



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JUNE 2009

Volume 5

*"If you believe
that Jesus is the
Christ—that he
is God's Son
and your
Savior—then
you are a child
of God."*

I John 5:1 LV

- *"The best way to
pay for a lovely
moment is to
enjoy it." –*

Richard Bach

- *"If you don't take
care of your
body, where will
you live?" –*

Popular T-Shirt

Saying

IN THIS ISSUE

- **HEALTH SCREENING—AN OUTREACH**
- **KNITTING SCARVES FOR WINTER OLYMPICS**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

WORKING 'INSIDE' FROM 'OUTSIDE'

Ministry Partners,

This month my special encouragement looks at diversified Prison Ministry opportunities. Most of our people shy away from Prison Ministry because, for one, among multiple reasons, they just do not like being confined in environments that they cannot leave—at will. This is understandable.

I encourage you to encourage the people with whom you Minister to consider that this last Ministry that Jesus conducted (from The Cross) may be one that will be quite fulfilling to them personally—and a powerful installment in advancement of The Gospel to the nearly THREE MILLION persons that are in the United States Criminal Justice System, not to include Canada and Bermuda.

Encourage the members with whom you Minister to consider that it is possible for them to Work 'Inside' The Prisons and Jails from 'Outside'. Here are some ideas that Dr. Cleveland Houser, our NAD Prison Ministry Training Consultant suggests as possibilities:

Literature Distribution, Prayer Bands, Support Groups for Inmate Families, Toiletry Ministry (Assembling Care Packages), Clothing Ministry, Van Ministry, Children's Ministry, Transition House Ministry

It could be that someone you know will find his/her place following through on the commendation of Matthew 25 through this means. This being said, if you want to have some "Serious Church," try Ministering 'Inside' at least once! You will be amazed at the blessings!

God Bless you all! (Remember to go www.nadadultministries.org to get all of the Brainstorming Outcomes from the recent Sabbath School Summit.)

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

A Transformational Sabbath School Class for Youth

Communicating with Families

The family is the first line of education and training in nurturing young members of the body of Christ. Those beyond the family, who continue the discipling process at the church itself, must be encouraged to stay in close communication with the family. Unfortunately, in this day, the first line of defense may be decimated, and that information will also be helpful as the dedicated teacher attempts to nurture young people and disciple them for Christ. According to Oliver Archer, youth pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, "Parents are your strongest allies. Well, actually, they are sometimes your strongest allies, and sometimes the biggest problems. But in either case, you have to include the family and stay connected with them as you are attempting to minister to their young person.

Contributing to the Church and the Community

As religious educators, as persons exercising the gift of teaching for the edification of the body of Christ, youth Sabbath School teachers are a vital part of the "priesthood of all believers." They are not only teachers, but also mentors and role models to the young people they teach. They will be modeling how to live in community as the body, and how the body reaches out to bless those in the world around them. They will need awareness of this function of their "professional practice: and also encouragement and ideas about how they can fulfill this duty.

Growing and Developing Professionally

To some it may seem frivolous to apply the professional practices outlined in this article to the "unfortunate" person who finally agreed to say yes to the nominating committee. However, The Sabbath School ministry is not a Sabbath-only responsibility. It is not like a light switch that can be turned off during the week and turned on again on Friday night. One must eat, drink, breathe, and sleep Sabbath School. The fire can ignite creativity—or at least a sensitivity to the creativity that abounds.

But until we change our way of thinking about the vital importance of the religious education happening within the walls of the church, we will be continuing to let God down in the training of His children for their life in His kingdom both here and in the hereafter. We cannot rely on the elusive dream of having all the future generations of our church go through formal Adventist Christian Education.

The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls. The order of working may be faultless, the facilities all that could be desired; but if the children and youth are not brought to Christ, the school is a failure; for unless souls are drawn to Christ, they become more and more unimpressionable under the influence of a formal religion.

Unless the teacher is a humble disciple of Christ, personally growing and developing in their spiritual journey, whatever they are teaching on Sabbath will run the risk of making their students more and not less "unimpressionable under the influence of a formal religion." More than any other class of teacher, formal or non-formal, the youth Sabbath School teacher is compelled to growth and development.

Google www.cooltoolsforsabbathschool

(Last Part of a Series from Cool Tools for Sabbath School by Kathy Beagles)



WHAT'S HOT!

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

2010 WINTER OLYMPICS SCARF MINISTRY

The British Columbia Conference invites Christians from across North America to take part in a service project for the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

People from around the world will come to British Columbia to enjoy the Olympic Games. They will be trying to keep warm in Vancouver's cold climate, so the British Columbia Conference would like to offer an "act of kindness" in the form of a free scarf.

