



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

AUGUST 2009

Volume 5

*"Behold I stand
at the door, and
knock: if any
man hear my
voice, and open
the door, I will
come in to him,
and will sup
with him, and
he with me."*

Rev. 3:20 KJV

- *"Cheerfulness oils
the machinery of
life."*
- *Courage is fear
that has said its
prayers."*
- *"Life is not so
short but that
there is always
time for
courtesy." -Ralph
Waldo Emerson*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **CHERI'S – A VEGAN RESTAURANT**
- **SUMMER REVIVALS – SABBATH SCHOOL PART II**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"Memory Of A Fallen Personal Minister"

Dear Family,

Hearts around the world were shaken on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, as the announcement began to spread of the death of Sister Sandra Holland Pearson, Director of Public Services Ministries and Associate Field Services Director of Breath Of Life Ministries, one of the global Television Outreach Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, based at the North American Division Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Working in what can adequately be described as a near "Siamese" relationship with her husband, Speaker-Director, Elder Walter L. Pearson, Jr., Sister Pearson was extremely efficient and proficient in the fulfillment of her stated Job Description. This is a fact that defies contrary opinions—yet the "fact" barely speaks to the value and quality of the person.

Sandra Holland Pearson was a Jesus exuding, friendly, loving, giving, caring, personable, cheerful, Wife, Mother, and Soul Winner (a reality little known by persons in the General Public), who modeled the Christian Life in a way that encouraged others to consider it to be livable—is that not what all of us have been called to do?

Sandy, as she was referred to by her friends, was a "Seasoned" Congregational First Lady and Soul Winner not only effective at the "One-On-One Contact", she also served as coordinator of the Bible Counselors (referred to by some as Bible Instructors) for all of the Public Evangelism ventures conducted by her husband, Elder Walter L. Pearson, Jr. Imagine the number of souls won to Christ as a result of her influence!

Now "Resting" from her labors, let us move forward in Mission with Jesus, assured that due to His Faithfulness, and our response to that Faithfulness, we will one day be United/Re-United with the Faithful of the ages. You also have some that you are looking forward to seeing. Along with those, let's look to Shout With Sandy!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

SUMMER SURVIVAL IDEAS – PART II

8. Potluck Sabbath School. Plan all the items of your program. Then put each item in a different covered casserole dish. In one dish will be the mission story, in another the opening song, in another prayer, and another the call for the offering. Other dishes might contain such instructions as: "Share an experience of answered prayer." "Read the following poem." "Read the following quotation." "Find people to repeat a Bible verse that begins with each letter of your name." Have a table covered with a tablecloth in front. Place the dishes on the table. Tell the group that Sabbath School today is potluck and all must help themselves to the dish they prefer. Volunteers then come forward and open a dish and do whatever it says.

9. District Outing. Ask the other churches in your district to join you for Sabbath School at a park. Each church represented will be responsible for one part of the program. Follow with an outdoor church outing, and nature walk.

10. Share a Memory. We are told that we have nothing to fear for the future unless we forget the way the Lord has led us in the past. Ask each person present to find a learning partner. Then, one at a time, ask them to share the following memories. Give them two minutes per memory, or one minute each.

- a. Share your first Sabbath School memories.
- b. Share how you joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- c. Share the memory of your baptismal day.
- d. Share a memory about the first time you did something up front for Sabbath School or church, or the first time you tried to witness.
- e. Share a memory of a person who has had a profound influence in your life.
- f. Share a memory about the first time you learned to really depend upon God.
- g. Share a memory about a bad time in your life when you really grew, a time when good came out of bad.

11. Share a Dream. Joel says that the time is coming when our old men will see visions and our young men will dream dreams. We often use this verse to describe the gift of prophecy in the church. However, in a nonprophetic sense the church needs all of us to have a vision of what can be accomplished—and dreams of how we could do it. Psychologists tell us that only as we are able to visualize an idea can we hope to make it happen. So have a day when everyone can see visions and dream dreams. Have each person choose a learning partner. It is best for spouses to choose someone else. Everyone will share his or her dreams on the following topics as you call them one at a time. Give two minutes for each sharing topic.

- a. If you could be a missionary anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
- b. If you could have a dream come true and see three people join the church tomorrow, who would they be? Share why you are so concerned about those people.
- c. If you could have three prayers answered immediately, what would those prayers be?
- d. If any wish you made for your church could come true, what would you wish for it?
- e. If you could have any talent or spiritual gift that you do not now have, what would it be?
- f. If you could eradicate three evils in the world, what would they be? Take a few minutes for the partners to pray for each other and ask God to help their dreams come true.



