

FMLT 2021
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Family Evangelism

- part one -



Biblical foundations

1 God is community

2 Elijah message of end-time

3 3 angels message

4 Salvation = restoration

1. God is community

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them male and female he created them.” Gen 1:26-27 NIV



2. Elijah message of end-time

“I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents.” Mal 4:5-6 NIV



3. 3 angels message

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Rev 14:7

“Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'” Mt 19:4-6 NIV



4. Salvation = restoration

Restored names: Solomon and Shulammite
(SLM)

Restored equality of sexes: “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.” 7:11

Restored marriage covenant: “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.” 6:3



“Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home...there is no missionary field more important than this” (The Adventist Home, p. 35).

Ellen G. White on family evangelism

“A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay. All can see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world.’” (The Adventist Home, p. 36)

Ellen G. White on family evangelism

What is family evangelism?

A different view of evangelism, that focuses on the whole relational system instead of one individual. It is not a program, it is the way how you see church, family, evangelism.



Can you give me Bible lessons and baptize me?

**This is a powerful book.
It can stand between the two of you.**



The OIKOS-factor

“Jesus said to him [Zacchaeus], “Today salvation has come to this house.”
Lk 19:9

After Jesus heals the official’s son: “He and his whole household believed.”
Jn 4:53

“Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. [...] So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” Acts 10:24,48

“Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him [the jailer] and to all the others in his house. [...] he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.” Acts 16:32,34

