



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2009

Volume 5

"Honor your  
father and  
mother, that  
you may have a  
long, good life  
in the land the  
Lord your God  
will give you."

Exodus 20:12

LB

- "If the only  
prayer you can  
say in your whole  
life is 'thank you'  
that would  
suffice."-Meister  
Eckhart
- "The invariable  
mark of wisdom  
is to see the  
miraculous in the  
common." –  
Ralph Waldo  
Emerson
- "There are two  
things you cannot  
save: Saints and  
Seats." – H. A.  
Ironside

## IN THIS ISSUE

### • SURPRISE SABBATH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

#### FROM ELDER JOHNSON

#### "KEEPING THE BACK DOOR CLOSED"

Greetings, Ministry Partners!

I pray that you and those with whom you Minister are prospering in the Leading Providence of Our Lord! Since we corresponded last month, I had the privilege of sharing with the attendees of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division Festival Of The Laity, which convened in Bloemfontein, South Africa (about four and one half hours south of Johannesburg). The Messages, on the subject of The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit, were well received in that atmosphere in which He is "Moving" in a mighty way. They had just Baptized 1,500+ in Malawi two weeks prior to my arrival!

This journey was by no means a "one-way" transaction in which I was intended to do the "sharing" and they were to be the "receivers". I was inspired in a most impressive way with a method they have developed which has assisted them in "Keeping The *Back Door* Closed." You know about the "*Back Door*." It is the proverbial "Door" through which so many of the Precious Ones we have labored with Jesus to win to Him, and The Church, exit from our fellowship when, for whatever the reasons, they choose to no longer "walk with us." We must do a more effective job of shutting that "Door".

In SID (acronym for the Division), this challenge has been addressed recently through an initiative they call "Fishers Of Men", which is yielding good results. The process is not complicated. On the day *after* Baptism all of the New Members are invited to a session where they are affirmed and introduced to a Spiritual Mentor/s and presented with a "Fishers Of Men" packet containing: A Bible; *28 Fundamental Beliefs*; an Ellen G. White starter book, and a book introducing them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are also, with the guidance of their Spiritual Mentor/s, immediately given an opportunity to select, and get involved in the Ministry of their choice—with the encouragement to go forth and become "Fishers Of Men"!

The Brethren have encountered good success as they have used this method in following-up the recent Mark Finley Meetings in Johannesburg, and the recent one in Malawi. I encourage you to employ a localized version of "Fishers Of Men" in your area. Precious souls are worth the effort! Let us do all we can, through Christ, to Keep That *Back Door* Closed! MARANATHA!

JAJ II

**P.S. Remember to consult [www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org) for information regarding free Adult Ministries Training in Atlanta on June 21, 2010 (three days before the start of the General Conference Session), and for Registration information for the September 7-10, 2011 Festival Of The Laity in Dallas, Texas.**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### **SURPRISE PROGRAMS**

***Surprises are always fun and exciting and surprising. We thought you'd like some surprise ideas for November Sabbath School. Enjoy!***

Surprise programs are exciting because the audience never knows what is going to happen next or who will be doing it. The basic idea is to have volunteers from the audience select an envelope, box, or bag. When they open their choice they discover the next item on the program. The volunteer may or may not be asked to do that program item. It doesn't matter in what order items happen.

There are two ways to get volunteers to come forward. One way is to make a statement that the program will not happen without their participation. Another way is to arrange ahead of time for the first person to respond. That person calls upon someone else to respond. Each person in turn names the next "volunteer."

This type of program is excellent when you don't know who will be present, such as at a retreat or weekend conference. It may be used also on holiday weekends when many members will be away. You will find even visitors volunteer.

