



Issue 2

BUC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living



A Publication of the British Union Conference Family and Children's Ministries Departments

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Terrorists Among Us: Domestic Abuse in the Church

Pr Les Ackie

According to MI5, the current threat level for international terrorism in the UK is SEVERE. Recent end of year news reviews has reminded us about devastating atrocities perpetrated on British soil and internationally by radical fanatics of various persuasions. While an increasing number of home-grown extremists has led the government to challenge local communities to root out potential terrorists among them, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we have our own terrorists to worry about. They don't carry AK-47s or manufacture explosive devises, but they are terrorists nonetheless. They carry Bibles, communion plates, and offering baskets. They teach Sabbath School lessons, lead Pathfinder clubs and occupy pews. They may tick all the boxes as members in regular standing, but once they finish playing church, they go home, beat their wives and terrorise their children.

Describing domestic abusers as terrorists is not simply hyperbole to grab attention. It is an accurate description of individuals whose relational dynamics directly parallel the coercive tactics of totalitarian regimes and organisations. Webster's Dictionary defines terrorism as

“the calculated use of violence (or threat of violence) against civilians in order to attain goals . . . through intimidation or coercion or instilling fear”. In her book, *Trauma and Recovery*, Dr Judith Herman clearly demonstrates the parallels between domestic abuse and political terror. She compares “the survivors of vast concentration camps created by tyrants who rule nations and the survivors of small, hidden concentration camps created by tyrants who rule their homes (p.3).”

Leading campaigner against domestic abuse, Professor Evan Stark, describes abusers' relationships with their spouses as 'intimate terrorism'. He asserts that these relationships are less about “violent acts” and more about the “pattern of domination that includes tactics to isolate, degrade, exploit and control, as well as to frighten them or hurt them physically” (*Re-presenting Battered Women: Coercive Control and the Defense of Liberty*). While campaigns against domestic violence understandably focus on external wounds for shock effect, it is the non-visible psychological and emotional wounds that cause the deepest hurt and the most long-lasting damage. When it comes to these wounds, it appears that the response of those in positions of authority is “out of sight, out of mind.” Consequently, we need to shine a spotlight on the suffering many endure behind closed doors. Stark concludes that, “coercive control is not so much what men do to women, but what they keep women from doing for themselves.” The fundamental crime of domestic abuse is the violation of a person's basic human rights. In such cases, the primary concern is NOT the preservation of the marriage. It is the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual safety of the victims.

Domestic abuse in the Seventh-day Adventist church is a reality. Research conducted by Dr René Drumm among 100 Adventist churches has demonstrated that a major obstacle in addressing

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BUC FAMILY

domestic abuse is the fallacious belief among church leaders that it is not a major concern. However, Dr Drumm's research also demonstrated that women in the church are just as likely to be abused as those outside the church. Perpetrators included pastors, elders, deacons as well as other church leaders and members across various cultures, ethnicities, social and economic status.

**THIS IS
DOMESTIC
TERRORISM**

The failure to hear the cry of battered wives by minimising the destructive effect of coercive control has resulted in church leaders, in effect, colluding with perpetrators. Women who have been physically, emotionally and psychologically abused by their husbands have been further spiritually abused by church leaders who misinterpret biblical passages, guilt-tripping vulnerable victims to

return to and remain in their personal hell. The failure to be proactive in raising awareness has allowed abusers to terrorise their families with impunity under a blanket of secrecy.

Combatting domestic abuse requires the education of church leaders to dispel the myths about abusers and to understand the culture in which abuse thrives. Contrary to popular opinion, domestic abusers are generally not mentally ill people who cannot control themselves. They tend to hold down responsible jobs and function as responsible citizens in the community and in church. Abusers are spiritually deficient individuals who lack emotional intelligence and give themselves permission to act like tyrants when they don't get their way. Abuse is always a choice. The Apostle Paul warns that in the last days men will 'be lovers of themselves'; 'unholy'; 'unloving'; 'unforgiving'; 'slanderers'; 'without self-control'; 'brutal'; 'despisers of good'; 'traitors'; 'headstrong'; 'haughty'; 'having a form of godliness but denying its power' (see 2 Tim 3:1-7). Paul's description accurately characterises self-absorbed abusers who choose to enforce compliance through fear, intimidation, manipulation and punishments.

