



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

APRIL 2011

Volume 7

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1 KJV

"The road to success may be winding but it is never crooked." – Roger Babson

"An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." – Winston Churchill

"Ego: Edging God Out."

"Stand for something." – The Pocket Power Book of Integrity

"MORE EQUIPMENT FOR FISHING!"

Greetings Ministry Partners!

We continue to Pray that you are continually and continuously in contact with Our Lord and receiving a Fresh Anointing of Holy Ghost Power, and Grace and guidance for your life and Ministry every day!

You have most likely heard the "saying", which is a Johnsonian adaption that goes something like this, "Give a person a Fish and they are fed for a day. Equip them to Fish, and you feed them for a lifetime." Our Lord promised the Disciples that He would make them "Fishers of Men" (Matthew 4:19). We exist at the North American Division Adult Ministries to continue the processes of sharing Resources that will assist in the process of enabling you to become more effective "Fishers of Men and Women." Therefore, in addition to the Resources you already have access to at www.nadadultministries.org and www.adventsource.org, please add the following web sites to your life, which come courtesy of our "Siamese" Ministry Partners, the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department:

- www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org – You will be amazed with what you find!
- www.gracelink.net – Children's Sabbath School
- www.juniorpoints.org – Juniors
- www.realtimefaith.net – Early Teens Resources
- www.cornerstoneconnections.net – High School Age Resources
- www.cqbiblestudy.org – Young Adult Resources
- www.sabbathschoolu.org – Young People Discussing The Sabbath School Lesson
- The FREE iPhone and iPad App for Sabbath School Bible Study Guides for all age levels
- Google "Cool Tools" – The menu may astound you!

We know that your Ministry Capacity will be enhanced as you make use of these tools. Please write and share your success stories. In closing, just a reminder that the September 7-10, 2011 North American Division Full Ministries Festival Of The Laity (www.festivalofthelaity.com) in Dallas, Texas is approaching swiftly. Thank you for Registering, and urging your friends to attend. Blessings! MARANATHA!

JAJ II

Sabbath School Offerings

Weekly and special periodic offerings for the worldwide missionary work of the church and the expense offering for the local Sabbath School are received in Sabbath School. The earliest plan for Sabbath School offerings was introduced in 1878, when the first annual session of the General Sabbath School Association urged the use of penny boxes placed near the door to receive funds for operating expenses.

The Sabbath School Currently Sponsors Four Offerings:

The Regular Sabbath School Mission Offerings – Mission offerings given weekly through the Sabbath School, other than those for the Thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter, Investment and the Birthday-Thank Offering.

Sabbath School Expense – If the expenses of the Sabbath School are not provided for in the regular church budget, a Sabbath School expense offering may be received. This offering is retained in the local church to meet the recurring expenses of the Sabbath School as voted by the Sabbath School Committee (Council).

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering – On the last Sabbath, usually the thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter, a special offering is taken, and a percentage is applied to certain pre-selected mission projects.

Birthday and Thank Offerings – Members are asked to bring a token of thanks for another year of life or for a specific blessing received. As early as 1890 Ellen White wrote: "On birthday occasions the children should be taught that they have reason for gratitude to God for His loving-kindness in preserving their lives for another year." Again she wrote in 1894: "Not only on birthdays . . . but Christmas and New Year's should be seasons when every household should remember their Creator and Redeemer . . . do not let the day pass without bringing thanksgiving and thank-offerings to Jesus." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 13, 1894.

Investment Fund – Members are invited to make an "investment" for missions in some earning project, and give the proceeds as a special offering. The investment idea was followed as early as the 1800s when certain church members dedicated such projects as an acre or more of a crop, some cattle, or some cash to provide camp meeting equipment. At the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee of 1924, the plan was named "Investment Fund" and made part of the Sabbath School system with the understanding that the money received would go into the regular mission budget.

WHAT'S HOT!

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

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – "Backpacks for Christ"

Backpacks for Christ, now in its second year, is a Christmas community outreach of the Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church. The ministry puts one thousand sturdy backpacks, warm gloves and copies of the book *Steps to Christ* directly into the hands of the homeless in Phoenix.

Three distribution points were chosen. The first event was Christmas Eve at the Sunnyslope Center in the West Valley of Phoenix. The second and third were in downtown Phoenix and in Mesa, in the East Valley area. Bright and early Christmas morning (December 2010), Camelback volunteers were ready to brighten the day for others.

