



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 6

*"For God so
loved the world,
that he gave his
only begotten
Son, that
whosoever
believeth in him
should not
perish, but have
everlasting life."*

John 3:16 KJV

- *"Success before
work only
appears in the
dictionary." -
Unknown*

- *"The most
important single
ingredient in the
formula of
success is
knowing how to
get along with
people." -
Theodore
Roosevelt 26th
President of the
United States*

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FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"HOME, SWEET HOME"

Blessed New Year, Ministry Partners!

I am sure you will agree that it is a particular honor and privilege to be granted this, another Calendar Year, to participate with Divinity in the Ministry Callings to which we have been assigned.

Many of us have come to view the atmospheres of our primary (non-family oriented) Ministry functions as taking place outside the walls of our regular dwelling places, our Houses or Apartments. As we have entered this New Year, may I encourage you to consider, and participate in, and encourage others to consider and participate in – In Home DVD Evangelism. That's right! Doing Evangelism right in your "Home, Sweet Home."

All that is required is a willingness to (1) Be "Bathed in The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit", (2) Have a love for souls that will impel you and those you lead to invite friends and neighbors into Your Home to be encouraged by Bible Truth, (3) Be trained in the process, and (4) Turn on a DVD Player and watch The Holy Ghost do His Work!

Among other persons, Brother Terry Anderson, vice president of ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries), in cooperation with the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department, is offering no cost trainings all over the North American Division (and the World), with tremendous results. Worldwide, thirteen Divisions have had the Training. 42,000 members have been trained. 126,000 "Home Meetings" using the DVDs have been held, and 1,400,000 persons have been reached.

The training only takes four hours, and the DVD is free to the ones willing to use this method. Email Brother Terry Anderson at asidvdtraining@gmail.com to request your Church to be a DVD Home Training site in 2010. Just think about it! Souls being won to Christ in your "Home, Sweet Home" in 2010! MARANATHA!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

Let's Talk WORLD MISSION – Part I How to Present and Report on the World Mission of the Church

Ideas for the World Mission Report

- ❖ Have a missions quiz. Use brief quizzes to spotlight the history of the featured division or to share general information about mission lands.
- ❖ Plan a skit. Use the skits in Mission or ask the youth or children's divisions to make their own skits using the stories found in Children's Mission.
- ❖ Try a dialogue. Try having two people give the mission report.
- ❖ Conduct an interview. If the story is about one person's experience, make up questions and interview someone as if they were that person. The person gives answers from the mission story.
- ❖ Report on trips overseas. Many Seventh-day Adventists take overseas trips. Tell them you would like to have a report when they return about their contacts with Seventh-day Adventist people and institutions.
- ❖ Correspond with missionaries from your country who are working in another country. Write to them and let them know you are praying for them. Ask them to write a quarterly report of their work and activities that you can use as a mission report.
- ❖ Correspond with missions or schools. Find the address of a mission or school in the featured division in the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook. Find out firsthand what life is like in the area. Ask about their needs and goals. Share their response with the Sabbath School.
- ❖ Get an overseas phone connection. Talk to your telephone company about a hookup so you can talk to someone overseas. Have them broadcast the call over the audio system. Talk to them about specific projects advertised in Children's Mission.
- ❖ Use maps. Use maps in connection with the mission report. Show exactly where the story took place.
- ❖ Liven the story with costumes. Ask people to dress in costumes for special mission programs.
- ❖ Use a panel discussion. Follow a mission report with a panel discussion about getting involved in world missions.
- ❖ Plan a jigsaw mission story. Cut the mission report into several different parts. Paste each part on a separate card. Let people draw cards and read their part in turn.
- ❖ Use a hidden mike. Have the narrator of the story stand at the pulpit. Whenever the direct words of the speaker are used, have that part spoken over a hidden microphone or from another part of the building.
- ❖ Illustrate with graphs. Use circle graphs or bar graphs to illustrate mission statistics. Consult an almanac for information about population, literacy, religions and average income. Compare with other countries.
- ❖ Plan a Thirteenth Sabbath program. Get the children's divisions involved in promoting missions. Excellent programs are provided in Children's Mission magazine.

WHAT'S HOT!

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

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE was on fire during the 2009 Year of Evangelism. The Conference approached the 2009 Year of Evangelism with a basic assumption—"business as usual" was not going to be an option. The Conference challenged congregations and pastors to be more intentional in their approach to evangelism, to become more involved in their communities, to create an atmosphere in their churches where people could flourish, to experience the joy of finding lost people, to make discipleship a priority, and to establish a strong prayer ministry. Read with excitement the happenings that took place in the churches around the Chesapeake Conference. (Source: Visitor December 2009)

NORTHEAST BALTIMORE – A church-planting project in northeast Baltimore, established with 30 mission-minded members, led by Pastor Sedley Johnson and lay pastors Nick Riley and Iheanacho Odinma, has more than doubled in size.

ATHOLTON – Senior pastor Steve Jencks held a prophecy seminar series at a Columbia, Maryland, community center near the church. More than 20 community guests attended regularly and some are engaged in follow-up classes.

BALTIMORE FIRST – The Ellicott City, Maryland church hosted a series by evangelist Jason Morgan that yielded 15 baptisms.

MIDDLETOWN VALLEY – Jefferson, Maryland church reaped the harvest in a rural setting. The active, 76-member congregation initiated community outreach projects on the heels of an ambitious building program. Bible workers Lillian Torres and Evelyn Griffin shared their expertise in training members to follow-up interests.

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND – A major campaign with veteran evangelist Brian McMahon was held in this western Maryland church. In anticipation of the prophecy series, two Bible workers trained members to respond to more than 100 requests for studies.

WEST WILMINGTON, DELAWARE – Without a senior pastor throughout most of the year did not keep this congregation from having a successful Year of Evangelism. Using a variety of approaches, ranging from personal evangelism to public presentations by youth pastor Keith Acker and first elder Elvis Mogoi, the congregation witnessed more than 20 baptisms.

WILLOW BROOK, MARYLAND – Pastor Tim Crosby of the Boonsboro, Maryland church said he was too busy baptizing people from his pastor's class to hold meetings. He expects to finish the year with at least 15 new members through this classical approach.

FREDERICK, MARYLAND – There was an Amazing Bible Adventist at this church. Youth pastor Alvin Payne led a series designed to acquaint children with the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The meetings were held twice weekly with an average attendance of more than 30 and, for children not able to attend, the programs were broadcast on the Internet.

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Q & A

VARIOUS QUESTIONS FOR:

SABBATH SCHOOL – How can the Facilitator (Teacher) help the Learner (Class) to apply the truths from the Lesson Study?

"The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit." The Desire of Ages, p. 172.

Here are a few suggestions which may help the learner in making the application.

(1) Help to lead the class into the Word to search for answers to life's problems. "The principles of truth impressed upon the heart, line upon line and precept upon precept will produce right action." Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 68. Get the pages of the Bible turning and lead the class to search the Word, and to comprehend Bible truth. Ask questions to find out where the class is in its understanding. Avoid philosophical discussion of irrelevant issues.

(2) Teach the "old, old story" in contemporary terms. Use life-situations that everyone can identify with and understand. Show how the Bible answers questions people are asking, and how it has solutions to personal problems. Make the gospel relevant to today. This is the way Jesus taught.

Teaching Techniques for the Adult Sabbath School, Charles Betz, Review & Herald

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – How do you retain volunteers?

Dealing with volunteers is not the same as working with employees. And keeping volunteers involved doesn't happen by accident. You must find ways to show workers that you (and the entire church) care about them and appreciate their efforts. Periodically ask them how things are going and what needs they have.

When planning training sessions use energy, humor and creative touches to inspire the volunteers. Keep their busy schedules in mind, and make sure that events are well planned, concise and practical. Take pictures of volunteers at work and display them on your church bulletin board, in your newsletter or on the church website. Seeing what is being accomplished is encouraging to everyone.

Also work with your church communication director in writing stories about members who are actively helping others in your community. Give awards, certificates, lunches – honor your volunteers – and do it OFTEN!

Quick Start Guide for Personal Ministries

PRISON MINISTRY – What's your counsel on inmate marriages?

Inmate marriages are the responsibility of the Institutional Chaplain to coordinate and arrange. Seventh-day Adventist ministers can perform marriage ceremonies for Seventh-day Adventist inmates and a "free world" Seventh-day Adventist member after counseling and conviction that this is profitable.

However, all inmate marriages are extremely risky. I would strongly recommend that Seventh-day Adventist volunteers stay out of the marriage business. Inmate marriages are one-sided love affairs. They offer nothing but trouble.

Prison Ministries Handbook

PARENTING SEMINAR – Part I

In the first six years of life, a child will do fifty percent of its learning. But just what will that children learn? A lot depends on how the parent(s) teach the child. Unfortunately, babies don't come with an "owner's manual." Generally, the upbringing of the parent(s) is the only guide.

The importance of child training is summarized by Thomas Lickona, "A child is the only known substance from which a responsible adult can be made." A challenge of the church today is to help parents understand how to mold their offspring into responsible adults.

In I Timothy 5:8, believers are told to care for their relatives and families. Because church members are brothers and sisters in Christ, the congregation is charged with caring for one another, especially for families. A Christian parenting seminar is one way your church can meet the needs of its families as well serve your community.