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD) MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

MEMBERS OPENS VEGAN RESTAURANT, HINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Cheri and Mark Shipowick, members of the Hinton Company, recently opened the area's first completely vegan restaurant. Cheri's, as the restaurant is called, features a vegan buffet, a bulk and health food store, and a bakery. Cheri cooks while Mark prepares the ingredients and manages the salad bar. Marks says they opened the restaurant "to reach the people in West Virginia with the gospel by helping them see the benefits of healthy living and helping them reach their health goals."

The Shipowicks strive toward that goal by praying for guidance in meeting the needs of their customers. Sometimes that means offering health magazines and, at other times, it means building friendships. The customer base continues to expand. When customers ask health questions, the Shipowicks offer lifestyle suggestions, provide natural healing resources, and refer them to lifestyle centers and health professionals. For those looking to share veganism with friends, Mark advises, "don't be pushy but, on the other hand, don't be shy. Share what you know whenever possible." For more information about the Shipowicks' outreach ministry check out www.cherisnutrition.com.

Source: Visitor, July, 2009

"CONTAGEM REGRESSIVA PARA A VIDA" – Portuguese Net 2009

Our Brazilian Brothers and Sisters are rapidly growing in numbers in the United States and for the very first time there will be a live Net Evangelistic Meeting via satellite from Dallas, Texas, October 10-17, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., CT. There will be a rebroadcast at 7:30-9:00 p.m., PT.

More information at www.contagemregressiva.com. Register your church or small group/s now to be a part of this exciting and live event.

"SECRETOS DE LA VIDA" – Spanish Net 2009

Esperanza TV continues with the preparations of the Spanish Net from Portland, OR, with Pastor Ramon Canals, vice president of the North Pacific Union.

The NET starts October 23-31, 2009. It will broadcast live 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., PT. Rebroadcast will be the next day from 7:30 p.m., to 9:00 p.m., ET.

To register your church or small group/s to participate in this exciting event, log on to www.secretosdelavida.org.

Submitted by Sandra Juarez, Esperanza TV

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

Q & A

Here are some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) with the answers, which might be of help in your involvement in Personal Ministries.

FAQ: What is the Mission Driven Church?

The word "mission" means purpose. If your local church already has a clear mission statement, you are a step ahead. If not, meet with your church leaders and prayerfully develop one that includes the threefold command of the Great Commission to evangelize the world: 1. **Go** (ministry of presence and compassion); 2. **Baptize** (ministry of soul winning); 3. **Teach** (ministry of nurture and spiritual growth).

FAQ: What is our Mission in a Secular World?

Over 80 percent of people surveyed on North America say they believe in God and 70 percent say they belong to a church or synagogue and attend "regularly." Yet when other strands of data are correlated, a mixed picture emerge, indicating that only one in four persons is an active church member. We seem to live in a neopagan culture in which people pay lip service to religion but avoid any spirituality that impacts their values or behaviors. This issue is crucial to the future of Adventist evangelism in North America. It determines whether we continue to start with the assumption that our audience accepts the authority of the Bible, or is, in fact, scripturally illiterate.

FAQ: What is Evangelism?

Many different words are currently used in referring to this topic. Outreach is a general term including anything the church does to reach beyond its own members. Personal Ministries is also a general term, but focuses more on what members can do individually. Evangelism is a term used in scripture that literally means to share the Good News of Salvation. The first task of personal evangelism is not to teach doctrine, but to bring the unbeliever to a personal relationship with Christ.

FAQ: What are the Top 10 Tasks for Personal Ministries Leaders?

1. Maintain a strong relationship with Jesus.
2. Make sure you understand the true meaning of salvation and grace.
3. Develop and show genuine love for all people.
4. Be prepared to engage in spiritual warfare as you teach others the truth about freedom in Jesus.
5. Surround yourself with a team of prayer warriors.
6. Communicate effectively with your church leadership.
7. Become a leader who inspires and motivates.
8. Think clearly and plan wisely.
9. Be flexible and open to the Holy Spirit's leading.
10. Remain focused and optimistic—Jesus has already won!

Resource: The Sabbath School Handbook
www.adventsource.org

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

A PLANNING SESSION FOR SCREENING PROJECTS

Invite the health ministries leader for your congregation, your local Adventist Community Services director, the communication representative, and the members of the personal ministries committee or Church Ministries Council. You may also want to invite health professionals in the congregation who have an interest in community health projects. The purpose of the meeting is to plan one or more health screening projects for your community. Because of the complexity of recruiting qualified personnel and conducting adequate publicity, you must hold the planning session at least three months before the date of the screening event.

