



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 6

*"Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."*

*Revelation 22:7  
KJV*

*"Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet." – African Proverb*

*"Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin." – Charles Spurgeon*

*"Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words" – Francis of Assisi*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Bible Study that Introduces Christ

- **Getting Greasy for God!**

### ***"The Resurrection Effect"***

Hello, Adult Ministers!

During this month of April, Christians all over the world are placing special emphasis on celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This appreciation is appropriate during this season, and every day! Paul states in First Corinthians 15:14, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." Jesus' Resurrection, His victory over evil on our behalf, supplied Him with full application authority over the enemy (*lower case intentional*) to supply our every need (Philippians 4:19) in our journey from "Spiritual Egypt To Canaan." Praise The LORD! We can call this overcoming power, which allows us to be all that we can be through The Lord's power, "The Resurrection Effect."

"The Resurrection Effect" is also that Ministry of our Victorious Lord which empowers us to function effectively with Divinity in our spheres of influence as we carry out Heaven's instructions to us regarding fulfillment of The Gospel Commission.

His Acts 1:8 promise to The Disciples of, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me. . ." also applies to us! The promise is valid, whether your assignment at this time seems easy or stringent, because of "The Resurrection Effect." Our Lord is *ALIVE*, through The Holy Ghost, to give success to His Work, to give Glory To His Name, through your dedicated service. So, please allow the traditional Easter Celebrations to encourage you to continue to be assured that Our God *IS* His success through you in Ministry because He is *RISEN!* "The Resurrection Effect"!

Thank you, for going to [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com) for information and Reservations for the 2011 Festival Of The Laity. Thank you, also for going also to [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) for information regarding the June 21, 2010 Adult Ministries Training Day in Atlanta, Georgia. Blessings!

JAJ II

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL**

### ***Responsibilities of Sabbath School Personnel Assistant Secretary and Receptionists***

#### **Assistant Secretary: It is the responsibility of the Assistant Secretary to:**

- ❖ Perform the duties of the secretary in his or her absence.
- ❖ At the direction of the secretary, perform such tasks as:
  1. Distribute and collect supplies
  2. Share in the responsibility of caring for supplies
  3. Help count the offering
  4. Help with record keeping
  5. Fulfill specific regular responsibilities as assigned

#### **Receptionists**

##### **The Role**

The role of the receptionist is to make the atmosphere of the church warm and inviting. The receptionist's task is to set the climate for the Sabbath School, make others feel comfortable, welcomed, and loved. They are to make friends with strangers.

##### **Line of Authority**

The Sabbath School receptionist is responsible to the Sabbath School Coordinator or to the assistant coordinator for hospitality. In larger churches there may be a receptionist committee with one person acting as chairperson. In that case each receptionist would be responsible to that committee. The receptionists will work closely with the deacons or ushers.

##### **Time Commitment – 3 Hours A Month**

Receptionists are often scheduled to serve one Sabbath a month or every Sabbath for one month of the year or the quarter. The receptionist should be on duty thirty minutes before Sabbath School begins and should continue at least until the sermon begins. In large congregations, the receptionist may be asked to attend a receptionist's committee once or twice during the year.

##### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Become acquainted with the regular members so they can recognize visitors when they arrive.
2. When approaching guests introduce themselves first, extend a welcome, and then ask for the visitors' names.
3. Introduce the person to someone who will show them a seat or help them find Sabbath School classes or the parent's room.
4. Introduce newcomers to one or two other people in the church with whom they might feel comfortable.

##### **Making People Feel Comfortable**

1. The church should appear personal and caring to all who walk through the doors, both members and visitors.
2. Try to sense the needs of people arriving in church for the first time. Help them with such needs as: where to find the children's rooms, where to hang coats, the location of the restrooms, location of the mother's room, as well as the variety of classes and where they meet. This can be accomplished through a map in the bulletin or a foyer announcement board.
3. Arrange for someone to greet people in the parking lot, particularly when the weather is bad. Assistance with an umbrella on raining days is often appreciated.
4. Be alert to people carrying children, packages or other materials. Hold the door open and assist them in other ways.
5. Educate the regular members about the importance of mixing and talking with visitors after the service.

