

# Children's Sabbath 2015

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of spotlighting and affirming the children in our midst. Although it doesn't need to be just once a year, it's an opportunity to involve your children in your church service and communicate to the rest of the church the importance of ministering to young generation. We all heard the saying, "Children are the church of tomorrow". If we just stop and think about this saying we will be able to understand the danger of believing it. Our Children are not the church of tomorrow but of today. It means they are a part of our church life and they can and must be included in our church services as often as possible. Every Sabbath can be a time when we intentionally plan to engage them. So this special Children Sabbath must not be considered as a one off activity but as a special emphasis day highlighting our on-going culture – our Children are the Church of today!

Plan this service as an opportunity to promote the values and importance of ministering to young people, as well as a way to showcase children and their ministry. To get the ball rolling for your Children's Sabbath program, work with your pastor and elders to develop a vision for Children's Sabbath and assemble a team to follow through on the organisation and planning.

Traditionally, the date for this special service as chosen by the General Conference, is the last Sabbath in July, but your church may choose to conduct it at any time. This is a great excuse to invite neighbours and friends (or inactive members) to bring their children. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and your community.

This resource for this Children's Sabbath was written by Amanda Bews for SPD Children Ministries. Faith Shaper is discipleship/retention strategy for encouraging pastors, elders, leaders and families to provide for the spiritual development of young people.



May your church be blessed as you present this important sermon on Intergenerational Connectedness.

Julie Weslake  
Director of Children's Ministries  
South Pacific Division.

[www.children.adventist.org.au](http://www.children.adventist.org.au)

# Faith Shaper Sermon

This sermon is part of a series of 7 sermons on Shaping Life-long Faith. It is a response to a variety of research that highlights the challenge we face in growing young people in faith. Sadly we don't need to see research to know we have a problem engaging our young people in faith – if your church is like most, you could probably see in your mind the faces of young people who have disengaged from faith. It's time to be intentional about shaping a better, more integrative, faith inspiring environment.

Implementing the 7 Experiences will increase the likelihood of children growing in and remaining connected to deep, active, lifelong faith. Faith Shaper resources include overview brochures, powerpoints and even a church implementation guide. You can find out about the research and how to shape a strategy for your church at: [www.children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper](http://www.children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper)

Faith Shaper is not simply a programme. It is not something to complete and move on from. It doesn't sit with one department or age related ministry. 'Faith Shaper' is a set of experiences that needs to colour how all ministry areas work. It is about church, home and school, prayerfully exploring the seven experiences and collaboratively putting in place a strategy that moves toward a more conducive environment for spiritual growth.

You will see that the program has a variety of ideas you can choose from in exploring the 'Faith Shaper' experience. Use your creativity! Adjust, add-to and re-work the activities to suit the needs of your congregation. Maybe these ideas will be a springboard for other ideas that work better in your setting. If your church has access to quality media development people then work with them to develop material. Maybe your church has a lot of people good at drama or maybe praise and worship is a big strength. Use the ideas in this book to stimulate the creativity of people in your congregation and come up with a worship service that works in your context. The aim is for your church family to understand the concepts contained in each of the programmes and your goal is to facilitate that process for your people.

You will notice that the program includes four sermon outlines. Each set of sermons includes one that is relatively simple through to the more complex. This will allow you to use various age groups in the sermon sections. Each person who is chosen to present the sermonettes will need to use words/concepts/expressions/illustrations that work for them. When using children for sermon sections it would be great to have a pastor/elder work with them on content and delivery.

Have fun with stage props and decorations. You may want to project the faith shaping logo, you can get this on the faith shaping website. You may do up a special bulletin for the day. Quotes and discussion questions relating to each topic can be found in the 'Faith Shaping Implementation



Guide' which is on the website. The main aim is to get the point across in interesting and memorable ways. The appendix of this document includes some articles and ideas that might be useful in helping you explore the concepts further.

Below is a generic suggested running sheet you can use for each programme. To use this running sheet simply insert the options you have chosen. We suggest you allow three minutes for a musical item or song and around five minutes for each sermonette and Drama. As you practise the options you have chosen you will get a better idea of how long they will take to do on the day, then you can change the running sheet accordingly.

