



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

MARCH 2009

Volume 5

*"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."  
Psalm 91:1, KJV*

- *"The best thing you can do behind a friend's back is to pat it."  
– Ruth Poindexter*
- *"Integrity is doing what you said you would; when you said you would do it; how you said you would do it."  
– Unknown*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **HOMES OF HOPE: Opening the Door of Hope to Lost People**
- **Transformational Sabbath School Class, Part III**

### FROM ELDER JOHNSON

#### **"Ministry or Job?"**

Some people have a job in the church; others involve themselves in a ministry. What is the difference?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because somebody criticized you, it's a job. If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you do it only as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job. If you work toward reaching its true purpose, regardless of how long it takes, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it's a job. If you stay with it even though nobody recognizes your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry.

If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is the meaningfulness of the outcome, it's a ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great and growing church is filled with people involved in ministry.

If you commit to a ministry with God, don't treat it like a job. If you have a job, give it up and find a ministry.

God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in a ministry.

Author Unknown

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL**

### ***A Transformational Sabbath School Class for Youth***

#### **Selecting Instructional Goals**

This aspect of good education is often elusive to the volunteer teacher at Sabbath School. Actual printed curricula tend to include some explicit goals, but not many of the teachers who use the curricula truly understand them, even if they are good ones. With non-formal education, teachers don't have to be concerned about such things as statement requirements, but they are attempting to teach for transformation and "a vague Sabbath School lesson aim will usually result in vague teaching." Sue Kline outlines succinct steps that will help a Sabbath School teacher connect with the idea of having instructional goals:

- "Don't necessarily adopt the lesson aim stated in your curriculum. . . . Consider the needs of your class, then adapt the aim and lesson to them."
- "Let the Scripture passage begin working in your life before you teach it to others." [This, of course, is including the concept of teacher as curriculum as mentioned earlier, the very heart of teaching for transformation and discipleship.]
- "Don't be afraid to deviate. And don't try to teach too much."
- "Knowledge becomes learning when it is translated into a life-changing action. This is more likely to happen when you begin a Bible study with a well thought-out, specific aim for your class members' spiritual growth."
- "Let the teachers enter, heart and soul, into the subject matter. Let them lay plans to make a practical application of the lesson, and awaken an interest in the minds and hearts of the children. . . . The teachers may give character to the work, so that the exercises will not be dry and uninteresting."

#### **Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport**

"Teaching is a matter of relationships among individuals. These relationships should be grounded in rapport and mutual respect, both between a teacher and students and among students."

For those who are teaching for spiritual transformation in youth, the very essence of what they are trying to teach is epitomized by the biblical concept of "one-anothering." The very way to tell whether or not transformation is taking place is whether or not the students are coming to experience respect for one another and class rapport. After all, Jesus said that the way it would be obvious that we were His disciples would be if we loved one another (John 13:35). This could even be a possible form of assessment of learning.

#### **Establishing A Culture for Learning**

This is much needed for serious church-based Bible learning—and somewhat controversial. In many churches youth ministry and Sabbath School are not connected, and Sabbath School loses membership because it is boring. In other churches the two are connected, but Sabbath School has been made to appeal to a very broad audience and features entertainment more than learning. Whether in Sabbath School or in a smaller Bible study setting for serious learners, some venue must be established within the church program for interesting, innovative, and transforming Bible learning.

Google [www.cooltoolsforsabbathschool](http://www.cooltoolsforsabbathschool)

***(Part III 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!***

### **ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL SUMMIT**

This North American Division Adult Ministries Department Initiative is the hottest happening at present!

Do you ever hear it said, "Sabbath School is dead?" Sabbath School is what WE make it to be. Sabbath School is NOT dead and, you the participant to the SUMMIT will prove it.

Who should attend? Anyone who is interested in strengthening the Adult Sabbath School. If you're interested in impacting the Adult Sabbath School - you need to attend the SUMMIT to be held at the General Conference Headquarters.

The goal of the SUMMIT is to brainstorm creative methods of applying the four goals of Sabbath School operating under the theme, "One Mission: Many Methods." There will be total interaction. We *will* listen to YOU!

