

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology Project

Adventist University of Africa

Theological Seminary

Title: A STRATEGY TO MINISTER TO SINGLE PARENTS IN NAIROBI
SOUTH DISTRICT, CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

Researcher: Ogechi John Okemwa

Faculty Advisor: Daniel Ganu, DrPH

Date Completed: June 2015

The church of Christ is called upon by God to ensure that all its members are taken care of and their varied needs met appropriately. It is expected to be a place of support and encouragement to all its membership. In fact, each of the church members should find a home in the church family.

The study sought to investigate to what extent the Nairobi South Pastoral District ministered to the single parents in its congregations. In this study, the researcher first sought out to find out a theoretical basis for ministry to single parents. The Holy Scriptures, the Spirit of Prophecy, and study of the writings of other authors on ministry to single parents were studied. The Holy Scriptures revealed God's peculiar concern for widows and their families who fall under the larger group of single parents, a commendation to those who show kindness to them and a pronouncement of dire punishment against those who oppress the widows.

Various aspects of the single parents' life and existing ministry to them were studied with a group of single parents and church members from the period 2012 to 2014. The researcher dispensed questionnaires and conducted interviews to establish vital information for the study. The study revealed that the district's attempt to minister to single parents does not meet their expectations. The single parents felt that more needed to be done to fully minister to them. However, it was encouraging to note from the study that there is willingness from all the membership and leadership to fully minister to the single parents.

The researcher then developed and implemented a strategy to minister to the single parents in the district. The strategy involved organizing a special seminars based on the established needs of the single parents. This seminar provided them opportunities to receive instructions relating to various aspects of their lives and share their stories. An evaluation done on the program a year later proved a great success.

Adventist University of Africa

Theological Seminary

A STRATEGY TO MINISTER TO SINGLE PARENTS IN NAIROBI
SOUTH DISTRICT, CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

A project

presented in partial fulfillment

of the requirement for the degree

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology

by

Ogechi John Okemwa

June 2015

Copyright 2015 © by John Okemwa
All Rights Reserved

A STRATEGY TO MINISTER TO SINGLE PARENTS IN NAIROBI SOUTH
DISTRICT, CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

A project
presented in partial fulfillment
of the requirement for the degree
Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology

by
Ogechi John Okemwa

APPROVAL BY THE COMMITTEE:



Advisor: Daniel Ganu, DrPH



Dean, Theological Seminary
Sampson Nwaomah, PhD



Reader: Kepha Matena, DMin

Extension Centre: AUA Main Campus

Completion Date: June, 2015

Dedicated to my dear wife Loise Njeri, and our two Children:

Pudens Nyambunde and Beryl Moraa, and all Single Parents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
 CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	1
Purpose of the Study	2
Significance of the Study	2
Limitation of the Study	2
Delimitation of the Study	2
Methodology of the Study	3
Definition of Terms	3
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	5
Biblical Foundations	5
Old Testament	6
New Testament	7
The Spirit of Prophecy on Ministry to Single Parents	9
The Church to Care for Widows	9
Widows Need Encouragement, Sympathy, and Tangible Help	9
God is Concerned with How We Treat the Widows	10
Christians to Counsel with and Pray with the Widows	10
Other Authors on Ministry to Single Parents	11
Who are Single Parents?	11
A Single Parent's Greatest Stress	12
Single Parents Need to Feel Accepted	12
The Church to be an Extended Caring Family	12
The Needs/Challenges of Single Parents	13
Some Strategies on Ministering to Single Parents	17
Guideline in Single Parent Ministry	20
Chapter Summary	22

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL SETTING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BASELINE DATA.....	23
General Description of the Nairobi South Pastoral District	23
Nairobi South SDA Church	23
Karengata SDA Church	24
Syokimau Central SDA Church.....	25
Research Findings	26
Age of Respondents	27
Educational level of Respondents.....	28
Single Parenthood status of Respondents	28
Duration of Single Parenthood	30
Number of Children in Single Parenthood Families.....	31
Age Group of Children of Single Parents.....	31
Employment Status of Single Parents	32
Housing Status of Single Parents.....	33
Financing of Education for Children of Single Parents.....	34
Financial Status of Single Parents	35
Supply of Physical Needs and Social Life.....	37
The Church and Single Parents.....	39
Single Parents Neglect by Church	40
Easing financial burdens of single parents	41
Parenting	42
Church Members Views on Emotional Issues of Single Parents	44
Moral and Spiritual Support	45
Single Parents' Importance Ranking	46
Relationship of Single Parents with Church Entities.....	47
Spiritual Life of Single Parents	49
4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION ..	51
Setting of Objectives and Program Preparation	51
Program Preparation	51
Action Plan	52
Program Design.....	52
Implementation of the Program.....	52
Evaluation of the Program.....	56
Observations	56
Interviews	57
Testing the Program's Strength	61
5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	63
Summary	63
Conclusion	64
Recommendations	65

APPENDIXES	67
A. CORRESPONDENCE	67
B. SURVEY INSTRUMENTS	69
C. SINGLE PARENTS SEMINAR OUTLINES.....	83
BIBLIOGRAPHY	86
VITA	88

LIST OF TABLES

1. Educational Attainment of Respondents.....	28
2. Age Groups of Single Parents' Children.....	31
3. Level of Agreement on Various Statements.....	37
4. My Children are my Biggest Emotional Challenge besides Anything Else.....	43
5. Church Members Responses on Emotional Challenges of Single Parents.....	44
6. Importance Ranking of Statements.....	45
7. Relationship Strength and Duties of various Groups.....	47

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Gender of Respondents.....	26
2. Age Group of Single Parent Respondents.....	27
3. Respondents' Single Parenthood Status.....	29
4. Duration of Single Parenthood.....	30
5. Number of Children in Single Parenthood Families	31
6. Single Parents Employment Status.....	32
7. Other Income Sources for Female Single Parents.....	33
8. Housing Status of Single Parents.....	34
9. Schooling Level of Children.....	35
10. Financial state after Meeting Basic Needs.....	36
11. Meeting the Financial Deficit by Female Single Parents.....	36
12. Awareness of Single Parent Members and their Programs.....	39
13. Neglect or No Neglect of Single Parents by Church.....	40
14. Church's Role in Easing Financial Burden of Single Parents.....	41
15. Struggle with Parenting More than Singlehood.....	42
16. Spiritual Life of Single Parent.....	49

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CKC	Central Kenya Conference
YMCA	Young Men Christian Association
SDA	Seventh-day Adventist
AMO	Adventist Men Organization
SMS	Short Message Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God for life and good health. I too thank him for the opportunity for study and for guidance through the various phases of this project.

I feel very much indebted to the leadership of the Central Kenya Conference for allowing me time out while still working to undertake my studies. Much appreciation to the Nairobi South, Karengata, and Syokimau Central SDA churches for their awesome cooperation and support in carrying out the project.

My sincere thanks too to my adviser Dr. Daniel Ganu for his guidance in the project, Dr. Kepha Matena for reading my project and AUA editor Judy Mairura for her skillfully editorial input. I am very much humbled and sincerely wish to thank the family of Hon. Dr. Fred Matian'gi for sacrificially supporting me in the study program.

My dear wife Loise Njeri deserves a special mention. Her constant prayers and encouragement were of great help to get me to the completion of this project.

Finally, I sincerely thank all friends who in many ways stood by me to ensure I succeed in my study program. I pray that our bountiful heavenly Father extends His special favors to you all.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

As the body of Christ, the church is called upon to ensure that all its members are taken care of and their varying needs met appropriately. It is expected of the church that all its members experience the joy of fellowship. The church today is indeed called to be a place of support and encouragement for all its stakeholders. The Lord Jesus Christ calls His disciples to an important principle, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13: 34 NIV). Here the church is called to cherish love for each other and hence following the Savior’s footsteps.

The church membership in the Nairobi South Pastoral District is composed of people with various needs. Notably, in the membership are single parents who are faced with economic, social, spiritual, and emotional challenges. This special group and its varied needs call for special attention from the church fraternity.

Statement of the Problem

An assessment of the membership of the Nairobi South Pastoral District indicates the presence of a good number of single parents in the congregations. However, there is no continuing ministry to meet their varied needs. This study sets out to determine and develop a strategy for a continuing ministry to the single parents.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to (1) examine the existing form of ministry to single parents in the Nairobi South Pastoral District (2) to develop a strategy for a continuing ministry to meet the various needs of the single parents in the three local churches in the district..

Significance of the Study

It is hoped that through this project the Nairobi South District single parents will benefit from a continuing ministry that meets their varied needs. Secondly, the Central Kenya Conference (CKC) through its family life ministries department will benefit with a strategic proposal to meet the needs of single parents and be able to share it with churches forming its constituency. The researcher also expects to gain insightful ways in which he will be able to minister to single parents whenever an opportunity to do so presents itself.

Limitations of the Study

A majority of the respondents were female single parents. Due to this fact, the researcher had difficulties in freely interacting with the respondents. The low number of male single parent respondents meant that not so much information was captured about them to aid the research.

Delimitation of the Study

Apparently, many Adventist churches in the CKC lack a comprehensive ministry to single parents in their congregations. However, for ease of research this study was limited to the Nairobi South Pastoral District.

Methodology of the Study

The researcher first sought the permission of the CKC before engaging in the study. He also sought permission and requested for visits to the three churches forming the Nairobi South Pastoral District to establish reliable data for the study (See Appendix A, Exhibits 1 and 2).

Secondly, the researcher sought to dispense questionnaires to the single parents to establish the causes of their single parenthood. The questionnaires were also meant to explore what the single parents felt their respective churches could do to minister to their varied needs. The rest of the church members were also interviewed to establish their perception of the single parents and what they thought could be done to minister to the single parents (See Appendix B Exhibits 1 and 2). The researcher also conducted interviews with some single parents to establish the effectiveness of the program implemented.

Definition of Terms

1. Pastoral District - as used in this project refers to the area overseen by a pastor or pastors.
2. Spirit of Prophecy Writings – as used in this project refers to the literally works of one Ellen Gould White who was one of the founders of the SDA Church.
3. Young Girls with unplanned pregnancies – refers to young unmarried girls who while engaging in premarital sex become pregnant without their expectations.
4. Women who want a child but not a partner – refers to women who don't want to commit themselves in a marital relationship but want to enjoy the blessings of having children.

5. Former cohabiters – refers to a man and a woman who used to live together as a husband and wife without being formerly married.
6. Divorced – refers to persons who are single parents as a result of their marriage ending by an official decision in a court of law.
7. Separated – refers to persons who are still legally married but not living together as a couple.
8. Widowed – refers to persons who are single parents as a result of losing their spouse to death.
9. Never Married – refers to single parents who have not been in a legal husband and wife relationship.
10. Adoptive Single parents – refers to single parents who have adopted children.
11. Single parents without custody – refers to single parents without a legal right to care for the children.
12. Single Parents with Shared (Joint) Custody – refers to single parents who both have the legal right to care for their children.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORETICAL BASIS FOR MINISTRY TO SINGLE PARENTS

This chapter seeks to set a foundation for a ministry to single parents. Biblical references to both the Old and the New Testaments will be studied for a biblical foundation of the ministry. Ellen White's writings will also be considered to still build on the foundation for the ministry. Finally, reference will be made to the works of other authors for a basis for a single parent ministry.

Biblical Foundations

A close study of the Holy Scriptures will indicate that there is no direct reference to single parents- how can this be explained? According to Atkinson, "There is little if any direct teaching in Scripture on single parenthood, for the obvious reason that premarital sexual intercourse is strongly forbidden, yet there is significant guidance for the church today."¹ With this understanding then, for the sake of this research, reference is directed to what the Bible says about widows since these falls under the category of single parents.

¹David J. Atkinson, et al., ed., *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. (Leicester: Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, 1995), 793.

Old Testament

God has Peculiar Concern for Widows

“A father of the fatherless, a defender of the widows, is God in His holy habitation” (Ps 68:5).² “The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow” (Ps 146:9). “The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow” (Prov 15:25).

This concern is further concretized in several laws: Israel is commanded

You shall not pervert justice due to the stranger, the fatherless, nor take a widow’s garment as a pledge. When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing (Deut 24:17-22).

The referenced Bible texts confirm to us of God’s unique concern for the widows in Israel. As such, the church is to show a special concern to the single parents in its membership.

Kindness to Widows Commended as a Mark of True Religion

The patriarch Job testifies of his concern for the widows in his time, “The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy.” (Job 29:13). God’s people are admonished to, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isa 1:17).

As a professor of true religion God’s church is to extend kindness to the single parents who include the widows in its midst.

²Unless otherwise specified, all Bible references in this work will be taken from New King James Version.

Dire Punishment for Oppression of Widows

“They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless” (Ps 94:6). God further says, “And I will come near you for judgment; . . . against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans . . . because they do not fear me” (Mal 3:5). God’s church cannot wait to face the lord’s wrath because of the oppression of the widows (single parents) in its midst. It will rise up and be what God expects it to be- an upholder of their cause.

Widows are Under the Special Care of God

“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing” (Deut 10:18). “Leave your fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let your widows trust in me (Jer 49:11). Does this then imply that the church has no more role to play with regard to the ministration to the needy? On the contrary, obligation of ministering to the needs of the widows (single parents) among them. They are to assume the responsibility of being the lord’s hands and feet in this important mission.

New Testament

Jesus Affirmed God’s Concern for the Widows

The Savior warns the disciples to be aware of the scribes saying, “Who devour widow’s houses, and for pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation” (Mark 12:40). Here He reaffirms the Biblical view of God’s concern for the widow and hence a reason for the church to continue upholding this good cause in its operations.

Christ Affirmed Widows in His Teachings

Firstly, in Luke 18:1-5, He drew an illustration for contemporary life in the story of the widow who by her persistence in demanding justice was wearing out the judge. Secondly, while observing how people were putting their gifts in the treasury, Jesus affirmed the widow's offering when He says, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all this out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she put in all the livelihood that she had" (Luke 20:3-4).

The Experience of the Early Church

Acts 6:1-4 records one of the earliest good works that engaged the church in Jerusalem. The passage records an organized daily distribution of alms to widows in need; and the appointment of seven men to see that the Greek-speaking widows were not overlooked in favor of those who spoke Aramaic.

The Book of Acts gives a striking illustration of charity shown by one individual when, after the death of Dorcas it records that "All widows stood by weeping, showing the tunics and garments which she had made while she was with them" (Acts 9:39).