Abusers tend to abuse because they have grown up in a culture that makes it acceptable. Our challenge as a community of faith is to change the culture. To educate men and boys to swim against the tide of a culture that both explicitly and implicitly devalues women through music, movies, pornography, "locker-room banter" and glass ceilings. This applies not only in the secular arena, but also to our Judeo-Christian heritage that has historically oppressed women and felt spiritually justified in doing so. For example, it was only in 1991 that rape within marriage was recognised in UK criminal law. This reflects a culture that has given tacit licence to abusers. And the fact that there are those within the church who will argue, tooth and nail, that it is not possible for a husband to rape his wife, is a clear example of the kind of twisted understanding of the marriage covenant that provides abusers with the justification they need to use their wives as they please. Force and coercion are incompatible with the character of God and those who bear His name cannot receive His approval while they violate the very principle that is the essence of the Divine. 1 John 4:8 states, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
is a Crime!**

The power of the Holy Spirit notwithstanding, research demonstrates that perpetrators don't tend to change without outside human intervention. Abusers need to feel the collective disapproval from a community of faith who are prepared to hold them accountable for their conduct. Abusers must encounter believers who are prepared to live out Jesus' commitment to fight for the oppressed. We must be a safe place where survivors can find solace. The role of the church is to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves. Our challenge is to co-operate with Jesus in the fulfilment of the mission he declared in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord".

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35

General Conference Official Statement on Abuse and Family Violence



Seventh-day Adventists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and family violence.

We recognise the global extent of this problem and the serious, long-term effects upon the lives of all involved. We believe that Christians must respond to abuse and family violence both within the church and in the community. We take seriously reports of abuse and violence and have highlighted these issues for discussion at this international assembly. We believe that to remain indifferent and unresponsive is to condone, perpetuate, and potentially extend such behaviour.

We accept our responsibility to cooperate with other professional services, to listen and care for those suffering from abuse and family violence, to highlight the injustices, and to speak out in defence of victims. We will help persons in need to identify and access the range of available professional services.

When changed attitudes and behaviour open possibilities for forgiveness and new beginnings, we will provide a ministry of reconciliation. We will assist families in grief over relationships that cannot be restored. We will address the spiritual questions confronting abused persons, seeking to understand the origins of abuse and family violence and developing better ways of preventing the recurring cycle.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.

Support Organisations for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Hidden Hurt: website with advice and information about domestic violence. Website: www.hiddenhurt.co.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 or Website: www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Security and Safety Website: www.securityandsafety.co.uk

Refuge: provides and support and has a network of safe houses for women and children. Call: 0808 2000 247 or Website: www.refuge.org.uk

Action on Elder Abuse (AEA): works to protect, and prevent the abuse of, vulnerable older adults. Helpline: 080 8808 8141 or Website: www.elderabuse.org.uk

Women's Aid: provides local support and national help and Freephone 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline. Call: 0808 2000 247 or Website: www.womensaid.org.uk

Respect: provides help for survivors and perpetrators. Also has a Men's Advice Line (for male victims). Male Helpline: 0808 8010327 or Website: www.respect.uk.net

DVMen: support for males being abused. Website: www.dvmen.co.uk

Mankind: confidential helpline is available for all men across the UK suffering from domestic violence or domestic abuse by their current or former wife or partner. Call: 01823 334244 or Website: new.mankind.org.uk

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Cyberbullying: What Can Be Done?

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

1. Keep the computer in a common area of the home. Do not allow it in your children's bedrooms. Monitor their online usage.
2. Learn how various social networking websites work. Become familiar with Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. Ask your children if they will show you their profile pages.
3. Talk regularly and specifically with your children about online issues. Let them know they can come to you for help if anything is inappropriate, upsetting, or dangerous.

