

October 2017



FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Family Ministry's Newsletter

Dear Family Ministries Leaders,

I hope that you have been having a good year. I know that most of you have other responsibilities besides family ministry, and I am always amazed at how much you accomplish. Whatever you do for families is appreciated, and you do make a difference.

Summer events

I have had a very busy summer. But it has been so good to meet with many of you and serve in your countries. Since June I have been training pastors in Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Poland and Cyprus. We had some fun and exciting family camps in Sweden, Estonia, Eire and Denmark. I also did family outreach and training in Pyrgos and Athens in Greece. Bernie came with me and we did a weekend of relationship training for young adults in Norway, which also involved climbing 5km up a mountain, and back down again! But the view was worth all our aching muscles! We also went together to Cyprus where we did some outreach to families in Nicosia and Limassol. And it was amazing and exciting to be

at the youth congress in Valencia. We are also looking forward to doing some seminars at a day for couples in the Netherlands in December.



Sweden—Family camp



Denmark—Family camp



Hungary—CFLE/FMLT



Latvia—Family Ministry training



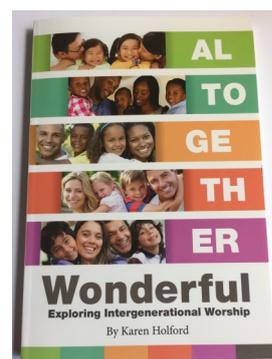
Norway—Relationship Building Training for Young Adults

Altogether wonderful

This year I have also led several seminars on intergenerational worship, and demonstrated examples of intergenerational worship services. These were in England, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, Sweden, Eire, and Denmark.

It is exciting to see that the book I wrote on the topic

several years ago has finally been published! I was also told that it was given to everyone who attended Annual Council at the General Conference this month. We will be sending every FM director in the TED a copy as an early Christmas/thank you gift.



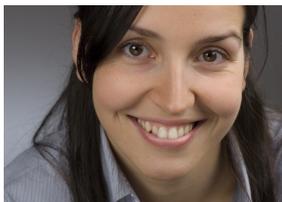
Farewell, Esti!

My personal assistant, Esti Pujić, retired at the end of August. We are planning to host a special celebration for her when she is in the UK. If you would like to send me a message of appreciation that I can pass on to her, please email it to me or Deana. Esti has a vast experience of administration and media skills, and a passion for families. She has been a great support in the department and always served with a smile and a warm heart. She will be missed.



Introducing Deana Stojković

Deana is now working for the Family Ministries department. She also brings many gifts in the area of administration and media. We are thrilled that she is expecting her second child early next year! So, she won't be with me for long, but she is also very much appreciated and a huge asset to the department. Her email is dstojkovic@ted.adventist.org.



FMLT

It is very exciting that We have now joined with the EUD to coordinate the Family Ministries leadership training so that we can share the administration, budget, and teachers. We hope that this will be a blessing to all who attend the training.

The next Family Ministries Leadership Training programme is in Friedensau from 16-21 Feb 2018. The topics are Interpersonal Communication; Strengthening Marriages,

which will be taught by staff from Friedensau, Dr. Gabor Mihalec, and Karen Holford; and Biblical Foundations for Family Ministry, which will be taught by Dr Daniel Duda. The Sabbath topic will focus on nurturing family spirituality. There are also plans to take a trip to nearby Wittenberg.



Market Square, Wittenberg



Friedensau Adventist University

We have nearly completed preparing a prospectus which details the structure of the course, the topics, current books, and homework assignments. We will be putting this on our [website](http://www.ted.adventist.org), so please look for this after mid-November. Or contact Deana on dstojkovic@ted.adventist.org.

FMLT sponsorship

We have a few bursaries for trainees from financially-challenged areas within the TED. Please let us know if you would like to be considered for one of these. The bursaries cover the cost of the accommodation at Friedensau. Fields are responsible for travel expenses. The TED/EUD will cover the costs of the teaching staff, outing, books and other expenses.

FMLT Graduates!

This year we had an excellent FMLT course in Budapest! We had a wonderful celebration together!

- Iben Bidstrup – Denmark
- Pastor Lisbeth Nielsen – Denmark
- Pastor Michael Bidstrup – Denmark

- Marija Trajkovska – Serbia
- Karolina Poland – Sweden
- Andrea Rashford-Hewitt – UK
- Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt – UK
- Pastor Paul Liburd – UK

Congratulations to all of the graduates! We hope and pray that they will continue to develop their skills and passion in Family Ministry.



2019—100th Anniversary of Adventist Family Ministries



As many of you know, 2019 is the 100th anniversary of Seventy-day Family Ministries. The TED wants to create a special project that can bless as many families as possible. We do have a few ideas, ranging from a series of very

short video spots on relational topics, a fun kit for church members and families encouraging them to find all kinds of ways to be kind to each other and the people they meet every day, and printable placemats that encourage family worship around a meal table.