Between now and January 31, 2010, the British Columbia Conference's goal is to collect 10,000 scarves made by the hands of Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians in North America. To reach this goal, the British Columbia Conference has partnered with More Than Gold, an international Christian network designed to help churches in cities around the world serve their community and visitors during the Olympics. Each scarf will include the More Than Gold snowflake that tells the story of salvation with its five colors, along with a message from the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Anyone who can knit can be part of this outreach. Knitting scarves is also a great way for Pathfinders to get involved in a service project while learning their knitting honor. These scarves can be a silent witness to the warmth of Jesus' love.

For more information and to find patterns visit www.plusline.org/article.php?id=6068.

Source: passport, Spring 2009

CHURCHES GATHER FOOD FOR HAITI

Members from churches across the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently united to help people in the small Caribbean country of Haiti. Driven by the love of God, volunteers met at the West Philadelphia church to make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children they will probably never meet. Some 660 boxes of food, 13 large bags of rice, and clothing for women and children were sent to Haiti. Once there Pathfinders, seminarians, and AEC members, mostly from the Haitian Horeb church in Hyattsville, Maryland, sorted, packed, and distributed the items to those in need. "This is not the end," said Minnie McNeil, director of Adventist community Services. "This effort is just a sampling of where God wants to take the conference in 2009. Let us commit to being faithful followers."

Source: Visitor, April 2009

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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.

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Q & A

Can you touch on some of the responsibilities and duties that involve the Youth and Children Division Leaders? We want to do things right!

Yes, we can and will. With so much information on both of these Divisions, we'll focus on the Youth Division first and next month we'll talk about the Children's Division. Hope that's okay.

The Role: The roles of the Youth Sabbath School Leader is to coordinate programs that acquaint youth from 15 to 18 years (high school) with the gospel and to lead them to make a commitment to Christ and the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Line of Authority: The Youth Sabbath School Leader reports to the Sabbath School Coordinator. The leader is expected to attend the Sabbath School Committee and also cooperates with the Sabbath School secretary, World Missions coordinator, and the coordinator for Evangelism. Class leaders and youth staff are responsible to the leader.

Statement – Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, p. 92, 93: "Because of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the truths being taught, great care should be exercised in the choice of Sabbath School Teachers. The time allotted for the teaching approximates that of the pastor in the pulpit. All teachers should be members of the church in regular standing and serve at the pleasure of the Church Board."

Time commitment – 8 Hours a Month plus Sabbath Mornings: Before the beginning of a new quarter, the leader should hold a one or two hour planning session with the entire staff. Time will be needed at the start of each quarter to get materials and classrooms ready for the new quarter.

Duties and Responsibilities: It is the duty of the leader to administer the division, manage the program, and minister to the youth as a friend and counselor. **1. Learn** about the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and moral developmental characteristics of youth. Understand their developmental needs and seek to meet those needs. **2. Give** a sense of continuity and security to youth through regular attendance and beginning each program on time. **3. Maintain** appropriate discipline. **4. Communicate** unconditional love and acceptance. **5. Learn** each youth's name and make contact with each of them as often as possible outside of the Sabbath School setting.

Take responsibility for the upkeep and organization of the division's supplies and equipment. Also, decide with the assistants and class leaders, how to spend the division budget for materials and media. Present needs for supplies, equipment, furniture, and room environment to the Sabbath School Committee. Work with assistant leaders and teachers to establish goals and activities that are age appropriate. Recruit and train people to help with the details of the division, keeping in mind the need for substitutes and replacements. And assure that there is an up-to-date record of names, addresses, phone numbers and birthdays of all the youth. Minister to the youth—get acquainted with the families and understand the particular needs of the youth – maintain open communication with the parents or guardians.

Resource: The Sabbath School Handbook
www.adventsource.org

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

HEALTH SCREENING

The Seventh-day Adventist mission focuses on more than religion. Adventists are concerned about the whole person—mental, physical, and spiritual health. Health screening is a helpful service to the general public and it demonstrates the Adventist concern for physical health.

- 1. Personal data presented attractively in clear language help to educate people about their health habits.*
- 2. Screenings promote self-care, helping the person feel more informed and directing the person toward a plan of action.*
- 3. The adequacy of treatment can be double-checked. Perhaps the person is already involved in a treatment. Screening provides an interim measurement of progress.*
- 4. Potential disease can be detected at an early or preventable stage when corrective action can be taken.*
- 5. Screening involves health care professionals and other volunteers in encouraging good health behavior.*

These are all benefits to the people who participate and the community. In addition, there are good reasons why Adventists should get involved as individuals and as congregations.

