



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

MAY 2010

Volume 6

"I am always  
thinking of the  
Lord; and  
because he is so  
near, I never  
need to stumble  
or to fall."

*Psalms 16:8 LB*

"No one ever  
graduates from  
Bible study until  
he meets the  
Author face to  
face." – Everett  
T. Harris

"It's not the size  
of the dog in the  
fight; it's the size  
of the fight in the  
dog." Mark Twain

"Always have more  
than one iron in  
the fire."  
*Common Saying*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT**
- **TOUCH OF LOVE MINISTRIES**

### **"EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!"**

Dear Ministry Partners,

Who cannot recall, even of the generation whose hair is just beginning to *think* about getting *one* gray strand that News Boy's selling song that is mentioned above. He/she wanted to sell Newspapers-the Editors and Authors wanted to get "the word" out! This month I would like to *get the word out*, by way of placing emphasis on some very current, and upcoming benefits to your Ministry Capacity.

- **June 21, 2011 – North American Division Adult Ministries Ministry Training Day** at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel (Plaza Ballroom). All day Seminars in Sabbath School, Personal and Prison Ministries. **FREE!** 210 Peachtree St., NW, Atlanta, Georgia.
- **June 24 – July 2, 2010** (except Sabbath) – **Forty "Cool Tools" Sabbath School Seminars** presented by the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department. These Seminars take place during the Meal Breaks during the General Conference Session. Go to [SSPMcentral@gc.adventist.org](mailto:SSPMcentral@gc.adventist.org) for more information.
- **September 7-10, 2011 – 2011 North American Division Full Ministries Festival Of The Laity**. Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Fifty (six-session) Ministry Tracks scheduled. Powerful General Sessions. Baptisms EVERY DAY! Ministry networking! Registration is open now at [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com).
- **iPhone Sabbath School "APP" Available (FREE)** – The General Conference has just released a Sabbath School Resource "APP" that includes Media, Cool Tools Helps, and Bible Guides for Beginner, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior Power Points, Real Time Faith, Cornerstone Connections, and Collegiate Quarterly. This is a real blessing.

So, Family! We encourage you to "Read All About It" and get involved by taking advantage of these opportunities. "Thy Will be done. Thy Kingdom come." Lord, please quip, and use us along the way! MARANATHA!

JAJ II

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### **SABBATH SCHOOL ENCOURAGEMENT MINISTRY**

***"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. I Thessalonians 5:11***

**"Encouragement is oxygen to the soul" –George Adams.**

1. Send a card to tell someone what you appreciate about his/her personality or character.
2. A phone call to see how someone's week is going lets them know that you have been thinking about them. That communicates a caring attitude. Make an effort to know how the family is doing.
3. Don't miss an opportunity to compliment someone verbally. A kind and genuine compliment doesn't puff up, it builds up and helps someone reach for their potential.
4. Smile; give a hearty handshake, an enthusiastic hug, or a pat on the back. For the young people, even a "high five".
5. Invite someone for Sabbath lunch, not just your friends. The Sabbath School is a large family.
6. Volunteer to work on a project, e.g., Sabbath School investment, Sabbath School evangelism, or study the lesson together.
7. Select a missing member and encourage their return to Sabbath School.
8. Encourage by investing time to build stronger friendships. Time together strengthens the ties that bind.
9. Restore friendships with forgiveness. If a part of our heart becomes unusable, we have no room for the beauty of restoration. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Forgiveness should not be just an occasional act, but a permanent attitude."
10. Add someone to your prayer list and pray for them on the same day each week.
11. Become a mentor to a young person. The work of the Lord continues from generation to generation. Mentoring ensures the continuation of God's work.

We should seize every opportunity to give encouragement if we are to know the sweet fruit of friendship. It may force us out of our comfort zone, but it is God's will for us to love Him and His people. Encouragement will keep us connected heart to heart and keep us spiritually healthy for a lifetime.

#### **Remember**

***Even the smallest act or word of encouragement will go a long way. Who can you give yours to?***

*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)**

**MORENO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA – New Beginnings Better Living Center: Touch of Love Ministries, Inc.**

**TOUCH OF LOVE DELIVERANCE FELLOWSHIP SERVICE** – These services have been birthed with one purpose in mind – to reach those coming out of prison, their family and friends. This is the first of its kind under the Seventh-day Adventist banner. These services provide an atmosphere that is conducive to their needs and gives them the opportunity to serve the Lord in a less structured but foundational environment.

These services will give them the opportunity to be trained for service, such as how to become Ushers, Deacons and Deaconesses, Bible Workers, Elders and better Christians.

New Beginnings Better Living Center is offering counseling, food, clothing, substance abuse classes, Bible studies, family support and transportation. "We will in the near future offer job application preparation, résumé building and dress for success.

"We praise God for this unique privilege to provide services to those who society has labeled ex-convicts. But, we know that when Jesus gets through, they will be able to sing that well-known hymn, *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.*" So writes Michael Ashley, executive director of Touch Of Love Ministries, Inc.

