

NEWSLETTER



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'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 His children in the palm of His hand, aware of all that is troubling us, and all that is bringing us hope and joy.

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!

Alive in Jesus!



We are excited that the world church is designing some beautiful new lessons for children, based on the current research about nurturing children's spiritual development.

We will be sharing more about this at the Advisory and bringing some sample resources to show you. Several churches in the TED are piloting the lessons to give practical feedback to the developers of the lessons, and we hope that some of the people piloting the lessons will be able to share their experiences with us at the Advisory.

If you would like to know more about these exciting lessons, that will be launched in 2025, then please visit the introductory [website](https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/aliveinjesus), where you can download an introductory brochure and sample lessons.

www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/aliveinjesus

Upcoming Webinars

- **1 Feb** - Everyday spirituality – infusing family life with faith
- **1 Mar** - Nurturing the faith of babies and toddlers
- **5 Apr** - Creative ways to pray with children (IGW) – please bring paper and pens
- **3 May** - Loving limits – caring discipline
- **7 June** - Involving children in church worship services (IGW)

Children's Ministry Webinars

For the past 2-3 years the Inter-European Division (EUD) and the TED have been working together to host monthly online webinars for family ministry leaders and other people who are interested in the topics.

The webinars are usually recorded and placed on our TED Family Ministries webpages so that they can be watched later.

We would now like to start doing regular Children's Ministries webinars.

I have recorded a few webinars that are suitable for Children's Ministries team. You can find them here by clicking on the titles:

- [Nurturing characters for eternity](#)
- [Helping children balance emotions](#)
- [Inspired Families](#)

First Wednesday in each month

18:00 London = 19:00 Budapest/Belgrade = 20:00 Helsinki/Riga/Cyprus

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83819901376?pwd=aS8rakV4ZllvWGU0cExBeEcwOEh5QT09>

Special days 2023

- **18 March:** Global Children's Day
- **27 May:** [World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk](#)
- **22 July:** [Children's Sabbath](#)
- **26 August:** [End it Now](#)
- **28 October:** [Creation Sabbath](#)
- **11 November:** World Orphans-Vulnerable Children Day

You can find more information about the special days on the [General Conference Children's Ministries website](#).



"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures. Genesis 9:16. Find a fun way to help each other learn this Bible verse. A covenant is a special promise.

Rainbow

Take it turns to some of the things that are red, then things that are orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and indigo. Spot some things around the room that have those different colours and thank Him for those things. Or make a collection of tiny objects that are the different colours of the rainbow.

Family Worship Placemats

NOAH'S ARK

Edible rainbow

Look for some colourful fruits and vegetables in your home. Use them to create an edible rainbow that you can eat together.

Imagine!

Can you imagine what it was like to live in the ark and to care for all the animals every day? How would you and your family look after all the creatures in a floating zoo? What do you think would be the worst thing about living and

ANIMAL Search

Look for all the toy animals in your home and see if

ALPHABET ANIMALS

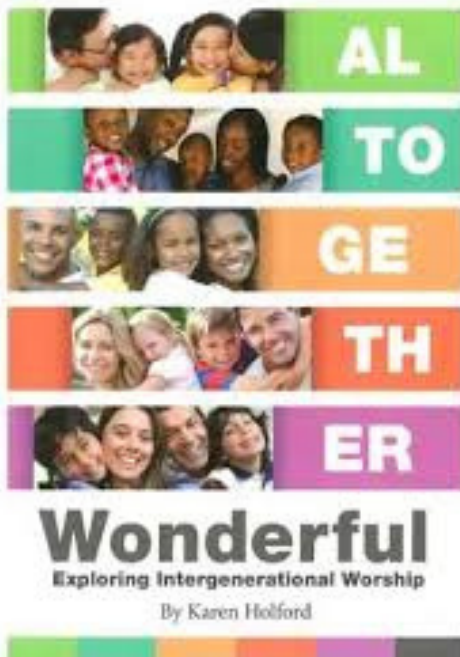
Thank God for an animal beginning with each letter of the alphabet, and use a word to describe the animal that begins with the same letter: "Thank you God for active ants, beautiful badgers, colourful chickens and dozing dogs..." etc.

Water, Water...

During the flood there was a lot of water on the earth. Drink some water and thank God that you have plenty of water in your home. Thank Him for at least 12 ways that you use water in your home.

Several years ago, we created some worship placemats for families, to inspire conversations of faith at the dining table. Some churches have enlarged these to A4, printed them and laminated them as gifts for the families in their churches. We can also provide blanks for translation if you would like to use them. For more information, visit <https://ted.adventist.org/family/spirituality/worship-placemats>

Intergenerational Worship Webinars and Workbook



<https://ted.adventist.org/family/spirituality/igw/>

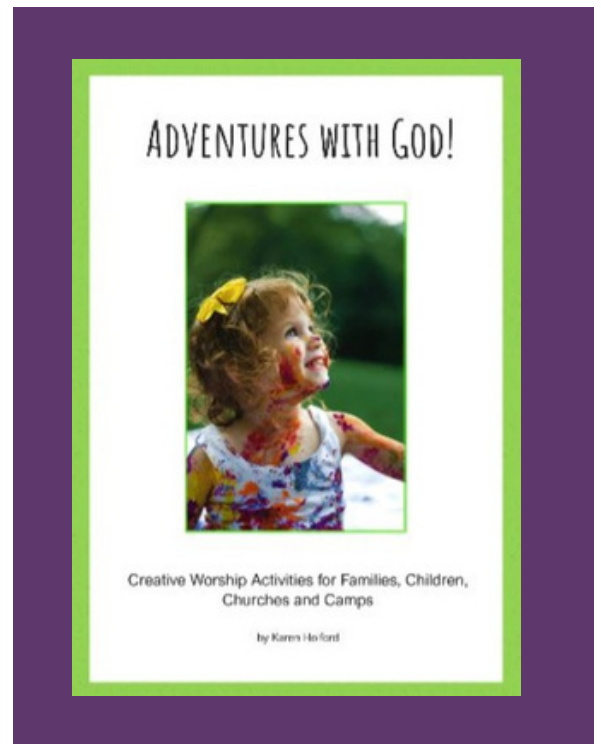
Here you will find a printable workbook and textbook, and several training videos to help you get started with inter-generational worship (involving children in church worship). I can also offer day training sessions in intergenerational worship for churches and pastors' meetings.

Children's Worship Page Collection

Would you like some colourful and fun creative worship ideas for your children and families?

Visit the [TED website](#) to access dozens of ideas for your children to use on their own, to include in family worship, to provide creative activities for your next intergenerational worship service, or to enrich Children's Sabbath School.

We can provide the Word documents for each of these if you would like to translate and share the ideas, or design your own collections.



'Flourish!' – helping children balance their emotions

'[Flourish!](#)' is a project that was developed to help everyone, including children, to choose emotions that bless them, and help them to be more resilient. 'Flourish!' has also been shared with the world church and it has been translated into several languages to help families, women, and children in many countries. Please explore the resources and try them out for yourself, together with the children in your family or area of ministry. You can even use the activities in Sabbath School, or as a children's spot/story in church, or in Pathfinders.



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!' 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.

<https://ted.adventist.org/family/flourish/>

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 bless you
and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his
favour

and give you his peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