Community health projects are one way to follow our Lord’s example of servanthood. Ellen White specifically recommends outreach of this kind in passages, such as page 143, Ministry of Healing.

Health screenings sponsored by your congregation established its value to the community. A health fair or major screening event can increase the visibility of your church, especially with the kinds of people who might otherwise ignore the Seventh-day Adventist Church—professionals, business executives and civic leaders.

By meeting the needs of people, your church members working as a team, act as good neighbors—helping in a concrete way. This demonstration of the unselfish love of God is the first step in an effective evangelistic strategy.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Ministries of Compassion (Revised Edition) includes a section on community health screening and education programs, as well as chapters on Media Relations, Project Management, and other related topics. You can obtain a copy from AdventSource at 800.328.0525.

A kit of materials with two manuals, an instructional video and a master contract with a reputable international laboratory is available from the Heartbeat program at Pacific Health Education Center at 805.633.5300. Together with the Adventist Communication Network, Loma Linda University and the Pacific Health Education Center, AHN provides a live satellite uplink each February for the Heartbeat program.

(4 Kinds of Screening Projects in the July 2009 issue of Network News.)

"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: Introduction to Volunteer Chaplaincy PM.104

"I became involved. . . . There was an urgent need for people to whom prisoners could talk fairly freely. It has made a big difference to my perception of prisoners. So many have begun life with everything against them. Our job is not to moralise, only to listen. We can only be there; this may be enough." A Chaplaincy volunteer at a prison in Yorkshire.

Description

Introduces fundamental concepts and expectations of Chaplains from Wardens and local managers of Department of Correction Facilities. Exposes the student to the ministry of Chaplains to incarcerated individuals, as well as to staff. Establishes parameters of service to a culturally diverse community with emphasis on Cultural Pluralism.

Overview

This Module exposes the student to selection criteria and fundamental expectations of Chaplains called to be servants to an ostracized community. The student will gain insight into religious programming and the range of service that Chaplains provide to inmates and staff. The student will be exposed to the uniqueness of Chaplaincy Ministries.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To expose the student to the work and the expectations of Chaplaincy.***
- 2. To gain a knowledge of religious programming and policy.***
- 3. To gain an understanding of selection criteria and American Correctional Association (ACA) standards and ethics for correctional Chaplains.***
- 4. To gain insight in cultural diversity and pluralism in the correctional community.***

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

A THANK YOU TO PRISON MINISTERS!

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:3).

We the members of The True Gospel Ministries Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Jessup, Maryland, greet you in the name of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by whom we through faith are adopted into the family of Christ.

We would like to take a few minutes of your time to express our appreciation for your faithful, dedicated and diligent Prison Ministry team which blesses our congregation each and every month here at the MCI-J Facility (Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup). Their uplifting spirit and encouragement in music, word and deed has helped to not only bring lost souls to Christ, but has also enriched the lives of those already in the faith. Truly they show us the words of Christ being put forth into action, when Christ said, "I was in prison and ye came unto me" (Matthew 25:36. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:36).

Since the majority of our congregation is Latino, and there are many who are far away from home, with no family contact and often times they feel forgotten, yet, when your Prison Ministry team comes in they seem to 'light a spark' into those young men's eyes. They no longer feel forgotten. They see people who "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body" (Hebrews 13:3). They see people who care! Through your "Prison Ministry Team" we experience that Christ-like love that is not only genuine, but also unforgettable.

So, we the members of the True Gospel Ministries Seventh-day Adventist Church, thank God for your "Prison Ministry Team", and we thank you, the Church Leadership for sending them our way. May the glory of the Lord continue to shine upon all of you. All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Submitted by Elder Bobby Pringle, True Gospel Ministries SDA Church

EDITOR'S P.S.

Remember the "Magic Keys" you learned as a child? Please! Thank you! Excuse Me! Aah, you remember them. Question: How often do you use the "Keys"? Or, if and when you do use the "Keys" do you use them only for special people, special times, special occasions? An "Excuse Me" is sweet when a conversation must be interrupted. A "Thank you" is delicious to those who do something for you at home, at work. An extra bag "Please" said to the bagger of your groceries gives joy. These "Keys" are so needed – so necessary. So get your "Keys" out! Dust them off! Polish them up! Use them! They'll become a habit. My "Keys" are ready!

"Thank You" for subscribing to Network News. "Please" keep reading our newsletter. "Excuse Me" . . .

I'm outta here!

CB