Joining us will be Jim Zackrison, Chris Blake, Frank Bondurant, Joyce Johnson, Gerson Santos, Gary Swanson, J. Alfred Johnson II, and Buford Griffith.

The SUMMIT is FREE!!!! That means meals are FREE! But you need to register online at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or call me - Carol - 301.680.6430 and I will register you. The deadline for registration is April 9, 2009.

What's Your Expenses? Airfare and Hotel. When you register at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) you will see all the needed information to attend.

We want you here! You cannot afford not to be here! There's still time to register. Hurry! Do it today!

### **STAUNTON, VIRGINIA**

Encouraged by the Sabbath School Superintendent at the Staunton church, members of the Seekers Class came up with two outreach ideas. They started sending a sympathy card with a letter from the pastor and a booklet on grief to the bereaved families of each obituary from the local newspaper. The card includes a handwritten note telling the family that Staunton church members are praying for them. The class has received positive feedback from this project, including thank-you cards.

Class members are also visiting local Laundromats and giving patrons a bag with \$6 in quarters. Enclosed is a card that reads: "Just want to bring a little change into your life." The church name and address are also on the card. Recently one person wrote a note to the church recalling that when she received the bag of quarters she was faced with a decision to finish washing her clothes or buy some gas. The gift of quarters allowed her to do both.

Class members hope that through these contacts in the community, more opportunities will come to share the love of Jesus with them.

Source: Visitor, February 2009, Charlene Sheffer

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## Q & A

### **How about Special Days? Any suggestions?**

*Special Days are important outreach tools, and planning for them should be an integral part of the Sabbath School's annual program. Follow-up plans are a vital aspect of these Special Days and should be included in the planning process.*

*Plan short, enthusiastic, spiritual programs. Remember that Special Days are designed to capture interest and help create a desire to attend further services of the Sabbath School and church. Let's look at some planning principles common to organizing Special Days.*

### **General Planning**

*The Sabbath School Committee should plan the program several weeks in advance, including the following items:*

- 1. Advertise the special day.*
- 2. Ask all members to invite relatives, friends and neighbors, those who have been contacted through the Vacation Bible School, and especially non-attending church members. The membership coordinator or Sabbath School secretary should be able to provide names of non-attending persons.*
- 3. Send written invitations to all former church members in the community.*
- 4. Appoint a telephone committee to follow-up the written and personal invitations with telephone calls.*
- 5. Display a poster in the foyer of the church.*
- 6. Include announcements in the church bulletin about the special day.*
- 7. Appoint a welcoming and ushering committee or enlarge the existing one.*
- 8. Place a special basket or bouquet of flowers on the platform.*
- 9. Select carefully those who participate in the program. Choose persons who can read and speak distinctly and can hold the interest of the audience. Those who participate should represent church standards in dress and deportment.*

### **Organizing The Program**

- 1. Stay on time during each feature of the program.*
- 2. The person offering the opening prayer should remember to ask for a blessing on friends and guests. People appreciate being remembered in prayer.*
- 3. The coordinator should extend a cordial welcome to all guests and mention that this is an annual Promotion or Community Guest Day.*
- 4. Mission presentation. The person or persons chosen to talk about missions should be carefully chosen and urged to prepare well. If the story from the Mission Quarterly is used, be sure it is told and not read.*
- 5. The lesson study. Class leaders should be instructed to prepare especially well for this day. Visitors should be welcomed, introduced by name to the class and encouraged to participate in the discussion of the lesson if they wish.*

*April issue: Community Guest Day, and Children's Sabbath.*

## **PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL'S PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

**HOMES OF HOPE: Opening the door of hope to lost people.**

**REASON FOR: Hospitality is the "welcome mat" ministry of God's Kingdom. Few will enter into church life without having first spent time in a church member's home. The importance of this work is noted in the words of the apostle Peter who said, "Do not neglect to entertain the stranger." (Hebrews 13:2)**

**Homes of Hope is a nation-wide church strategy designed to systemically "roll out the welcome mat" to those in our community who are seeking something better for their life. Research of newcomers to church tells us that 80% of people joining the church have been brought by a friend or family member. These people attend church because they want to explore what they have observed in a church member's life. Homes of Hope attempts to increase the number of opportunities for seekers to share in our lives.**

**Homes of Hope is not a program but rather a ministry lifestyle. Participants in this ministry are released from all other major church responsibilities for the purpose of building friendships. These friendships provide opportunities for seekers to explore Christian faith and practice in a non-threatening environment.**

**The key ingredients for this ministry are a home, friendly disposition, partner or friend to share in a weekly party (i.e. social activity) and a supportive Sabbath School class or small group.**

### **RATIONALE**

**The strategy is based on the following rationale:**

- 1. Newcomers are seeking relationship before truth. The National Church Life Survey found that while newcomers may be of any age, they are much more likely to be in their 20s and 30s.**
- They are made up of first-timers (often in their 20s without children) and returnees (often in their 30s with children).**
- Newcomers are more likely to be tentative in their church involvement.**

### **Prerequisite For Involvement**

- 1. A living faith.**
- 2. A commitment to twelve months of ministry.**
- 3. A commitment to a weekly activity (except holidays, illness, etc.)**
- 4. A supportive Sabbath School class or home group that conducts a monthly social activity.**
- 5. Involvement in a home group or Sabbath School class.**
- 6. Church Board approval.**

**For more information contact the Australian Union Conference at [www.aucsda.com.au](http://www.aucsda.com.au).)**

**Source: Homes of Hope Host Handbook. Australian Union Conference**

## **"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: How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines CR.104***

### ***Description***

***This Module is a study of the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It exposes students to the fundamental techniques and knowledge essential for sharing the love of Jesus Christ.***

### ***Overview***

***The major theme of this Module is how to teach basis Adventist Doctrines. Students will be acquainted with a series of doctrinal Bible studies, with an emphasis on frequently asked questions and supportive scriptural answers. Students will familiarize themselves with Bible lessons and how to make practical applications of these lessons to the vicissitudes of struggles and problems that often corral individuals in every day life. The student will attain a basic knowledge and description of religious diverse faith groups with fundamental concepts for approaching them in the spirit of Christ.***

### ***Learning Outcomes***

- 1. The student will attain a fundamental knowledge of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.***
- 2. The student will understand the fundamentals and how to teach the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.***
- 3. The student will be acquainted with the basic beliefs of numerous faith groups and traditions.***
- 4. The student will learn how to address these groups in the spirit of Christ.***
- 5. The student will learn how to make practical application of these lessons to everyday life situations.***

***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](http://www.adventsource.org) for registration information.***



## **PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS**

### **County Jail Hosts Resource Fair**

**Minnesota's Dakota County Jail held its first Resource Fair in October, gathering representatives from 19 schools, churches, treatment programs, transitional houses, and state and county work force centers. Whereas Resource Fairs are nothing new for state prisons, they are an innovation for a county jail, reported TwinCities.com.**

**Correctional officers explained that transitional services for inmates are almost nonexistent because of the transient nature of the jail population—the average stay at Dakota County is just eight days. The jail, which last hosted a Resource Fair seven years ago, now hopes to hold one every six months, said Larinda Hodges, the jail's first official outreach coordinator.**

**"The main task is to reduce the number of times we see these guys—recidivism," Hodges said. "I'm just throwing darts. If it works, I keep going." Although no one at the Dakota County Jail tracks recidivism statistics, jail officials say, "frequent fliers" are common. In some cases, they report, the jail has housed multiple generations of the same family throughout several years.**

**December 2008 Corrections Today**

### **EDITOR'S P.S.**

#### **Three Things in Life**

**Three things in life that once gone, never come back –**

**Time, Words, and Opportunity.**

**Three things in life that may never be lost –**

**Peace, Hope, and Honesty.**

**Three things in life that are most valuable –**

**Love, Faith, and Prayer.**

**Three things in life that are never certain –**

**Dreams, Success, and Fortune.**

**Three things in life that make a person –**

**Hard Work, Sincerity, and Commitment.**

**Three things in life that can destroy –**

**Lust, Pride, and Anger.**

**Three things in life that are truly constant –**

**The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost.**

**Author Unknown**

**I'm outta here!**

**CB**