Care for the Widows a Mark of True Religion

The apostle James states categorically that to give assistance to widows in their distress is a mark of the kind of religion with which God can find no fault. He asserts, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (Jas 1:27).

The Spirit of Prophecy on Ministry to Single Parents

As in the case of Biblical references to ministry to single parents, Ellen White does not refer to single parents as such and therefore for the sake of this study the researcher based his arguments for a ministry to single parents based on what she observes about attention to widows.

The Church to Care for Widows

The Servant of the Lord asserts that the church of Christ has the responsibility of caring for the widows among its membership, She asserts that “When all has been done that can be done in helping the poor to help themselves, there still remain the widow and the fatherless, the aged, the helpless, and the sick, that claim sympathy and care. Never should these be neglected. They are committed by God Himself to the mercy, the love, and the tender care of all whom He has made His stewards.”³

Widows Need Encouragement, Sympathy, and Tangible help

Ellen White observes that widows need an all-encompassing care. She says, “Many a widowed mother with her fatherless children is bravely striving to bear her double burden, often toiling far beyond her strength in order to keep her little ones with her and to provide for their needs . . . she needs encouragement, sympathy, and tangible help.”⁴

³White, Ellen G. *Ministry of Healing*. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999).

⁴Ibid.

She further says, “The widow and the fatherless need more than our charity. They need sympathy and watch care and compassionate words and a helping hand to place them where they can help themselves.”⁵

God is Concerned with How We Treat the Widows

How we treat the underprivileged among us is an issue of great concern to God. Sister White says that

I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His Church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence.⁶ Being cognizant of God’s concern for the needy in its midst the church is to be

careful of how it treats them- to treat them as God would treat them. It is to be motivated to develop the best ways to minister to them in accordance with the requirements of God.

Christians to Counsel with and Pray with the Widows

God’s people are implored to counsel, visit, and pray with the widows. Ellen White asserts that “They are to give them Christ like counsel; they are to unite with them in prayer and to ever bear in mind that Jesus Christ is present in all these visits,

⁵ Ellen G. White, *Welfare Ministry*. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999).

⁶ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 3, Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999).

and that a faithful record is kept of the object and work accomplished.”⁷ This counsel upholds the need for the church to offer spiritual as well as emotional support to the single parents in its midst.

Other Authors on Ministry to Single Parents

Who are Single Parents?

The Collins Concise Dictionary defines a single parent as “a person who has a dependent child or dependent children and who is widowed, divorced or married.”⁸ Nancy Dowd as quoted in Wikipedia defines a single parent or a solo parent as “a parent, not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver, meaning the parent the children have residency with the majority of the time.”⁹

Single parenthood is complex; Atkinson alludes to this fact, when he states that

Single parenthood is a complex phenomenon, despite the fact that the term is often used by politicians and the media as a blanket description. Single parents can be young girls who have an unplanned pregnancy, women who want a child but not a partner, a parent deserted or divorced by a spouse, former cohabitantes, or widows or widowers left to care for young children. Sometimes a person becomes a single parent in all but a name, because of the other partner’s inability, physical or mental, to share in caring for the children.¹⁰

⁷ Ellen G. White, *Welfare Ministry*. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999).

⁸ Collins Concise English Dictionary, 7th ed., (2008), s.v. “Single Parents”.

⁹ “Single parent”, Wikipedia, accessed 25 March 2015, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_parent.

¹⁰ David J. Atkinson, et al., ed., *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. (Leicester, UK: Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, 1995), 793.

Hayman affirms this complexity when she says, “Single parents come from every background, every learning and earning level and all jobs and professions.”¹¹

A Single Parent’s Greatest Stress

Sell in his book ‘Family Ministry’ helps us understand the single parent’s world when he says that

A single parent’s greatest stress may not be caused by parenting issues but by how they got to be single parents. There are many types of single parents: divorced, separated, widowed, never-married, adoptive single parent, single parent without custody, and single parents with shared (joint) custody. The church’s support for them tends to vary according to the type of situation. For example, attitudes toward a widowed single parent may entirely be different than those toward never-married or divorced parent.¹²

Single Parents Need to Feel Accepted

The church needs to make the single parents feel accepted notwithstanding the reason for their single parenthood. Lowry affirms this fact when she states that “Single parents need to feel accepted, regardless of why they’re parenting solo, whether they’re divorced, separated, widowed, never married, cohabiting, grandparents raising raising grandkids, military spouses and others.”¹³

The Church to be an Extended Caring Family

Richardson upholds the crucial role the church ought to play in ministering to

¹¹ Suzie Hayman. *Be a Great Single Parent*. (London, UK: Abingdon McGraw-Hill, 2010), 1.

¹² Charles M. Sell, *Family Ministry*, Second Edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995), 329-330.

¹³ Lindy Lowry, “The Priority And Potential Of Single-Parent Ministry”, accessed on 30 March 2015, http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/4223-single_parent.html.

the single parents forming its membership when he says, “the church must be the extended caring family indeed, we are the family of God. We must minister to and support the special needs of the single- parent family.”¹⁴

The Needs/Challenges of Single Parents

Margaret Jacobs gets us to the very heart of the challenging life of a single parent

Getting everything done on time, being where you need to be, do what you have to do and stay same through it all. Finding the financial means (food, boarding/housing, transportation, food, clothing and providing necessities of life, safe place to stay, live and play), baby-sitting and day care, employment and income support and other family- related challenges. Emotionally supporting your kids, while despite your world crumpling before your eyes. Being and providing the stability although you do not feel you can or have it in you. Coping with loss and change and the new roles and responsibilities of being a sole custodian and major caregiver, provider and head of the family.¹⁵

Some of the single parents needs/challenges are here below given further elaboration:

Financial Needs. The standard of life can never be the same for a single parent, Gary Richmond, in his book *Successful Single Parenting*, states: “As a single parent family, you cannot maintain the same standard of living you once enjoyed as a complete family.”¹⁶

Carpenter observes that

¹⁴ Willie Richardson. *Reclaiming the Urban Family: How to Mobilize the Church as a Family Training Center* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 160.

¹⁵ Margaret D. Jacobs. *How to Truly Shine as a Single Parent*. (Scotts Valley, CA : CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2010) 4, 5.

¹⁶Gary Richmond, *Successful Single Parenting*, (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 1990), 98.

Single parents must bear the weight of making ends meet entirely on their own. Two-parent families can double their incomes if both parents work. This is not an option for a single parent, even when there is child support, it often does not equal a second income. Having enough money to pay the bills and put food on the table can be constant struggle.¹⁷

Richardson shades further light with regard to the financial needs of single parents when he says

A woman who was middle class economically while married can find herself below poverty line after a divorce, with no financial help from an ex-husband in the support of their children. A teenage parent can find herself buried on the public assistance rolls after having her second child without a husband because she is a high school dropout. The deep depression of a jilted spouse can cause an inability to earn a living or to make key decisions as the head of the family.¹⁸

It is notable that the many financial challenges that single parents face can be attributed to various reasons. Hatter observes that

The death of a spouse can leave the surviving spouse with unexpected bills and reduced income, plus the responsibility of raising the children all alone. Divorce divides the couple's resources and doubles the living expenses, with two households to support. Single parents can collect child support and alimony if the absent parent earns enough income, though it is often difficult to collect or insufficient to sustain a family. Single parents are also restricted in the type of work opportunities and available hours due to abundant family responsibilities. This can lead to limited income and an inability to pay for basic necessities. They may turn to public assistance for help.¹⁹

According to Burkett, someone must come to the aid of single parents in meeting their financial needs "There are specific responsibilities for the single parent

¹⁷Michael E Carpenter, "What Are Some of the Challenges Single Parents Face?" http://www.ehow.com/list_7623507_challenges-single-parents-face.html. Accessed on 18 February 2013.

¹⁸ Willie Richardson. *Reclaiming the Urban Family: How to Mobilize the Church as a Family Training Center*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 160-161.

¹⁹Kathryn Hatter, "Effects of Single Parents on Children", accessed on 20 March 2013, http://www.ehow.com/info_8008164_causes-effects-single-parents.html.

prior to asking for help, but without outside help, the long-term prospects can get pretty grim.”²⁰ The church of God where the single parent finds family can well stand in this gap.

Burkett and Fuller further state in their book *The Complete Financial Guide for Single Parents* that “If God’s principles are followed, and if the local church assists these families, as Scripture directs, the single parent family can have a healthy financial life and even build a surplus to share with others in need.”²¹

Task Overload. Fobbs states that, “A single Parent has all the household tasks that are shared in a two- parent family. A Single parent will work at a full-time job, spend time with the kids, and do all the required household chores by themselves. Task overload can lead to depression in some single- parent households.”²²

Edward Schor further expounds on this particular need when he says

A single parent's responsibilities certainly do not stop the moment work ends each day. You may have what seems like a full day's worth of tasks awaiting you at home—from cooking dinner to doing laundry to helping your child with homework. Although these same obligations are faced by working mothers who are married, a single parent has to face these responsibilities alone, without the help of a husband. For that reason, many single parents feel chronically fatigued. They often feel physically and emotionally exhausted and find themselves yelling more at their children.²³

²⁰Larry Burkett, *The Complete Financial Guide for Single Parents* (Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press Publications Incorporated, 1991), 8.

²¹ Larry Burkett and Cheri Fuller. *The Financial Guide for the Single Parent Workbook* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1997), 10.

²²Kevin Fobbs, “Challenges for Single Parents”, accessed 20 March 2013, http://www.ehow.com/info_7924243_challenges-single-parents.html.

²³ Edward L. Schor, ed., *Caring for Your School-Age Child Ages 5 To 12*(New York, NY: Bantam Books, 1999), 460.

Emotional Needs/Challenges. Hatter alludes to the emotional needs of a single parent when she writes that

A single parent faces many emotional challenges as she mourns the loss of a deceased spouse or absent parent. The sudden death, divorce, or birth of an unexpected baby takes an emotional toll on a single parent who may not have anyone to talk to intimately about her personal challenges. A single parent may become depressed and emotionally unavailable. Alternatively, she may hold her own feelings to help her children overcome their emotional struggles. She must help them work through the loneliness and anger that they experience. Otherwise, they may develop low self-esteem and anger issues. Single parents tend to carry this guilt and blame themselves for the painful emotions that their children feel.²⁴

Logistical Challenges. Single parents experience numerous logistical challenges. Hatter observes that

A single parent faces many logistical challenges that impact her ability to provide for her family financially and emotionally. She often must work full-time and depend on full-time childcare services. She must drop her preschool or school age children off early before school and pick them up late after school. A single parent must have a flexible job that allows her to leave work for sick children, doctor's appointment, parent conferences, and school performances. Her work and promotion opportunities may be limited if she appears to be unavailable or her parental responsibilities outweigh her work performance.²⁵

Social and Academic Challenges. Michael Carpenter alludes to the social and academic challenges of single parents when he observes that

The financial, logistical, and emotional struggles a single parent faces absorb the abundance of her time. She may not have time left for social life. Her financial limitations may leave nothing left for her personal needs or any social activities. She also may not have resources for childcare to go out, because she already uses childcare full-time during the week to enable her to work. Many single parents work and go to school to improve employment opportunities. This leaves little time to help the children with homework. As a result, the

²⁴Kathryn Hatter, "Effects of Single Parents on Children", accessed on 20 March 2013, http://www.ehow.com/info_8008164_causes-effects-single-parents.html.

²⁵ Ibid.

children's grades may sink, they begin to fail classes and eventually drop out of school.²⁶

Personal Health. Single parents do not prioritize on their personal health, Carpenter affirms this when he says

Single parents often put personal health last. Their children come first, with work and other obligations following. Responsibilities build up over time and single parents often try to do everything else before taking care of themselves. Making time for doctor's visits, exercises and even sleep fall down the list of priorities. This leads to severe health issues if continued over long periods of time.²⁷

Some Strategies on Ministering to Single Parents

In an effort to establish a ministry to the single parents, the complex needs of the single parents are to be taken care of. According to Single Parent Ministry Network (SPARC) the church is to

Create a single parent ministry that addresses the various complex needs of the single parent family. Create a ministry that offers them acceptance, encouragement, spiritual development and support. Create a ministry that offers them a chance to minister as well as be ministered to as single parents have a great deal to offer in both your congregation and in your community.²⁸

Michael Carpenter presents some ways in which the church can minister to single parents:

Single parents are family- Recognize and acknowledge the family aspect of

²⁶Michael E Carpenter, "What Are Some of the Challenges Single Parents Face?" accessed on 18 February 2013, http://www.ehow.com/list_7623507_challenges-single-parents-face.html.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸The SPARC Single Parent Ministry Network, "Why a Single Parent Ministry", accessed 26 March 2015, http://www.singleparent411.org/faith_ministries/why.html

single parenting and develop programs and interfaces that will help them to be the most effective parents they can be.

Healthy mentoring- Connecting them to mentoring friendships or involving them in parent support groups made up of both singles and couples.

Integrating them with couples- They should not be singled out or isolated. Being sensitive to their pain- Death, separation, divorce, abandonment, etc. have a huge impact on single parents. Issues such as trust, guilt, shame, anger, bitterness, loneliness, healing- for both adults and children take time.

Acknowledgement- Affirm them publicly and say kind things about them to their kids.

Paraclete ministry- We must model healthy relationships and marriages to their children as they look to resolve their gender identity issues.

Sounding board ministry- They need people to really listen and care as they vent their emotions or seek input.

Church as family- Our churches must be part of the family system that God is providing the single parents in our care. We can start by affirming single parents as legitimate, contributing member of that family.²⁹

Forming Single Parents Support Groups and Networks. Single parents can well be ministered to through leading them to form support groups and networks. Garland alludes to this strategy when she states that,

Supporting and advocating for families is the foundation for family ministry. In addition, congregations may develop specific programs and services to address particular issues in family life. These programs and services can be conceptualized as a continuum from the most general to more specialized forms of family ministry. Families are helped by being with other families who share their life situations—parents of teenagers, care-givers of people with Alzheimer's disease, mentors of single parents, parents of young adults who are troubled by substance addiction, grandparents raising their grandchildren. Together, families learn from and support one another. This support may be formalized in a group, or it may be a more loosely structured network of families who are in touch with one another as they choose.³⁰

²⁹Michael E Carpenter, "What Are Some of the Challenges Single Parents Face?" accessed on 18 February 2013, http://www.ehow.com/list_7623507_challenges-single-parents-face.html.