4. Build trust with your children. Set time limits, explain your reasons for them, and discuss rules for online safety and Internet use. Ask your children to contribute to establishing the rules; then they'll be more inclined to follow them.

5. Tell your children not to respond to any cyberbullying threats or comments online. However, do not delete any of the messages. Instead, print out all the messages, including the e-mail addresses or online screen names of the cyberbully. You will need the messages to verify and prove there is cyberbullying.

6. Don't overreact by blaming your children. If they are being bullied, be supportive and understanding. Find out how long the bullying has been going on and ensure that you'll work together to find a solution. Let your children know they are not to blame for being bullied.

7. Don't under-react by telling your children to "shrug it off" or just deal with the bullying. The emotional pain of being bullied is very real and can have long-lasting effects. Don't tease them about it or respond with a "kids will be kids" attitude.

8. Don't threaten to take away your children's computers if they come to you with a problem. This only forces kids to be more secretive.

9. Talk to your school's guidance counsellors so they can keep an eye out for bullying during the school day.

10. If there are threats of physical violence or the bullying continues to escalate, get law enforcement involved.

WHAT CAN CHILDREN DO?

1. Don't respond to any online or text messages sent by cyberbullies.
2. Don't be an accomplice by forwarding any of the messages to other kids.
3. Save and print out all the messages as proof and evidence of cyberbullying.
4. If you are being bullied, tell an adult immediately to get help solving the problem.



Breaking the **Silence**

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North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Church Officers Training Day

Sunday 14 January 2018
10AM - 4PM

Adventist Muslim Relations	Deacons & Deaconess	Personal Ministries
Church Clerks	Disabilities Ministries	Prayer
Communications	Elders	Sabbath School
Children's Ministries	Family Ministries	Stewardship
Community Services &	Men's Ministries	Treasury
Health Ministries	Pathfinders	Women's Ministries

Please bring a packed Lunch

LOCATION	REGISTRATION
Long Eaton School Secondary Academy Thoresby Road, Long Eaton Derbyshire, NG10 3NP	Please register your attendance at https://neccot2018.eventbrite.co.uk or contact Yvonne Chambers on 0115 960 6312

Nurturing Each Other And Winning Another



BREAKING THE TREND
 Building Connections Creating Belonging

Anthony Fuller
Morning Speaker



TOPICS

- MULTICULTURAL CHURCH: CAN IT WORK?
- DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE CHURCH
- WHAT IS FAMILY?
- THE 'FEMININE' CHURCH?

27-01-2018 | FREE ADMISSION
 + MUSIC, DRAMA AND PRAISE

LOCATION	TIME
ROCK TOWER 49 TUFNELL PARK RD LONDON N7 OPS	10AM- 8PM

FIND US ON
EVENTBRITE
<https://goo.gl/sUQkk8>




SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

mov@
men of valour and evangelism
strong and courageous • Joshua 1:9

NEC MEN'S MINISTRY LAUNCH

NO MAN LEFT BEHIND

3 FEBRUARY 2018

PRAYER | PREACHING WORD | MUSIC MINISTRY | ENGAGING WORKSHOPS

The H Suite, 100 Icknield Port Road, Birmingham B16 0AA

Programme start: 8.00am £5.00 (including breakfast and lunch)
 Evening 'PraiseFest': 7.00pm £7.00 (men, women and children over 11 years)
 (see separate flyer for details)

An empowering day for men with delivery of the Word by Michael Dantzie, Clarence Jackson (London), Mark Palmer, Pastor Ray Patrick, and Adrian Roberts and Music Ministry by Mark Bunney, Paul Lee (London), Benjamin Beloni, Philip Jackson, Godfrun Moore, and Ian Palmer.

