

# SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ADVENTIST PARENTS

*"Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)*

Issue 23 – October 2011

## Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the latest issue of SNAP newsletter. We hope you have all had a good summer and, in particular, have been enjoying the recent spell of warm weather. We hope that you will gain some benefit from this newsletter and will be encouraged to participate in the topics that we discuss. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated

As mentioned before, we are giving some consideration to having a SNAP weekend away at some point during 2012. We would welcome some feedback as to the interest in such an event and the kind of content you would like to see.

Blessings, Mike & Vicky

## Topic For Discussion

### THIS ISSUE – TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

*In this issue of the SNAP newsletter we are discussing the subject of bullying. Questions for consideration include:*

- *What constitutes bullying? Where is the line drawn between teasing and bullying?*
- *Has/have your child/children ever been bullied?*
- *How did they and you deal with it?*
- *Has having a faith influenced the kind of response to the bully – should it?*
- *Have you ever been in the unfortunate position of having to deal with your own child as a bully – how did you respond to the situation?*

We feel this subject is so important as being bullied can have such a big impact on someone's life, even to the point of suicide for some children. Some children can cope with it but some children completely buckle under the pressure.

Perhaps the hardest thing is showing our children when to tease and when not to tease. I know that when I (Vicky) was a child we teased a girl in our class which when I look back at it now it could be considered to be racial. Although we didn't mean it to be nasty, it probably wasn't very pleasant for the girl concerned.

On the other hand it is good when our children can help those who are bullied such as when as a child I tried to make a paper chooser game with only nice comments to use with a girl who others bullied.

We are very pleased that Heather Haworth (BUC Children's/Family Ministries Director) has submitted the following from her own experience:

*Being bullied is like living in a horror film. Being a bully is like living out horrors that have happened in your life. From my experience, as working in the school playground and as a Mum, this is my conclusion.*

*Starting secondary school is an exciting and nervous time. At first my son seemed to cope but in the first term he started with asthma. We thought the damp in his bedroom was the problem so we got that fixed. Finally, at worship, he opened up that he was being physically bullied at school.*

*Fortunately a church member was a teacher so I asked for her advice. She explained the bully was obviously having problems at settling into a new school. I looked into the background of the boy. His Mum had died the year before and home life was in disarray.*

*As a parent I tried to help. Our prayers were answered but then "it" started up again. I wanted to talk to my son's teacher as my son would not, or the lad and his Dad but my son did not want that either.*

*Then it stopped. Whenever the bully walked past my son he would wallop him with the school bag. Then he hit him once too much and my son hit him back. He was never hit again.*

*At the end of term I talked with my son's teacher who told me I should be proud of my caring son. She went on to explain he had brought to her a fellow classmate who was being bullied so she could sort it out.*

*When it's your first child you are on a steep learning curve. Now I would have gone straight to his school and found out about their bullying policy and discussed it with my child to see how we could use it to help him and his bully. It's best to find out what the bullying policy is when your child starts school. Talk it through with your child so you both know what to do if he/she does get bullied.*

*Another source of good information, and leaflets on bullying covering different ages and racism is [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk).*

*Anti-bullying helpline for parents, 08451 205 204 (Monday – Friday, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm).*

*General and training enquiries, 0207 730 3300.*

#### **Next Issue's Topic for Discussion**

**We would like to offer you the opportunity of choosing the next topic for discussion. Please get in touch with us and let us know the issues that are currently affecting you, which you feel it would be beneficial for us all to explore.**

### [SNAP Prayer Network](#)

- Please pray for all those children who are being bullied that they may have courage to cope and take the right course of action. Also the parents of those children need praying for that they may have the wisdom to handle these situations in a way that will be positive for their children.
- Let us pray that God will help us to be spending the quality time with our children which will help us notice if there is anything which is bothering them, and that God will give them the confidence to confide in us.
- On a personal note please pray for our younger son who has Asperger Syndrome and has a tendency to take out his frustrations on his older brother even when the older brother has had nothing to do with the problem.
- Another personal request – a family that I (Mike) know very well is experiencing problems with the relationship between the grown up children and the parents. Please pray for an amicable and peaceful resolution to all the issues.

We would also like to hear about any other of your specific requests, that we may all help and encourage each other.

### [Useful Links for Parents](#)

#### **Cornerstone Counselling Service (South England Conference)**

Phone or email to speak with a counsellor about issues that trouble you, or to make an appointment:

**Telephone 0207 723 8050 or 0845 741 3602**

[ccs@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:ccs@secadventist.org.uk)

#### **Rainbow Counselling Service (North England Conference)**

**Telephone 0161 740 3602**

**Women'/Men's Healing and Empowerment Prayer Helpline open 8-9pm every day. Tel 0121 288 0613 and 0208 144 1618 or Skype Whelprayerline.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE TELEPHONE LINES ARE OPEN PART-TIME ONLY.**

#### **SEC Family Ministries link for Resources and Information**

[www.secadventist.com/dept/familyMinistries.php](http://www.secadventist.com/dept/familyMinistries.php)

Reference can also be made to the BUC website for resources and information [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk) Children's and Family ministries department.

### [Your Contact Details](#)

***Please be sure to let us know if your contact details or family circumstances change so that we may update our records.***

### [Our Contact Details](#)

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***Please ensure all contributions reach us for the next issue by 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2011. Thank you.***