



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

MAY 2011

Volume 7

**"SING** a new  
song to the  
Lord! Sing it  
everywhere  
around the  
world! Sing out  
his praises!  
Bless his name."  
-LV Bible

**"DO** not lower  
your standards to  
accommodate  
others."—The  
Pocket Power  
Book of Integrity

**"WE** are what we  
watch, listen to,  
and read." Ibid

**"IT** is very  
important that  
you like yourself."  
-- Ibid

## IN THIS ISSUE

### • Questions? About Sabbath School?

#### "Maximizing Your 'Mike Time'"

Hello, Ministry Partners!

Anyone who is given an opportunity to speak before people wants to be as efficient and effective as possible. Whether your primary ministry is Sabbath School, Personal Ministry or Prison Ministry, here are a few tips that will add to your already developed "pool" of methods that are designed to keep your promotional time sharp and positively memorable.

- Determine to use less time than you have been allotted—realizing that the least you say, the more they are likely to remember.
- Use your "mike time" to briefly cast the vision regarding the ministry proposals, "choosing to do deep persuasion" during one-on-one conversations by the members of your leadership team.
- Be positive! Thank the people for what they "are doing" rather than choosing to chide, berate, or preach to them with bombarding Spirit of Prophecy evidence that condemns them for "not doing" what they "should be doing."
- Occasionally, use personal testimonies, only allowing those persons to speak who know how to "joyfully" come to the point in a very, very short time.

The major aim of this writing is my desire to create a presentation pattern that will encourage people to want to "hear more", which will allow opportunity to "reach more" who may want to "do more."

With my "mike time" let's talk Festival Of The Laity. It's "right around the corner." Have you registered? - [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com) will make it happen. Have you reserved your room at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel? Call-214.922.8000. Are you ready to hear "on fire" speakers? Cutting edge seminars? Enjoy good fellowship? Eat delicious food? If you've said "Yes" to all of the above, please register and I'll see you in Dallas, Texas at the Festival Of The Laity. Thanks for coming!

JAJ II

## ***SPECIAL DAYS –PART I***

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.

### **HOW TO ORGANIZE SPECIAL DAYS**

These are 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.
10. Select special music suitable for the occasion.
11. Offer a small award to anyone bringing a visitor. Change it frequently.
12. Teachers may offer to take students home to dinner for bringing a visitor.
13. Make an extra effort to invite visitors whenever there is a guest speaker or a special Sabbath School program. Send out invitations with students.
14. Make visitors feel at home as much as possible. Ask their names and where they are from. Invite them back next Sabbath.
15. Send thank you letters to people responsible for bringing visitors. See that every visitor receives a letter, a telephone call, or a personal visit during the week following the special day.
16. Enroll new members in Sabbath School as soon as possible. Make them feel a part of the class.
17. Keep yearly scrapbook, files or records of special days as resources for the following years.

## **WHAT'S HOT!**

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

#### **STAUNTON, VIRGINIA**

**Bethel Members Adopt A Street.** Members of the Bethel church in Staunton, Virginia, have been seeking ways to express how much they care about their community. When the opportunity arose for the church to adopt Stafford Street, which suffered from drugs and violence, the church gladly accepted the challenge to get involved through their ministry, Agape In Motion (AIM).

"We have members that grew up in that neighborhood and community and felt inspired to take an active part in restoring that area," shares Pastor Bryant L. Smith. "It is just one part of [our] multifaceted plan to take back our community and spread the news of Jesus Christ."

Every quarter Bethel members gather to work on the street. On one occasion, they received help from "Mkono Nia," Oakwood University's drama group. They raked, weeded, picked up trash and cleared debris. People soon started noticing and many drove by honking their horns in appreciation for their labor of love. "We were able to share God's love in both the physical and literally meaning of the word," says Pastor Smith.

*First published in the Visitor, Columbia Union, April 2011*

#### **CLEVELAND, OHIO**

The Southeast church in Cleveland recently held a coat and shoe drive to help those in their community. Organized by the Community Outreach Ministry, members donated 186 coats for men, women, and children; 106 pairs of shoes and 108 pieces of clothing. The team also gave away 100 toys. In total they helped 190 men, women and children.