God bless as you help your congregation explore the faith-shaper essentials.

## **Running Sheet for Programmes**

Please note, these are approximate times and assume an 11:00am start.

10:50 Prelude music  
11:00 Welcome & Announcements  
11:06 3 Congregational songs  
11:15 Prayer  
11:17 Offering  
11:22 Object Lesson  
11:27 Musical item  
11:30 Interview/Sharing Time.  
11:35 Reader's Theatre/Scripture Reading  
11:40 Sermonette 1  
11:45 Play/Dramatised Bible Story  
11:50 Sermonette 2  
11:55 Children's story  
11:59 Sermonette 3  
12:04 Final Song  
12:06 Closing prayer  
12:08 Postlude

### **Bulletin or Poster:**

Have a special faith shaper cover designed for the day. The 'Faith Shaper' graphics are available at the [children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper](http://children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper). Perhaps you could ask children to draw a pictures

that link with the factor being explored. Use the pictures on a display, as part of the bulletin or a projected presentation. Have children handing out the bulletins.

### **Prelude and Postlude Music:**

Most congregations will have children who are learning an instrument. This is a great opportunity to put together an item or a small band to play music before and after the service. This will need to be planned far enough out to give the children plenty of time to practise and become confident.

While prelude music is happening you might like to show data projector pictures of the children in the church family (if these are not being used during the offering) – be sure to have the right permission in place. If a data projector can't be used then picture the children have drawn could be displayed.

### **Songs and Items:**

Throughout the programmes you will find spaces for songs (congregational) and items. If you have a children's singing group and musicians, great – if not, add children to the adult music team if you can. Feel free to move aspects of the programme around to work in your context.

You might want to use some songs from the *Play Today* series. It is a great source of worship songs for the Beginner and Intermediate piano player. Children will be able to contribute to worship, even if they only have limited musical ability.

### **Offering and Prayer:**

Specific ideas are included in some outlines. Try and include as many children as possible. They will really appreciate and grow from their opportunity to serve.

# Intergenerational Connectedness

This programme explores the fifth of the Faith Shaper essentials. It explores Intergenerational Connections and the importance of shared experiences and relationship between all generations.

## Welcome:

Child: My Grandad and I would like to give you all a warm welcome this morning. Today we are talking about inter...inter...inter...What is it Grandad?

Grandad: It's Intergenerational Connectedness son.

Child: That's a big word, intergenerational connectedness, what does it mean?

Grandad: (Laughs) Intergenerational connectedness is when kids, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparent and great-grandparents all come together.

Child: What do they come together for?

Grandad: Well, the generations can come together for lots of reasons. But the reason we come together here is, so we can worship God. When we worship God together then we older ones can be an example to you younger ones and help you as you grow in your relationship with Jesus. And hopefully help you avoid some of the mistakes we made growing up.

Child: You made mistakes Grandad?!

Grandad: Yes, we all make mistakes. And that is one of the things you can learn by watching us. When we make mistakes and you can see us work through them and know that God still loves us then you can be confident that God loves you too...so you won't get discouraged when you make mistakes. That is just one example why all the generations worshipping together is good.

Child: Is there anything we can give your generation?

Grandad: Sure is – you young ones contribute enthusiasm and energy – it's great to be able to watch you grow and explore who God is.

Child: Can you tell me some more, Grandad?

Grandad: If you listen to the service today you will hear lots of reasons why it's important.

Child: What if I don't understand it all?

Grandad: Then you can ask me afterwards and we can talk about it some more. Families are made up of lots of people of different ages. That is why we call this our church family because there are people of all different ages here too. Do you have any special announcements for our church family today?

Child: Oh yeah, I do (Add announcements)

Grandad: We better go sit down and let them get on with the worship service.

Child: Ok Grandad, Happy Sabbath everyone! (waves)

Grandad: Happy Sabbath!

## **Prayer:**

- You gave us a Mum and Dad, grandparents and aunts and uncles.
- Each of these special people has a role to play in our lives if they are willing.
- Please plant in the heart of each adult here today a desire to help lead their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to you.
- We pray for our adults and the influence they have on the next generation.
- We pray that children have opportunities to build relationships and serve alongside other generations.