## **WHAT'S HOT!**

### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)**

#### **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA – L.A. Central Japanese Member Ministers with a Wrench**

Members at the L.A. Central Japanese church are getting greasy for God. Terence Vance started an oil change ministry to local Japanese people who could benefit from low-cost routine auto care and friendly faces.

"At the end of one Sunday, the sweat, grease and dirt associated with oil changes were smeared across our tired, grinning faces," said Vance. The idea for a low-cost oil change ministry came from a desire to do something good for the local Japanese community.

Vance's father taught him how to change oil. "I decided that since everyone needs an oil change for their car, I could turn my talent for wrenching into a ministry," he said. "The most deserving of such a great deal in our target demographic are Japanese single mothers and financially challenged Japanese international students."

Pastor Nozomu Obara and Associate Pastor Samuel Chung, along with the church board, decided to support the quarterly ministry. For \$5, they change the oil and filter, perform a 10-point check and provide a yakisoba (noodle) lunch. Each event has a 10-car limit.

"I know God will use my simple talent again for our second quarterly oil-change ministry," said Vance. "Although I cannot report that anyone gave their life to Jesus that day, the Holy Spirit planted seeds, and seven new people can find our church without a GPS!"

*Source: March 2010 Recorder, Southern California*

#### **DRIVE-THRU PRAYERS – Pacific Union Church Support Services**

Being a part of the Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry has taught us a lot, including the knowledge that prayer works! When talk about a "Drive-thru-Prayer" ministry came up I was skeptical to say the least, but then it wouldn't be the first time we felt called to pray in the streets. When we are attending motorcycle events and rallies it is not uncommon to have someone notice our Christian patches and ask for our prayers, for either themselves or family members. But to stand on the sidewalk holding prayer signs was a new idea to me.

My wife was very tired before we started, but she felt impressed to help and prayed for strength to get through the day. After she prayed she instantly felt refreshed and full of energy and headed out to the street in front of the Ceres Adventist church. There she held a cardboard sign that read, "FREE PRAYER." Meanwhile, I was at the church with a couple of Sabbath Keeper cyclists adorned in our riding boots and leathers helping Pastor Keith Mulligan and his wife Joyce, and associate pastor, Anil and several other church members pray with anyone that pulled in with a prayer request.

One car pulled in. Inside were a mother and three teenage girls. They were having some family problems with their Dad and one of our group had been having similar issues with his daughter, so instantly there was common ground. We talked and prayed with them, and as they drove away tears filled their eyes and ours. I don't know how many cars drove through our church, I don't know how many prayers were said, and I don't know if the people we prayed for felt God's presence with us that Sabbath afternoon. But I do know that my wife and I and several other Sabbath Keepers felt His presence, and we can't wait until the next Drive-thru-Prayer experience! – *By Kevin and Kellye Simpson*

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## Q & A

### **Q – How important is it for prison ministers to work closely with prison security?**

**A –** Very important! The role of security personnel is to ensure the safety of all persons within the facility, which includes employees along with residents, volunteers and each other. Follow the orders or directives given by security personnel and do not attempt to wander around the prison. In another Q&A we may address the issue of What to Bring and What Not to Bring into Prison. Thank you for your question.

Source: Prison Ministries Handbook

### **Q – Theme for Sabbath School – Good Idea? If so do you have any Theme ideas?**

**A –** A Theme is always a good idea and it's always good to have one. Remarks, music special features should reflect the theme. Here are a few theme ideas taken from Barbara E. Jolly's book, *Humility: The Hallmark of Sabbath School Leadership*. Choose one of the themes below and have fun creating an interesting and exciting Sabbath School around it.

