeing of ADRA volunteers working with refugees from the war in Ukraine.

We used the resources created for 'Flourish!' (see <https://ted.adventist.org/family/flourish>), alongside weekly 1-hour training sessions, to inform, equip and support the ADRA volunteers across Europe.

Once the videos have been edited and uploaded to ADRA's website, we will share the links with you on our website.

'**Flourish!**' was also shared with the world church and it has been translated into several languages to help families, women, and children around the world.

Please check out the resources and try them out for yourself, to help you find emotional balance in an unbalanced world.

Flourish! - Practical ideas to help families, children and adults care for their emotional wellbeing and mental health.



Introducing Deana Stojković

I am delighted that after several wonderful years of working with Heidi Kamal Kendel, I am now working with Deana. She was my assistant several years ago and I was so happy when she was assigned to me again after her maternity leave. She brings many skills to the departments that I don't have, especially in the important areas of communication, administration, IT, and video editing.

Her email is dstojkovic@ted.adventist.org.

Gratitude

Thank you all for that you are doing to support families in your fields. Thank you also for your incredible patience with me as I merged three departments over the last year. Deana and I are both delighted to serve you, and to hear how we can help you.

May God richly bless you and your families, and the fields where you serve.

Kindest regards,

Karen Holford and Deana Stojković



May the Lord **ble**ss you
and **pro**tect you.

May the Lord **sm**ile on you
and be **gr**acious to you.

May the Lord **sh**ow you his
favou

and **g**ive you his peace.

Numbers 6:24-26



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