## **Offering:**

Have families across the generations collect the offering. While the offering is being collected have pre-recorded clips (or people young and old on stage 'live') saying why they are thankful for members of the other generations. Have children saying what they like to do with their grandparents. You could have grandparents reflecting on how their grandparents helped them. You could have parents talking about how their parent's faith helped to grow them spiritually.

## **Reader's Theatre:**

Psalm 78:1–7 (NCV)

Speaker 1: My people, listen to my teaching;

Speaker 3: Listen to what I say.

Speaker 5: I will speak using stories;

Speaker 2: I will tell secret things from long ago.

Speaker 4: We have heard them and known them

Speaker 1: By what our ancestors have told us we will not keep from our children;

Speaker 5: We will tell those who come later about the LORD.

Speaker 3: We will tell about his power

Speaker 2: And the miracles he has done.

Speaker 3: The LORD made an agreement with Jacob and gave the teachings to Israel,

Speaker 1: He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children.

Speaker 4: Then their children would know them,

Speaker 2: And they would tell their children.

Speaker 5: So they would all trust God

Speaker 4: And would not forget what he has done

All: But would obey his commands.

## **Object Lesson: Together we are stronger.**

You will need:

Cotton

Wool

String

Scissors

### **Cotton is pretty strong don't you think? What can you do with cotton?**

(kids call out answers).

**Yes, it can do all those things. It's pretty strong then isn't it...to do all those things. But what if I roll out some cotton. Cut a piece off and snap it...what if I do this? Does that look very strong?**

(Noooo)

**Ok then, how can I make it stronger?** (Keep kids calling out until someone suggests more cotton)

*Add some more lengths cotton, 2 or 3 pieces, then snap it again.*

**Well, that was a bit stronger but probably not strong enough.**

Move around/pick up the other things on the table and hopefully someone will suggest adding those. When they do say.

**OK, let's give that a try.**

*Cut and add a couple of lengths of cotton, wool and string then twist it together. Strain and try and snap it.*

*Offer it to a child **Maybe you can snap it!** Let them have a good try.*

Put it aside and start again

Now say:

**When we are children we are a bit like cotton.** *Roll out cotton piece and hold it up*

**We aren't that strong yet in our faith. Satan comes along to test us and, because there are still so many things we don't know, he can confuse us and make us do the wrong things more easily.**

**Our parents are like the wool.** *Roll out 2 pieces of wool and hold them up*

**Wool is a bit stronger and they have been around longer. They can help to guide you and direct you. They still make mistakes but they have learned more about life than you have and chances are they know just what you are facing. Or something pretty similar. *Twist the wool and the cotton together***

**If you tell them about your struggles and let them do life with you then they can help you. Grandparents are like the string *Roll out four pieces of string as most kids have four grandparents.* String is stronger than wool and cotton. Our Grandparents have been around the longest. They have lived more life and had to face many more things than even our parents. They are wise and they can help us. And they have raised kids already so they know some things your parents don't. *Twist all the threads together.***

**When we are all connected we are stronger! When we are together it is so much harder for Satan pull us away from God.**

Call a parent up to try and snap it. (Don't choose someone who could snap it).

**When the generations combine together we can build stronger faith in our children and grandchildren. Experience, wisdom and a living example of strong faith helps grow our children into fully devoted followers of Christ. Stay connected!**

### **Interview/Sharing Time:**

Interview a teen or young adult who has had their grandparents involved in their faith walk.

Someone who has been recently baptised if possible. Ask them questions like:

What do you like most about your grandparent/s?

How were they involved in your life when you were a child?

Tell us a special memory you have of one of your grandparents?

How did your grandparents help shape your faith?

Was there something you observed your grandparents doing that made you want to give your life to Christ...what was that?

### **Drama: Sabbath School Time**

#### **Characters:**

Mum

Child

#### **Props:**

Pyjamas for the child

Bed and bed clothes

#### **Scene:**

*Child is asleep in bed and Mum comes in to wake him up.*

**Mum:**           *(Shakes arm)* Come on sleepy head, wake up! If you don't get up now you won't have time to have any breakfast before Sabbath School. And Dad make pancakes!

