

1-2010

## It's All About Perspective

Susan E. Murray  
*Andrews University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs>



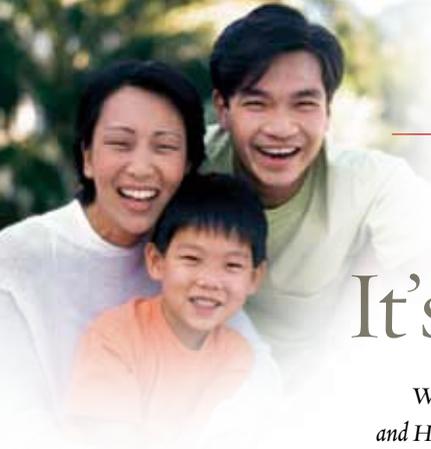
Part of the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Murray, Susan E., "It's All About Perspective" (2010). *Lake Union Herald*. 377.  
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/377>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Lake Union Herald at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Lake Union Herald by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact [repository@andrews.edu](mailto:repository@andrews.edu).



# FAMILY TIES

## It's All About Perspective

*We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.*—Ellen G. White

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

One day, the father of a wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?”

“It was great, Dad.”

“Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked.

“Oh yeah,” said the son.

“So tell me, what did you learn from the trip?” asked the father.

The son answered, “I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have all the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon.



We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us; they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them.”

The boy’s father was speechless. Then his son added, “Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are.”

This story is all about perspective. Parents add perspective to their children’s lives. It is either a perspective that broadens and enlivens them or a perspective that closes them to the wonders of God’s world all around them. This story illustrates that we can be thankful for whatever we have. It also shows us that sometimes a child’s perspective differs from a parent’s perspective. In this case, the father

was ready to teach his son a lesson; but perhaps the son taught his father the most important lesson. The father’s perspective was right, but the son’s perspective was larger. They both had important lessons to teach and to learn.

Parents are the primary perspective makers for their children’s understanding of their church. Some children learn their church is narrow and constricting. They are taught that God is a score-keeper, anxious to catch them doing something wrong. They hear criticism and fault-finding about members and church leadership. They don’t learn about the larger picture.

How much better to focus on the miraculous leading of God in our own lives and in the continuing ministry and development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This progressive movement includes a worldwide ministry of education, missions and evangelism. You might want to ask your children what their perspective is of their church.

In the Lake Union Conference’s Adventist Book Centers you can find biographies of many of the founders and early leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I invite you to bring these resources into your home to use for your own personal learning and enjoyment as well as sharing with your children. It’s all about perspective!

Susan Murray is an associate professor of family studies who teaches behavioral science and social work at Andrews University. She is a certified family life educator and a licensed marriage and family therapist.