They have partnered in the Angel Tree Program (through Prison Fellowship) to provide Christmas joy to those children whose parents are incarcerated. The children receive bikes, dolls, board games, electronics, and Bibles, all from their parents. The inmates sign their children up for this program and the Angel Tree organization assigns those children to individuals, churches or ministries to supply toys for them just in time for the holiday seasons.

#### **LIVES THAT HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST**

A husband and wife, both out of prison, were baptized by Senior Pastor, Anthony Paschal of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Church, October 2009, after receiving Bible studies. One woman was in and out of prison, but the last time she sealed her decision for Christ. God healed her of throat cancer. She was given Bible studies and was baptized August 17, 2009. A mother spent three years in prison. She lost her arm after being shot four times, including one time in her head. She was baptized April 3, 2010. Louise spent 32 years in prison was released on January 26, 2010. One of our pen pals wrote to an inmate during her 15 years in prison. She was released February 2, 2010.

Michelle spent 20 years in prison and was released October 28, 2009. Her family who are Seventh-day Adventists, on the island of Hawaii, had prayed years for her to receive Bible studies. Touch of Love Ministries is now giving her those valuable lessons. We expect her to be baptized very soon.

And the stories could go on and on and on.

Michael Ashley concludes, "As you can see, God is still working miracles in the lives of His people. And how He has used this ministry, to touch so many lives with "A Touch of Love."

*Michael Ashley, Touch of Love Ministries*

[www.newbeginningstol.org](http://www.newbeginningstol.org)

## Q & A

### More Minute Motivators for Leaders

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**PRAYER – Leaders seek the guidance of God.** Everyone depends on the leader for answers. "Where do we go next?" "What's our goal?" "Should we move ahead or wait?" It's the leader who must make the decisions, sometimes choosing between the greater of two goods or the lesser of two evils. Effective leaders have learned this secret of leadership; they are not alone. When forced to make tough choices, they seek the counsel of the One greater than themselves. They seek the guidance of God.

*Their times of prayer signify a spiritual relationship with the Almighty that makes them feel accepted and loved, even when their associates or peers have abandoned them. To them prayer is not a way out. It is a way through. The strength that is derived from communication with God sustains them through times of adversity. Leaders have a spiritual support. "A leader never lets adversity get him down—except on his knees." – Jim Williams*

**UNIQUENESS – Leaders value team diversity.** People are like snowflakes, there are no two alike. A good leader understands that concept and treats team members as individuals. Vibrant leadership avoids "cookie cutter" management. Some people just won't be put into a mold. They inwardly rebel at best and revolt openly at worst.

*A good leader won't offer Bob the same encouragement that motivates John. A good leader won't ask Jane to work for the same reward as Jill. Leaders know that one size doesn't fit all. "Two are better than one, because they have a good return on their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

**Self-Evaluation – Leaders know how to evaluate their efforts.** Neither congratulations nor should criticism take a leader by surprise. That's because no friend or detractor can say anything that the leader doesn't already know. Leaders who examine themselves will avoid being swayed by flattery or wounded by criticism. They know their strengths and weaknesses. They know when they are in a success mode, and they know when they're heading in the wrong direction.

*Good leaders are comfortable in their own skin. Leaders are honest with themselves. "What happens to a man is less significant than what happens within him." – Louis L. Mann*

**Community – Leaders celebrate the special days of team members.** Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, births—these events mark the passage of life. Good leaders are aware of the life stages of their team members. By celebrating these special days, they affirm their team members' value.

*Births, deaths, weddings—because these events in the lives of the organization's team are so important, effective leaders make them a priority. If a personal visit is possible, it is far preferred over a "Hallmark moment." Every opportunity to celebrate an accomplishment or life transition communicates concern to the team. Leaders are always alert to the "precious moments" of their associates. "Unless we think of others and do something for them, we miss one of the greatest sources of happiness." – Ray Lyman Wilbur*

*The Minute Motivator for Leaders, Stan Toler*

## **Money Management**

*Money is a touchy subject. It is also true that people are very interested in the topic, and that a high percentage of families in your community face financial management needs. How one handles one's earnings is a reflection of one's values and faith. It is an important part of Christian discipleship.*

*Family finances are addressed in Scripture. In Genesis 3:19 God tells Adam that he will earn his living from the earth by the sweat of his brow. In God's eyes, earning a living is a worthy activity. In Proverbs, God admonishes, "go to the ant, thou sluggard, and consider her ways." Productive labor is a measure of success in God's eyes.*

### **A Planning Session**

*Invite your church stewardship leader, family ministries coordinator, communication representative, and other members of the personal ministries committee or Church Ministries Council, as well as the pastor. In preparation contact the stewardship director at the conference office.*