Family evangelism
in practice



Jesus



Andrew



Peter



Peter's mother in law



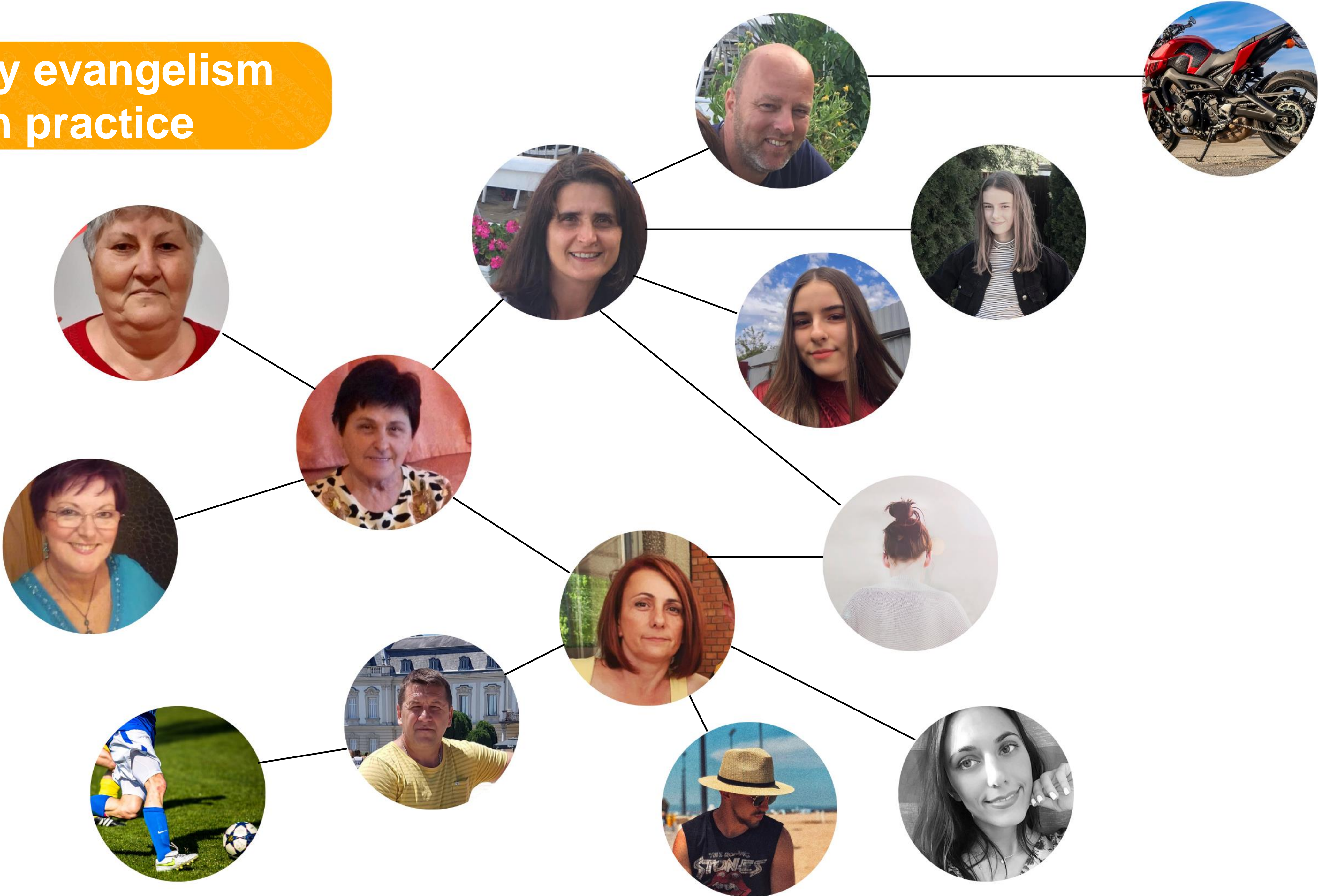
Peter's wife

**Family evangelism
is inclusive**

**“Go, call your husband and
come back.” Jn 4:16 NIV**



Family evangelism in practice



All this can happen by accident/miracle
or....

You can plan and act intentionally from the first
step on. Your view of evangelism makes the
difference.

How it works

Benefits of OIKOS

According to Christian Schwarz

1. Oikos relationships build a natural network to share the gospel. We would like to do something good to those we love.
2. Members of the Oikos are more open to the gospel. It makes a huge difference, if the gospel is presented by a stranger or somebody we trust.
3. Oikos relationships give space to see the gospel in practice. They live together and see the effects of becoming a disciple.

Benefits of OIKOS

4. Oikos relationships provide natural support to new believers. New believers have at least one church member who cares about them.
5. A whole family (Oikos) is easier to integrate into the congregation as an individual, because they attach on more levels to the church.
6. If we think in the Oikos model, we have bigger chances to win whole families for Christ.
7. There is a constantly growing circle of new people whom we can create contact with through the Oikos relationships.