#### **Create Your Own**

- 1. Christ Gifts.** Have items that depict the particular wish we have for the Sabbath School for another year. A calendar for perfect attendance. A "Praying Hands" picture for prayer. A welcome mat for hospitality to strangers. A globe bank for support of missions.
- 2. Wedding Gifts.** Plan the theme around a wedding reception. Talk about the gifts Christ provides for His Bride, the Church.
- 3. Fruit of the Spirit.** Have a fruit arrangement on a table. Volunteers choose a piece of fruit. Taped to each piece of fruit is something to read about one of the fruits of the Spirit. Each fruit becomes part of the program. The fruit of Joy could be revealed in the opening song of praise. The fruit of Faith could be shown by our giving to missions.
- 4. Planting Bulbs.** Have packets of flower bulbs on display, as well as gardening items used to plant bulbs. Volunteers choose a packet of bulbs and do whatever is taped to it. Afterward they take the bulbs home to plant in their own gardens.
- 5. Bag Lineup.** Write one letter of your program title on each paper bag. Line the bags up on a table to spell your title. Volunteers pick any bag and follow instructions.
- 6. Grab Bag.** Brightly colored bags are available in gift stores and card shops, and dollar stores. Have one item of your program in each bag. Include a small gift for each volunteer as well.
- 7. Mother's Day Flowers.** Have each volunteer choose a flower or corsage to give to his/her mother. The catch is that the volunteer has to do whatever is taped to the flower.
- 8. Grandmother's Day Flowers.** Do the same as for Mother's Day.
- 9. Father's Day Boutonniere.** Have each volunteer choose a boutonniere to give to the fathers. The father has to do whatever is taped to the flower.
- 10. Grandfather's Day Boutonniere.** Do the same as for Father's Day Boutonniere.

Watch the members enjoy the -- **SURPRISE!**



## **WHAT'S HOT!**

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

### **BOWIE, MARYLAND**

#### **TAKOMA ACADEMY (TA) TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

The Takoma Academy Community is trying to help a small number of the more than 6,000 homeless people in the Washington, D.C., area through the newly created Care First Closet on campus. Students and staff are collecting donations of clothing and nonperishable food, which will be distributed to the homeless once each month. Through this ministry, TA's students will experience firsthand the joy and satisfaction that comes from helping others.

Pastor Melvyn Hayden III, TA's campus chaplain and religion instructor, is coordinating this outreach project. "There is no better witness to our community" said Pastor Hayden, "than a gift of love that meets an immediate need."

*Visitor, October 2009*

#### **EMMANUEL/BRINKLOW – ASHTON, MARYLAND**

Many churches prepare food baskets and toys for disadvantaged families during the holidays. But did you know that gift giving during the holidays can sow seeds for ministry throughout the years?

The Men's Ministries of the Emmanuel/Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church discovered this truth when the group launched its "Holiday Outreach" initiative in 2008. The group collected funds to help three homeless shelters in Washington, D.C. The funds were used to purchase nearly 1,500 pounds of turkeys for the Community For Creative Non-violence, the largest facility of its kind for the homeless. The group also sponsored a combined total of 3,000 meals for the Central Union Mission and Gospel Rescue Ministries.

As a result of the holiday initiative, the Brinklow church now provides chapel services at Central Union Mission. The monthly meetings include music, testimonies, scripture readings, and the spoken word. The group has also organized a concert featuring members of the church's praise team.

This year Men's Ministries is endeavoring to expand the "Holiday Outreach" initiative to help four homeless facilities. "There are so many opportunities for ministry," project coordinator Carlos Medley says. "We could organize a Vacation Bible School for disadvantaged children, serve a meal to the homeless, provide musical programs and other ministries.

"When I see all the talents and gifts we have in our churches, I'm convinced that we should be using them in the community."

*Submitted by Carlos Medley, Online Editor, Adventist Review*

## Q & A

### **How can Class Facilitators lead Sabbath School classes into a genuine Bible study experience?**

That's a very good question. We're talking Explore, Compare, Contrast, and Discover. Plan things that the class will **do** rather than things you will **say**. Help the class to **share** the responsibility for learning. Constant use of the **lecture** method kills initiative, curiosity and creativity. Ellen White says: "Among the pupils of the Sabbath School there should be a spirit of investigation. . . ." Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 27. The Bereans provide a model for the kind of Scripture search which should be a part of every Sabbath School class session. Let's investigate Eight Ways to Lead Your Class Into the Word.

