



LET'S CHAT!

with Pastor D

SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

October 19, 2019



We Need Them—Part 4

Melainie and I will never forget the day. I was asked to preach at a Church in a rural area. We entered the church with our children by our side, and the sabbath school teacher was waiting for them at the door. We followed her to the class room that was nicely setup with lots of chairs. We found it odd that there were no other children or youth.

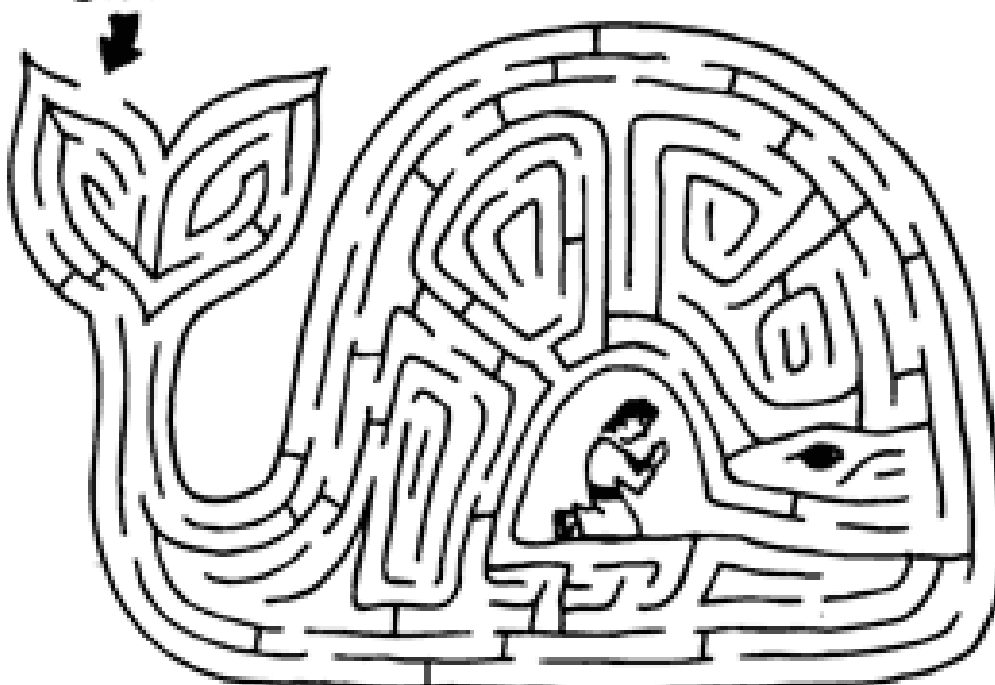
We found out at lunch that the youngest person was 55 years old. She was the children's and youth ministries leader. When she heard the visiting pastor had kids, she prepared sabbath school and children's story. I must admit, it was awkward having our children be the only ones at church.

I learned that the church once had a vibrant youth ministry. However, the constant complaints and verbal attacks from members caused them to depart. As a result the children and youth ministry became empty and void of leaders. It was a sad revelation about the state of many churches. What can we learn from that experience?

Firstly, we need to care for and invest in our youth. It's never too late! To have a vibrant youth ministry, it takes patience and dedication. Many youth leaders quit when the enormity of the ministry is realized. However, youth ministry is not complex. Start with a small number of youth and be consistent in spending time with and addressing their needs. The end result is trust, growth and a healthier church family. Why is this necessary? . . . because we need them.

KIDS CORNER

START



VNJKGTWSTNFIVOR
 TCNROYEHYBFJDE
 IWXDDXRHVIOWTIP
 GXEODERZPEPJHIE
 LHEVENINLOSAXN
 WWVDDSXADERXNLT
 POAMNOHSAIIPODA
 AYLCSWSTORMZJRN
 SKDQFPNETSGAKKC
 GXGQOKWSYQFCEE

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|------------|---------|
| Repentance | Jonah |
| Prophet | God |
| Storm | Whale |
| Three days | Ship |
| Sea | Nineveh |



There are many things in your life that are manageable and can be easily put right, when something has gone wrong. Get a bad grade on a paper, fix it by studying harder for the next assignment. Have a disagreement with a friend; apologize and try to be a better friend. But a damaged reputation can take years to fix.

In this digital age, where people have access to everything you post, protecting your reputation and the reputation of your friends is more important than ever. Here are some tips that I've shared with my children and grandchildren with regards to their online activity:

- Never post or send a picture of yourself or your friends, that you wouldn't share with your parents and pastor. This one guideline will help you to limit potentially embarrassing pictures being shared when you're in "the moment" and not thinking about potential fall-out.
- Be moderate in your online comments. The idea is to keep a conversation going and not post something like a personal attack just because you don't agree with a comment. If comments have already been posted that are a personal attack and/or contain profanity or inappropriate language, don't add anything. Just one comment on a party picture or an ex-girlfriend/boyfriend, can paint the entirely wrong picture of who you are.
- Never argue online; resist the urge to respond emotionally, angrily or defensively. It's natural to want to come to your defense of the defense of a friend when you see online insults, but never do it in a way where you come across as angry or petty. We all know the illusion of anonymity that typing into a keyboard affords. Before every post, ask yourself how you would feel if asked to address what you said in front of your parents, teachers or pastor.
- Be sure you have looked at an image or read a posting in it's entirety before you "like" or publicly favorite posts. This is an easy mistake to make, as people often half-read a post before "liking" it. Keep in mind that like a post will always be viewed as an endorsement.
- Keep your privacy settings high. Make sure you restrict your social media posts so only the friends and family on your list can see your profile or interact with your comments or photos.
- Talk with your parents and set guidelines about what information should be private and public. It's easy to overshare things that no one necessarily needs to know. For instance, post pictures from vacations AFTER you return (so it's not common knowledge that your home will be vacant during a specific period of time). Don't post pictures that include minor children from other family member or friends. Post pictures that are taken in public spaces (i.e., living room, front yard, restaurants, school gym, etc.) and not in your bathroom, bedroom, mall changing room, etc.
- Never share your phone, computer or social media passwords with friends, or allow them to post comments under your user profile.

If you have made some bad choices and see negative online posts about you — or maybe someone is making up lies about you, there are things you can do to regain your poor reputation. First, try to ignore the negative and stop listening to all the bad things being said about you. It will only bring you down and leave you feeling discouraged and hopeless.

Think about your "future self" and the kind of person you want to be. Then work on showing that to other people. Also find a friend that you can confide in who will remind you of the person you want to be and believe the best about you. If your current friends aren't adding value to your life or reputation, you might want to add some new people into your life who are known to say encouraging and positive things.

Ask your close friends or family what they see to be your positive or negative traits and what they think would be beneficial for you to adjust in order to improve your reputation. Then, be patient. It takes time to build a good reputation and even more time to re-build a damaged one. In time, the truth about you will be known and the person you are will speak for itself.

Sources: www.thehopeline.com McAllister, Dawson . *How to Rebuild a Bad Reputation*. www.statuslabs.com. May 21, 2019. *Reputation Management for Individuals*.

URGENT prayer

- Oris Wesby, health
- Brittany Baker, health
- Sister Loiseau, recovery
- Coisha Graham and baby daughter, health
- Marjorie Stowe, recovery

PAA Constituency Meeting
on October 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the academy