



Seventh-day
Adventist[™] Church
ONTARIO CONFERENCE

PRAYER MINISTRIES

10 Days of Prayer/
Family Week of Prayer

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayer position, with fingers pointing upwards. The hands are positioned behind the main title text.

Anchored FAMILY *in* JESUS CHRIST

READING MATERIAL
September 13 - 15, 2026

A photograph of a family consisting of a man, a woman, and two young children. They are all gathered around a table, looking at and reading from a book together. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the children are in the center.

PRAYER.ADVENTISTONTARIO.ORG

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

JESUS
*Anchors
Families*
IN TOGETHERNESS

**“Behold, how good and
how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity!”**

-Psalm 133:1, KJV



MAKING Room FOR ONE Another



Life at home can become surprisingly busy. One person is preparing for work, another is answering messages, someone is finishing an assignment, and someone else may simply be tired. We can live under the same roof, eat from the same kitchen, and still feel far apart.

Family togetherness does not happen merely because we share an address. It grows when we intentionally make room for one another. Room to listen, laugh, forgive, and simply be present.

Corrie ten Boom grew up above her father's watch shop in Haarlem, the Netherlands. Their home was not luxurious, but it was rich in hospitality and faith. Her family regularly prayed together, read Scripture, cared for people in need, and prayed for the Jewish people. Years later, during the Nazi occupation, those quiet family practices became courageous action. Corrie, her father, Casper, her sister Betsie, and other family members opened their home to Jewish people whose lives were in danger.

Their unity was not created suddenly during the crisis. It had been formed over many years: around the family table, through prayer, in service, and in a shared commitment to God.

Ellen White puts it beautifully: “A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay. All can see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world.’” - *The Adventist Home*, p. 36.

Our families do not need to be perfect to reveal Christ. Every family has disagreements, unfinished chores, financial concerns, health challenges, and personality differences. What makes a Christian home different is not the absence of problems but the presence of grace.

Unity begins in simple ways. It may mean putting away our phones during dinner, asking someone how the day truly went, apologizing without making excuses, or sitting beside a family member who is going through a difficult time. Sometimes the most spiritual words we can say are, “I am sorry,” “I forgive you,” “I am listening,” and “Let us pray about this together.”

Today, let us remember that time spent with our family is not wasted time. It is sacred time. The conversations, meals, prayers, and small acts of kindness are threads God uses to bind hearts together.



Let's Reflect...

What is one simple activity we can do today that will help us feel closer as a family?

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for the family You have given us. Forgive us for the times we have been too busy, impatient, or distracted to appreciate one another. Teach us to listen with love, speak with kindness, and forgive freely. Make our home a place where every person feels seen, valued, and safe. Draw us closer to You and, as we come closer to You, draw us closer to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Let us remember that
time spent with our
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time. It is sacred time.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

JESUS *Anchors Families* IN PRAYER



“Again I say unto you,
That if two of you shall agree
on earth as touching any thing
that they shall ask, it shall be
done for them of My Father
which is in heaven.”

-Matthew 18:19, KJV



THE Family THAT PRAYS Together



There are moments when a family does not know what to do. A medical report may be frightening. A child may be struggling. A relationship may be strained. Work may be uncertain, or expenses may be greater than the money available. At such times, prayer is not an escape from reality. Prayer is the family's way of inviting God into that reality.

In 2010, thirty-three miners became trapped deep underground in Chile after a mine collapsed. For sixty-nine days, their families waited aboveground at a place that became

known as *Campamento Esperanza* (*Camp Hope*). Beneath the ground, miner José Henríquez helped organize daily prayers. Above the ground, anxious relatives prayed and waited together.

The families could not enter the mine or personally rescue their loved ones. Yet they could remain united, encourage one another, and pray. Eventually, all thirty-three miners were brought safely to the surface. Their experience reminds us that prayer does not always remove the waiting, but it

gives us strength and hope while we wait.

A powerful counsel is given:

“Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally and, when you have a large day’s work to do, neglect it. In thus doing you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening.”