³⁰Diana R. Garland, "Family Ministry - Methods Of Family Ministry" accessed on 30 March 2015, <http://family.jrank.org/pages/559/Family-Ministry-Methods-Family-Ministry.html>.

Garland further presents the role of a church leader in the establishing of the support groups and networks,

The role of the church leader is primarily helping families find and become linked with one another, and helping them, if needed, to identify resources that can be helpful to them. The families themselves provide any leadership needed for their group or network, although professional staff persons can help equip them and support them in this role.³¹

Seifert affirms the crucial role of the church in ministering to single parents when he states that

Single parents and their children need support and encouragement from their church family. A church can effectively reach out to single families by providing ministry opportunities for them to connect with one another, honoring the sacrifices they make, and offering resources in the church to help them meet their unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.³² He further presents some activities that the church can carry out to minister to

this very important church group e.g. monthly gathering, nights-out and workshops.³³

Prayer and Equipping Meetings

In a bid to minister to single parents, Rienow alludes to the need for the church to plan for prayer and equipping meetings for this special group when he says, “. . . gather single parents together for 4 or 5 meetings of prayer and specific equipping on how to pray and read the Bible with their children at home.

Nothing is more important for parents, single or otherwise, than to be praying and reading the Bible with their children.”³⁴

³¹Ibid.

³²Carly Seifert, “Single Parent Family Ministry Ideas” accessed on 30 March 2015, <http://www.livestrong.com/article/1005786-single-parent-family-ministry-ideas>.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Rob Rienow, “Bible-Driven Ministry to Single Parents”, accessed on 30 March 2015, <http://www.churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-how-tos/165936-bible-driven-ministry-to-single-parents.html>.

Rienow further emphasizes the need for the church to be close to the single parents, when he observes that

The church must also be direct with single parents so that they feel no pressure to volunteer in church programming. They are drowning! Let us give the blessed and freeing message to our single parents, especially those who are in crisis, that by being a spiritual leader for their children at home they are “volunteering” in the most important ministry of all.³⁵

Walker who is a single parent herself lists the top 10 ministry needs for the single parents which when studied keenly and implemented are in themselves strategies to minister to this special group;

- Recognizing them as Real Families
- Praying for them on regular basis
- Giving them words of affirmation
- Providing them opportunities to hear stories of hope from other single parents or kids of single parents
- Providing an adult Community
- Providing Free Counseling
- Providing Free Meals
- Mentoring their kids
- Providing financial assistance
- Providing Household assistance³⁶

Guideline in Single Parent Ministry

Willie Richardson shares an eight-step program to meet the needs of single parents in the church:

Workers- The pastor and church must realize that single parents need the help of the church. The people who will make up the family ministry team are those who have a burden for single- parent families and some of the single parents themselves.

Assessing Needs- A meeting should be held with the pastor, family ministry team, and some single parents in the church.

Ministry Objectives

Ministry Goals- Establish for single parents and their children a foundation for living a balanced life based on five dimensions:

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶ Dawn Walker, “Ministry to Single Parent Families”, accessed 25 March 2015, <http://www.singleparentmissions.org/ministrytools.html>.

- Spiritual: Living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, walking in the Spirit, being sanctified
- Physical: Getting proper sleep, exercising, and having good, nutritional eating habits
- Emotional: Developing right thinking, self –control, joy, peace
- Social: Having godly relationships with the same sex, understanding Christian dating with the opposite sex, enjoying social gatherings, concerts, plays, and trips
- Intellectual: Establishing life planning, family goals, educational goals, occupational goals, financial goals, and seeking vocational guidance.

Ministry Program-Monthly work shop meetings. Instruction is given to single parents on such topics as the following:

- Trusting God for a spouse
- Trusting God concerning the Absent Parent
- Resolving bitterness
- Handling Anger
- Scheduling
- Parenting as a Single Parent
- Financial Planning
- Legal Issues
- Mothers Dealing With Male Children
- Establishing Home Rules and Responsibilities
- Health Issues
- Community Resources

Single-Parent Clusters-Clusters are organized according to geographical location and personal preference. There should be no more than three families in a cluster. Clusters provide a vehicle for the single parent to establish relationships with other single- parent families to support one another in such areas as:

- God’s principles for living
- Transportation and travel
- Baby-sitting
- Recycling clothing, toys, children’s furniture, etc.
- Recreational and social activities
- Child-rearing support
- Fix-it skill sharing, etc.
- Children befriending each other

Support Families-These families consist of couples whose children are grown or who have no children. They desire to be an extended family to single-parent family.

Youth Ministry- Incorporating with single parents, the youth ministry holds teenagers accountable to do their best in school and to honor and obey the parent.³⁷

³⁷Willie Richardson, *Reclaiming the Urban Family: How to Mobilize the Church as a Family Training Center* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 168-169.

Summary

As examined in this chapter, there is a firm basis for a ministry to single parents. Biblically, it is clear that God has a high regard for the widows in the society and that the church is expected by Him to consider their (widows') cause and care for them. The Ellen White's writings considered in this chapter have strongly indicated that the church is to show special care to the widows. From the references to other authors, it has been observed that the challenges/ needs of the single parents varied and enormous. To address these needs/challenges, strategies from other authors on ministering to single parents are considered. The steps to a ministry to this special group are also given.

In the next chapter, the researcher presents a description of the Nairobi South pastoral district. This is done with a view to establish the single parent situation in the district leading to the developing of a strategy to minister to them.

CHAPTER 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL SETTING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BASELINE DATA

There are three sections in this chapter. The first section provides a general description of the setting of Nairobi South Pastoral district. This includes a brief description of their location, history, and membership composition.

The second section deals with the methodology. It explains how data was acquired, the rationale for using questionnaires and interviews and how they were implemented. The final section discusses the results of the surveys and interviews and provides an analysis of the results.

General Description of the Nairobi South Pastoral District

Nairobi South district is comprised of three churches, namely; Nairobi South, Karengata, and Syokimau Central. In the course of this study, Nairobi South church was reorganized into a pastoral district of its own while Karengata and Syokimau Central churches remained to form Karengata pastoral district. A general description of each church is here given:

Nairobi South SDA Church. Nairobi South Seventh-day Adventist Church is situated in South C area ,along Muhoho Avenue, west of Nairobi City . The church started in 1981 as a small prayer group of a handful of families then worshipping in Nairobi Central SDA Church. The prayer group expanded to form a strong Sabbath School.

The Sabbath school was organized into a church early 1982 and that time worshiped in South 'C' Y.M.C.A compound. By the grace of God, the group was allocated a plot by the Kenya Government to build a sanctuary. That is where the present sanctuary stands. The Church membership has grown from 50 by the time of organization in 1982 to the current membership of 1500 in 2015. In addition, due to its very accessible location, the church attracts about 2000 worshippers every Sabbath.

Nairobi South Church is a multi-lingual congregation with children, youths, and old people. A majority of the members are middle-income earners and a few high-income earners coming from different parts of the city. A few of the members own their own houses while majorities are tenants in different housing estates in the City of Nairobi. In addition, a few of the membership have worked to own some extra houses where they earn some rental income. The residents around the church location are mostly tenants and coming from different racial backgrounds.

Karengata SDA Church

Karengata SDA Church has its roots in the Langata Prayer cell of the New Life church, which was active from around 1994 to 1999. It begun with a number of families who congregated in their homes especially for Friday vespers and potluck lunches at Uhuru /Central Park on Sabbath days. It became quite active and soon was organized into a Sabbath School in June 1999 at the Uhuru Gardens Primary School and was organized into a fully-fledged church in the year 2000.

The church is located at the Bomas of Kenya Junction opposite Galleria Shopping Mall in the Langata constituency of Nairobi County. Karengata SDA Church is also a multilingual congregation with people of different ages. A majority of its members are young professionals with relatively young families. The church membership now stands at 700. On a given Sabbath day, about 1200 people attend the worship services.

The membership in Karengata is generally middle class income earners with a few high-income earners. In the congregation, a few run their own businesses and even provide employment opportunities for other people. A good number of members are tenants in the housing estates located some distance from the church compound. A sizeable number have also worked to own homes and even have extra houses where they earn some rental income. Noticeable also in the congregation are members who work as labourers in the neighboring affluent Karen area.

Syokimau Central SDA Church

Syokimau Central Church is located at Syokimau along Katani Road off Mombasa Road in Kathiani Constituency in the Machakos County on the far eastern side of Nairobi Kenya. The church started as a result of a mission endeavor spearheaded by a group of members from Nairobi South SDA Church in the year 2003. It started as a Sabbath School with a few members in a small rented house at Kwambeba area located behind the Nation Newspapers printing plant along Mombasa Road. It was organized into a fully-fledged church in July 2007. The congregation comprises of relatively young middle class members. By time of this research project, the church boasts of a church membership of 200 people and a normal Sabbath attendance of about 500 believers.

A majority of the membership in Syokimau Central Church is middle class income earners and a few run their own small businesses. Fortunately, also a good number of members reside in their own homes. In addition, a few have worked to own extra houses where they earn some rental income.

Research Findings

The study was carried out in the larger Nairobi South district. A total of 31 single parents and 31 church members were interviewed. Figure 1 presents the gender of both the single parents' respondents and the church members respondents.

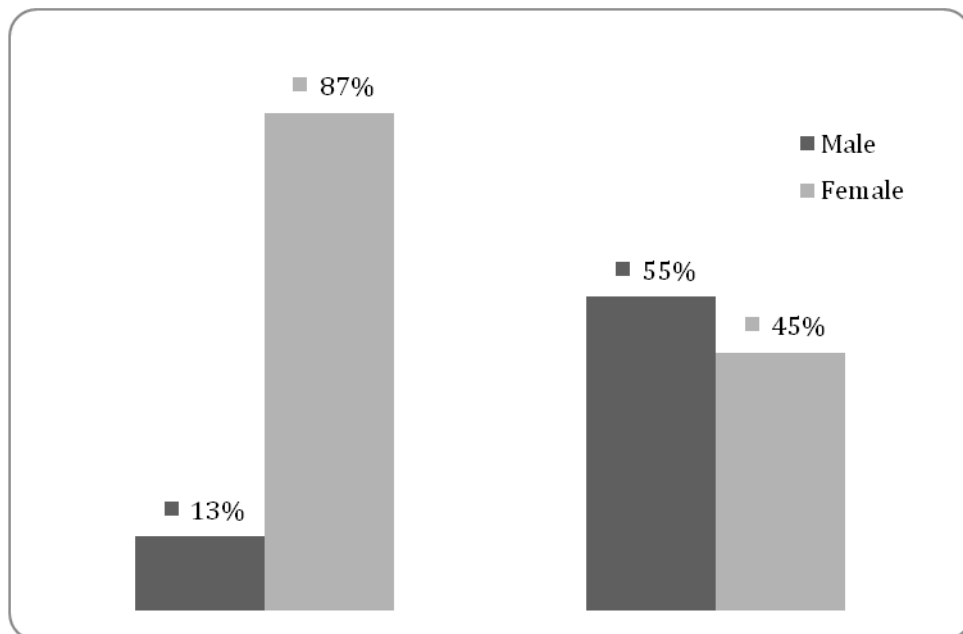


Figure 1. Gender of Respondents

Figure 1 shows that of single parents interviewed, 13% were males and 87% were females indicating that there are more female single parents in the churches than male single parents. For the church members interviewed, 55% were male and the remaining 45% were female indicating an almost equal representation of responses from both genders in the study.

The results of the single parent gender in the church are important not only for programming purposes but also to understand why one gender is dominant. The results show that female single parents constitute over 87% of the single parents, if not for natural causes, there is need to explore why there are fewer male single parents in the church.

Age of Respondents

The study further sought to establish the ages of the single parent respondents.

Figure 2 presents the ages of the respondents.

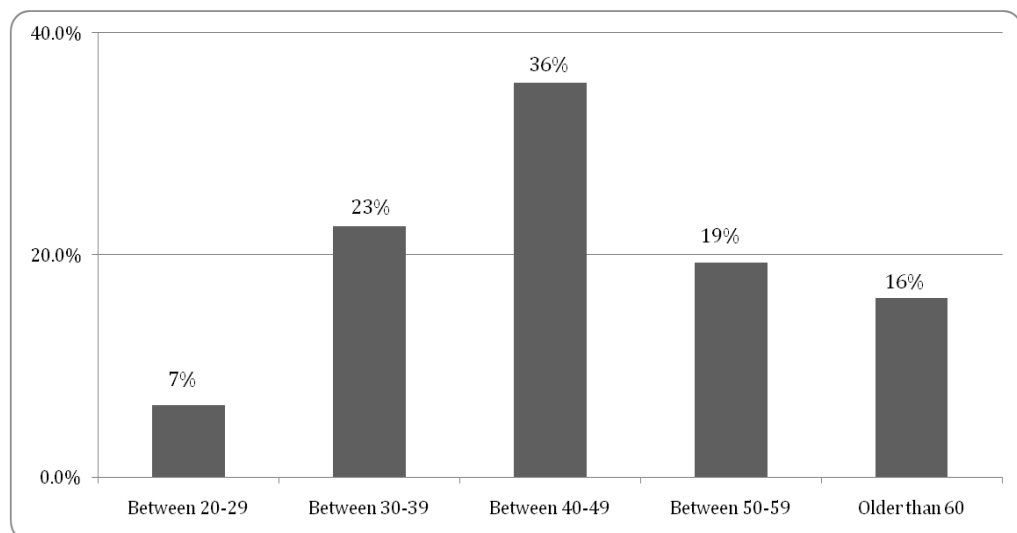


Figure 2. Age Group of Single Parent Respondents

The results as presented in Figure 2 reveals that 7% were aged between 20-29 years , 23% were aged between 30-39 years, majority (46%) were between 40-49 years, 19% were 50-59 years and while 16% were above 60 years. This shows that ages 30-49 are the most likely ages to find a single parent as almost 6 in every 10 single parents fall in this age bracket.

Educational Level of Respondents

The respondents were asked to state their highest completed education level and the results are shown in Table 1. The results as presented in Table 1 show that a majority (71%) of single parent respondents had either college, undergraduate or postgraduate education while only 29% had secondary education or less.

Table 1. Educational Attainment of Respondents

Education Level	Church Members	Single Parents
Primary school	0.0%	13%
Secondary school	13%	16%
College(Diploma)	32%	29%
Undergraduate(1 st Degree)	32%	7%
Post-graduate	23%	36%

For the church members over 87% had at least college education. Further analysis of single parents' educational attainment showed that all those with at least secondary education were females while all males had a postgraduate education.