Entry to this **MEN ONLY EVENT** is by **TICKET ONLY**. Please register at:
<https://movelaunchticket.eventbrite.co.uk>

BOOK ONLINE NOW

NEC Men's Ministry
 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5DB
 Telephone: 0115 960 6312
 Email: cpalmer@necadventist.org.uk

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BUC FAMILY

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



BEFORE YOU SAY I DO

CONFERENCES

Are you planning to get married? Or are you dating or in courtship? Or are you just interested in Love, Sex and Intimacy? Then register for these very enlightening, explicit, and highly practical One Day Conferences on premarital matters

10AM-3PM | 11 FEB, 22 APR & 10 JUN 2018

VENUE: BUC STANBOROUGH PARK WATFORD WD25 9JZ

Presenter: Dr Denias Chihwai

Spaces are limited to 30 participants ONLY! Lunch is Provided.

Parenting
CONVENTION 2

"TRANSFORMING TRAJECTORIES CHANGE OUR THINKING"



10am - 4pm 8 APRIL 2018

HYLAND HOUSE SCHOOL HALL, HOLCOMBE ROAD TOTTENHAM, LONDON N17 9AD

This Parenting Convention brings together several professionals who will share their experience, knowledge and expertise on changing trajectories and thinking. Sessions will consider parenting and children's mental health, the highs and lows of being a father. There will be an offering of smaller workshops on dealing with children's behavior, developing positive templates and the importance of establishing boundaries.

Are you single by CHANCE, CHANGE OR CHOICE?

Then, it is time, even PAST TIME that your local church became aware and involved with the needs and issues of the single and single-again people all around us.

It is time to develop a new way of thinking, to be bold and innovative.


So, begin a ministry today to the singles in and around your local church and help them to see that they are the church and help them come to a place of ministry.



The time is Now!

The opportunity is there!! What will you do? Start a single adult ministry today. For help, contact the SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT for more information

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES PRESENTS

rekindle the spark 

couple's retreat

theme: **MARRIAGE ON THE ROCK**


25TH - 27TH MAY 2018

DeVere Staverton Estate
DAVENTRY ROAD, STAVERTON
NORTHAMPTON, NN11 6JT

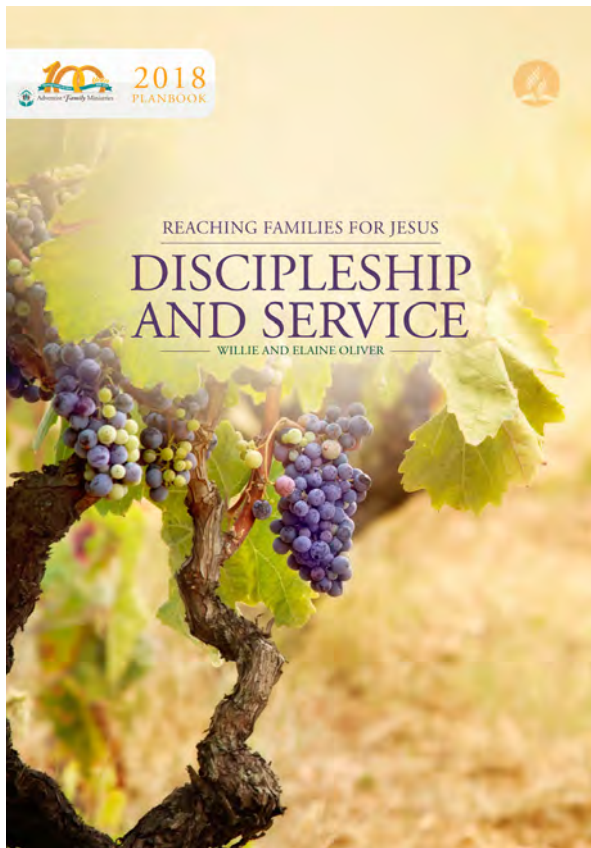
speakers:
PR FREDRICK
& BRENDA RUSSELL

£240 PER COUPLE

FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION
CONTACT: LIGIA BUZAC - LBUZAC@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK - 01923 232 728
REGISTER: WWW.SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK/EVENTS



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Click on the link to download the Family Ministry Planbook at <http://family.adventist.org/family-ministry-planbook.html>

5-12 AUG 2017 £340/PER CARAVAN
 Chapel Porth Caravan Site, Goonvrea St Agnes, Cornwall. TR5 0RN

NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS 

NRPFF

SEMINAR

The Be.Still.Project presents No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPFF) Families and Current Changes in Immigration Law

This seminar seeks to raise awareness and understanding of immigration control and it's impact on families.