1. An invitation from God to Meet Jesus – **Theme Thought: John 3:16**
2. A Celebration of Triumph – **Theme Thought: Isaiah 40:31**
3. The Certainty of Christ's Second Coming: Are You Ready? **Theme Thought: Titus 2:13**
4. More Love, More Prayer, More Power – **Theme Thought: James 4:8**

### **Q – For Personal Ministries what do you think about our church having a cooking school? Would that be a worthwhile project to undertake?**

**A –** Yes! The Seventh-day Adventist Church conducts vegetarian cooking schools for the community simply because it is interested in more than people's spiritual health. We are equally concerned about the whole person: his or her physical, mental, and spiritual health. A vegetarian diet is more than simply a matter of a Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. It is a significant preventive measure to preserve good health. More and more people across North America – including many with no particular religious or moral concerns about meat eating – are reducing or removing red meat from their diet. Many are concerned about the fact that heart disease is the number one killer in the United States and Canada. They know that a vegetarian diet has been shown to help reduce heart and coronary disease.

A cooking school is more than a ministry to the health needs of your neighbors. It is an opportunity to make new friends, fellowship over good food, and share an enjoyable activity. Go ahead! Do it! Happy Cooking! And Bon Appetite!

Source: Practical Guide to Personal Ministries

## **A Basic Bible Study That Introduces Christ**

*This Bible Study is designed to help a person establish personal faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior. For additional ideas, see Steps to Christ by Ellen G. White, Chapters One and Two.*

- 1. The Bible says that God is love. (Read 1 John 4:8.)**  
*Yet even though God is love, our world is filled with hatred and violence, all sorts of cruelty and suffering. You may have wondered how this can be reconciled with the fact that God is love. God did not want a universe full of robots. He created human beings with the power of choice. We are free to choose His way or other ways. When we selfishly choose our way, instead of His, we are ignoring His wisdom. We are rebelling against God. That rebellion is called "sin," and it separates us from God. We can never have any real happiness, hope or peace of mind until we come to God and end the separation.*
- 2. Each one of us is under the power of death because every one of us has sinned. (Read Romans 3:23.)**  
*In Romans 6:23 it says, "The wages of sin is death." So we are all doomed to eternal death from which there is no resurrection. But God is love. He doesn't want us to die. Yet what could He do? Well, He couldn't set aside His law, because to do so would have meant a universe full of chaos. An alternative would have been to provide a substitute-someone to die in our place. There was only one person in all the universe who could be a substitute for all human beings-Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He came and took our place. (Read John 3:16.)*
- 3. God's gift solves the problem. Now we have a choice. (Read Romans 6:23.)**  
*We can choose a life that never ends. We are not saved by works. We are saved by grace (Read Ephesians 2:8-9.) Grace is pardon, forgiveness, and mercy which we don't deserve and cannot earn. It's a gift. We receive the gift when we accept Jesus Christ by faith as our Saviour and Substitute. And so long as He remains the Lord of our lives-so long as we do not turn away from Him-we have eternal life through Him. It is ours. (Read 1 John 5:11-13.)*
- 4. A faithful relationship with Christ makes it necessary to become detached from the values of this world and attached to the values of His realm. (Read Romans 2:4.)***This is something like a marriage. Just as a couple are attracted to each other by love, so love attracts us to God. Just as a man or woman gives up any other romantic attachments, so we give ourselves to Christ and cut loose from anything that would hinder our relationship with Him. As we see Christ's love for us and feel a responding love in our hearts to Him, we will gladly give up anything that might come between us.*

## **"INMATE SPIRITUAL COUNSELING" CURRICULUM SEGMENTS**

***"Inmate Spiritual Counseling" with an emphasis on Volunteer Prison Chaplaincy, is the new training curriculum for those who are very serious about updating their Prison Ministry skills. The 46-hour course is offered by the North American Division Academy of Continuing Education, and will be conducted in association with the International Institute of Christian Ministry of the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department, which has a direct relationship with Griggs University. Continuing Education Credit is a possibility for college credit in the future.***

