



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JUNE 2010

Volume 6

*"Beloved, I wish
above all things
that thou
mayest prosper
and be in
health, even as
thy soul
prospereth."
Third John 1:2-
KJV*

*"We are what we
watch, listen to,
and read." The
Power Book of
Integrity*

*"Life's most
persistent and
urgent question
is, What are you
doing for others?"
- Martin Luther
King, Jr.*

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"LET'S PRAY"

Dear Ministry Partners,

This is the edition of *Network News* you will receive prior to the 2010 General Conference Session that will take place in Atlanta, Georgia. This Session is much more than the "World Camp Meeting" of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is the Session, and *season* during which The World Church looks to The Lord for direction regarding His agenda for His Church for the next five years, and beyond. Partners, this is "Serious Business" which demands that our "congregational" focus be on the Will of The Master.

Therefore, I urge you, Ministry Partners, to dedicate specific time over the next few weeks to approach Our Lord in Prayer, with the request that as His Will presides over all aspects of the Session, that the people, the World Family, will emerge even more empowered by a fresh Baptism of The Holy Ghost, with sharper focus on the "Mission" (Matthew 28:18-20) at hand, so that we may celebrate during that Grand Reunion! (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-5.)

Our prayers will be answered favorably in this regard. In John 14:13, 14, Jesus promises, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that The Father may be glorified in The Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." There is the promise! Let's Pray!

Be Way Of Announcement: The Adult Ministries Booth at the General Conference Session is **#962**.

July 21, 2010-Free Adult Ministries Training at the Atlanta Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (www.nadadultministries.org).

Go to www.festivalofthelaity.com for information, and also to Register for the **September 7-10, 2011 Festival Of The Laity**.

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

THE SUCCESSFUL SABBATH SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Success is knowing God (Matthew 22:37, 38). Success is pleasing God. Sabbath School coordinators take their agenda from God. Their goals are ultimately rooted in what they can achieve with integrity and with ways consistent with loving God and others. No matter what you do, you must conduct your life in ways that will honor and please God. Success, therefore, is a by-product of faithfulness.

Sabbath School Coordinator S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Acrostic

S – Select Your Goal. Your goals must be filled with conviction. Conviction is unshaken confidence that the goal is worthwhile.

U – Unlock Your Imprisoned Potential. Look up; find a model – someone who thinks faster, runs faster, and aims higher. These are the people who will lift you up.

C – Commit Yourself to God's Plan. How do I find God's Plan? Become consecrated. In order to know if you really want to know God's plan for your life, do something. God works through busy people.

C – Chart Your Course. It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret. Make plans, counting on God to direct you. Plan ahead, chart your course. If God is going to be your partner, make your plans large.

E – Expect Problems. Paul Harvey said, "If you find a path that has no problems you will find that it leads nowhere." The human spirit is capable of great resiliency in the face of hardship.

S – Stand Firm on Your Commitment. 1 Corinthians 15:58 reminds us to "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." NEVER give up. Don't be a quitter.

S – Surrender Everything to Jesus. Don't ever forget that although you may succeed beyond your fondest hopes and your greatest expectations, remember the counsel in Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Share this secret with fellow Sabbath School team members. The secret of the surrendered life is giving God the first part of every day, the first consideration in every decision, and the first place in all of your life. When we surrender to Him, we have the power that truly caps off the formula for **SUCCESS** – surrender brings power. We fight for power and we lose it, we surrender and we find it. Remember, if it can be done it can be attained. You are well on your way to becoming a **SUCCESS**fully Sabbath School Coordinator in heart, mind, and soul!

Source: Humility: The Hallmark of Sabbath School Leadership

By Barbara E. Jolly

WHAT'S HOT!

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

OHIO: MARWOOD & HIS HORSES ILLUMINATE GOD'S GLORY

In addition to his duties as director of Clergy Care and Leadership Development for the Ohio Conference, Marwood Hallett and his wife, Cindy, live on a ranch where they breed cows and horses and operate a bed and breakfast. The couple, who attend eChurch7 in Mount Vernon, had already dedicated their ranch to God as a sanctuary for others. Then five years ago, Marwood was exposed to the beauty of natural horsemanship training, which helps humans and horses establish trusting relationships. "When a scared horse looks you in the eye, you don't look at it . . . you drop your hands and stand nondefensively," he explains as an example. The horse will eventually walk up to you and put its head on your shoulder. Soon it'll trust you completely. This is called a 'join-up.'"

With this new understanding, Marwood started hosting ministry retreats for pastors and community members, using the training to share the gospel and illuminate the glory of God.

CALIFORNIA: DIVORCECARE MEETS FELT NEEDS IN HANFORD CHURCH

Jackie Bragaw was devastated when her husband of nearly 32 years left three years ago. "I had seen others go through it, but had no idea the emotional devastation that can happen," says Bragaw, Capital Campaign director for the Central California Conference.