The results suggest that single parenthood is prevalent among those with more than secondary education.

Single Parenthood Status of Respondents

The study sought to establish the single parenthood status of the respondents and the results were as shown in Figure 3. As presented in Figure 3 above, 36% were widow/widowers, 26% were separated, 26% never married and 13% are divorced.

The results plainly show that the single parents who had a union in marriage

constituted 74% before they were widowed, separated, or divorced. Marriages that didn't work and ended up in separation or divorce were 39%. Further analysis showed that all those divorced were females and that divorced females and majority of those separated females were in the critical age of 30-49 years. Of the widowed single parents, all were over 40 years of age and 91% of them were females. Those that have never married, majority were below 40 years with only 25% being males. The results show that the single parenthood status of the respondents is varied and poses serious challenges for addressing the needs of the special group of members within the congregations.

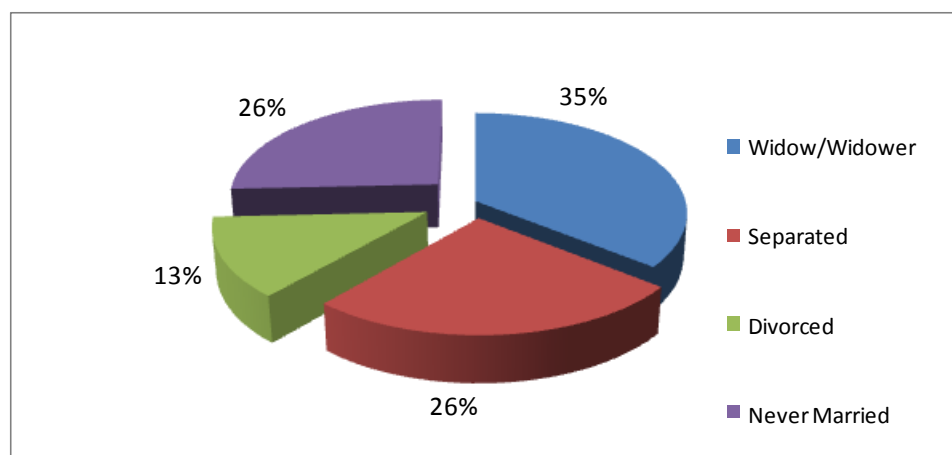


Figure 3. Respondents' Single Parenthood Status

Duration of Single Parenthood

The survey sought to understand the period of single parenthood of the respondents and the results are displayed in Figure 4. The results as shown in Figure 4 indicate that a majority, (32.3%) had been single parents for between 3-15 years; a further 12.9% had been for over 15yrs while only 6.5% stated to have been single parents for duration of less than 2 years and all of them were single parents because of the natural unpreventable cause-the death of a spouse.

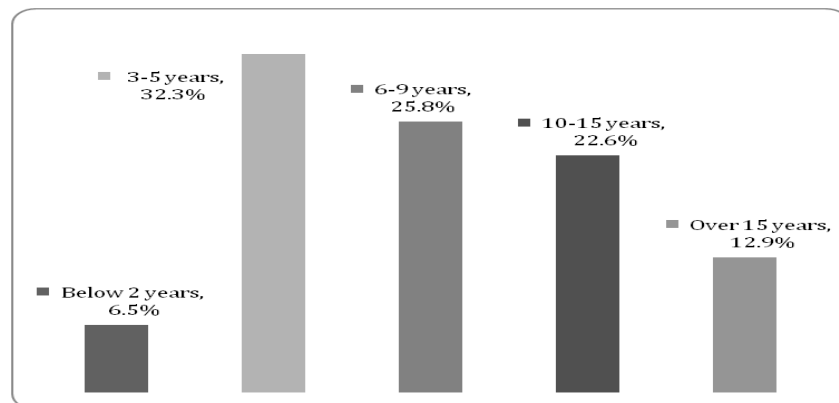


Figure 4. Duration of Single Parenthood

The duration of single parenthood for those who are either separated or never married varied between 3 years to over 15 years. On the contrary, those divorced, the duration was concentrated between 3 years and 9 years while those widowed cut across from below 2 years to over 15 years as presented in Figure 4 above. These shows that the approaches to address the needs and challenges of the single parents have to be varied and all inclusive to target both young single parents and those that have been single parents for a long time while at the same time taking cognizance of the cause of their single parenthood.

Number of Children in Single Parenthood Families

The respondents were asked to state the number of children that they had. The results were as shown in Figure 5. Their responses as shown in Figure 5 indicate that 48% had either one child or two children, 29% had three or four children while 23% had more than four children. The single parents had been blessed with children either within the confines of marriage or out of relationships that did not end up in a formal union.

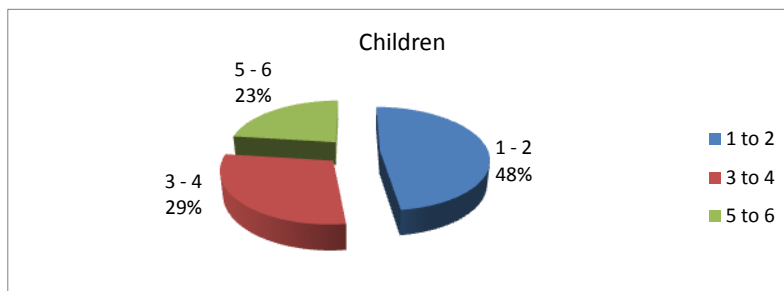


Figure 5. Number of Children in Single Parenthood Families

Age Group of Children of Single Parents

In a bid to find out the parenting issues that the single parents dealt with, the study sought to establish the ages of the children of the single parents as shown in Table 2. The results as captured in Table 2 above indicates that the majority, 68%, were young adults (20-30), 51.6% were teenagers (12-19) years, 41.9% said they were 11 years and below while 19.4% stated they were over 30 years. This reveals that that single parents had parenting issues ranging from handling preteens, teens, and young adults.

Table 2. Age Groups of Single Parents' Children

Age Group	No	Percentage
0 - 11 Years	13	41.9%
12 - 19 Years	16	51.6%
20 - 30 Years	21	67.7%
Over 30 years	6	19.4%
Total	56	100%

Employment Status of Single Parents

To discover the social and economic challenges faced by the single parent households, a set of different questions were asked. The results were as shown in Figure 6. The results as shown in Figure 6 indicated that only 45.2% of respondents were employed either in the public or private sector, 35.5% stated that they were self-employed while 19.4% are without employment. Further analysis showed that those unemployed were female single parents.

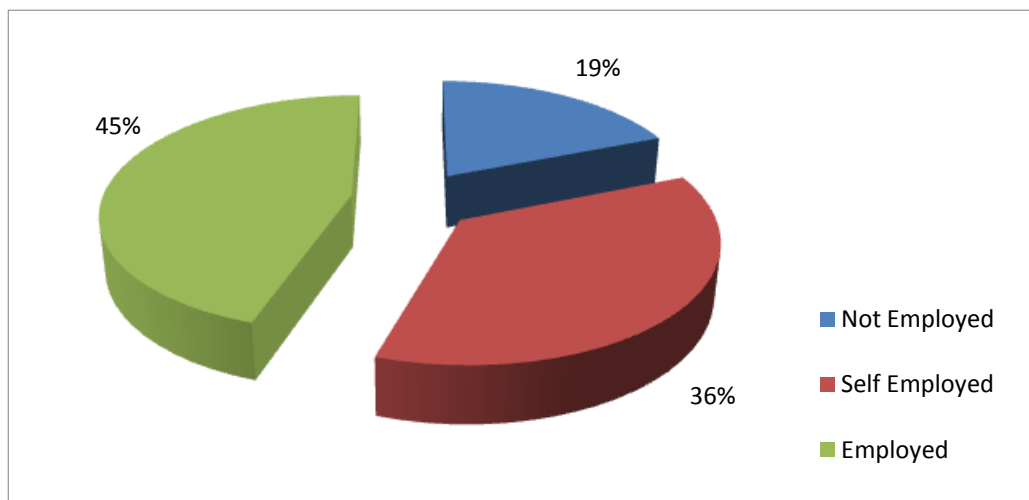


Figure 6. Single Parents Employment Status

The study further sought to understand if besides employment status, they had other sources of income. The findings are as shown in Figure 7. As shown in Figure 7 above a slight majority (52%) affirmed to have other sources of income with all male single parents saying they had a business venture as opposed to none of the female single parents. All the other sources of income applied to female single parents and not to male single parents. The commonest source of income for female single parents was from extended family (40%) with support from one's children and church friends at 20% respectively. The other source was insurance companies 13% while rental income accounted for 7%.

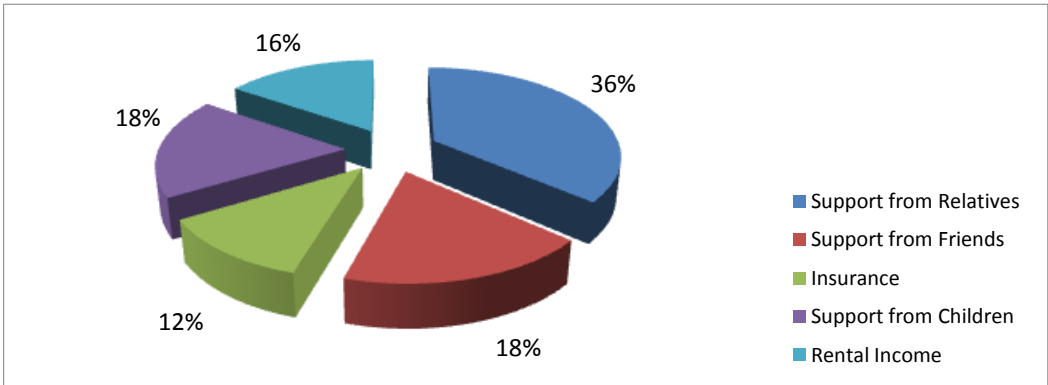


Figure 7. Other Income Sources for Female Single Parents

Housing Status of Single Parents

The study further, sought to find out the housing status of the single parents and the results were as shown in Figure 8. The findings as presented in Figure 8 above indicate that 62% of the single parents stayed in rented houses, 24% stayed in their own houses while 14% were given the house without paying rent. Further analysis showed that all male single parents stayed in their own houses as opposed to only 11% of female single parents.

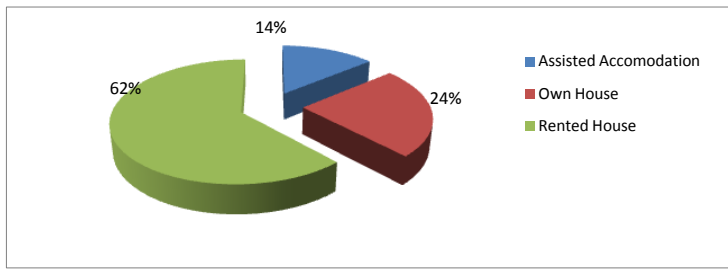


Figure 8. Housing Status of Single Parents

This shows that majority of the female single parents must ensure they have rent each month which can be a challenge to some of the female single parents who are either unemployed or salaried but the amount earned cannot cater for all basic needs.

Financing of Education for Children of Single Parents

The study further sought to establish the education levels of the single parents' children as shown in figure 9. The results as presented in Figure 9 above showed that 87% of the single parents had their children attending education institutions at different levels. Over 64.3% had their children in either university or middle level colleges with those with children in secondary and upper primary being 17.9% and 28.6% respectively. A further 21.4% had their children in either pre-school or lower primary. These results show that 87% of the single parents had to finance education of their children in the different stages of the education cycle.

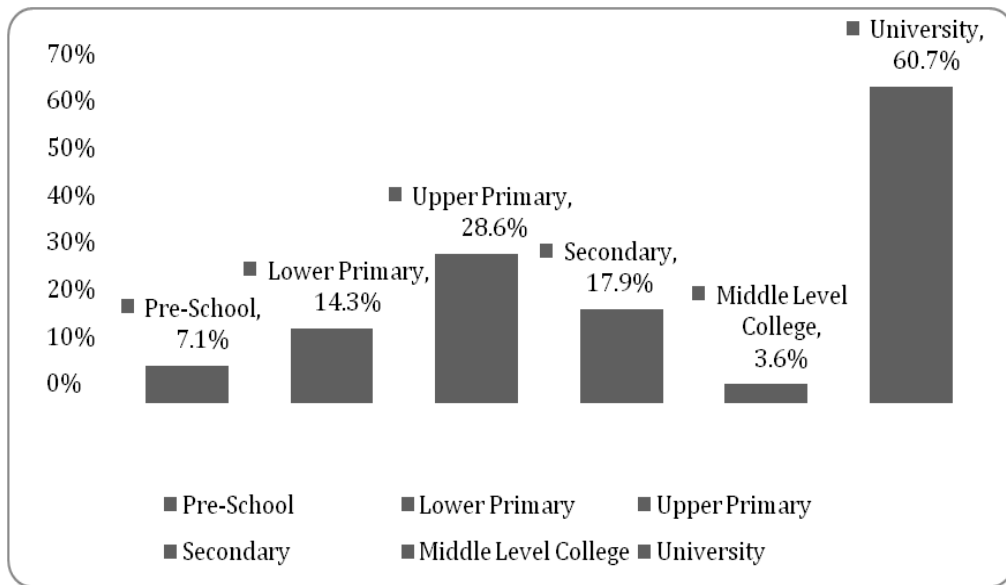


Figure 9. Schooling Level of Children

Financial Status of Single Parents

The study sought to establish the financial status of the single parent families by gauging whether after meeting basic needs and paying fees they have a deficit or a surplus. Figure 10 presents the results. The findings as presented in Figure 10 indicate that 35.5% had deficits left; 35.5% had nothing left; and only 29.0% had a surplus. Of those who had deficits further analysis showed that they were all female single parents.

