**The Pastor and His or Her Family**

**By Pastor Owen Jack**

**The Pastor’s Family is quite often neglected for his or her work or studies, but if the Pastor is a failure at home it will lead to failure in his or her ministry. 1 Timothy 3:15 says “for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God.”**

 **The Pastor’s ministry begins with his or her family. The Pastor’s relationship with his or her spouse and children to take precedence over church members, studies, hobbies, Conference goals, over everything else, except God Himself.**

**Suggestions for a Happy Pastoral Family**

1. **Spend quality time regularly with your spouse and children. The greatest gift you can give to your family is yourself. “Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first.” (Gospel Workers, p. 204).**

**Your time priority should be: A) time with God; B) your family; C) your health; D) the church; E) and the community. When you set aside time for your family, treat it as sacred. Spend quality time with your spouse alone and quality time with your children alone. Worship, play, work, and study together. Don’t be guilty of taking care of other people’s vineyard while leaving your own vineyard unattended.**

1. **Talk and listen to your children and spouse. Speak to them lovingly, kindly and seek to understand their need. Listen non-judgmentally and without interruption. Don’t shame them, put them down, or make them look foolish when they talk to you. We develop intimacy only with those we take time to speak to and listen to. Let your family enjoy the time they spend in your presence.**
2. **Affirm your family daily. Look for something you love and appreciate about your spouse and children, and tell them about it everyday. Take your spouse with you to church, to activities and other public places. Say only kind and appreciative things about her in the pulpit.**
3. **Have morning and evening family worship every day. Make family worship short, joyful and spiritually nourishing. Use the opportunity to teach values and beliefs. Help your family to know Jesus better. You can affirm and pray for a member of the family, especially for that day. Encourage a strong sense of mission and purpose in life.**
4. **Husbands help your wife with the children and the house chores. When a wife is working a man cannot expect her to do all the house chores and take care of all the needs of the children. It must be a team effort. Many hands make light work.**

**“One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached.” (The Adventist Home, p. 32).**