Family evangelism in practice

1

Families serve together

2

Ministering to whole families

3

Evangelism with family
life topics

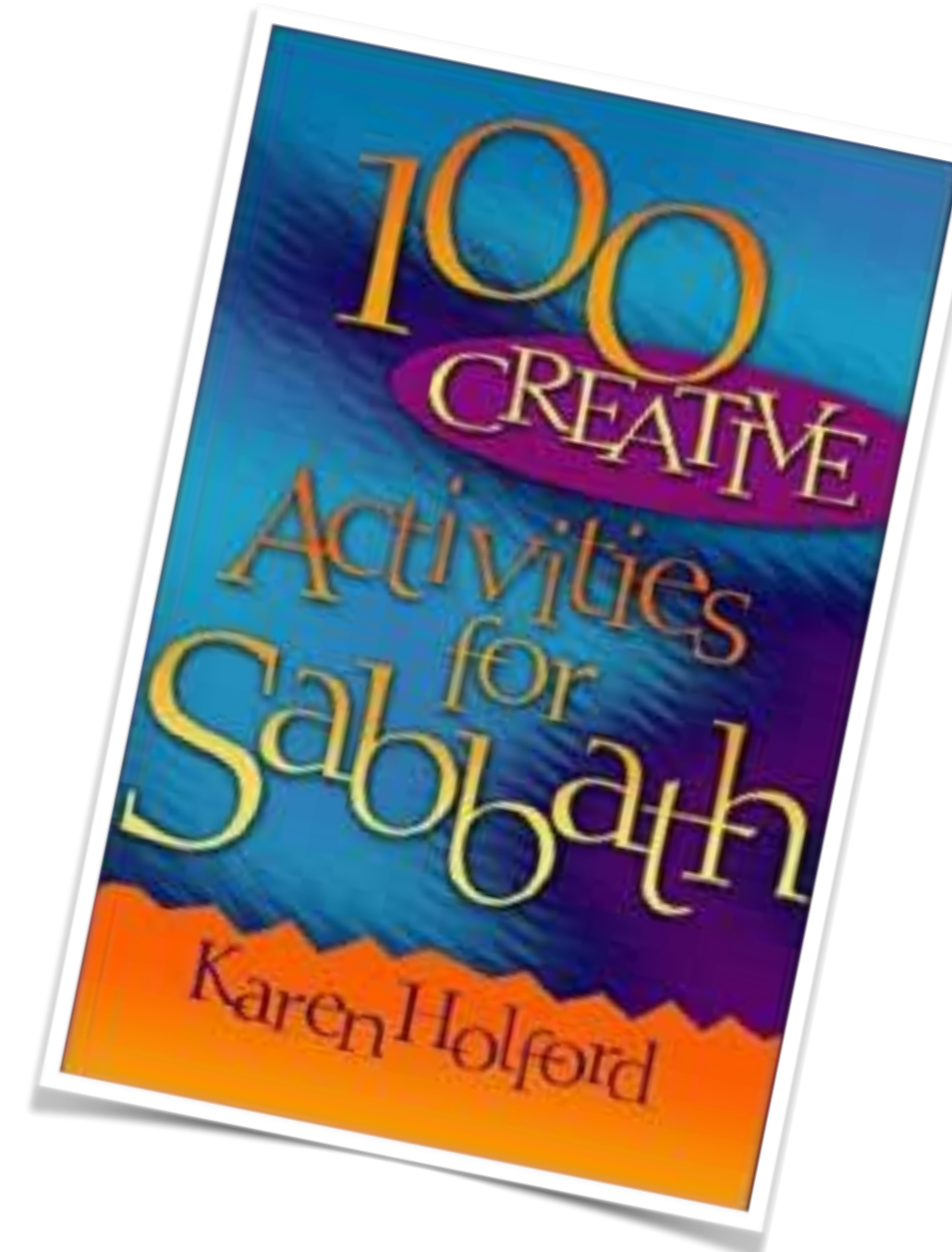
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Combination of the 3

Families serve together

Prayer walk
Shoe box packages
Hospitality
Visiting old people
Shopping for somebody