**1. Scripture Search:** Pose a problem. The problem should be answered by Bible texts found in your Sabbath School lesson. The problem should be related to the age level and the needs of your class. It could be a doctrinal or a life situation. Make it interesting and relevant.

**2. Bible Paraphrase:** Provide sheets of paper with a key passage from the Sabbath School lesson written at the top. Allow at least five minutes for this learning activity. The learning value? In order to paraphrase this verse, one must understand its meaning. If the person writes the passage in his/her own words and then reads and explains it to the person next to him/her, he/she will better understand a key text in the lesson. The person will remember it, too.

**3. Critical Thinking, Classifying or Comparing:** This activity is to lead the students to learn how to classify, compare and to analyze Scripture. On a chalk board or flip chart, you make two headings, for example: Lesson Topic: The Laodicean Message – Scripture Passage – two headings Identify Christ's Problems; Identify Laodicea's Problems. Using their Bibles, the class identifies these problems. Allow ample time for thought.

**4. Research and Report:** The teacher presents a research problem relating to next week's lesson. The assignment could involve the entire class, teams or individuals. The teacher focuses on the problem and guides the researchers in planning the extent, resources and specific amount of time for their report.

**5. Case Study:** The teacher prepares a written statement or gives a brief lecture of a real life situation, problem or Bible incident. This is distributed to the class and analyzed during a portion of class time. Look for scriptural solutions. Pinpoint the answers. The life situation or problem should deal with a specific situation arising out of the Sabbath School lesson.

**6. Resolving Conflict:** Pose conflicting opinions regarding an issue based on your Sabbath School lesson. Guide the class in a search of the Scriptures to resolve the problem.

**7. Support an Opinion or Belief:** The facilitator leads the class into purposeful Bible study to support a position or belief. The opinion or belief should be an integral part of the Sabbath School lesson. Support and explain.

**8. Reconcile Different Points of View:** A Sabbath School lesson may present two opposing points of view on a subject. What does the Bible teach? This is the important question. We want people to go to the Bible for answers to personal, family and corporate problems.

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

## **The Planning Council Agenda**

***A Planning Council. In the Church Manual it is called the Lay Activities Council. That is the terminology used in many parts of the world, although it is almost never used in North America. Here it may be called the Evangelism Council, the Personal Ministries Council, the Outreach Committee or by other names. The label attached to this group is not important, but the core concept is!***

***This group should include all of the department heads or program leaders in the congregation that are involved in reaching out to the surrounding community-community services, health ministries, communications, etc. It might also include those who lead a small group Bible study, the greeters, youth ministries or any other aspect of the church that is involved in evangelism or witness in some way.***

***Perhaps one of the elders will be assigned to chair the council, or maybe it is the responsibility of the Personal Ministries Leader to be the chair. In some congregations, a pastor serves as the chair. The church board should make the decision as to who is the chair of the council.***

### **The Planning Council Agenda**

***Step One – Review the mission of the church from Scripture and the writings of Ellen G. White. If your congregation has a mission statement, review that document, also. Spend time in prayer asking for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.***

***Step Two – Discuss the nature of your community and the needs among its residents. Look at a demographic profile and any information that is available about the families who live here, their religious preferences, how many attend some church or actively participate in some religion, what problems they are dealing with. Get a picture of your "mission field."***

***Step Three – Set some goals for the year. How many new members will you work to find and make a part of the congregation? How many of the existing members will you seek to get involved in volunteer ministry of one kind or another? How many specific events will you try to implement? How many new ministries would you like to launch on a "long-term" or "permanent" basis? Will you review the church membership list to identify inactive or former members and seek to reach out to them? Will you consider planting a new "daughter church" in the area?***

***Step Four – Decide what activities will achieve the goals you have set. This handbook includes a rich menu of specific events, projects and programs. Additional ideas can be added to the menu, and then your group needs to make selections. Assign each event or project a deadline and a leader. Also decide how many helpers will the leader for each activity need and what funding will be needed.***

***Step Five – Hear reports from the project leaders. