



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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*"Salvation is not
a reward for the
good we have
done, so none
of us can take
any credit for
it." – Ephesians
2:9 - LB*

*"The most
important work
you and I will
ever do will be
within the walls
of our own
homes." – Harold
B. Lee*

*"Nevah, nevah,
nevah give up!" –
Sir Winston
Churchill*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **MINISTERING TO WOMEN IN PRISON**
- **STUDENTS ON THE MOVE**

"A SHARPER AXE"

Hello, Ministry Partners,

One of my Instructors, in the interest of urging the students on to greater realms of proficiency in life and our chosen vocations, would often utter, "A sharp axe works better than a dull one." That sage and timeless advice applies very appropriately to our process of uniting with Our Lord in strengthening Ministry Capacities for use in His Service. It is my honor to offer three such "Axe Sharpening" opportunities that come courtesy of our General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department—and they are FREE!

1. *Sharing Scripture*, a practical and creative weekly inductive approach to the Adult Sabbath School lesson that may be printed from the Web or subscribed to at: <http://www.sabbathschoolteacher.org/>.
2. A special grouping of courses drawn from the International Institute of Christian Ministry that focuses on Sabbath School for children, youth, and adults: <http://www.sabbathschoolteacher.org/idex.php?id=29>.
3. The inclusion of the seminars that were presented for "SSPM Tool Time" during the General Conference Session in Atlanta: <http://sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/article.php?id=66>.

Viewing the "Times," the need for Best Practices—combined with a daily fresh Baptism of The Holy Ghost is greater than ever before. Keep on "Sharpening" your Ministry Axes with these, and many other resources that can be found on our Website www.nadadultministries.org.

In addition, Registration is now open for the 2011 North American Division Full Ministries Festival Of The Laity that will convene in Dallas, Texas—September 7-10, 2011 (an "Axe Sharpener", if there ever was one!). Go to www.festivalofthelaity.com for details, or call 301.680.6430. Blessings on you and all in your context of Ministry!

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

FIVE ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL AUDIENCES

"Research has shown that very often a church will have some combination of five basic audiences, or sociological groupings, who come to Sabbath School. Each is based on a particular interest or preference.

Each of these groups works as a unit and can be organized so that they attract people with similar interests. The result is that the Sabbath School grows in membership and attendance.

Depending on the space available in a church, it is possible to have a number of adult Sabbath Schools functioning, built around these audiences.

FIVE SABBATH SCHOOL AUDIENCES

- Traditionalists
- Fellowship-oriented
- Those who wish to do in-depth Bible study
- Multiple interest groups

Organizing a five audience or sociological grouping Sabbath School takes a great deal of work and planning. All groups meet periodically, once every six weeks, or once a quarter, on Sabbath morning during the regular Sabbath School time. The purpose of these meetings is to report on how the groups are doing, and on their plans for the future.

Each audience group should have a leadership team made up of a team leader/s, teachers, greeters and prayer leader. Each should have corresponding spiritual gifts and must meet weekly, even if for a few minutes, for prayer, planning and evaluation.

The primary function of each group is to find people like themselves and invite them to Sabbath School. In this way, the groups will grow consistently. Each group leadership team will make sure that the four purposes of Sabbath School are fulfilled.

Another way to use this same grouping system is to organize Sabbath School classes based on each type of group. In this case, the Sabbath School program will be modeled on one of the formats already outlined, but the classes will be designed around these groups. In this case, more time must be given for classes and less time to the program. If not, the groups will not have time to carry out their various activities.

The five audience group system will ideally result in a number of adult Sabbath Schools (not just classes) meeting throughout the Sabbath School time. Each group will have its own program format and style of classes.

The only time the entire Sabbath School meets together is periodically, as part of an overall plan, to report and praise the Lord for what He is doing.

Most of the success of this system depends on three things:

1. The amount of work and planning the Sabbath School is willing to put into the plan.
2. The space available in the building.
3. The quality of the leadership team in each group.

WHAT'S HOT!

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

"STUDENT" SERVICE ADDS UP IN THE COLUMBIA UNION

Hagerstown, Maryland - Students at the Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School filled a water jug with more than \$600 to help a family in need and sent toiletries and encouragement to soldiers serving in Afghanistan during the holidays.

Beltsville, Maryland - Fourth-grade students in the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist School skipped everyday conveniences in order to donate \$100 for Adventist World Radio.

Dryden, Virginia - The Powell Valley Christian School and church, collected more than 800 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls, a national charity that collects and distributes shoes.

Whitehall, Pennsylvania - Students at Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School performed chores to help local families, purchased 20 pairs of socks and pajamas for children at a family shelter and raised funds for ADRA.

Takoma Park, Maryland - As a part of Operation Christmas Child, students at Sligo Adventist School packed 245 shoeboxes full of necessities for underprivileged children overseas.

Silver Spring, Maryland - students from Spencerville Adventist Academy donated \$555 to help the Spencerville Church Middle School Sabbath School provide two fuel-efficient cook stoves for use in Zambia through Reaching Hearts for Kids (reachinghearts4kids.org). Students also donated 380 pounds of clothing (130 complete outfits) and toiletries to Prints of Hope in Florida. "The students and their teachers prayed over the outfits and asked God to bless those who received them," reports Barbara Plubell, Pre-K-8 vice principal.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania - The Central Pennsylvania Christian School collaborated with the Hershey, Pennsylvania church in a city-wide collection of more than 400 toiletries, clothing, and other items.

Stanley, Virginia - Students at the Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School organized a fundraising basketball tournament and held a bake sale at a local gas station to raise money for ADRA.

Hillside, New Jersey - Students at Trinity Temple Adventist School are bringing in piggy bank change and collecting donations for the school's Helping Hands project.

Cleveland, Ohio - Fourth and fifth graders at Ramah Junior Academy adopted an 8-year-old girl from Haiti and support her financially.

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Q & A

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

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**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 – Would you give 3 or 4 ideas on how to make Sabbath School really DYNAMIC?

A – Here are some quick dynamic and enthusiastic ideas for you to try.

Develop a theme for the programs. This could be a monthly theme, or it could run the entire quarter. Make sure it's exciting and fun!

Set goals for attendance, ministries or projects, and offerings.

Advertise! Advertise! Advertise your Sabbath School. Set up a telephone chain to call members, send out a newsletter, and put notes in the church bulletin. ADVERTISE!

Give the classes names and build loyalty and enthusiasm in the classes.

Q – We have quite a few children in our church. Should we try having Children's Sabbath? What's your thinking on this?

A – My thinking is Why not??!! 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—and for drawing attention to the needs of children at risk in our world.

Traditionally, this special day is the first Sabbath in October, but your church may choose to observe it at any time. This is a great excuse to invite neighbors and friends (or inactive members) to bring their children. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more it will impact your church and your community.

With the potential for a large number of guests, both adults and children, all Sabbath School leaders should plan for a program that will really spark—one that will entice visitors to return on a regular basis.

The Children's Ministries Coordinator is responsible for working with the pastor to plan a yearly Children's Sabbath Program. (Program materials available online at www.childmin.com).

Q – Why do members dropout of church?

A – For various reasons. Dropping out is something that happens as a long, slow process, not an abrupt change. The track unfolds over a period of six to eighteen months. For example: hurting member quits attending, expecting to be contacted; no one contacts them to ask why they dropped out; they reinvest the time they use to spend at church; pastor and members do not respond; they try to forget the painful memories. May I kindly suggest that you become a one-member Reclamation Committee? Seek someone who has dropped out and begin praying and loving them back to the church. It works!

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

"FAMILY DRUG PREVENTION PARTY – PART I

"Families need to teach children how to make good decisions, how to choose friends, how to cope with pressure (both good and bad), and how to survive life's ups and downs."

Almost all parents believe that alcohol and drugs are national problems, but they are often unaware that their own children are at risk. They do not take the time to talk with their children about drugs and alcohol. Your church can change this in your community. One simple method is to encourage a number of family drug prevention parties.

Families in your congregation can be helped to plan parties to which they invite some neighbors and friends. After sharing a meal, the parents share a drug prevention video with their children. Then the group discusses how to be more pro-active against drugs and alcohol.

Most parents are unaware of the high prevalence of alcohol and other drug use among the pre-teen children in their community. They may have little information about specific drugs and their effects. Even if they have the information, they may find it difficult to talk to their children about drugs. Painful experience demonstrates that ignoring the discussion about drugs does not mean children know nothing about them. Their friends supply all sorts of inaccurate information, myths and even pressure to experiment.

Parents who abstain from alcohol or drug use may mistakenly think that they do not need to bring up this topic with their children, while those who use even modest amounts of alcohol may be embarrassed to talk about drugs with their children. Some parents believe their children do not have enough money to get drugs, and therefore think they have prevented the problem.

A PREVENTION STRATEGY

A family drug prevention party is a time to enjoy food and conversation with friends. The bottom line is improving family life for the future. Life is difficult today. Drugs and alcohol are harming future generations. It is time to get the ugly facts into the open and develop strategies to fight chemical abuse.

Research has shown that teen drug users were likely to have begun taking illicit drugs during a period of stress. Both positive and negative transitions create stress and make young people more vulnerable to drugs. Researcher David F. Duncan has documented some of the change that affect teens and children. These include changing schools, separation or divorce of parents, a parent's job loss, a father's increased absence due to a job change, increased arguments between parents, hospitalization, an outstanding personal achievement or a suspension from school. Even relatively minor changes such as buying a new car, going on a summer vacation, or winning a significant award at school can cause significant stress.

Basically, children and teens try drugs or alcohol because they want to make the pain ease up. The temptation is strong because they haven't created many coping strategies.

Another consideration is peer pressure. As teens try to create their own identity, they imitate their friends. Sometimes friends pressure friends to do or say things that the individual wouldn't think of doing.

"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: Ministry to Women in Prison VCHP.300

There are 148,200 women in state and federal prisons. In federal women's correctional facilities, 70% of guards are male. Records show correctional officials have subjected female inmates to rape, other sexual assault, sexual extortion, and groping during body searches. The imbalance of power between inmates and guards involves the use of direct physical force and indirect force based on the prisoners' total dependence on officers for basic necessities and the guards' ability to withhold privileges.

www.wpaonline.org

Description

This module exposes the student to the spiritual and the physical needs of women inmates. The student will obtain a fundamental awareness of various dilemmas that surround female inmates. Numerous ministry components for various forms of ministry to female inmates will be introduced to the student.

Overview

This module underscores the fundamental reasons for female incarceration and the disparities that female inmates encounter. Female inmates are exposed to numerous atrocities from both prison guards and prison administrators. This module introduces ministry opportunities that will promote rehabilitation inside as well as developing support groups beyond the confines of the prison facilities.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To understand the feminine dilemma.***
- 2. To understand unfair justice and sentence disparity.***
- 3. To be exposed to unfair treatment to women inmates by prison guards and officials.***
- 4. To be exposed to ministry opportunities for female inmates.***
- 5. To know how to develop ministry programs for female inmates and their families.***

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

New Jail in Los Angeles Sits Empty

A newly constructed jail sits empty in Los Angeles although there are plenty of criminals to fill it, the Los Angeles Times reported (latimes.com).

The \$74 million, five-story Metropolitan Detention Center has not yet opened due to a lack of funds for staff, the newspaper reported. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Police Department continues to operate the department's overcrowded downtown jail next door.

Amid a citywide hiring freeze, the LAPD is trying to figure out how to rearrange resources to open the new 172,000-square-foot jail designed to hold about 500 inmates. The exiting 60-year-old facility, rundown from years of overcrowding, usually holds 440 people in a space meant for 151.

- USA Today, June 21, 2010

Reformation Prison Ministry

*According to Oswald Goulding, director, Reformation Prison Ministry, Teaneck, New Jersey, the number of baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern State Prison as of June 24, 2010 is **82!** And growing!*

Philadelphia Bids to Close Prison, Open Day-Reporting Centers

Philadelphia has reduced its prison population from 9,800 in January 2009 to less than 8,300, reported the Philadelphia Inquirer, all the while reducing crime. The article explained that if the number drops below 7,600, the city will be able to close one of its six prisons. If this happens, Everett Gillison, the city's deputy mayor for public safety, would like to build a day-reporting center that features job training, drug testing, classrooms and counseling. In October, the city issued a request for proposals for these centers, with a plan to establish 10 in neighborhoods throughout the city with the highest concentration of ex-offenders. However, the first public proposal for a center was met with pushback from one of the surrounding neighborhoods where it would be located. District Attorney Seth Williams noted that though reducing the prison population and reducing recidivism have widespread support; people often still balk at the thought of released offenders receiving services in their neighborhoods. "It's something that takes better advocacy on our part to allay people's rational fears."

Lia Gormsen, June 2010 Corrections Today

EDITOR'S P.S.

This P.S. was written while sitting in Union Station, D.C., waiting for my train, Silver Star 91, to carry me away on vacation. R&R is so necessary. With the General Conference Session over (Whew!) our office has now shifted into high gear for the Dallas, Texas, September 7-10, 2011 Festival of The Laity. Many of you passed by the Adult Ministries booth, where you met Elder Johnson, our director, and some of our wonderful volunteers (thank you, good people). You were handed a flyer or picked up a flyer about the Festival. Will we see you in Dallas? We hope so! Register NOW for lodging-214.922.8000-mention "Seventh-day Adventist" -and Register for the Festival <http://festivalofthelaity.com>.

I'm outta here!

CB