She knew she needed support, but no one in her circle of Adventist friends understood firsthand the ruin caused by divorce. Then a Baptist friend invited her to DivorceCare, a growing non-denominational support program for divorcees, founded by Steve and Cheryl Grissom of Church Initiative, each of whom had been through a divorce.

The 13-week biblical seminar and support group was just what Bragaw needed. "It was like someone reached into my soul," she says. The video seminars gave her biblical tools to handle her shame, hurt and anger. The interaction with other divorcees showed her that her struggles were normal. And the daily support emails "were like getting a love letter from God every day."

After completing two DivorceCare courses, Bragaw wanted to share the healing she had found in her home church in Hanford. "In both of the groups I went through, 85 percent of the attendees joined the church where the program was held," Bragaw states. "They found compassion, spiritual connectedness, hope and healing there. I saw how the program nurtured people and felt we needed it in our church."

The Hanford church was eager to add the outreach. "My church has a growing interest in doing things to just bless the community," says Pastor Michael Hufham. The church hosts four Alcoholics Anonymous groups, the Financial Peace University and is looking at ways to impact the area's homeless.

About five people have attended each session. DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) is offered alongside the adult program, helping children ages 5 to 12 deal with the aftermath of a divorce.

"It's amazing how this gateway ministry is opening doors to people's hearts," says Hufham. "We're meeting people in their needs like Jesus did, and then inviting them to follow Him."

May 2010 Recorder, Central California

Q & A

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Q – I would love to give Bible Studies – my question, where do I get the people to study with? Members in your congregation know individuals right now who might like to learn more about the Bible, and are looking for answers to personal problems, or are in need of hope and meaning in life.

Is there a young parent in your neighborhood who would like to be able to teach their children basic Bible stories and moral principles? Is there a relative who has asked questions about your belief? Is there a friend who is going through some worry and personal crisis, and feels that they really ought to renew their relationship with Christ? Is there someone at work who wants to learn what the Bible is all about?

You now have five choices of people and places to check out. Go for it!

Practical Guide to Personal Ministries, AdventSource

Q – If I write to an inmate, should I give out my home address? Would that be safe? Being a pen pal to someone who is incarcerated can prove to be a blessing for the inmate. But there are some precautions that should be taken in this. To be safe, have your letters mailed to your church or to a post office box number. Be very careful in your communication. You don't want to give the wrong perception to the inmate. Don't give your last name or your phone number. Check with your prison ministry director for more directives on this.

Source: Prison Ministry Handbook

Q – What territory makes up the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists? An interesting question. Let me begin by saying the General Conference was organized May 21, 1863. The territory: the land area of the World comprises the East-Central Africa, Euro-Africa, Euro-Asia, Inter-American, North American, Northern Asia-Pacific, South American, South Pacific, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean, Southern Asia, Southern Asia-Pacific, Trans-European, and West-Central Africa Divisions. Thirteen divisions in total, with 67,055 churches, a membership of 16,049,101, and a population of 6,809,974,000.

Source: Seventh-day Adventist Church Yearbook 2010

Q – Is there something – some project - that our family can do together? We go our separate ways too often. Please help us. The saying, 'The family that prays together stays together,' it could also be said, 'The family that plays/works together stays together and enjoys each other!' Choose from the following suggestions, where the entire family can be involved. Have fun!

Provide a once-a-week child care for a single person. Provide foster care for a young person in need. Invite younger family members to share toys with children of needy families.

Use the family car to transport individuals to evangelistic meetings, health fair or cooking school. Take a "Welcome, New Neighbor" gift to a family moving into your neighborhood. Do the same for new babies or weddings. Take an appropriate expression of sympathy to a family who has experienced some loss. When visiting homes of friends or acquaintances, ask to offer a humble prayer as you part company.

Practical Guide to Personal Ministries, AdventSource

Youth Mission Trips and Summer Projects

"Understanding mission doesn't come from sermons or print materials. It comes as a result of involvement in intense activity. As group leaders we must structure the experience to maximize the opportunity for reflection by having participatory worships at the beginning and end of every day."
José Rojas, director Office of Volunteer Ministries, North American Division.

Your congregation could sponsor a mission project in your community during the summer break from school for your teens and young adults. You could also "borrow" teens and young adults from other congregations to help you for the summer.

If you wish to do this, it is important to plan ahead. Many students make their decision about summer employment early in the spring. The first contact from your congregation should be made with your conference youth director and the YouthNet office.

You will need a responsible leader to guide the young people and oversee the implementation of the summer project activities. Experienced adults should provide mentoring-helping teens learn how to share their faith. It is a good idea to form teams, matching those who are experienced with those eager to learn.

Mission trips and summer youth service projects are not a new idea. Ellen White wrote in the Youth's Instructor, August 9, 1894, "Let young men and women and children go to work in the name of Jesus. Let them unite together upon some plan and order of action. Cannot you form a band of workers, and have set times to pray together and ask the Lord to give you His grace, and put forth united action?"