The Congregation As Extended Family

There are times when your church has a "baby dedication." The ceremony is a presentation of the child and a charge to the parents to raise the child as a Christian. At each dedication, the congregation needs to be reminded that they all share the responsibility of training the child. Some of the ways in which the congregation does this include:

- 1. Sabbath School: Church volunteers provide leadership and model Christian values.*
- 2. Christian Education: Members generously support the church school and student aid plan, providing children with the opportunity to learn in a Christian atmosphere.*
- 3. Pathfinder Club and Adventurer Club: Church volunteers share recreational activities, community service, outdoor education and Christian values in a practical setting which allow children to become involved in action learning.*
- 4. General Supervision: Each adult member of the congregation demonstrates their care when they kindly but firmly correct children's' misbehavior behind their parents' back.*
- 5. Action Network: Whether for moral support or an evening off, single parents need a network of caring, committed adults, and the church often provides this in an informal way.*
- 6. Mentoring Young Members: Older church members enhance the bonding of a newly baptized earliteen to the church when they find ways to include them in church responsibilities. If they are old enough to decide to join the church, they are old enough to help and feel some ownership of the congregation. Otherwise, they lose their enthusiasm and interest.*

To sponsor a Parenting Seminar is simply an extension of these traditional ways in which the congregation cares for the needs of children and families. In today's world, where young parents are less likely to have their first child in the context of extended family, there is a particular need to provide an arena to answer questions and provide guidance that used to come to new parents informally.

"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: Religious Pluralism VCHP.202

Religious pluralism is sometimes used as a synonym for interfaith dialogue. Interfaith dialogue refers to dialogue between members of different religions for the goal of reducing conflicts between their religions and to achieve agreed upon mutually desirable goals. Inter-religious dialogue is difficult if the partners adopt a position of particularism, i.e. if they only care about the concerns of their own group, but is favored by the opposite attitude of universalism, where care is taken for the concerns of others.

Religious pluralism-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Internet)

Description

This module provides the student with a fundamental knowledge of religious pluralism and its historical development from its inception to the present. It also exposes the student to the reality of religious and cultural pluralism emanating in Department of Correction Facilities.

Overview

This module attempts to provide the student a basic grasp of ideas and beliefs that influence the development of pluralism in religion in a global culture. Students will be familiarized with the pluralistic religious development in a subcultural experience behind the fences or prison walls. It hopes to promote a general understanding and toleration of the beliefs and concerns of other religious groups.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To acquaint the student with a basic understanding of pluralism in religion.***
- 2. To acquaint the student with the historical development of religious pluralism.***
- 3. To acquaint the student with beliefs and practices of numerous religions fostered behind the walls of prison by faith groups.***

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

Criminal Justice Statistics

The U.S. Prison Population

- More than one in every 100 adults in America is behind bars (Pew, 2008).
- With 1,596,127 adults in state or federal prison custody, and another 723,131 in local jails, the total adult inmate count at the beginning of 2008 stood at 2,319,258 (Pew, 2008).
- One in every 53 people in their 20s is behind bars (Pew, 2008).
- State and federal prisons will swell by more than 192,000 inmate over the next five years (Public Safety, *Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population*, Pew, 2007).
- By 2012, the nation's combined prison population will outnumber the residents of Atlanta, Baltimore, and Denver combined (Public Safety, *Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population*, Pew, 2007).

Children of Prisoners

- An estimated 7.3 million children have a parent in prison or under some form of state or federal supervision (*FAMILIES Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry*, The Urban Institute Justice Police Center, June 2005).
- Some 10 million young people in the United States have had a mother or father – or both – spend time behind bars at some point in their lives (*U.S. News & World Report*, April 2002).
- 57 percent of fathers and 54 percent of mothers in state prison have **never** had a personal visit with their children during their imprisonment (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*, 2000).
- The average age of prison inmates' minor children is 8 years old.

www.demosnewspond.com/pf/press_kit/criminal_justice_statistics

EDITOR'S P.S.

According to e/verpack/markier/markier.htm, markings on packages must be correct, clear and precise. Correct and complete marking of packages helps to prevent incorrect handling, accidents, incorrect delivery, losses of weight and volume and Customs fines.

Here are some lessons I learned from some of the Markings on Packages. With some people the markings aren't clear and perhaps they were "Damaged In Shipping" – I learned with them I must "Handle With Care". Should I encounter a "Fragile" situation, I learned not to handle it as though it was marked "Explosives" – that would prove to be dangerous.

With relationships I learned that if I "Use No Hooks" and keep "This Side Up" and "Do Not Destroy" usually things will work out even though there might be "Temperature Limitations". Markings can teach us how to treat one another. "Made in the . . ." Remember, we're all "Made in the Image of God"!

I'm outta here!

CB