—Ellen G. White, *Prayer*, p. 164

Family prayer does not need to be lengthy or complicated. God is not measuring the number of words we speak. A sincere prayer offered by a tired parent, a worried grandparent, or a shy child is precious to Him.

When families pray together, children learn that God is approachable. Adults are reminded that they do not have to carry every burden alone. Hurt feelings can soften, gratitude can grow, and fear can give way to trust.

Some family members may feel uncomfortable praying aloud. Do not pressure or embarrass them. Begin gently. Invite each person to mention one thing for which they are thankful or one person who needs prayer. Someone may read a short Bible verse, and another may offer a simple closing prayer.

The goal is not to create an impressive worship program. The goal is to come into God’s presence as a family. A home in which prayer is offered will still experience challenges. However, those challenges will be faced with the assurance that God is present. The family can say together, “We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds our tomorrow.”



Let's Reflect...

What concern has our family been carrying that we need to place in God's hands together?

TODAY'S PRAYER

Loving Father, sometimes we feel worried, tired, and uncertain. Thank You that we do not have to face life alone. Teach us to bring our joys and burdens to You as a family. Help us to be patient when answers do not come immediately and faithful while we wait. Place Your peace in our home, protect those we love, and help us encourage one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

A home in which prayer is offered will still experience challenges. However, those challenges will be faced with the assurance that God is present.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

JESUS *Anchors Families* IN UNITY



“But above all these things
put on love, which is the
bond of perfection.”
-Colossians 3:14, NKJV



UNITED IN Love AND Purpose



Unity does not mean that everyone in the family must think, feel, or behave exactly alike. One person may be talkative while another is quiet. One may make decisions quickly while another needs time. Some express love through words; others show love by cooking a meal, fixing something, or quietly being present.

God did not ask us to erase these differences. He asks us to let His love hold us together through them.

Desmond Doss grew up in a home

that experienced some serious difficulties. His father struggled with alcohol, but his mother, Bertha, faithfully taught her children the Bible and took them to church regularly. The Ten Commandments displayed in their home deeply influenced young Desmond.

During the Second World War, Desmond served as an army medic but refused to carry a weapon because of his religious convictions. During the Battle of Okinawa, he repeatedly entered

danger to rescue wounded soldiers. As he lowered one soldier after another to safety, he continued asking God to help him save “one more.” His mother’s spiritual influence and the biblical values planted in his childhood helped shape the man he became.

This story offers hope to imperfect families. A home may have real struggles, yet one faithful family member can still bring light into it. A praying mother, a patient father, a compassionate grandparent, or a young person determined to follow Christ can influence the entire household.

The secret of unity can be found here:

“The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.” - Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 179.

We often try to create unity by changing other people. We think, “If only he would listen,” or “If only she would understand.” But lasting unity begins when each person moves closer to Jesus. The closer we come to Christ, the more patient we become with human weakness. Pride begins to soften. Harsh words become less frequent. Forgiveness becomes possible. Instead of asking, “Who is right?” we begin asking, “How can we honour Christ and care for one another?”

Perhaps your family is not as close as you would like it to be. Do not lose hope. Unity can begin with one prayer, one apology, one honest conversation, or one act of unexpected kindness. We cannot rewrite yesterday, but by God’s grace, we can begin building a different tomorrow.



Let's Reflect...

Is there a hurt, misunderstanding, or habit that is weakening our family unity? What loving step can we take toward healing?

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, You know every strength and every weakness in our family. Forgive us for the words and actions that have hurt one another. Remove pride, resentment, and selfishness from our hearts. Help us appreciate our differences, forgive as You have forgiven us, and choose love even when it is difficult. Draw each of us nearer to You so that we may also draw nearer to one another. May our home reflect Your grace, peace, and unity. In Your precious name, amen.

The closer we come to Christ, the more patient we become with human weakness. Pride begins to soften. Harsh words become less frequent. Forgiveness becomes possible.

