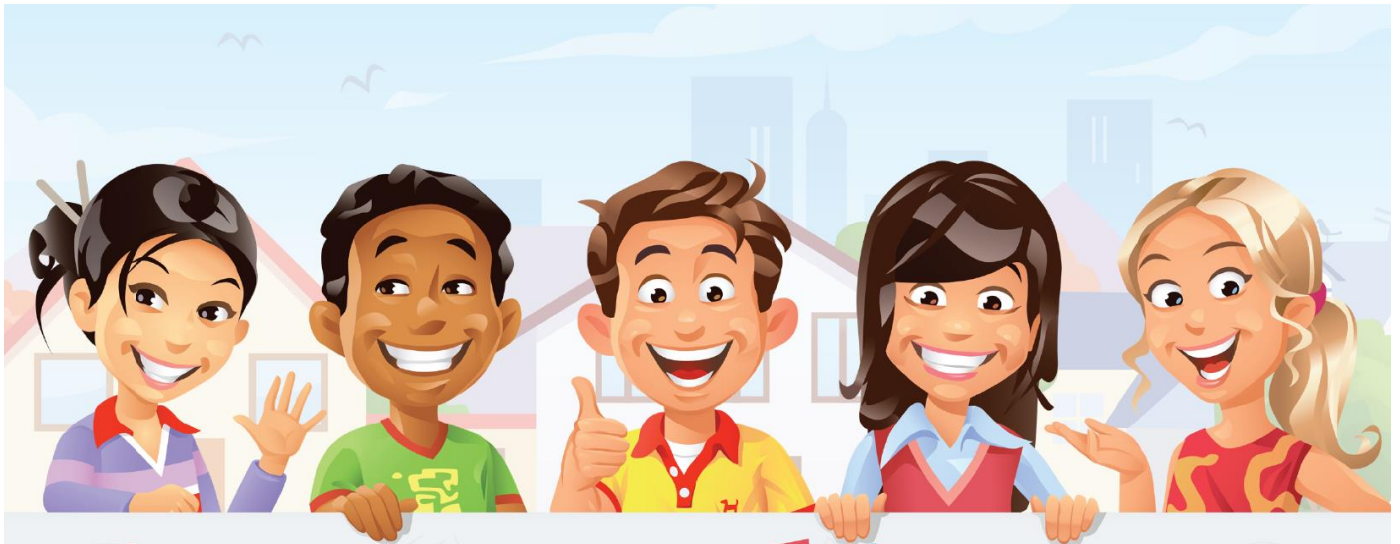




Seventh-day
Adventist® Church
ONTARIO CONFERENCE



**CONNECTING
LIKE
JESUS**
ONTARIO CONFERENCE 2021



**BRING THE
CHILDREN TO ME**
A VIRTUAL TRAINING RETREAT

**JOIN US
OCTOBER
1-2, 2021**



ELVIS AND RUTH BAAH-GYEBI
REGISTERED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS
ELPIZO COUNSELLING SERVICES



FRANCINI REIS
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TRAINER
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



SHERRI UHRIG
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Dear Participants:

Welcome to our virtual Children's Ministries Retreat as we explore the theme, *"Bring the Children to Me."* This theme, if you recall, finds its origin in the narrative of Jesus raising the value of children and recognizing their place in the kingdom of God. To Jesus, *children were and still are a priority.* As co-labourers with Him, we must see children as He did.

Your decision to attend this retreat is an excellent one, as you will receive added tools for equipping and empowering the children you serve. Thanks for your investment of time and other resources as we collectively seek to raise "spiritual champions" across the Ontario Conference.

Yours in Christ,

A.R. Chichester

achichester@adventistontario.org



Seventh-day Adventist Church
ONTARIO CONFERENCE

CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY



<http://walkingandworkingwithjesus.com>

Your Children's Ministries Team...