***Curriculum Segment Highlights: Spiritual Gifts: Keys to Ministry CR.101***

***Everyone Has at Least One Spiritual Gift (1 Corinthians 12:11) "All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 327).***

### ***Description***

***This module explores and assists the student in finding and developing the various gifts and abilities that God has instilled within their personhood.***

### ***Overview***

***The Lord calls every Christian to a ministry of ministries. God has equipped every one of us with one or more gifts which will be an intricate part of our being. This module seeks to assist Christians to discover and utilize those inherent gifts that God has instilled within us. Once God reveals to us our spiritual gifts, He expects us to use these gifts to advance His kingdom. Knowledge of our gifts developed and guided by the Holy Spirit, will lead us to a proper use of these gifts in the church and cause us to promote unity in the church.***

### ***Learning Outcomes***

- 1. The student will gain knowledge of the theology of spiritual gifts.***
- 2. The student will understand how to identify his/her spiritual gifts.***
- 3. The student will understand how to use his/her gifts in the ministry of the church.***
- 4. The student will learn how to use his/her gifts to help others.***
- 5. The student will learn how to use his/her gifts to advance the work for the kingdom of God.***

***Each issue of Network News will feature a segment from this 17 Module Curriculum. We, at the North American Division Adult Ministries Academy of Continuing Education, encourage our readers to enroll. Call Carol at 301.680.6430 or log on [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) for registration information.***





## **PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS**

### **Minnesota NonProfit Hires Ex-offenders**

*Rebuild Resources, Inc., a St. Paul-based business, provides services and jobs for ex-offenders returning to the community, reported TwinCities.com. Nearly 1,000 ex-offenders and recovering addicts have graduated from the program since it began in 1984. Program participants spend between 90 days and six months working manual labor jobs in the company's customer apparel and light-manufacturing divisions. They also attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and weekly classes on resume writing, job interviewing skills, cognitive behavioral techniques and anger management. Participants are also afforded paid time during the workweek to search for jobs using the company's computer lab. Fifty-six percent of last year's graduating class landed jobs in the midst of the country's deepest recession since the Great Depression. And only two graduates went back to jail. In addition, the nonprofit's revenue grew from \$747,260 in 2006 to \$1.4 million in 2008, and it raised \$600,000 in philanthropic funds during 2008 to help fund its programs.*

*Program participants all come from halfway houses, and about 71 percent have felony convictions, the overwhelming majority drug-related. "It's not about charity," said Lori Stee, the company's program director. "We choose people who are ready to work. If we don't, we are setting them up for failure. We rely on their good work to keep the businesses going."*

*Source: February 2010 Corrections Today*

### **EDITOR'S P.S.**

***Have you ever gotten discouraged and "gave up too soon"? Read on.***

***Dante Bartiel Rossetti, the famous 19<sup>th</sup>-century poet and artist, was once approached by an elderly man. The old fellow had some sketches and drawings that he wanted Rossetti to look at and tell him if they were any good, or if they, at least, showed potential.***

***Rossetti looked them over carefully. After the first few he knew that they were worthless, showing not the least sign of artistic talent. But Rossetti was a kind man and he told the elderly man as gently as possible that the pictures were without much value and showed little talent. He was sorry, but he could not lie to the man. The visitor was disappointed, but seemed to expect Rossetti's judgment. He then apologized for taking up Rossetti's time, but would he just look at a few more drawings-these done by a young art student.***

***Rossetti looked over the second batch of sketches and immediately enthused over the talent they revealed. "These," he said, "ah, these are good. This young man, whoever he is, has great talent. He should be given every help and encouragement in his career as an artist. He has a great future, if he will work hard and stick with it." Rossetti could see that the old fellow was deeply moved. "Who is this fine young artist?" he asked. "Your son?"***

***"No," said the old fellow sadly. "It is me, 40 years ago. If only I had heard your praise then. For you see, I got discouraged and gave up too soon."***

***For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend; so that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty. Job 6:14 (NASB)***

*Source: Bits & Pieces, March 30, 1995*

***I'm outta here!***

**CB**