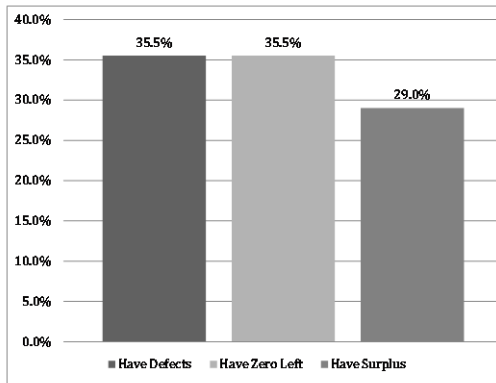


Figure 10. Financial status after meeting basic needs

The study further probed what the single parents did to meet the financial gap. The results were as shown in Figure 11 below. The results as shown in Figure 11 indicate that 45.5% lived on borrowing from friends to return later; 18.2% took advance salary, 27.3% did odd jobs for people and sometimes looked for petty business to do while 9.1% received support from their siblings. Of those with surplus, 40% invested; 30% shared with the needy and 30% shared with the extended family. From these findings, there is an urgent need to have basic financial management and budgeting training program introduced to the members so that they are able to live within their means and have financial independence.

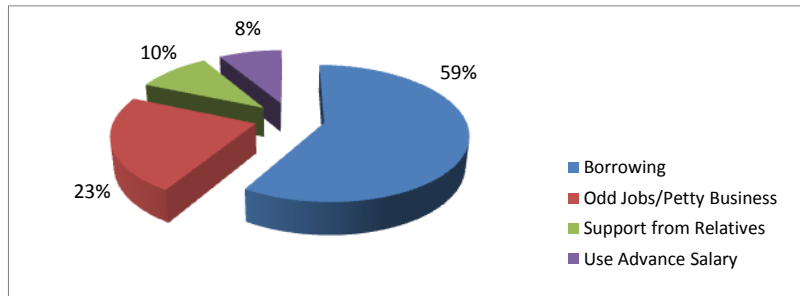


Figure 11. Meeting the Financial Deficit by Female Single parents

Supply of Physical Needs and Social Life

The study further sought to determine the physical needs of the single parents and their social life. Table 3 below presents the findings. Though a higher percentage were able to provide for physical needs for their families the proportion of those who were able to provide three meals a day dropped indicating a strain by single parents in order to provide for their families. A slight majority (54.8%) had time to play with their children or grandchildren.

Table 3. Level of Agreement on Various Statements

Statement	Agreement Level
I have enough food on my table	83.9%
I am able to get sufficient sleep	80.6%
I spend a lot of time with the children and have no time left for social life?	71.5%
I take three meals a day	64.5%
I have time to play with my children (grand children)	54.8%
The many things that need to be done are weighing me down	53.6%
My personal health comes last in order of priorities as my children welfare comes first	44.8%
I get time to exercise	38.7%
I go for regular medical check-ups	35.5%

It was established as shown in Table 3 that a majority of the single parents were able to provide for the physical needs of their families, 83.9% were able to provide enough food for their families while 64.5% afforded at least three meals a day.

However, single parents indicated they did not have time to exercise and go for regular medical check-ups as only 38.7% and 35.5% had time to exercise and go for medical check-ups respectively.

Clearly, the single parent does not have time for social life as most energy and time is spent in providing for the children. This however is not good for the single parents, as they need time to exercise and go for routine medical examinations as they advance in age.

The current increase in lifestyle diseases occasioned by sedentary lifestyles and lack of exercise, can take a heavy toll on single parents. These will eventually lead to a decline in disposable income as money will be spent in the management of lifestyle diseases once they creep in further straining the little income sources.

This is further reinforced as 44.8% of single parents indicated that their personal health comes last in order of priorities over that of their children with a further 71.5% agreeing that they spent so much time with the children and had none left for leisure.

A further 53.6% agreed that the many things that needed to be done were weighing them down. Single parents need time for them to reenergize and recuperate. The cares and pressure to provide for the children have made it practically impossible for them to have some “me time” that is good for their general well-being.

The Church and Single Parents

Awareness Levels. The church family in which the single parents congregate has a role to play as a corporate body as well as the individual family members. The study sought to establish the church members' awareness of single parents in their congregations and programs to them. The results were as shown in Figure 12.

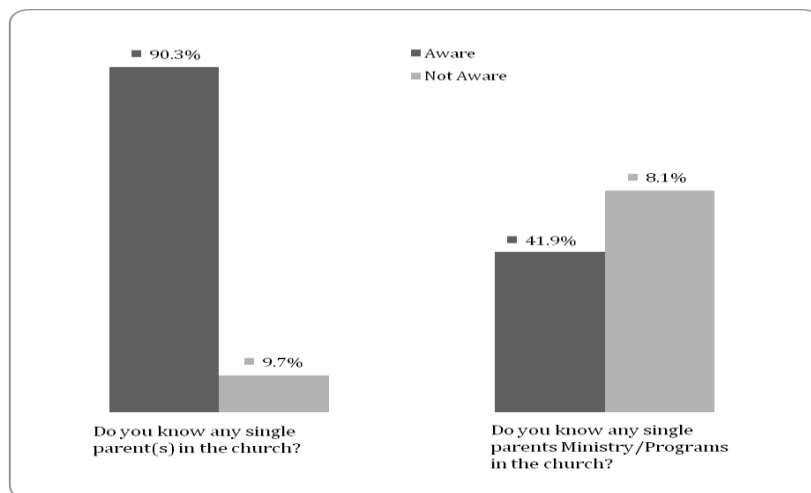


Figure 12. Awareness of single parent members and their programs

The findings as presented in Figure 12 reveal that an overwhelming majority (90.3%) of church members affirmed to know of a single parent in church with only 9.7% saying they didn't know of any single parent in church.

This high awareness levels by the membership of existence of single parents in their midst is good not only for the single parent community but also for the church family.

On awareness of any single parent program in the SDA church, majority (58.1%) indicated they were not aware with only 41.9% indicating they were aware of such programs.

This is a contradiction where despite very high awareness levels of having single parents forming the membership of the SDA church, the members' awareness of existence of church programs specifically targeting this special group is very low. Even for those who were aware of programs for single parents, majority (65.1%) only cited the program held for single parents during camp meeting, with mention by smaller percentages of family life Sabbath, occasional motivational single parent meetings, and workshops/seminars.

Single Parents Neglect by Church

The researcher sought to understand if single parents needs were well catered for by the respective church departments and the church at large. Figure 13 presents the findings. The findings as presented in Figure 13 reveal that 61.3% of the church members felt that the church was not doing enough in ministering to single parents while 16.1% agreed that the church was doing enough with 22.6% undecided.

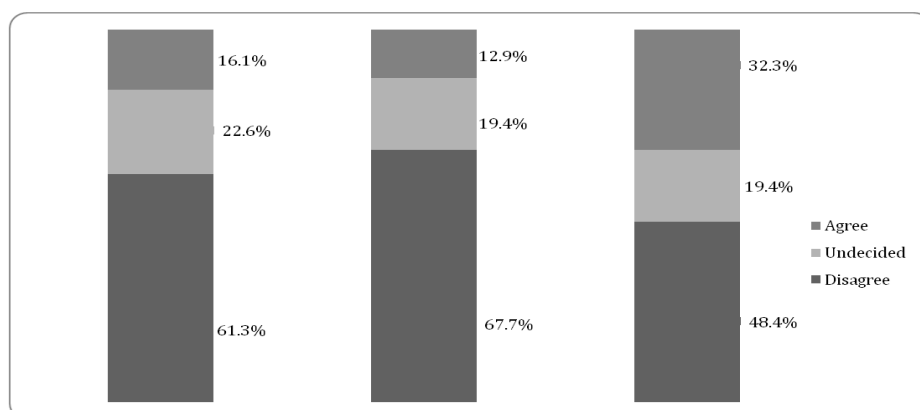


Figure 13. Neglect or No Neglect of Single Parents by Church

On the effectiveness of the family life department in bringing excellent programs to minister to the needs of single parents, 67.7% of church members had a contrary opinion, 12.9% were in support while 19.4% were undecided. On whether single parents were neglected in the church, 48.4% disagreed, 19.4% were undecided while only 32.3% agreed.

Easing Financial Burdens of Single Parents

The researcher further probed whether the church had a role on easing the financial burdens of single parents. The results were as presented in Figure 14. As shown in Figure 14 above 51.7% of the single parents agreed that the church had a role to ease their single financial burdens. Only 20.7% of them that strongly disagreed while 27.6% were undecided. The findings were further amplified by the results from church members, which showed that 45.2% agreed that the church had a role in easing the financial burden of the single parents, 38.7% disagreed while 16.1% were undecided.

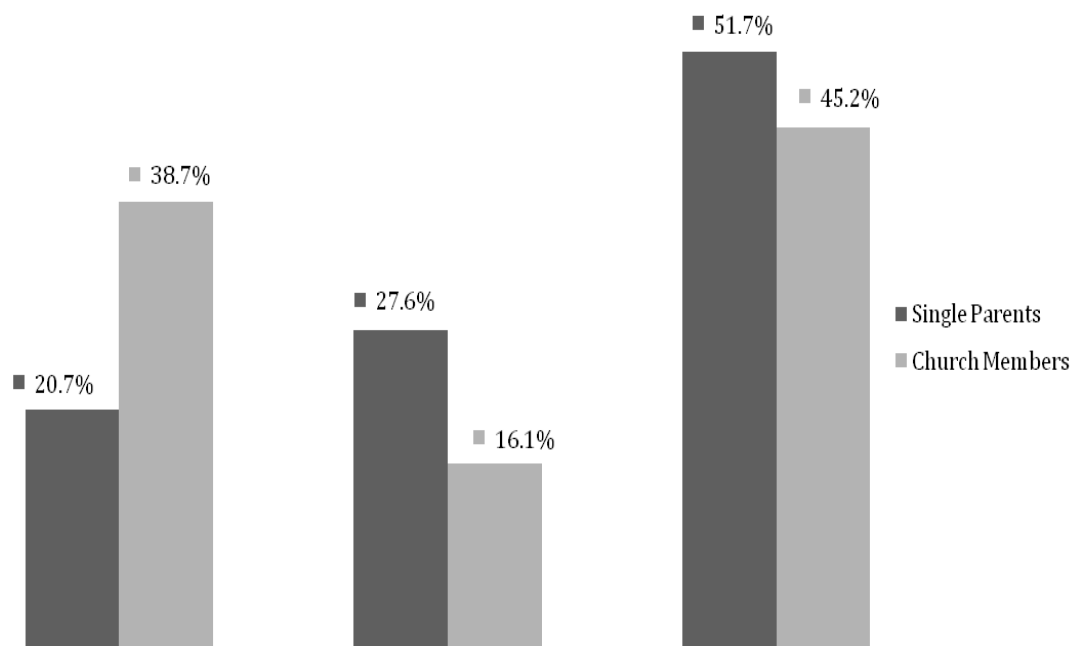


Figure 14. Church's Role in Easing Financial Burden of Single Parents.

The findings further revealed that 64.5% of the surveyed church members had not financially supported a single parent. The results indicate that the church's role in addressing the issues facing single parents should move from mere programming to include monetary assistance.

Parenting

Single parenting is no easy a task. The researcher sought to establish the truth about this and findings are as shown in Figure 15. The results as shown in Figure 15 indicate that a majority (59%) of single parents, agreed that they struggled more with parenting issues than their singlehood status 4% were undecided while 37% disagreed.

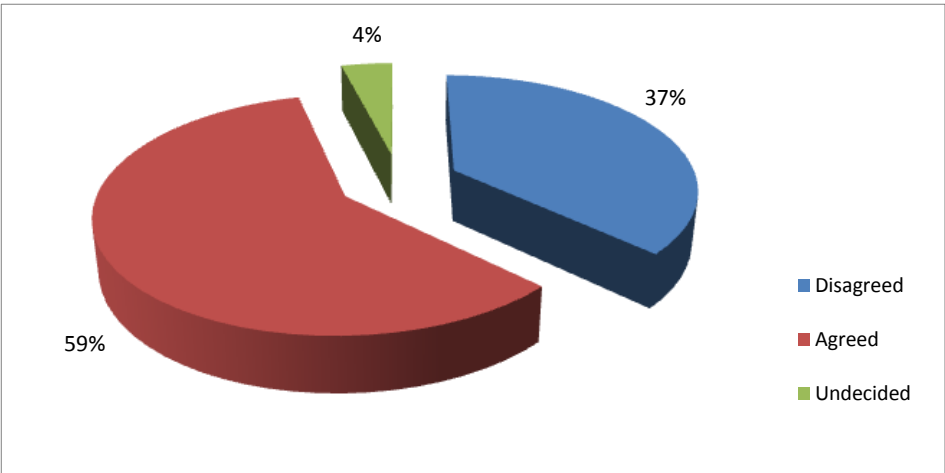


Figure 15. Struggle with parenting more than singlehood

The study further sought to establish from the single parents whether their children were their greatest emotional challenge more than anything else. Table 4 presents the results. The findings as presented in Table 4 indicate that 69% of the single parents agreed that their children were their biggest emotional challenge beside

anything else. Single parents need the support of close friends to share and receive encouragement and advice on parenting issues. This is particularly critical in the teenage and early adulthood stages of the children.

Table 4. My Children are My Biggest Emotional Challenge besides Anything Else

Agreement Level	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	5	17.2%
Disagree	4	14.8%
Agree	10	34.5%
Strongly Agree	10	34.5%

Analysis of the church member responses on their willingness to mentor a child from a single parent family were quite impressive with over 87.1% in agreement as shown in Table 5. These concurrence of views of church members and single parents on mentorship of single parents' children by church members shows that the church family has a unique and pivotal role to play among single parents.

Church Members Views on Emotional Issues of Single Parents

The study sought to establish the church members views on the emotional issues of the single parents. Table 5 presents the responses.

Table 5. Church Members Responses on Emotional Challenges of Single Parents

Church Member Question	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
Single parents need to be loved and appreciated by the church family	0.0%	0.0%	16.1%	83.9%
I am willing to mentor a child from a single parent household in the church	0.0%	12.9%	38.7%	48.4%
I would like my family to be there to share emotional challenges faced by single parents	0.0%	6.5%	51.6%	41.9%
I want more affirmation and kind words spoken to single parents	3.2%	0.0%	29.0%	67.7%

The findings as captured in Table 5 show that church members would strongly like more affirmation and kind words spoken to single parents with 96.8% positive affirmation. Not only do the church members liked to see more affirmation and kind words spoken of single parents but they were equally willing to mentor a child from a single parent household (87.1% agreement) and wanted their families to be there to share the emotional challenges faced by the single parents (93.5% agreement). These results indicate good resonance between church members and the single parents and should be explored further to find ways through which single parents can benefit from the church members as far as their emotional challenges are concerned.

Moral and Spiritual Support

Single parents need moral and spiritual support. The study sought to establish this fact and Table 6 presents the results.