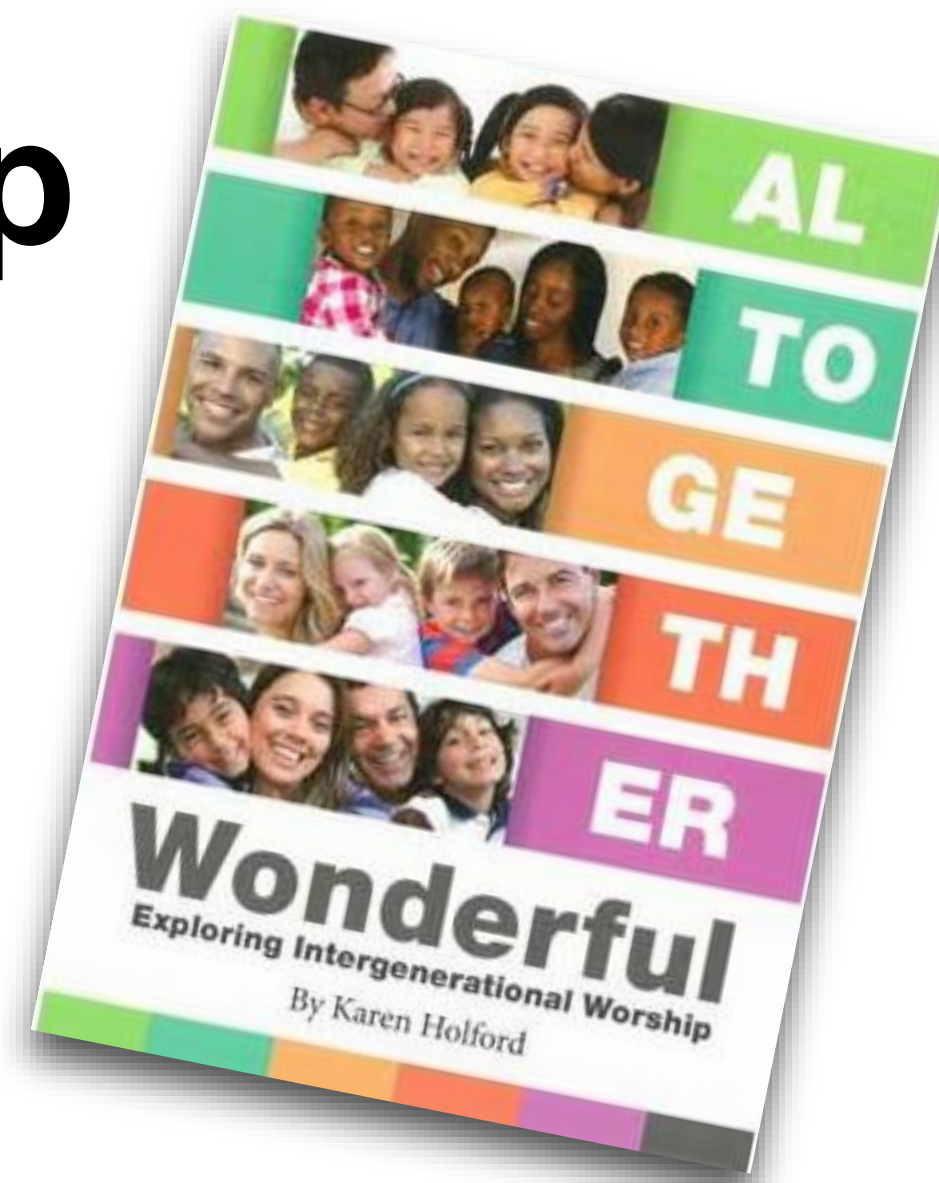
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Ministering to whole families

Messy Church
Intergenerational worship
Donation programs

...



**Evangelism with family
life topics**

**Marriage enrichment
Premarital counseling
Parenting classes**

Family conflict management training



**Evangelism with family
life topics**

Connect
Intimacy training
Marriage 2.0
Parenting academy
Secrets of incredible sex
Stormproof love



Combination of the 3

Comes in part 2 ;-)



Individual Family evangelism

Breakout rooms:

What are the differences
between the two approaches?

Individual

VS.

Family evangelism

- Targets individuals
- Sermon focused
- Creates disharmony in the family
- Creates listeners
- Deals with dogmatic issues
- Reacts to unfelt needs
- Reaches unstable individuals
- Monologue
- Campaigne

- Targets whole families
- Fellowship focused
- Creates harmony in the family
- Creates active disciples
- Deals with real life issues
- Reacts to on felt needs
- Reaches influential family members
- Dialogue
- Lifestyle

Useful resources

Karen Holford: Altogether Wonderful

Ron & Karen Flowers: Family Evangelism (FM Planbook 2004)

(<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.471.5847&rep=rep1&type=pdf>)

Willie & Elaine Oliver: Mission to the Families in the Cities (Family and Church guide

(<https://family.adventist.org/mission-to-the-families-in-the-cities-family-to-family/>)


Ron & Karen Flowers: 101 Ideas for Family Evangelism

(<https://adventist.uk/fileadmin/shared-data/resources/family-ministries/101-Ideas-for-Family-Evangelism.pdf>)

G. O. Martinborough: Five benefits of integrated family-life evangelism (Ministry, April 2001)

(<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2001/04/five-benefits-of-integrated-family-life-evangelism.html>)

Thank you



Have a great
day ahead.