"We saw this as an opportunity to show our love for Jesus to the community around us," shared Tawanna Norton, community outreach leader. "It also offered each team member a unified purpose and goal."

Southeast members chose this method of outreach after surveying the community for meaningful ministry ideas. "We want to inspire the Southeast community outreach team to show Jesus to others through our work and our prayers rather than just *tell* others about Jesus," Norton said. "It also gave us the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships between many different people in the community and church."

Next month the church will organize a Dress for Success campaign. They are encouraging members and friends to donate work-appropriate shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, blouses and suits, both for men and women who cannot afford these items.

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Director: J. Alfred Johnson II  
[Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org](mailto:Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org)

Editor: Carol Barron  
[Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org](mailto:Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org)

Consultant: Cleveland Houser  
[cleve.houser@comcast.net](mailto:cleve.houser@comcast.net)

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**North American Division  
Adult Ministries Adult  
Ministries Network**  
12501 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring MD 20904

**Phone**  
301.680.6430

**Fax**  
301.680.6464

**E-mail**  
[Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org](mailto:Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org)

## Q & A

**Q – What is the best hour to conduct Sabbath School?**

**A – It is the opinion of all experienced Sabbath School workers that in most countries Sabbath morning is the best time, and 9:30 is, generally speaking, considered to be the best hour.**

**Q – What can we do with those who have special parts but come late?**

**A – A superintendent troubled by this kind of experience should have someone ready to pinch-hit if the one to take the mission talk, for example, is absent. If the offender is known to be habitually late, a discreet remark by the superintendent indicating that the program will begin on time may help. "If there are dilatory ones . . . there should be no waiting." –Ellen G. White in Review and Herald, May 30, 1871.**

**Q – What are some of the reasons why we should study the Sabbath School lesson and the Word of God?**

**A – "And now brethren, I commend you unto God and the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). "If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light."**

**Q – Is the Sabbath School a soul-winning organization?**

**A – Yes! "The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls." – Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 10.**

**Q – How is the purpose of the Sabbath School described?**

**A – "The Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ." Ibid, p.10.**

*[Per NAD recommendation the Sabbath School Class/Small Group Family Process includes the lesson study and much more.]*

*Planning Better Sabbath Schools, by Gerald R. Nash*

*Review and Herald Publishing Association*

## ***Principles of Church Growth and Evangelism Part 2 of 3***

***"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people."***

The Example of Christ – In outlining principles for church growth, Ellen White begins with Christ's example. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow me.'" (Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143.)

***FIRST***, our Lord "mingled" with worldly men and women. He listened and observed. He became acquainted with their customs, habits, and culture. He gleaned knowledge about their inner thoughts and feelings from the music, art and literature they produced. And always with a stance that identified Him "as one who desired their good" He was compassionate and sympathetic.

To communicate the gospel we must know two things. We must know the gospel and we must know the world. We must have a real experience with Christ in our own lives, and we must have a real knowledge of those who need the gospel.

We need to do research before we launch evangelism projects. Our efforts will be much more effective if we have a factual profile of our target audience. We need to concentrate on the growing number of the unchurched as well as the decreasing number of the church oriented. Our personal ministry will be much more Christ like if we take the time to know more about the person we are seeking to win—job, family, needs, interests, problems and background.

***SECOND***, our Lord helped people in practical ways. He demonstrated the doctrine of love as vigorously as He preached the coming Kingdom. Ellen White observes that He spent more time healing than preaching. He ministered to the peoples' needs. We need to balance our use of words with practical action. For every Bible study, seminar, broadcast and item of literature, we need an equal number of Adventist Community Services centers, family life workshops, health screening vans, and homeless shelters. Our message has no credibility apart from a visible demonstration of the quality of the new life in Christ, new relationships in the Body of Christ, and a loving concern and sacrificial service on behalf of the needy.