Table 6. Importance Ranking of Statements

	Very Important	More Important	Important	Less Important
I need programs that will make me live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ	67.7%	22.6%	9.7%	0.0%
The church needs to develop programs that will help me be the most effective parent	35.5%	41.9%	12.9%	9.7%
I want more affirmation and kind words from the church family	0.0%	22.6%	35.5%	41.9%
I need a trustworthy Christian family to share my emotional challenges with	12.9%	12.9%	41.9%	32.3%

From the results as shown in Table 6 single parents indicated that sometimes they had bad experiences in the church ranging from judgment by fellow church members, their families not feeling accepted, bad perception by church members, decline to help them when they needed help and insensitivity to their needs in family life presentations. Single parents require moral and spiritual support from the church, with a majority (82.2%) of single parents agreeing that they didn't need fixing, they only needed a helping hand and not a hand out. Fifty six percent of single parents needed people/church to be more sensitive to their pain/loss while 58.1% wanted more affirmation and kind words from the church family. Single parents' greatest need is not financial support but rather an appreciation by the church family of their unique challenges, an outgrowth of unselfish love to them and inclusivity.

Single Parents' Importance Ranking

Further probing on what the church fraternity should do for single parents by ranking each attribute statement in terms of importance, church related programming were highly ranked to those touching on the horizontal personal relationship of single parents to the church family. As presented in Table 6 above, 90.3% needed programs that would make them live under the lordship of Jesus Christ while 77.4% felt that the church needed to develop programs that would help them be effective parents. Though important, the need of a trust worthy Christian family to share their emotional challenges with and the need for people who are genuinely interested in their children within the church family, are less important in terms of ranking scoring 25.8% and 22.6% respectively as illustrated in Table 6.

These results indicated that while the single parents value the relationship with fellow church believers, they valued more the relationship they would have with their Lord. Therefore, the church needs to come up with programs that lead the single parents to grow in Christ.

Relationship of Single Parents with Church Entities

The study further sought to establish the relationship of the single parents with other church entities. Table 7 presents the results.

In Table 7, on relationship with various people and entities in the church in a rating of very bad to excellent, the researcher sought to consider the good to excellent relationship by summing the good and excellent responses as shown in column 2.

The pastorate had the highest rating at 80.0% indicating that single parents interviewed had either a good or excellent relationship with the church pastor(s). This is good as the pastorate has a central role to play among single parents in addressing their emotional, moral, and spiritual challenges.

On relationship with elders 56.7% indicated they had a good to excellent relationship with them while 65.5% indicated that they had a good to excellent relationship with the women's ministries departments of their churches. The relationship of single parents with the Adventist Men's Ministries (A.M.O) department of their churches and that of youth ministries department were 43.3% and 62.1% respectively. Sixty-three percent had a good to excellent relationship with the deaconry department while 66.7% had a good to excellent relationship with individual families.

Table 7. Relationship Strength and Duties of Various Groups

Church Group	Relationship Strength	What each group should do to make single parent feel a sense of belonging?				
Pastorate	80.0%	Pray with and for them	Show concern through calls/SMS and visitation	Coordinate single parents programs	Do family visitations	Offer spiritual support when called upon
Elders	56.7%	Pray with and for them	Show concern and visitations	Male elders should not ridicule female single parents		
Women's Ministries Dept.	65.5%	Allow their facilitation in prayer and bible study sessions	Involve them in their programs	Organize get together meetings	Conduct mentorship programs for their female children	Include programs targeting to reach widows and single mothers
Men's Ministry (A.M.O)	43.3%	Show concern for single parents	Mentor their male children	Pray with and for them		
Youth Ministry	62.1%	Reach out to young people from single parent families	Pray and actively involve their youths in the ministry of the church			
Family Ministries Dept	60.0%	Develop programs that address their needs - plan for them in advance - they are not to be taken as an afterthought	Mentor their children	Be considerate to single parents when organizing workshops	Involve single parents in dept. Activities	Pray, show care and concern
Deaconry	63.3%	Pray and show concern	Mentor single parents' children.	Conduct Impartial Visitations		
Individual families	66.7%	Speak positively about single parents	Embrace them as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ	Visit and pray with them	Be genuine friends to them	Talk with them after church programs

These results show that the different entities within the church have to significantly change their attitude towards the single parents in church based on the strength of the relationships. The stronger the strength of the relationship the less the effort that is needed to develop the relationship. The church elders and the Adventist Men Ministries have more work to be done to make single parents have a sense of belonging within the church family.

On what the individual church entities should do to make single parents have a sense of belonging within the church, the different areas highlighted by the single parents are analyzed on the grid on Table 7.

Combing through the responses showed that single parents are in need of prayer and visitations, show of concern by the leadership, inclusion in programming, mentorship of their children and genuine friendship from fellow believers. The different entities or departments within the church need to consciously include single parents in their programs while each church member and family should recognize and appreciate those in their midst who have found themselves single parents either by calamity or by choice. This can be achieved by being genuine friends to them, speaking positively about them, embracing them as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, visiting, and praying for and with them.

Spiritual Life of Single Parents

The study also sought to explore details about the spiritual lives of the single parents and the results are presented in Figure 16.

The results as shown in Figure 16 indicate that 90.3% of the single parents agreed they had learnt to trust God with their challenges, 87.1% practiced stewardship principles, 83.9% had regular prayer time, 77.4% had a group that they prayed with, 71% agreed that they had regular Bible studies while 58.1% had time to witness of their faith. These results show that the single parents interviewed practice Christian principles and are growing daily in Christ through regular Bible study, regular prayer both at personal level and with their preferred group and also through witnessing. This has effectively made them to trust God more with their challenges including those related to their singlehood.

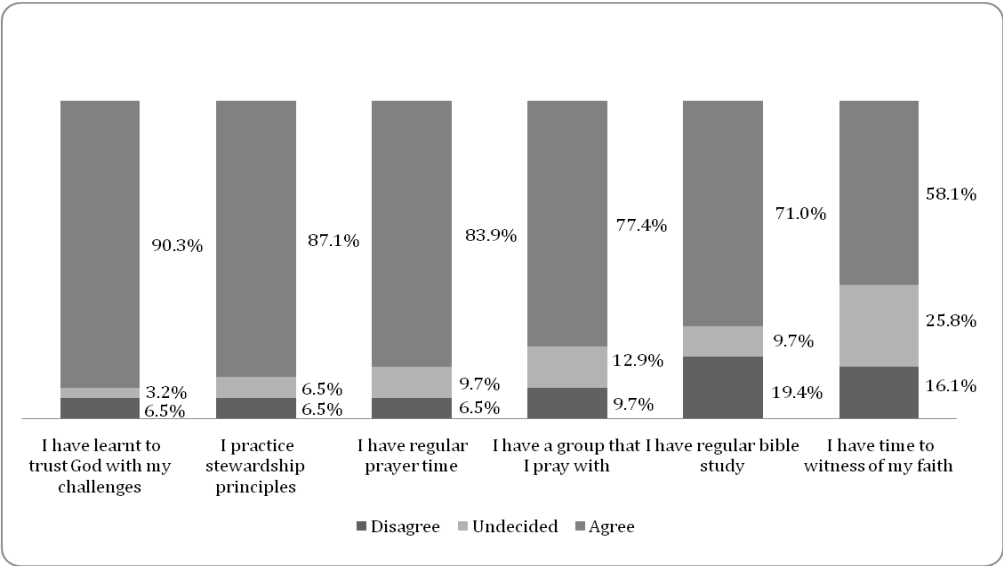


Figure 16. Spiritual Life of Single Parent

CHAPTER 4
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION
AND EVALUATION

This chapter presents the design and implementation of a strategy to minister to single parents in the Nairobi South SDA Pastoral District. To achieve this the researcher found it necessary to consider certain key elements that included setting of goals, program preparation, and design, implementation of program, evaluation of program, and conclusion.

Setting of Objectives and Program Preparation

The study undertook to set a strategy to minister to single parents. Based on the outcome of the theoretical foundations as discussed in chapter 2, single parents need an all-encompassing ministry. In view of this the objectives were:

- a. To create a forum where the single parents can share their personal experiences
- b. To enhance the single parents' involvement in the work of ministry
- c. To strengthen the single parents' commitment to God, His Word and prayer
- d. To enhance the single parents' relationship with each other
- e. To strengthen the single parents' dependence on God in the raising of their children

Program Preparation

Procedure

- a. Obtained permission from CKC to conduct research in its territory (See Appendix A, Exhibit 2)

- b. Sought permission from the three church boards in the district to conduct survey(See Appendix A, Exhibit 1)
- c. Sensitized the single parents for attendance

Action Plan

- a. Being cognizant of the fact that the single parents are a sensitive group to deal with, the researcher always embraced prayer for God's guidance in the program
- b. The researcher followed a four-day seminar plan for the program.

Program Design

In the program design, the researcher prepared three presentations meant to encourage the single parents, invite them to trust God with the raising of their children, and challenge them to serve God. In addition, the researcher committed one seminar session to allow the single parents an opportunity to share their stories. The researcher finally provided an opportunity for the single parents to chart on some way forward.

Implementation of the Program

The program was implemented through seminars to the single parents, which ran from 19th -22nd August 2013 at Syokimau Central Church, Nairobi South Pastoral District. The researcher committed one hour fifteen minutes per day for the seminars.

Day One- 19th August 2013

The researcher commenced the meetings with a word of prayer. He further took some few minutes to explain the intention of the seminars. Being the first day of the seminars the researcher was keen to establish good rapport with the single parents by affirming them mentioning that they too are very important in God's fold. He

further indicated that it was because of his special interest for them as members of his congregation that he sought to undertake this research project.

The researcher also provided an opportunity for the single parents to be acquainted with each other. He allowed them an opportunity to introduce themselves mentioning the number of their children and the reasons for their single parenthood. The researcher then proceeded to sharing the lesson of the day, which sought to inform them of God's special regard for them and about His (God's) willingness to support them (See Appendix C, Exhibit 1).

Towards the end of the session, the researcher invited the attendees to air their reflections on the presentation. Finally, the researcher led the single parents in a heartwarming prayer session and pleaded with the not to miss the remaining sessions. He also encouraged them to invite other single parents in the church.

Day Two- 20th August 2013

On the second day of the seminar, the researcher welcomed all the single parents and invited one of them to offer a word of prayer to open the session. He also took notice of two new attendees and warmly welcomed them to the seminar.

The day's session was themed "Hear my Story" in which the researcher allowed the single parents opportunities to share their stories and their experiences with God in their situations. These were indeed heart touching moments as all of the twelve single parents told their stories. They all alluded to the fact that the Almighty God was and remained to be by their side to support them.

The researcher ended this powerful sharing time with a few words of encouragement from the Holy Scriptures. To crown the meetings, the researcher joined with two single parents led out in the prayer session. The researcher thanked the participants for their attendance and asked them to avail themselves for the next day's meeting.

Day Three- 21st August 2013

The session opened with a word of prayer from the researcher. He once again expressed his gratitude to the participants for making it to the meeting and proceeded to make the day's presentation. The presentation was meant to impress upon the single parents the fact that God had special place for them in the work of ministry. They were challenged to seize every opportunity to do something for the salvation of people and the edification of the body of Christ. The researcher in his presentation asked them to find their rightful space in God's church and serve him while there is opportunity to do so (See Appendix C, Exhibit 2).

The participants committed themselves to service in the Lord's vineyard. The researcher thanked them and offered a prayer to seal their commitment. Finally, he encouraged them to avail themselves for the last session the following day.

Day Four- 22nd August 2013

The last session commenced with a word of prayer from one of the participants and welcome remarks from the researcher who then proceeded to present the lesson of the day. The presentation was concerned with the need of the single parents to trust God with the raising of their children.

The researcher impressed upon the participants the fact that it is God who had graciously blessed them with children and that it will still take Him to bless and guide the children in their lives. He clarified that the participants had the responsibility of raising their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord's name. The researcher reiterated the fact that God will always do His faithful part (See Appendix C, Exhibit 3).

At the end of the presentation, the researcher allowed the participants an opportunity to raise questions and share their parenting experiences. This turned out to be a great opportunity to learn and be encouraged from each other. Of special interest in the discussions was the raising of teens and young adults, which prompted the participants to think of the need to be meeting on, scheduled times to discuss issues of concern to them.

At that point, the researcher led the participants in a brief session on charting some way forward as outlined below:

- a. They all agreed to form a support group to be meeting at least twice a quarter
- b. They identified a leader to coordinate the meetings with the pastor's office and a secretary to oversee the recording and communication aspects of the group.
- c. They committed themselves to being active in the work of ministry.

- d. They promised to be praying for and with each other.
- e. They shared their contacts with the new leaders for communication purposes.

The researcher then took a few moments to thank all the participants for being part of the seminar. He indicated his satisfaction that the seminar was a great success. The participants too, took time to appreciate the researcher for the seminar and requested that more of such be organized in the future and that they will always be glad to attend. The session concluded in a period of prayer led by the researcher.

Evaluation of the Program

The researcher used observations and interviews with some of the single parents to evaluate the program.

Observations

Changed Prayer Lives. One year down the line, over half of the seminar participants are active in church prayer programs and personal devotions. Two of the participants are faithfully sending short messages (SMS) via their phones to the researcher alerting him to join them in prayer every early morning. Four of the participants are actively involved in being part of their local church mid-week prayer program and other revival initiatives like the ‘ 10 days of Prayer’ program.¹ One of the participants is an active member of a morning watch prayer meeting in one of the big churches in the City of Nairobi- here the participants enjoy one hour of worship

¹A global initiative by the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 2006 that runs for ten days annually to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

before they leave for their various chores every working day.

The researcher has also observed that over half of the single parents are actively involved in reaching out to their fellow church members in times of need through visitations and material support.

Involvement in the work of ministry. The researcher has observed for a period of one year of the active participation of the single parents in the work of ministry. Three of the participants are actively in their local Sabbath School Work-teaching children, adult lesson classes, and active members of the Sabbath School Choir. One of the single parents is actively in the sharing of her faith with other people through the “Discovery Lessons”.²

Support Group Meetings. The researcher observed two of these meetings being held after the seminar and then stopped. The reason for the failure of the meetings is something that may need to be investigated.