At all three locations individuals were greeted at the door and given a ticket and hand stamp to receive their backpack, gloves and *Steps to Christ*. Each book was personalized according to the recipient's request.

Memory verse cards had been made ahead of time by church members, which were reduced in size to make a personal tag for each backpack. Anything that could add a touch of personal care was done.

Individual and family photos were also taken in front of the Christmas tree, to be picked up at a later time.

"Winter in Phoenix can get pretty cold," commented one of the volunteers, "And it's especially rough if you don't have a home to go back to each night. Not everyone here is homeless, but all are down and out on their luck and in need of a helping hand. Their backpacks often hold the most important belongings they have."

One family of eight – father, mother and six children, the youngest just six months old-received eight backpacks. One woman with a young boy and girl was so pleased with their gifts that she gave everyone hugs and big thanks.

"A beautiful part of this experience was being able to talk with the people," said Pastor Benjamin Lundquist. "We were able to make friends and share God's love, which is the center of this project. One woman, who is now running an outreach ministry in her church, four years ago was living outside of this building by the dumpster. Jesus saved her with the message that He loved her, and that's made a complete change in her life."

By Shirley Chipman. Used by permission

ROLE MODELING: Pass It On- Part 2 of 2

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV

Jesus obeyed. Although He was God Himself, Jesus spent His time on earth doing the will of the Father. He was obedient, as the Bible points out, to the point of death—death on the cross.

That's a tough act to follow, for sure. But Jesus never modeled any behavior that His followers could not emulate—including walking on the water. Look at what He modeled: love, teaching, delegation, friendship, acceptance, rest, prayer, trust, obedience, all behaviors and activities that you can adopt for yourself and most likely already have.

Jesus did not come to the earth to be an example of the kind of person, the kind leader, you could never become. You have the opportunity to emulate the best. You'll never find a better role model.

I Will

Realize that as a leader I am already a role model. Yes / No

Learn from Jesus' example. Yes / No

Draw on the power of God's Spirit to live a godly life. Yes / No

Believe that by emulating Jesus, I can become a better leader and positive role model. Yes / No

Appreciate the truth of Jesus' humanity. Yes / No

Be grateful for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Yes / No

Things to Do

Determine who your role models are and list the qualities that you admire in them.

Examine the character of the ultimate role model—Jesus—and resolve to emulate Him.

Ask two or three colleagues (independent of each other) to rate your assets as a role model.

Remind yourself throughout the day that you are most likely someone's role model. See how that changes your behavior.

Create a set of goals for becoming a better role model.

Complete these sentences with the same phrase based on your desire for your group: "I want others to _____. Therefore I must _____." (Examples: be on time, meet deadlines, be courteous.)

Checklist for Life for Leaders, Nelson Books

Director: J. Alfred Johnson II

Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org

Editor: Carol Barron

Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

Consultant: Cleveland Houser

cleve.houser@comcast.net

Published monthly by the North American Division Adult Ministries Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Personal Ministries, and Sabbath School Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

**North American Division
Adult Ministries Adult
Ministries Network**
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring MD 20904

Phone
301.680.6430

Fax
301.680.6464

E-mail
Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

We're on the Web!
www.nadadultministries.org

Principles of Church Growth and Evangelism Part I

The purpose of the local church is to reach out in the name of Christ, bring men and women into His fellowship, and help them grow in His grace. Yet, the typical Seventh-day Adventist congregation in North America has about the same number of people in the pews each Sabbath morning that it had two decades ago.

In recognition of this reality, the General Conference adopted a statement that says, "We must face honestly certain obstacles that stand in the way of a finished work." Among the 14 obstacles noted were "expenditure of time, talent, money and energies on maintenance rather than advance . . . failure to enable full participation in ministry by all the members . . . the imbalance between those whose efforts are directed inward toward church members and those whose efforts are directed outward toward filling community needs and saving the lost . . . the misallocation of high priority resources to low productive activities . . . the insufficient number of congregations within geographic and cultural distance of the populations we are seeking to win . . . insufficient diagnosis and evaluation of existing programs . . . and lack of creative research and development." ("Evangelism and Finishing God's Work," 1976 Annual Council)

What does it take for a local church to grow by continuing to reach and win new people? The document prescribes steps to invest more funding and personnel in outreach and soul winning and to "clarify the role of the pastor . . . enable members to function as ministers . . . multiply churches among receptive people . . . (and) tailor ministries to particular homogeneous units."