José Rojas, director, Office of Volunteer Ministries, North America Division, reported youth projects across North America each summer deploy teens and young adults as youth pastors and Bible workers, and in community service, church planting, and public evangelism.

Rojas says that the most important experience your congregation can provide its teens and young adults the opportunity to participate in a mission trip. "After several short term mission trips with teens, I noticed a pattern. The group would be very dynamic, almost rowdy, when we would arrive at the site. By midweek, however, there would be a change. Maybe they had adopted a 'Mom' or a 'family group'. The house or school being built became 'their' building.

"Teens can do almost anything they set their minds to do. We underestimate the ability of teens to accomplish great things once they catch the vision. We too often limit them.

"Service is not a program. It is a process that is ongoing. Embracing many programs, the concept of service allows for change. It's a long term commitment.

"Service is evangelistic. I learned that service through the church is just as powerful as public crusades because it follows Christ's method of evangelism as related in Ministry of Healing, page 143."

"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: Principles of Personal Christian Leadership CR.103

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of spiritual leadership. When most people think of leadership, they picture a military officer giving out orders or an employer closely supervising his employees, making sure all the work gets done. These aspects can be part of leadership, but they are not the essence of spiritual leadership.

www.allaboutgod.com/spiritual-leadership.htm

Description

This module is a study of Christian leadership principles within the Christian church. It encompasses several dimensions spiritual, relational, professional and personal-in Christian Leadership in developing and equipping the church to fulfill its purpose.

Overview

The solidarity of any progressive and successful church is the project of positive Christian leadership. This module enhances the fact that in order for a church to reach its maximum potential, it depends on the dynamics of personal involvement from committed disciples for Christ. The essential purpose of this course is to expose the student to the fundamental knowledge required to fulfill the expectations that God requires of a person in a leadership capacity.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. The student will obtain and demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of Christian leadership expectations.***
- 2. The student will gain a fundamental knowledge of how Christian leadership impacts and equips the purpose driven church.***
- 3. The student will understand the multi-dimensional facets of Christian leadership.***
- 4. The student will understand the value of holistic and the integration of different aspects of leadership.***

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

Minnesota Nonprofit Hires Ex-offenders

Rebuilders Resources Inc., a St. Paul-based business, provides services and jobs for ex-offenders returning to the community, reported TwinCities.com. Nearly 1,000 ex-offenders and recovering addicts have graduated from the program since it began in 1984. Program participants spend between 90 days and six months working manual labor jobs in the company's customer apparel and light-manufacturing divisions. They also attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and weekly classes on resume writing, job interviewing skills, cognitive behavioral techniques and anger management. Participants are also afforded paid time during the workweek to search for jobs using the company's computer lab. Fifty-six percent of last year's graduating class landed jobs in the midst of the country's deepest recession since the Great Depression. And only two graduates went back to jail.

In addition, the nonprofit's revenue grew from \$747,260 in 2006 to \$1.4 million in 2008, and it raised \$600,000 in philanthropic funds during 2008 to help fund its programs.

Program participants all come from halfway houses, and about 71 percent have felony convictions, the overwhelming majority drug-related. "It's not about charity," said Lori Stee, the company's program director. "We choose people who are ready to work. If we don't, we are setting them up for failure. We rely on their good work to keep the businesses going."

Ohio Prison Industry Reduces Recidivism

The Dayton Daily news reported on an Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction policy that requires inmates to either work, go to school or participate in programming such as recovery services. The highest paying jobs are with Ohio Penal Industries (OPI), which pays between 47 cents an hour and \$1.23 an hour, and offers inmates a chance to learn. Inmates employed by OPI have a recidivism rate of just 18 percent-the overall ODRC recidivism rate is 38 percent. OPI employs 1,541 of Ohio's 51,000 state prisoners and sells roughly \$30 million worth of goods.

Lia Gormsen, February 2010 Corrections Today

EDITOR'S P.S.

In the May Editor's P.S., I mentioned the excitement that was stirring in and around our office. Well, the excitement continues! Twenty-one days before the FREE Adult Ministries Training Day in Atlanta. Twenty-three days before General Conference Session. WOW!

My dear friend, Pastor Carlos Turcios of Texas, emailed me, excitedly praising the Lord for 65 precious new souls baptized as a result of meetings at the McAllen Spanish Central Valley Church with an additional 11 more to be baptized. Pastor Carlos said, "We will count them as they come out of the baptismal pool! Too Exciting!"

You want to do something exciting and fun? According to a Vanderbilt University study, laughing might actually whittle your waistline. Researchers found that 10 to 15 minutes of laughter can burn 10 to 40 calories. This may not seem like much, but it could add up to a loss of 4 pounds per year. Having a good chuckle can also reduce stress, relieve pain and increase immunity. Laugh! It's Good! It's Healthy! Put more humor in your day.

I'm outta here!

CB