**Child:**           *(mumbles)* No, I don't want to go to school.

**Mum:** *(laughs)* Not School, Sabbath School! It's Sabbath today!

**Child:** *(sits up and rubs eyes)* I'm tired, can't I just stay here?

**Mum:** No, you know you can't stay here. You aren't old enough to stay home by yourself and everyone else is downstairs eating pancakes. If you don't hurry your brother will eat them all. Come on, get up.

*Mum pulls the bedclothes back and child reaches down and pulls them back up.*

**Child:** I don't WANT to get up. I want to stay in bed.

*Mum sighs and sits down on the bed.*

**Mum:** I shouldn't have let you stay up so late last night. Maybe you are too young to go to the teen programme with your brother. Next month I will drop him off and Dad can pick him up.

**Child:** No, no! I love seeing what they do. I can't wait until I am big enough to join in. Uncle John is the coolest!

**Mum:** Well, Grandpa is leading out in your Sabbath School today. If you don't go you won't get to see what he has prepared.

**Child:** *(Sighs)* I know, and Grandpa does do a really good job too.

*He swings his legs out of bed and rubs his eye. Mum sits down next to him on the bed and gives him a hug.*

**Mum:** You know you are very lucky to have your Grandparents so close. Lots of other boys and girls hardly see their grandparents at all because they live a long way away or even in another country. Grandpa likes to help out in Sabbath School so that the other children have an opportunity to spend time with older people. It is good for them to have older people who care and show an interest in their lives.

**Child:** Yeah, and not everyone's grandparents are as cool as mine. *(looks sad)* Did I tell you that Eric's grandma died on Thursday? They won't be at church because they had to go to \_\_\_\_\_ for the funeral. His Grandad is pretty sick too. He doesn't have any other grandparents. He said he won't be back at school until Wednesday.

**Mum:** Poor Eric! Maybe you and Grandpa can visit and take him around a present when he gets home. You could share your Grandpa with him.

**Child:** Yeah, that would be nice. *(pause)* Yes, it is great that Grandpa helps in Sabbath School. And that Uncle John helps out with the Teens. I should get up because Grandpa likes me to help him when he is on. I'm lucky we live near all my grandparents. It's nice that he is interested in my friends too.

**Mum:** It is important that we all serve in church where we can. We need everyone, from every generation, involved so everyone feels a part of our church family...so everyone can worship together. We all have something we can do to make our church a better place.

**Child:** Yes, that is true. And my grandparents are extra specially gifted. All the kids can learn a lot from them.

**Mum:** Yes, that is true. Now get up!

*Child reaches around and fluffs pillow*

**Child:** Hey Mum?

**Mum:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_?

**Child:** If Grandma and Grandpa are so cool? What happened to you?

*Mum laughs and gives him little push back onto the bed. Child giggles.*

**Mum:** Hey cheeky! I'm the coolest Mum you'll ever have! And if you don't hurry up those pancakes down there will be the coldest you've ever had.

**Child:** That's if Grandpa doesn't eat them all. I think I hear him downstairs now.

*Child jumps up and runs off stage calling*

**Child:** Grandpa...grandpa!

## **Children's Story: Joash, The Boy King**

My Bible Friends Bk 7

You could scan the picture in and put it on the data project as you read or just show the pictures from the story book. It is quite a long story so you could just read until after Joash is crowned and not start on the repairing of the temple. The pages are not numbered so you could stop when it says:

'Again the trumpeters blew their trumpets; the singers sang; and the people shouted, "God save the king! God save the king!"' [end]

Once you have read/told the story you could discuss the following question with the children.

1. How did Uncle Jehoiada and Aunty Jehosheba help Joash?
2. Are there people, other than your parents, who help you?
3. What kinds of things do the adults in our church do to help you know Jesus better?
4. Can you think of anything special an adult in our church has helped you with?

To finish with say something like the following:

The adults in our church are here to help us know God better. We can learn about God by watching the adults here. They want to help you so make sure that if you have a problem you tell them. Say hi to them and let them know you want to be their friends too.