During a Summit Meeting on Evangelism in 1979, all of the conference presidents from the Adventist Church in North America spent a week studying the Bible's definition of the church and its mission, the church in creative tension with the world, the role of the laity and the growth of the church. "The local church is the basic unit of organization and the focus of all activity" in the denomination the summit decided. "Church growth comes from recognition and development of spiritual gifts, through small groups, by the priorities of Word, Worship, Fellowship and Service." (Faith, Action, Advance" document, 1981)

This all suggests a more "relational" approach to evangelism. It defines evangelism in terms of a process rather than an event. There is more emphasis on encouraging every church member to "share your faith" than on professionals teaching a system of doctrines. Friendships are recognized as the primary tool for bringing men and women to Christ and into the church. Fellowship at a personal level is more important than large personalities or large organizations. The goal is to meet the needs of people rather than to implement program blueprints.

"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: Chaplain Relations VCHP.201

Inmates live in a cold and sometimes scary, dangerous place. Chaplains should provide comfort and safety, not division and fear. Professional prison chaplains are God's partners. They touch hearts and bring inner change. They bring a sliver of meaning and hope to thousands who must live behind walls and fences.

By Judith Coleman, vice president, American Correctional Chaplains' Association

Description

This module provides the student with hands on opportunity to understand how Chaplains relate to prison personnel through personal interviews with prison staff and inmates. The student will develop and formulate his finding in a written composition that will aid him/her in understanding the complexity of a Chaplain's relationship with staff.

Overview

This module seeks to involve the student in understanding and developing clear concepts regarding the role and relationships of Chaplains in the work place. This module affords the student the opportunity to understand the Chaplain's relationship with inmate and institutional expectations in his overall relationship with the correctional make up.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To provide the student with the opportunity to do independent, non bias research regarding Chaplain relationships in a correctional setting with prison personnel and inmates.***
- 2. The student will interview designated prison personnel and inmates and compile a written composition that will serve as a model of understanding of the complexity of the Chaplain's job.***
- 3. The student will gain a greater appreciation of the role of a Chaplain.***

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 for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

P.A.P.M.O. BEING BLESSED OF GOD

This past year (2010) has been another exciting one, our tenth for Potomac Adventist Prison Ministry Organization (PAPMO) where again we praise our Heavenly Father for the way He has worked through His willing servants. At the local church prison ministry level, His people have surrendered their time, talents, and finances to further the Gospel, to our brothers and sisters behind prison walls, and to their families waiting on the outside to receive them back into society.

During the past year, we have seen five new prisons and jails open their doors to our Seventh-day Adventist prison ministry teams. We have also seen 20 inmates baptized, either by immersion or through profession of faith, into the ranks of God's Remnant Church. We continually give God praise for His goodness and His wonderful works toward the children of men.

Through the miracle working hand of our Lord, last May, we were actually able to photograph the baptism of a surrendered soul, Brother DeShawn Bazemore, into the Tappahannock, Virginia Seventh-day Adventist Church, at the Work Camp of Haynesville State Correctional Facility, Warsaw, Virginia. ([See photo gallery](#))

OUR HOUSE OF HOPE – *In 2005 PAPMO board members established a separate non-profit corporation, Our House Of Hope, whose specific mission is to develop and manage transitional housing for offenders in the state of Virginia, who were being released into the community. These houses will be a haven where the returning citizens will have the support of their peers and get spiritually strengthened through daily worship and Bible study. Vocational training, family counseling, financial management education and job placement assistance will also be provided to assist with their emotional and social reintegration needs.*

Our House Of Hope needs help from those with experience or expertise in grant writing, transitional housing management, and vocational counseling. Interested, contact: Ourhouseofhope@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Ryland Holmes, vice president P.A.P.M.O

EDITOR'S P.S

Are you acquainted with the book, Measure Your Life: 17 Ways to Evaluate Your Life from God's Perspective, by Wesley L. Duewell? It's quite an eye opener. The question is raised: How can you measure your love for God? The answer: By the practical things in your life.

Check out a few of these "measures" and see how you "measure" up.

"Measure" your life and love by the number of times you lovingly think of Jesus during your day and telling Him, "I love You, Jesus!"

"Measure" your love by the degree of hunger you have to read His Word.

"Measure" your love for Jesus by your willingness to overlook the failures, mistakes, weaknesses, and shortcomings of your brothers and sisters.

I'm outta here!

CB