Pr. Allan Chichester
Director

The Children's Ministries Department exists to facilitate "Hope and Wholeness" through "Growing Spiritual Champions". We serve by equipping and empowering the local churches Children's Ministries leaders to help our children "to say 'yes' to Jesus". *Our vision is...*

"Growing Spiritual Champions".



Lucille Grondin
Secretary



"Bring the Children to Me" Virtual Training Retreat
October 1-2, 2021

Seminars Schedule

Friday Evening

7:00 – 7:12	Preliminaries	
7:15 – 7:55	Seminar 1: <i>Entering the World of Kids</i> – Track 1	Sherri Uhrig
	Break Announcements	
8:05 – 8:45	Seminar 2: <i>Fostering Family Unity</i> – Track 6	Francini Reis
	Closing Features	Pastor Allan Chichester

Saturday

11:00 – 11:08	Preliminaries	
11:10 – 11:50	Seminar 3: <i>Helping Children through Tough Times</i> – Track 1	Sherri Uhrig
11:50 – 12:30	Seminar 4: <i>Developing Christian Values in Children</i> – Track 6	Francini Reis
	Lunch Break	
2:00 p.m.	Preliminaries Announcements	
2:05 – 3:05	Seminar 5: <i>Mental Health Awareness</i> – Track 6	Elvis and Ruth Baah-Gyebi
	Fellowship Moments	
3:20 – 4:00	Seminar 6: <i>Learning Styles</i> – Track 1	Sherri Uhrig
4:10 – 4:50	Seminar 7: <i>Involving Children in Mission</i> – Track 6	Francini Reis
4:50 – 5:20	Closing Features	Children's Ministries Team

Our Presenters

SHERRY UHRIG



Sherri has been serving as the **Children's Ministries Director** for the North American Division for six years. Previously, she worked for the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists where she also helped coordinate and support the North Pacific Union Children's Ministries initiatives.

She has worked in various areas of Children's Ministries for over 30 years, including a daycare administrator and writing for faith-based preschool curricula. Sherri has a heart for mission, serving in Guam and Palau with her pastor husband, Bob, developing curricula for the children's outreach program, "Kids in the Park" as well as child evangelism programs for use in Nicaragua and the Philippines. Sherri is an alumna of Southwestern Adventist College, has a Masters in Children and Family Ministry from Bethel Seminary, and is currently working on her Doctorate of Ministry.

Sherri and Bob are proud parents of two children and eight amazing grandchildren.

FRANCINI REIS



Francini grew up in Brazil and has been an educator since 1997. She has a B.S. in Math and Science Education (K-12), a Masters in Education, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (K-12), and is pursuing a Postgraduate Degree in Neuroscience of Learning. She is also a Montessori and Music Education for Early Childhood certified teacher.

Francini is active in Children's Ministries at her local church. She enjoys leading spiritual programs at schools and developing activities that enhance the learning of God's Word through hands-on experience.

She is married to Andre Reis and has three beautiful daughters, Pamela, Chloe and Mckayla. They enjoy working together in Children's Ministries and spending time as a family. She is fluent in English and Portuguese.



<https://www.instagram.com/childsminnad/>



<https://www.facebook.com/NadChildrensMinistriesDepartment/>



<http://www.childmin.org/>



Our Presenters

ELVIS & RUTH BAAH-GYEBI, M.Sc., RP



Elvis and Ruth founded Elpizo 20 years ago in the UK and by God's grace now lead a multidisciplinary team of therapists that provide psychological services to the community. They completed their education at the University of London and the University of Edinburgh respectively in the UK. They are experienced and qualified psychotherapists, clinical supervisors, registered with the College of Registered Psychotherapist of Ontario (CRPO). Elpizo is a Greek word, which means hope! Their aim is to bring Christ's

hope to the hopeless!

They have ministered in Africa, Europe and North America. Their practice is a counselling and training service with 22 therapists serving the community and working with individuals, couples, children and families with various pathologies. They work with trauma clients treating areas such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, sexual abuse, domestic violence, childhood traumas, fears, anger, guilt, grief and shame, and work with couples and families on relational issues such as pre-marital, marital, blended families, etc.