Have you ever asked, "How do I get a hearing? How do I reach the secular men and women in my community?" The answer is really quite simple. By getting involved in ministries of compassion where these "unreachables" come either for help or to help by volunteering their service. This pattern has worked again and again.

## **"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: Prison Subcultures SOC.110***

***Every prison has its own personality. The strength of its subcultures depends on the peculiarity of its personality. Prison subcultures make up the components of the prison world.***

***Internet:[www.se7.org/prison\\_ministry/prison\\_subculture.html](http://www.se7.org/prison_ministry/prison_subculture.html)***

### ***Description***

***This module explores the peculiarities, and diversifications of inmate life behind prison walls. It acquaints the student with the intricate make-up and activities of the characteristics of Prison Subcultures.***

### ***Overview***

***Every prison has its own personality and subculture. Prison subcultures may differ in degrees from one prison to another, but the underlining prevalence of activities and make-up will have a common denominator. Subcultures, being a city within a city, exhibit the same sociological anti-social vices as any other cultural clusters worldwide.***

***The aim of this module is to expose the student to the sociological components of the prison community. The student will be exposed to the peculiarities and the impact of social adversity that promote behaviors that are not part of the social norm. It is my hope that the student will understand the real world of inmates.***

### ***Learning Outcomes***

- 1. The student will gain a fundamental knowledge of the intricacies of inmate behavior behind prison walls.***
- 2. The student will understand the anatomy of a prison subculture.***
- 3. The student will be able to make the analogy of sub cultural activities and vices behind prison walls to that of mainstreaming culture.***
- 4. The student will understand the psychological and sociological effects of subcultures on prison inmates.***

***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**

### **Low Recidivism Rates Reported Among Convicted Murderers**

Reginald Powell was released on parole in 2008 after serving a 24-year sentence for second-degree murder. On December 30, 2011, he was rearrested for the possible murder of Jennifer Katz. Powell faces burglary and other charges and he was found driving Katz's stolen car with some of her jewelry and two bags of heroin. However, if he is charged and convicted in her murder, his case will be a rarity, according to Journal News. A national study the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2002 tracking 272,000 inmates released in 14 states found that only 1.2 percent of those freed after serving a murder sentence were rearrested on homicide charges within three years—the lowest rate among all reported crimes by released prisons. "Individuals who are released on parole after serving sentences for murder, consistently have the lowest recidivism rate of any offenders," said John Caher, a spokesman for the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

--Jennea Scafuri, Corrections Today, February / March 2011

### **Reentry Council Aims to Reduce Recidivism**

On January 5, 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder convened the first meeting of the cabinet-level Reentry Council in Washington, D.C., to identify and advance effective public safety and inmate reentry strategies. The council is made up of 13 members who are committed to making communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization; assisting those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive, taxpaying citizens; and saving taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

"More than two million people are behind bars, and 95 percent of them will be released back into their communities," Holder said. "By developing effective, evidence-based reentry programs, we can improve public safety and community well-being." The Reentry Council will meet semiannually to leverage resources across agencies to reduce recidivism and victimization; identify evidence-based practices that advance the council's mission; promote changes to federal statutes; policies and practices that focus on reducing crime; and identify federal policy opportunities and barriers to improve outcomes for the reentry community.

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

**Once again our office – Adult Ministries – is buzzing and humming. Elder Johnson and I are busy as bees. September is just around the corner until – you guessed it – the Festival Of The Laity. Tremendous speakers. Cutting edge seminars. Dynamic presenters. Music! Music! Music!**

**People are registering NOW. You don't want to be left out. And if you want to display your "goods"? Rent a booth! There are still spaces left. Hurry! Go online to [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com) or grab your trusty cell phone and call Heather at 800.732.7587 and tell her, "Carol wants to see me at the Festival Of The Laity, and has encouraged me to get a booth." Dallas is THE place to be September 7-10, 2011. You don't believe me? Come, see, taste! Experience it for yourself.**

**I'm outta here!**

**CB**