AGENDA

- 1. Read the statement about Christ’s method of evangelism found on page 143 of Ministry of Healing. Pray for God’s guidance as you plan to help the people in your community.*
- 2. Review the reasons for being involved: to serve, to rub shoulders with community leaders, to establish credentials as a community organization, to target visibility with various publics, to be a good neighbor, to build a clientele for Adventist health education programs, and to meet the needs of people. Why health screening? To build public awareness, provide health education, promote self-care, detect potential disease at an early stage, to double-check adequacy of treatment, to encourage continued good health behaviors.*
- 3. Discuss the type of health screening your church can provide. Evaluate the personnel and resources within the congregation and community. Decide whether to do a series of classes, a health fair or a one-time program focused on one health aspect. Options include blood pressure check at a local mall or event, heart disease screening like the Heartbeat” program, managing stress seminars, Breathe Free stop smoking clinics, obesity control, and cooking classes.*
- 4. Determine the sources of funding.*
- 5. Select the date and location.*
- 6. Make assignments, including assigning a project coordinator. Set up a schedule for tasks and publicity.*
- 7. Decide which points will be evaluated when the project is completed.*
- 8. Schedule another meeting of the committee about 10 days prior to the event so that plans can be reviewed and volunteers trained. This will insure that the event runs more smoothly.*

After The Meeting

As soon as the meeting is adjourned, type the assignments (with telephone numbers). Copy it and mail it immediately to each person who was invited to the planning session, as well as those given assignments during the meeting.

"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: Voluntary Policy PM.210

Policy: District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC). It is DOC policy to utilize a diverse group of volunteers to supplement programs, resources and to provide a positive link between DOC, inmates and the community. Volunteers may include local citizens, students in local universities, and members of local businesses and community organizations.

Policy: New Zealand Department of Corrections. The Department recognizes that the existence of a diverse and energetic pool of volunteers brings a community perspective to its services and contributes towards helping offenders to positively return to the community.

Description

Volunteer Policy exposes the Inmate Spiritual Counselor to the intricacies of volunteerism and the necessity of exposing the Inmate Spiritual Counselor.

Overview

This Module will expose the volunteer to standards and policies that involve volunteers in their correctional responsibilities to the Department of Corrections and the community. The volunteer will understand protocol, expectations and job responsibilities as designated by the volunteer coordinator and endorsed by the Warden.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To understand what is expected of a volunteer.***
- 2. To understand volunteering and volunteer policy.***
- 3. To acquaint the counselor with the responsibilities of volunteer coordinators and other correctional designees.***
- 4. To have a working knowledge of volunteer policy and volunteer involvement.***

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

Troubled Young Women Visit Female Inmates

The Baltimore Sun reported on a program at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup that pairs at-risk teens with facility inmates. On a recent visit, 32 teens in mentoring programs

sponsored by the Baltimore mayor's office sat with inmates in small groups and listened as they shared stories of how they ended up in prison. The youths, selected because of their failing grades, poor attention and bad attitudes, were encouraged to tell their own stories to the older women, who are members of a group called Prisoners United Sharing Hope.

Denise Parker, director of mentoring and special projects for the mayor's office, said she brought the youths to Jessup because they are often unafraid to tell inmates what they are afraid to tell counselors.

--Lisa Gormsen, April 2009 Corrections Today

Going to the Dogs: Prison-Based Training Programs Are Win-Win

Across the country, prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers and other correctional facilities are discovering the benefits of in-house dog-training programs. Many of these programs work with service dog training organizations to train assistance dogs for members of the community with disabilities. Others rehabilitate retired racing greyhounds and dogs from area shelters, teaching them skills and manners that will enable them to be placed with adoptive families.

"It's a win-win situation," stated Sheila O'Brien, executive director of NEADS, Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans, a Massachusetts service and hearing dog organization. NEADS places puppies-in-training in 15 New England prisons. The inmates win: They learn nurturing skills and have this adorable puppy with them. The caliber of training is unbelievable. These guys have a lot of time on their hands. Even staff at the prisons wins. They say it's like a breath of fresh air, that having a few puppies there changes the entire atmosphere of the prison.

Pamela S. Hogle, August 2009 Corrections Today

EDITOR'S P.S.

Do you know this story? Grandpa took a nap each afternoon. One day, as a practical joke, the grands decided to put Limburger cheese in his mustache. He awoke-sniffing. "Why this room stinks," he said, and got up and went out to the kitchen. He wasn't long in there when he decided the kitchen smelled too. He walked outdoors for a breath of fresh air. To Grandpa's surprise the open air brought no relief. He yelled, "The whole world stinks!" How true in life. When we carry "Limburger cheese" in our attitudes, the whole world smells bad.

There is very little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is ATTITUDE. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative. John Maxwell in his book, Attitude 101, says, Our attitude is the primary force that will determine whether we succeed or fail. Our attitude tells us what we expect from life. Like an airplane, if our "nose" is pointed up, we are taking off; if it is pointed down, we may be headed for a crash.

I'm outta here!

CB