Elvis and Ruth have been married for 29 years and are blessed with three grown children. They feel it an honour and a privilege to serve in the healing ministry using the skills God has blessed them with.

Favorite Bible verse: "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31



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THE PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Our Philosophy

Children's Ministries seeks to develop the faith of children ages birth to 14. While Sabbath School provides for religious education once a week, Children's Ministries looks at the whole child and seeks to provide multiple ministries that will lead children to Jesus and disciple them in their daily walk with Him.



The Bible makes it very clear that children are very special to God. If you examine what the Bible says about children, you will notice a great number of perspectives:²

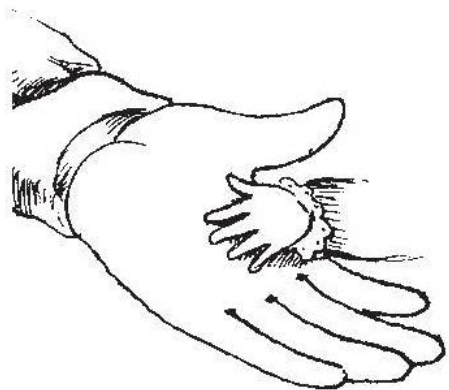
- ☺ ***Children are a gift from God.*** He gives children to parents as a special sign of love and personal fulfillment (Deut. 7:13; Ps. 127:3).
- ☺ ***Children are desirable.*** From Creation, God has instructed us to bear children (Gen. 9:7; Deut. 6:3).
- ☺ ***Children bring joy and blessings to adults.*** God provides many benefits to parents through parenting their children (Num. 5:28; Deut. 28:4, 11).
- ☺ ***Children need to be taught how to develop a relationship with God.*** One of our greatest challenges is to pass on our beliefs and understanding of God to our children (Exod. 12:26, 37; Deut. 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6).
- ☺ ***Children are so valuable to God that He commands us to protect them.*** Parents are to ensure the spiritual and physical security of their children (1 Sam. 20:42; Ezra 8:21).
- ☺ ***God loves children enough to ensure that they receive discipline.*** (Prov. 3:11, 12; 13:24; 19:18; Eph. 6:4).
- ☺ ***God enjoys the nature and personality of children and asks adults to learn from them.*** Scripture identifies attributes such as sincerity, humility, simplicity, and trusting as qualities found in children, and God treasures these characteristics (Matt. 18:3; 19:14; Phil. 2:15).

If children matter this much to God, then they should matter as much to us, too. It is vital that we take children seriously as the heritage of the Lord, entrusted to us for training and discipling that they will lead the church into the future.

Jesus' great commission is: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20, NIV). Surely, this includes making disciples of children and leading them to make a personal commitment to Jesus.

² Barna, George. *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2003.

Our Mission



The mission of the Children's Ministries Department is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. We seek to fulfill this mission by developing:

Grace-oriented ministries, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him.

Inclusive ministries, in which the volunteers who minister and the children to whom they minister will be valued and involved regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances.

Leadership ministries, in which volunteers are empowered, trained, and equipped for effective ministry to children.

Service-oriented ministries, in which children are given opportunity for hands-on service to people in their neighborhood or city, thus, establish a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life.

Cooperative ministries, in which the department works with other ministries, such as Family Ministries, Sabbath School, Stewardship, and others to further our shared goals.

Safe ministries, whereby our churches: a) choose volunteers with high spiritual and moral backgrounds; and, b) adopt safeguards to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse and the church from liability.

Evangelistic ministries, in which children who are not enfolded in the church will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach programs such as: Vacation Bible Schools, children's Branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours.

...From the *Children's Ministries Handbook*

A Step-by-Step Guide for Children's Leaders around the World

<https://children.adventist.org/handbook>