If you don't want to read the story you can show the Gracelink version from the Kindergarten lesson. Here is the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOPmoY9Ec18> (3.48)

## Youtube Clips:

A Song for Grandma and Grandpa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogzs4zKtNKQ> (3.23)

I'm Going to Granny and Gramps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1UMg2GnEXM> (2.19)

*A possible verse to display or read after the song about grandparents*

"We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done. He . . . commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born and they in turn would tell their children. "Psalm 78:1-4

## Scripture Reading:

**Deuteronomy 29:10-15 (NCV)**

*Have a parent/child read this scripture reading together for greater impact*

### Reader 1:

Today you are all standing here before the LORD your God—your leaders and important men, your elders, officers, and all the other men of Israel, <sup>11</sup> your wives and children and the foreigners who live among you, who chop your wood and carry your water. <sup>12</sup> You are all here to enter into an agreement and a promise with the LORD your God, an agreement the LORD your God is making with you today.

### Reader 2:

This will make you today His own people. He will be your God, as he told you and as he promised your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>14</sup> But I am not just making this agreement and its promises with you <sup>15</sup> who are standing here before the LORD your God today, but also with those who are not yet here.

## Sermonette 1. Beyond Target Markets

- Consumer culture is all about target markets.
- Products, radio stations, TV stations are designed to target particular age groups.
- We keep the generations apart and make them think there's something wrong with the generations that are not like me. 'Those old news-talk listening people are dangerous on the roads'. And 'Those young people with their ridiculous fashion have no respect'. We generalise and treat each generation as if they were separate from us.
- We forget that we are supposed to be one big community.

- Sadly many churches have also isolated the generations from each other.
- While it's great and important to have things that work real well for a particular age group we need to make spaces and times where we are all together.
- Young people need the wisdom and guidance of the older generations.
- Older generations need to see the vitality and enthusiasm of youth.
- If we want our children to stay connected to faith then there has to be a connection with the older generations.
- Not only with their parents but with their grandparents and from the youth right through to the older members of the church.
- Notice in the Bible passage we just heard - who Moses was talking to? It was all age groups from leaders and elders right down to the children and their mothers. And why were they standing before God? It was to make a connection with Him through a covenant. No one was to be left out.
- So often we forget about the children or don't think to include them in some of our activities. All age groups need to connect with each other. Each person, regardless of age, needs to feel a sense of belonging.
- We need older generations to be role models for children and young people.
- We need older generations to pass on the traditions which tell us the story of who we are.
- We need the strengths of one generation to meet the needs of another.
- There is tremendous benefit in having a church that values all of its age groups and works at being an intergenerational community – it's how God designed it to be.

## Testimony

- Have people reflect on individuals who have been significant in shaping their faith. Maybe a Sabbath School leader, Pathfinder counsellor, school teacher or adult mentor.
- Finish with the question: Who might be these people for the children in our church? Who will they reflect back on as the major shapers of their faith?

## Sermonette 2. Intergenerational Connections

- So how can we achieve this experience of having all age groups working together?
- So what are some Intergenerational Experiences that might be useful to revive?
- 1 - One idea is social events. A church is not just about religious exercises and worship times. A vital part of any community health is the times they can get together for social times and fellowship.
- 2 - Intergenerational mentoring is very important. This is where you invite the older generation to partner with a younger person to meet on a regular basis to just talk together. You may need to have some questions prepared first but after a while a relationship and trust will build. It may be that you arrange for an older person to share with a group of young people about their lives when they were younger and vice versa. But the idea is that an older person will have an opportunity to listen to a younger person and if asked, pass on some of their wisdom and experience.