The Seminar will focus on:

- * Immigration Law - an update
- * Solicitors
- * Children's Services
- * Homelessness
- * Health Care
- * Education & Employment
- * Community Support

To book this seminar please contact:
SARAH BASHORUN (DipSW/HE, BSc)
 at sarah@thebestillproject.co.uk
 visit www.thebestillproject.co.uk

Please be advised that seminars will last approximately 2 hours. For other available workshops and seminars please enquire via email.

Can You RELATE?

Are you going through a difficult time?

Contact a member of the StressTherapist.net team today for confidential help and support and to speak with a qualified Adventist Psychotherapist.

Email: support@stresstherapist.net or Tel: 07828 438849

www.stresstherapist.net 

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Useful Links

AdventSource -
www.adventsource.org/

Association of Christian
Counsellors - www.acc-uk.org/

Barna Research -
www.barna.org/

Care for the Family -
www.careforthefamily.org.uk/

Family & Parenting Institute -
www.familyandparenting.org/

Family Friendly Church Trust -
www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/NewSite/ffc.php

Focus on the Family
www.family.org

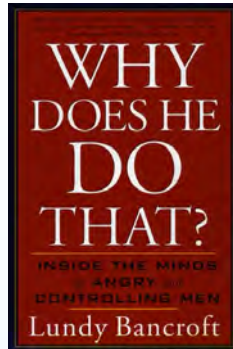
In Discipleship -
www.indiscipleship.org

Prepare Enrich -
www.prepare-enrich.co.uk/

Through the Roof (Disability
outreach) -
www.throughtheroof.org

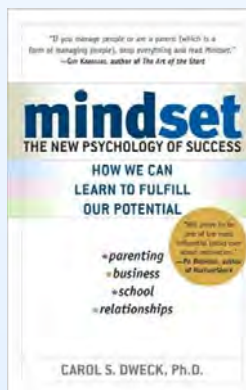
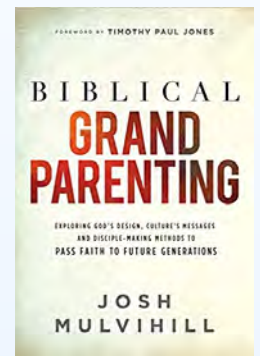
Women's Aid -
www.womensaid.org.uk/

Recommended Reading



Why Does He Do That? In this groundbreaking bestseller, Lundy Bancroft—a counsellor who specialises in working with abusive men—uses his knowledge about how abusers think to help women recognise when they are being controlled or devalued in a relationship, and to find ways to get free of abuse. This is an excellent resource for those who wish to gain an insight into the dynamics of abusive relationships.

in *Biblical Grandparenting*, Josh Mulvihill explains culture's misleading messages about grandparenting, provides a biblical overview of the role of grandparents, and shares groundbreaking research that provides a vision to impact the next generation for Christ by giving them a firm spiritual foundation and a close personal relationship they will cherish forever.

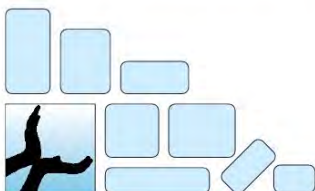


Mindset. Carol Dweck shows how success in school, work, sports, the arts, and almost every area of human endeavour can be dramatically influenced by how we think about our talents and abilities. People with a fixed mindset—those who believe that abilities are fixed—are less likely to flourish than those with a growth mindset—those who believe that abilities can be developed.

Cornerstone Counselling Service

0207 723 8050
ccs@secadventist.org.uk
sec.adventist.org.uk/counselling

Contact us to speak with a counsellor about issues that trouble you, or to make an appointment.



CONTACT US

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