Soon we will gather all the ideas and form a small committee to discuss them, possibly by Skype, so that we can create the project in time for the 2019 launch.

You might also like to consider how you will mark this event in your field, if you wish to. Or you can just translate and promote whatever we choose to develop as a Division.

For more information or to download Centennial Brand Manual, as well as Centennial Logo Kit, please visit [Adventist Families Ministries website](#).

News you can use...

www.Toucantoegether.com

This is a web based app (not totally carried on your phone) but it works with your phone and devices once you have signed up. One partner signs up and then invites the other. A free mini marriage retreat in the palm of your hands. This has been developed at great cost by some friends of ours, but they are making it free as a ministry. You can probably even show some of the videos of couples talking about their relationship through your own laptop and projector as part of a workshop.

<https://parentingforfaith.org>

This is an interchurch website to help parents nurture their children's faith. I have not explored everything, but it may have some encouraging and practical ideas that you can adapt for your context.

www.handsonscotland.co.uk

I have mentioned this website before, because I worked with the team who created it. This website is an excellent resource for parenting topics, help for families struggling with children's troubling behaviours, and anyone who wants to help children flourish. I often send families there for information, which has been well-researched and compiled by some of Scotland's top psychologists. There are two sections of this website – Helping children with their troubling behaviours, such as aggression, anxiety, bed-wetting, bullying, eating disorders and self-harm. The other section is about helping children to flourish. Some of the best sections there are on emotional balance, character development, and optimism. I wrote the family/class activities at the end of many of these sections, and you can use these at family camps, pathfinders, and other times when you are planning family-based activities.

Do you have a great idea, but no funds?



The TED has special funding for mission projects and for creative evangelism. Currently there are very few family ministry projects that are requesting this funding. If you know of a special

outreach project in your field, that is designed to reach families, and that needs a funding boost, or money for materials, or even translation costs, etc., please let me know.

It is very easy to apply for TED mission project funding, and we consider all the projects as a whole team when we allocate the budget. Please do consider applying for funding for family ministry projects because it is there to help and support you and your teams.

Also, I am being asked why no-one has taken up the funding for family ministry

projects – and then I realised that I have not shared this information with you. I apologise for my omission, and I encourage you to dream and ask.

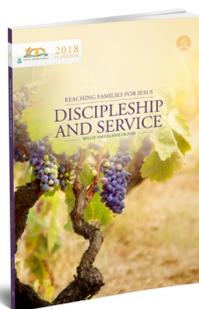
Dates for 2018

Please note that my calendar for next year is nearly full! I only have a few travel dates left. If you would like me to come to your field for training, outreach, or family-focused events, please let me know as soon as possible.

At the moment, if you need me for a weekend, I can offer June 22-24, most of July, the first two weeks of December (Nov 30- Dec 2 and Dec 7-9).

If you want a longer event, or a mid-week event, please get in touch and I will see what we can do.

GC Family Ministries Planbook



The annual GC Family Ministries Planbook is ready to download from the GC and TED Family Ministry website pages. You can download it in English, or in a format that you can translate.

family.adventist.org/unionresources

How can I help?

I am not just here to lead, I am here to serve you. If I can help you with anything at all, please ask. I am happy to share PowerPoints, resources, and ideas. If you are on Facebook, please ask to join the group TED Family Ministries Leaders. This is a place where we can share ideas, prayer concerns and new resources.

Let us know!

Please let us know of any examples of creative and excellent Family Ministry projects, events and initiatives in your field. Write a few lines and send a photograph so that we can include them on our website and newsletters, or create news items for tedNEWS. It's very important for us to raise the profile of Family Ministry activities.

Gratitude

Thank you again for everything you are doing. It may be hard work, and it may be frustrating at times, but whenever we help someone to improve their family life, we are helping a whole family to experience more of God's love.

With kindest regards,

Karen Holford

Official GC Family Ministries dates for 2018

- **Christian Home and Marriage Week**
10 February
- **Christian Marriage Day**
Sabbath, 10 February (Emphasises Marriage)
- **Christian Home Day**
Sabbath, 17 February (Emphasises Parenting)
- **Family Togetherness Week**
2-8 September
- **Family Togetherness Day**
Sabbath, 8 September (Emphasises the Church Family)

Congratulations, Marija!

This year we are particularly thrilled that the GC Planbook resources include an excellent seminar by our own Marija Trajkovska! It is even more special because the seminar was developed as an assignment for her CFLE/FMLT certification. She chose to create a seminar to help families adjust to the 'empty nest' when the children leave home to study, work, or create a new family. This is a seminar you can use in your own context, as this natural family transition can be a challenging time of adjustment and mixed emotions.