Interviews

The researcher in a bid to evaluate the program was privileged to interview four of the single parents on the program conducted in the year 2013 one and a half years down the line. The first interviewee expressed a lot of gratitude for the many blessings she has continued to enjoy because of that program. Of particular mention was the blessings of the program “Share my story”, she said, “It was great hearing the experiences of my fellow single parents. I felt encouraged by their stories and came to

²Bible study guides availed by the Voice of Prophecy department of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

appreciate the fact that we are all in the same boat.”³

He further sought to establish from the interviewee what she thought were the benefits of being involved in the work of the ministry. She indicated, “It is always a great blessing to serve with and before the Lord’s presence. As a woman who has gone through many challenges- seeing my marriage break, loose an own a child among others; I have always found a lot of comfort in being involved in the work of the ministry.”

When asked on what form of ministry she was specifically involved in she said, “I am actively involved in the leadership of my local Sabbath School, I counsel with fellow single parents and youths. I am also committed to sharing the love of Jesus through Bible studies with non- Adventists, In fact at the moment I have about ten people that I am giving studies to. She happily mentioned that this sharing has helped in enhancing her spiritual growth, “The more I share the more I understand and grow”.

Further enquiry was made by the researcher on what the seminar meant to her in terms of her parenting responsibilities. She indicated that the seminar proved beneficial to her, “ As a parent of a young adult I learnt to trust God with the raising of my only daughter. I learnt to embrace dialogue and friendship with her for a mutual relationship. Lastly her patting shot, “ I have always learnt and appreciated taking my burdens to the Lord, He has proven to be there in all my situations. I remain grateful for the opportunity I had to be a part of the special seminar conducted in August 2013.”⁴

³Interviewee A, A Single Parent, Syokimau Central SDA Church, interview by author, Nairobi, 8 April 2015.

⁴By the time of the interview, the interviewee had lost her only child due to sickness.

The second interviewee also indicated that the seminar had been a great blessing in her life. She particularly mentioned that she was challenged to continue trusting in God more and more, she said, “I have always appreciated that God will always come on my way, if He enabled me to acquire a plot for building a house, He will surely provide funds to build a house.”⁵ She further informed the researcher that she is still keeping in touch with her fellow single parents and even formed a prayer band with two of them.

The researcher specifically wanted to hear from this second interviewee on what her experience was with the ‘Hear my story’ session in the seminar, she said, “That was a great opportunity to hear the experiences of my fellow single parents; I came to appreciate that I am not alone. If so and so has made it I can also make it. I have always found the courage to keep moving on because I am not alone in the boat.” The researcher further sought to establish from this second interviewee on whether she was involved in any work of ministry, where she happily responded saying, “I am an active member of the church choir, I am also actively involved in the activities of the women’s ministries department, it is always a joy for me to serve the Lord.”

The third interviewee expressed a lot of trust in the Lord, She said, “God has never disappointed me, He has always answered my prayers. I have always found it very refreshing placing my burdens upon Him.” The researcher sought to find out from her on what form of ministry she is involved in and what this means to her, where she responded, “she responded, “I am actively involved in the children ministries and music ministries departments of my local church as a teacher and a church chorister respectively.

⁵ Interviewee B, A Single Parent, Syokimau Central SDA Church, interview by author, Nairobi, 15 April 2015.

Involvement in the Lord's service has always given me a lot of satisfaction, as I serve God I have come to confirm that He (God) is always faithful in meeting my needs and replacing what I don't have."⁶

The researcher sought to specifically find out from the third interviewee on what her experience was with the 'hear my story' session in the seminar, she said, "For me that was a great moment. I had always thought that I was the only one, always felt that no one was experiencing what I was going through, I always felt as a lone ranger. I came to appreciate that there are others like me. This was indeed a turning point in my life. I continue to draw a lot of strength and encouragement to this point from the stories of my fellow single parents."⁷

Finally, from the fourth interviewee the researcher established several indicators of success in the program in 2013. When first asked about her experience with the Lord, His Word and the privilege of prayer she said, "I now value the moments spent in seeking the wonderful treasures in the Holy Scriptures. I ensure that there is family worship in my home and I have established set times for prayers."⁸ She indicated a great desire to continue trusting in the Lord; always hopeful that He will at all times see her through all her challenges.

Secondly the researcher sought to establish whether this particular interviewee was involved in the work of the ministry, to this she gladly responded saying, "Oh , yes! I am actively involved in the activities of the Women's ministries department and I have particularly joined a group of church ladies who specifically reach out to the

⁶ Interviewee C, A Single Parent, Syokimau Central SDA Church, interview by author, Nairobi, 15 April 2015.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

underprivileged in the society. I find a lot of satisfaction in doing something for my Creator.”⁹

Lastly, the researcher sought to enquire from the interviewee whether there are any benefits she could allude to in the ‘hear my story’ session in the seminar in 2013, “Of course yes! I am one single parent who thought that I could never be happy as a single parent. The stories of my fellow single parents changed my perception completely. I appreciated from the experiences of my colleagues that I could still move on, be happy and successful. In fact, I told myself if so and so has made it, why not me? That was indeed a great moment, I look forward to hearing more, and more of such stories and even sharing mine too! It may encourage someone,” she said.

Testing the Program’s Strength

Dealing With Parenting Challenges. The survey results indicated that the single parents considered their children to be their greatest emotional pain than their singlehood. An evaluation of the program indicated that they had learnt to trust the Lord with the raising of their children.

Participation in the Work of Ministry. Initial surveys indicated that the single parents wanted to be involved in the work of ministry. The evaluation of the program indicated that all the single parents interviewed were actively involved in the work of ministry and had great joy in sharing their faith.

Opportunity to Share their Concerns. Initial survey indicated that the single parents were in need of a forum to share their burdens. The evaluation of the program indicated that all the single parents were very blessed and encouraged with the

⁹ Interviewee D, A Single Parent, Syokimau Central SDA Church, interview by author, Nairobi, 15 April 2015.

opportunity to hear each other's stories. Because of this, the evaluation revealed that the single parents are now enjoying enhanced relationship with each other.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of the study was to establish the needs of the single parents in the Nairobi South pastoral District, probing the existing form of ministry to them and seek to develop a program to minister to them.

A biblical basis for ministry to single parents is based on the fact that God who owns the church has a high regard for them and that it (church) is to show its loyalty in heeding to the command to minister to the concerns of the needy in its midst. Indeed the religion that is considered pure and true in the eyes of God is that which considers the cause of the widows and the orphans.

The researcher sought to present a description of Nairobi South District and the baseline data. He conducted surveys and interviews to establish the needs of the single parents, the existing form of ministry to single parents if any and what the single parents themselves felt could be done to minister to their needs.

The researcher further presented the ministry program, its implementation, and evaluation. The program implementation involved organizing a seminar for the single parents handling various presentations meant to encourage them and strengthen them in their walk with the Lord. The presentations also sought to challenge the single parents in committing themselves to the work of the ministry. A notable feature of the seminar was the 'hear my story' session where single parents had the opportunity to hear each other's stories.

An evaluation of the program was conducted after one year and a half to establish the success or failure of the program. The researcher made personal observations and conducted interviews with single parents who participated in the seminar. Personal observations by the researcher established that there was great commitment by the single parents to prayer, study of the Holy Scriptures and involvement in the work of the ministry. Interviews with the single parents established changed prayer lives, increased desire to serve God and great encouragement in their single parenthood status.

Conclusion

Founded on the findings from the Holy Scriptures, the Spirit of Prophecy, other literature and data collected, it was determined that not enough is done in ministering to single parents in Nairobi South Pastoral District. In fact, an examination of the existing form of ministry to them showed that the only time they are ministered to is occasionally during the annual family life Sabbaths and during camp meetings. Even then, there is no deliberate attempt to first establish their needs and have the facilitators briefed of the same so they can minister to the felt needs.

Ministering to single parents calls for intentionality on the part of the church. They (single parents) cannot be taken as after-thoughts. They must be seen as important members of the body of Christ that need to be fully ministered to like any other group in the church. There is need to first conduct surveys among single parents in church to establish their needs and put right personnel (those with a burden) to minister to this special group.

When this is done, the church should facilitate continuing seminar forums to allow the single parents opportunities to receive various instructions that meet their varied needs. The sessions should also afford the single parents opportunities to hear each other's stories. These will help them appreciate that they are not alone in their struggles.

Recommendations

1. All church departments to consciously include single parents in their programs. The departments can do this by incorporating single parents in their duty rosters and communicating to them about the various departmental programs and activities to solicit their participation.
2. The family ministries department to study the needs of the single parents and provide programs to meet those needs. This can be done by conducting annual surveys to establish the needs of the single parents and develop programs in line with the established needs.
3. Local church leadership to ensure that all willing single parents are involved in the work of ministry. The church nominating committees to consciously consider legible single parent nominees for various church positions.
4. Church members to be encouraged to affirm single parents as important members in their congregations. They are to speak positively about the single parents and relate freely with them.
5. The local church family ministries department to provide monthly opportunities for single parents to meet for fellowship and interaction. The

church family ministries departments to ensure that they create opportunities in their calendar of activities that enhance fellowship and interaction among single parents.

6. The CKC family ministries department to plan for interactive meetings with single parents for fellowship and interaction. The CKC family ministries leadership to include in its itinerary program opportunities e.g. Conference single Parents social days and retreats that will enhance healthy fellowship among single parents.

APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE

Exhibit 1: Letter Requesting to Conduct Survey

PR JOHN OKEMWA
NAIROBI SOUTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 26176-00504
NAIROBI.

8th February 2012.

THE CHAIRPERSON,
KARENGATA... SDA CHURCH BOARD,
P.O. BOX 258... 00517,
NAIROBI.

DEAR SIR,

REF: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO UNDERTAKE AN M.A. PASTORAL
THEOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT SURVEY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Cordial Christian greetings. Reference is made to the above named subject.

Sir, I am currently undertaking an M.A. Pastoral Theology degree at the Adventist University of Africa. As part of the course requirement is a research project and its implementation. My approved research project is entitled '**A Strategy to Minister to Single Parents in the Nairobi South and Karengata Pastoral Districts**'. I hereby write to request permission to undertake this research initiative.

Looking forward to your positive response.

Yours Faithfully,

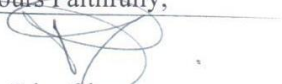

Pr John Okemwa.

Exhibit 2: Letter Granting Permission



July 22, 2011

Dean of Students
Adventist University of Africa
Private Bag Mbagathi 00503
NAIROBI.

SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Central Kenya Conference
Executive Office

Redhill Road
P.O. Box 41352
00100-GPO
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 020-2404872
020-2404887
Fax: +254-020-7122714
Email:ckc@yahoo.com

Attn: Dr. Razmeritta

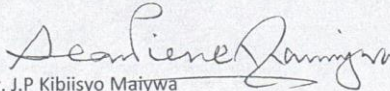
Dear Sir,

Conference Committee sitting on June 23, 2011 voted to approve r esearch request of the following Pastors who are doing MA and D. Ministry at Adventist University of Africa.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Peter Makenzie Kateeti-MA | 16. David M. Muasya-MA |
| 2. Julius Munuve Mbai-MA | 17. Githinji Wilson-MA |
| 3. Stanley Machuma-MA | 18. Paul Owuor-MA |
| 4. Jane Ndungu-MA | 19. Ayub Macharia-MA |
| 5. J. Okemwa-MA | 20. Gitonga Douglas-MA |
| 6. Kariuki Francis-MA | 21. Dickson Makenzie-MA |
| 7. Muthinja Zakaria-MA | 22. Maiywa Jean Peirre-MA |
| 8. Mecha Samson-MA | 23. Okioma Ezra-MA |
| 9. Mutugi Benjamin-MA | 24. Nzaui Solomon-MA |
| 10. Okong'o Vincent-MA | 25. Rubucha Francis-MA |
| 11. Robinson Kenyatta-MA | 26. John Macharia-D.Min |
| 12. Alex Ambuchi-D.Min | 27. Lucas Otwera-D.Min |
| 13. Alfred Marundu-D.Min | 28. Guto Timothy-D.Min |
| 14. Geoffrey Wanyoike-MA | 29. Peter Ndeto-MA |
| 15. Johnson Nyagaka-MA | 30. Willie Ngugi-MA |
| | 31. Ruguru B.-D. Min |

Your consideration on this matter will be highly appreciated; and fine details on specific location of each research will be provided by each student.

Yours faithfully,
CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE


Pr. J.P. Kibiisyo Maiywa
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

C.C Officers CKC.

APPENDIX B

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Exhibit 1: Single Parent Questionnaire

Confidentiality and non-disclosure remarks

This is an academic study as part of a Master program in Pastoral Theology at Adventist University of Africa (AUA). The study looks at the challenges facing single parents. The interview will take roughly 10-15 minutes. The information collected will be treated with confidence and results aggregated and no responses will be attributed to any individual.

Thanking you for your participation in the survey.

John Okemwa
AUA Student

PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

- Q1. Please select your gender?
1. Male
 2. Female

Q2. In what age group do you belong?

Below 20	Between 20 – 29	Between 30- 39	Between 40 - 49	Between 50 – 59	Older than 60
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q3. What is your highest educational level?

Primary school	Secondary school	College	Undergraduate	Post-graduate
1	2	3	4	5

Q4a. What is your single parenthood status?

Widow/ Widower	Separated	Divorced	Never Married
1	2	3	4

Q4b. For how long have you been a single parent?

Below 2 years	3-5 years	6-9 years	10-15 years	Over 15 years
1	2	3	4	5

Q5a. Kindly circle the number of children you blessed with

1	2	3	4	5	More than 5
---	---	---	---	---	-------------

Q5b. Kindly indicate the ages of your children. (Tick all that apply)

Below 6	7-11	12-15	16-19	20-25	26-30	Above 30 years
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SOCIAL - ECONOMIC SECTION

Q6a. Kindly answer **YES** or **NO** to the following set of statements?

	Statements	Yes	No
i	I am able to get sufficient sleep	1	2
ii	I have enough food on my table	1	2
iii	I take three meals a day	1	2
iv	I get time to exercise	1	2
v	I go for regular medical check-ups	1	2
vi	I have time to play with my children (grand children)	1	2

Q6b. Please indicate your employment status?

Not employed	Self employed	Employed public Sector	Employed private sector
1	2	3	4

Q6c. Do you have other sources of income apart from what you mentioned in Q6 above?

Yes	No
1	2

FOR THOSE WHO ANSWER 1 in Q6c

Q6d. What is your other source of income? **(Tick all that apply)**

Child support from other parent	1
Have a business venture	2
Support from extended family	3
Support from my church friends	4
Support from the church	5
Other (specify)_____	6

Q7. Do you own a car?

