



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH

CENTRAL JAMAICA CONFERENCE

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MINISTRIES & COUNSELING SERVICES

THE **GIFT** OF PARENTING



November is *Parent Month!*
***** Let's make it extra-special *****

1st Reading
Sabbath, November 5, 2022

The family was designed by God. In the Garden of Eden, it consisted of Adam, the man and Eve, the woman. Husband and wife were both created by God for each other. Joined together in holy matrimony, they were given the mandate to multiply and populate the Earth. That divine commission to be fruitful and multiply brought into existence the beautiful gift of parenting. Yes, though thought of as a heavy burden and in some instances seen even as a curse in our days, the gift of parenting is a blessed responsibility given to the human family from the Maker Himself. God could have chosen other means by which to populate the Earth, but he decided to invite the husband and the wife to participate in the creative act, to experience the parent-child relationship, and to be integrally involved in the shaping of character for the very fiber of generations to come.

The God given privilege and responsibility of parenting should never be taken for granted. Proverbs 27 tells us that “children are a heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Children are born infants for special reasons. Just imagine a child exiting the womb, totally dependent on the caregivers. This child is now ready for tender loving care and deliberate training and nurturing, especially for the first few years of existence in this vicious world. The goal of parenting, then, is to care for, train and guide our children through at least stages one to five of their eight stages of development on this planet. “In the family,” says Ellen G White, “fathers and mothers should ever present before their children the example they wish to see imitated.”

Very few things are as fulfilling as caring for a child and launching that child into a successful independent adulthood. This awesome gift of parenting, like all of the gifts from the Garden of Eden, has been grossly distorted by the entrance of sin. Inefficient training of children lies at the foundation of a vast amount of moral wretchedness. CG. 215 p2. In our age, proper parenting has been given so little attention, though it lies at the foundation of the very fabric of our society. It is no wonder our societies are so far from God. Consequently, in this context, God has called us as his children to be a light to a dying world. It is the privilege of Christian parents not only to bring into the world beautiful, innocent infants but also to embrace the awesome responsibility to nurture and care for these offsprings; hence, shaping their characters for successful life here on Earth and for life in the eternal kingdom of our heavenly Father. Let us therefore pray earnestly for all parents, both of our congregations and of our communities across the nation, as they navigate this God given journey of parenting.