### **Agenda**

- 1. Read First Corinthians 16:2 as a devotional. Discuss the importance of a Christian approach to money management and the need for sound financial planning in the families in your congregation and community. In prayer, ask for God's guidance as you explore the possibility of sponsoring a money management seminar in your community.*
- 2. Introduce the concept of a Christian Money Management Seminar. Share what you have learned from your preparatory contacts, and share a segment of the video seminar with the group.*
- 3. Discuss how this could be an outreach event. Review your interest file and methods to publicize this seminar in the community.*
- 4. Appoint a project coordinator, steering committee, and publicist.*
- 5. Formulate details such as date, location, how many sessions, availability of child care, materials, and costs. Child care is important because some of the families that need this the most will not come unless it is provided.*
- 6. Share any recommendations given to you by your conference stewardship director.*
- 7. Assign someone to reserve the room for the seminar, if need be.*
- 8. Are there other assignments to make?*

### **After the Meeting**

*Type a document listing assignments, key dates and an outline of the plan. Mail a copy to all the individuals who were invited to the meeting, as well as those who were given assignments or others who should know about the plan.*

*The steering committee will need to meet again to finalize details. It should also meet a day or two before the seminar to review all preparations.*

## **"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 Witness CR.102***

***St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel always, when necessary use words."***

### ***Description***

***This module is a study of the implementation of the principles of personal Christian witnessing techniques in soul winning.***

### ***Overview***

***The major theme of this module is personal Christian witnessing.***

- 1. How to listen and detect the needs and desires of others.***
- 2. To win the confidence of those that you engage in your witnessing endeavor.***

***The aim of this module is to liberate you from anxiety that could prohibit you from witnessing and to instill within you the joy that Jesus gives when you are connected to Him.***

***The comprehensive hope of this module is to totally immobilize any concerns, apprehensions and personal witnessing obstacles from your life.***

### ***Learning Outcomes***

- 1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the methods of personal Christian witnessing.***
- 2. The student will gain knowledge of Christ's method of personal witnessing.***
- 3. The student will be acquainted with personal witnessing decision-making techniques.***
- 4. The student will possess the witnessing tools necessary to do personal witnessing to prohibit anxiety about witnessing.***

***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**

### **Ex-Offenders Craft Olympic Bouquets**

Women from the Phoenix Centre, which provides integrated addiction services in Surrey, Canada, crafted the 2010 Winter Olympic bouquets, reported the Surrey North Delta Leader. The women, who are recently released from prison, are employed by Just Beginnings, a flower shop and training program for troubled women operated by June Strandberg. During the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, the 27 women in the program were responsible for making 1,800 bouquets, as many as 150 per day for medal winners.

### **Tobacco Bans Catching On**

Twenty-five states have completely banned tobacco on prison grounds and most other states have partial bans, reported USA Today. The bans represent an effort to prevent illnesses and help bring down health care costs. The states with partial bans primarily outlaw tobacco use but have some type of exception such as staff smoking areas, the USA Today review of the 50 states found. Many states introduced the bans gradually; Virginia, for instance, notified its inmates more than a year before the ban took effect. The phase-in process gave the warden of Augusta Correctional Center in Craigsville, Va., time to quit smoking. As for the prison, the warden said he's pretty sure some of the inmates stashed tobacco in the facility, but no one has been caught smoking.

The American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project supports some bans because smoking in prison can be a violation of the Eighth Amendment's "cruel and unusual punishments" prohibition, said Director David Fathi. "Just like prisoners have the right to drink clean water and eat edible food, prisoners have the right to breathe noncontaminated air," he said.

*Lia Gormsen, April 2010 Corrections Today*

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

There's a lot of excitement in the air these days, and in our office, too. April showers have brought on May flowers. **Network News** is being read by readers around the globe. My email friend, Pastor Jon Pollok, in Australia, is really spreading our newsletter. Thanks, Pastor. More excitement! In a little more than 50 days GC Session will open. **Prayer** is being called for all to pray. Join with others by logging on to [www.50daysofprayerforgc.info](http://www.50daysofprayerforgc.info).

Our office is buzzing with activity in preparation for our **FREE Adult Ministries Training Day** in Atlanta, Georgia, Monday June 21, 2011 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel (Plaza Ballroom). I've talked with some of you and you've told me you will be there. I'll look to meet you. And our **2011 Festival Of The Laity** in Dallas, Texas is causing us much excitement. You must attend the Festival! Go to [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) and register **TODAY!**

A big excitement for me is the **graduation** of my **Grandson, Jonathan**, graduating High School, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Where does the time go? At one time I use to be taller than Jonathan – now he towers over me at 6'5". My! My!

I know you grandparents out there are feeling my emotions –my excitement! My grandson will soon be a college freshman! I plan to see him graduate! I wouldn't miss that exciting event for anything. Grandma's proud of you, Jonathan!

But there's an even GREATER event that's going to happen, which will generate much more excitement –**The Coming of Jesus!** Get all excited! Get ready! Don't miss it!

I'm outta here!

CB