Yes	No
1	2

Q8a. Are your children schooling?

Yes	No
1	2

Q8b. If Yes in **Q8a** above, what level are they?

Pre-school	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Middle level College	University
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q9. How is your child (ren) taken to and from school?

1	I drop/pick them
2	Use school transport
3	They walk to school
4	Dropped/picked by relative

Q8. Which statement describes your housing status?

1	I stay in my own house
2	I rent the house
3	Been given the house to stay without paying rent
4	Don't Know

Q9. After meeting your basic needs including school fees, do you have deficits or surplus?

1	Have deficits
2	Have zero left
3	Have surplus
4	Refused

ONLY FOR THOSE WITH DEFICITS

Q9 (a). What do you do to meet the financial gap?

ONLY FOR THOSE WITH SURPLUS

Q9 (b). What do you do with the extra income?

1	I Invest
2	I share with the needy
3	I leave in the bank
4	Need help on what do with the surplus
5	Share with extended family
6	Refused

Q10 (a). Do you have close friends that you share singlehood issues with?

Yes	No
1	2

Q11. Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A	I spend a lot of time with the children and have time left for social life	5	4	3	2	1
B	My financial limitations leaves me with no money for my personal needs or any social activities	5	4	3	2	1
C	My personal health comes last in order of priorities as my children welfare comes first	5	4	3	2	1
d	The church has a role to ease the financial burden of the single parents	5	4	3	2	1
E	The many things that need to be done are weighing me down	5	4	3	2	1

EMOTIONAL - SPIRITUAL SECTION

Q12. Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A	I have accepted my singlehood and moved on	5	4	3	2	1
B	I need someone to talk to intimately about my personal challenges	5	4	3	2	1

C	I struggle more with parenting issues than my singlehood status	5	4	3	2	1
D	I feel isolated, unloved and without friends in the church	5	4	3	2	1
E	I don't need fixing, I need a helping hand not a hand out	5	4	3	2	1
F	I need people/church to be more sensitive to my pain/loss	5	4	3	2	1

Q13. Please give a priority rank of the following statements starting with 1 as the most important

		Ranking
a	The church needs to develop programs that will help me be the most effective parent	
b	I need programs that will make me live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and lead a more sanctified life	
c	I want more affirmation and kind words from the church family	
d	I need a trustworthy Christian family to share my emotional challenges with	

Q14. Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A	My children are my biggest emotional challenge besides anything else	5	4	3	2	1
B	I need people who are genuinely interested in my children	5	4	3	2	1
C	I want more affirmation and kind words spoken to my children from the church family	5	4	3	2	1
D	I need my children to be mentored by someone from the church family	5	4	3	2	1

Q13a. Please indicate how your relationship has been with the following church groups

	Group	Excellent	Good	Fair	Bad	Very Bad
A	The church pastor	5	4	3	2	1
b	The church elders	5	4	3	2	1
c	The women ministries department	5	4	3	2	1
d	The Adventist Men Organization(A.M.O)	5	4	3	2	1
e	The youth ministries department	5	4	3	2	1
f	The deaconry department	5	4	3	2	1
g	Individual families	5	4	3	2	1

Q13b. Please indicate your worst ever experience in church (if any)

Q14. What in your own opinion, should the following groups do to make you feel a sense of belonging?

a. The church pastor

b. The church elders

c. The Women's Ministries department

d. The Adventist Men Organization(A.M.O)

e. The youth ministries department

f. The family ministries department

g. The deaconry

h. Individual families

Q14. Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a	I have regular bible study	5	4	3	2	1
b	I have regular prayer time	5	4	3	2	1
c	I have learnt to trust God with my challenges	5	4	3	2	1
d	I have a group that I pray with	5	4	3	2	1
e	I have time to witness of my faith	5	4	3	2	1
f	I practice stewardship principles	5	4	3	2	1

FOR CLUSTERING PURPOSES

Q20 (a). Where do you stay?

1	Langata Area
2	Rongai/Kiserian area
3	South B/C area
4	Karen
5	Nairobi West/Madaraka/Akila area
6	Mlolongo
7	Syokimau
8	Embakasi
9	Ngong Area
6	Other (specify)

THANK YOU

Exhibit B: Church Members Questionnaire

Confidentiality and non-disclosure remarks

This is an academic study as part of a Master's program in Pastoral Theology at Adventist University of Africa (AUA). The study looks at the challenges facing single parents. The interview will take roughly 10-15 minutes. The information collected will be treated with confidence and results aggregated and no responses will be attributed to any individual.

Thanking you for your participation in the survey.

John Okemwa

AUA Student

PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Q1. Please select your Gender?

1. Male
2. Female

Q2. In what age group do you belong?

Below 20	Between 20 – 29	Between 30- 39	Between 40 - 49	Between 50 – 59	Older than 60
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q3. What is your highest educational level?

Primary school	Secondary school	College	Undergraduate	Post-graduate
1	2	3	4	5

Q4a. What is your marital status?

Married	Separated	Divorced	Never Married	Single	Widow
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q5. Do you know of any single parent(s) in the church?

Yes	No
1	2

Q6. Do you know of any single parent ministry/programs in the church?

Yes	No
1	2

If YES in Q6 above

Q7. Which programs targeting single parents are you aware of?

Q8. Please state your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A	The church is doing a good work in ministering to single parents	5	4	3	2	1
B	The family ministries department has excellent programs to minister to single parents	5	4	3	2	1
C	Single parents are neglected in the church	5	4	3	2	1
D	The church has a role to ease the financial burden of the single parents	5	4	3	2	1
E	Single parents need to be loved and appreciated by the church family	5	4	3	2	1
F	I am willing to mentor a child from a single parent household in the church	5	4	3	2	1
G	I would like my family to be there to share emotional challenges faced by single parent family	5	4	3	2	1

H	I want more affirmation and kind words spoken to single parents	5	4	3	2	1
I	Single parents are actively involved in church programs	5	4	3	2	1
J	I have financially supported a single parent in the church	5	4	3	2	1

Q9. In your opinion, what should the church do to have an effective ministry to single parents to meet the following needs?

Spiritual needs	Emotional needs	Economic needs	Social needs

Q14. What in your own opinion should the following groups in the church do to make single parents have a sense of belonging?

a. The Church Pastor (s)

b. The church elders

c. The women ministries department

d. The Adventist Men Organization (A.M.O)

e. The youth ministries department

f. The deaconry department

g. Individual families

FOR CLUSTERING PURPOSES

Q20 (a). Where do you stay?

1	Langata Area
2	Rongai/Kiserian area
3	South B/C area
4	Karen
5	Nairobi West/Madaraka/Akila area
6	Mlolongo
7	Syokimau
8	Embakassi
9	Ngong Area
6	Other (specify)

THANK YOU

Exhibit 3: Experts Questionnaire

Confidentiality and non-disclosure remarks

This is an academic study as part of a Master’s program in Pastoral Theology at Adventist University of Africa (AUA). The study looks at the challenges facing single parents. The interview will take roughly 10-15 minutes. The information collected will be treated with confidence and results aggregated and no responses will be attributed to any individual.

Thanking you for your participation in the survey.

John Okemwa

AUA Student.

PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Name _____ of _____ expert:

Contacts:

Q1. What has been your responsibility in the family ministries department?

Department leader in local church	Department leader in conference	Department leader in Union	Counselor	Lecturer	Other (specify)
1	2	3	4	5	6

Q2. How many years have you worked in family ministry department?

Below 2 years	Between 3 - 5	Between 6- 8	Between 9 - 10	Over 10
1	2	3	4	5

Q3. What do you feel are the needs of single parents?

Q3. Do you know of any single parent ministry/programs in the church?

Yes	No
1	2

If YES in Q3 above

Q4. Which programs targeting single parents are you aware of in the Adventist church?

Q5. Do you think the Adventist church has done enough to minister to the single parents in their congregations?

Yes	No
1	2

If No in Q5

Q5a. What should the Adventist church do to remedy the situation?

Q8. In your opinion, what should the church do to have an effective ministry to single parents to meet the following needs?

Spiritual needs	Emotional needs	Economic needs	Social needs

Thank you very much for your feedback

APPENDIX C

SINGLE PARENTS SEMINAR OUTLINES

Exhibit 1: God Cares For You - 19th August 2013

I Introduction

- God is concerned with our situations
- He is willing to help us

II God's Special Concern to the Single Parents

- Deuteronomy 10:18
- Jer. 49:11
- Psalms 68:5- God is your defender, a father to the fatherless
- Psalms 146: 9- He relieves the widows

III Trusting God with our Needs

- Physical
- Social
- Emotional
- Spiritual

IV The Privilege of Prayer & God's Word

- In His Word are numerous promises for us to claim
- God's Word can be trusted
- Jer. 33:3- He will answer our prayers
- Psalms 84:11- He will not deny anything good to us
- Matt. 11:28-20- Let's take our burdens to Him
- 1 Pet. 5:18- He cares for us

V Conclusion

- Need to pray for each other
- Need to commit to the Study of the Holy Scriptures
- Need to take God at His Word

Exhibit 2: Serving With God - August 21st 2013

I Introduction

- A privilege to serve with and before the Lord's presence
- God has space for you in His ministry

II God Calls you to His Service

- Abraham- Gen. 12:1-3- called to be a blessing
- Isaiah 6:8- Whom shall I send
- Matt. 28:19-20- Go ye therefore
- Mark 16:15-16
- John 20:21- As my Father has sent me , so send I you
- Acts 1:8- You are my Witnesses

III God Equips you for His Service

- Matt. 28:20- His presence will be with us
- Acts 1:8- the Holy Spirit Power
- 1 Cor. 12:8-10- He gifts us as He wills
- Ephes. 4:11-13- He gifts us for the edification of the Church

IV Finding Your Space in the Ministry

- There will always be something for you to do!
- Matt. 9: 37- The harvest is plenty
- Opportunities in church- working with children, youths, etc.
- Opportunities to share Christ love outside- testimonies, Bible Studies, Discovery Lessons etc.

V The Blessings of Ministry

- Joy seeing souls encouraged
- Joy to see souls won to the fold
- Joy seeing lives changed
- Own Spiritual growth
- God's constant presence
- Final Commendation by Christ

VI Conclusion

- Commit to serve the Lord
- Now is the time

Exhibit 3: Raising A Godly Heritage - 22nd August 2013

I Introduction

- Its blessing to be a parent
- We are to raise up a godly heritage!

II Children are a gift from the Lord

- Psalms 84:11- God has not denied us the blessing of children
- Psalms 127:3- children are a heritage from the Lord

III Trusting God for a Godly heritage

- Isaiah 54:13- The promise
- He is the giver- trust Him bless your Children
- His thoughts and plans are good for us
- He holds the life and the future of your children
- He is willing to listen to your prayers about your children

IV Your part in raising a Godly heritage

- Deut. 6:4-7- Teach diligently
- Prov. 22:6- Train
- Nurture
- Love your Children
- Be a role Model
- Befriend your children
- Communicate with your children- involves listening and talking to them

IV Conclusion

- Goal of parenting- to raise a Godly children
- God will help us in this noble duty

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Atkinson, David, et al., ed., *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. Leicester, UK: Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, 1995.
- Burkett, Larry. *The Complete Financial Guide for Single Parent*. Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press Publications Incorporated, 1991.
- Burkett, Larry and Cheri Fuller. *The Financial Guide for the Single Parent Workbook*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1997.
- Carpenter, Michael E. "What Are Some of the Challenges Single Parents Face?" Accessed 18 February 2013. http://www.ehow.com/list_7623507_challenges-single-parents-face.html.
- Fobbs, Kevin. "Challenges for Single Parents", Accessed 20 March 2013. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/types-of-families/Pages/The-Challenges-of-Single-Parenthood.aspx>.
- Garland, Diana R. "Family Ministry - Methods Of Family Ministry." accessed on 30 March 2015, <http://family.jrank.org/pages/559/Family-Ministry-Methods-Family-Ministry.html>.
- Hatter, Kathryn. "Effects of Single Parents on Children." Accessed 20 March 2013. http://www.ehow.com/info_8008164_causes-effects-single-parents.
- Hayman, Suzie. *Be a Great Single Parent*. London, UK: McGraw-Hill, 2010.
- Jacobs, Margaret D. *How to Truly Shine as a Single Parent*. Scotts Valley, CA: Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2010.
- Lowry Lindy. "The Priority And Potential Of Single-Parent Ministry". Accessed on 30 March 2015. http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/4223-single_parent.html.
- Rienow, Rob. "Bible-Driven Ministry to Single Parents". Accessed on 30 March 2015. <http://www.churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-how-tos/165936-bible-driven-ministry-to-single-parents.html>.
- Richardson, Willie. *Reclaiming the Urban Family: How to Mobilize the Church as a Family Training Center*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

- Richmond, Gary. *Successful Single Parenting*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1990.
- Schor, Edward L. ed., *Caring for Your School-Age Child Ages 5 -12*. New York, NY: Bantam Books, 1999.
- Walker, Dawn. "Ministry to Single Parent Families". Accessed 25 March 2015. <http://www.singleparentmissions.org/ministrytools.html>.
- Seifert, Carly. "Single Parent Family Ministry Ideas". Accessed 16 March 2015. <http://www.livestrong.com/article/1005786-single-parent-family-ministry-ideas>.
- Sell, Charles M. *Family Ministry*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.
- White, Ellen G. *Ministry of Healing*. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999.
- _____. *Welfare Ministry*. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999.
- _____. *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 3. Complete Published Ellen G. White Writings [CD ROM]. Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 1999.
- "Single parent." Wikipedia. Accessed 25 March 2015, <http://en.wikipedia.org>.
- The SPARC Single Parent Ministry Network, "Why a Single Parent Ministry." http://www.singleparent411.org/faith_ministries/why.html. Accessed 26 March 2015,.

VITA

Personal Identification:

Name: Ogechi John Okemwa

Date of Birth: November 9, 1974

Place of Birth: Kisii, Kenya.

Marital Status: Married

Spouse: Loise Njeri

Children: Pudens Nyambunde and Beryl Moraa

Education:

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology Candidate
Adventist University of Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.

Bachelor of Arts in Theology, 2003
University of Eastern Africa Baraton, Eldoret, Kenya - University of Arusha Campus.

Work Experience:

Karengata Church District, Pastor: 2014 - present

Karengata/Syokimau District, Pastor: 2012 - 2014

Nairobi South District, Associate Pastor: 2009 - 2012

Ciaitungu District, Pastor: 2004 - 2008