- 3 - Intergenerational Storytelling is vital for us to know who we are and where we came from. In many cultures the stories were told around the fire in the evening. In our culture intergenerational story telling is being lost. It's time to retell the stories. This can be either formal or informal. In a formal way the stories of the older generation can be recorded and kept as part of an audio library. Living history can be heard about how the message first came to the community. How living was like 50 plus years ago. What were some of the practical jokes and funny stories from long ago? It may be more informal with no record being kept but sharing of the stories just the same. Young people find the stories fascinating and the barriers of misunderstanding begin to break down.
- 4 - Intergenerational Service. There are many ways to serve others. And this not only includes serving the older generation in some way, but working together so that all generations are serving another group who are in need. It may be an organised weekly soup kitchen or similar activity. Or it may be a one off activity like repairing someone's house. But service across the age groups is a powerful activity to unify the church
- 5 - Intergenerational Teaching. This is when the church is planning to hold an outreach of some sort. It may be an evangelistic program, or a health program or other similar type of program. Not only the planning but the delivery should be shared across the age groups. The planning should tap into the energy of the youth and young people and the wisdom of the older generations. Everybody should be given an opportunity to have an active part in the programs.
- 6 – Intergenerational Worship. Sure we might have very different styles but part of being in community is putting other people ahead of ourselves. Consumerism says 'look after me'. Community says: 'Look after one another'. What can we learn about our story from the grand hymns, what can we learn about God from newer worship songs? Together we get a more beautiful picture of worship and of how God works.
  - Intergenerational worship sends a message the 'church' is a community for all ages.
  - It works against the consumeristic 'target market' concept that divides families.
  - It helps us all to understand that community is about 'one-another' over felt needs.
- A more beneficial way to approach it all, is to ask how the different groups can work together so that each feels that they have contributed to the blessing of another. It is not about my needs but about the other person's needs. It is not easy to achieve, and requires patience and humility and listening. But it can be done and when it is, all generations are blessed by it.

## **Item: Intergenerational**

A song from a family group or a group with a variety of generations.

## **Sermonette 3. Together**

- Have a look at the people around you. There are some old and some young, there are ladies and gentleman, there are people with black hair, blonde hair, white hair and no hair, people with glasses, people with real teeth and false teeth, people with big noses and little noses (Include particular facts about your church). The idea is that God created each of us different. Even if you're a twin you are still unique and different. God likes variety and He created us all to be special and show a part of His character.

- While we are all different, we have the same purpose. We are to work together. We are to serve together, learn about God together, tell other people about God together, worship together and care for each other together. Doing it all together is a really big deal for God. Paul says, working together is very, very important.
- Jesus thinks working together is so important that just before He went back to heaven He prayed for the church and for His children, that's you and I, to work together. In John 17:20-25 He prayed that just like He and God the father are together - but different, we also would work together, even though we are very different.
- Unity does not mean we all have to be the same, it doesn't mean we have the same opinion on everything – God made us all different for a reason. However, it does mean we will have the same purpose - (Walk to piano if near by and play a chord – if you do not know piano get shown which notes before hand). If I play these three notes together they sound great – they are all different but together they make a lovely sound. However, I only have to add one more note that doesn't work together with the other three and it no longer sounds right (play another note that doesn't fit with the chord). When we are loving God and loving each other as a community we will work together to glorify God.
- This doesn't mean we all have to look and act the same. It means we remember we are different but when our differences are put together we make something that is very special.
- Working together is much better and far more fun than trying to get the job done by yourself. There are things like maths tests that you have to get done by yourself. However, church is not a Maths test – in church we all need to co-operate, put our skills together and work as one body. If you've got a whole pile of dishes to get done does it feel better doing them by yourself or having a few people working together? God made us different - but he made us to work together.
- What stops us working together?
- Maybe we can't be bothered.
- Maybe we are too busy thinking about ourselves.
- Maybe we don't care about other people and don't take the time to get to know them and see the special things they can do.
- Maybe we are selfish and want all the glory for ourselves.
- Paul says that if there is anywhere people should be working together, it should be in our church. In fact Paul calls the church a body where we should all be working together.
- God created us to be good at different things, and no one is good at everything. This is how God wanted it to be so that we would all need to work together if things are to work best.
- When we serve together as a community– everyone wins. You and I are part of a community that is doing what God planned for it to do – that's lots of fun and it glorifies God. God made you and I to be part of a bigger plan – His community.

**7 Essential Faith Experiences**

**Intergenerational Connections**

Children are spiritually formed when they observe their parents and other members of the faith community, practicing the worship of God. (Ivy Beckwith, 2010)

- Plan for and engage children in shared experiences with all generations and their families.
- Create opportunities for children to build relationships with all generations.
- Plan for and allow all generations to worship together.
- Provide opportunities for generations to celebrate faith milestones and spiritual anchors together.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn and serve alongside their family and other generations.

*"All of you are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God – your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel together with your children and your wives . . . You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God. (Deuteronomy 29:10-12)*

## Closing Prayer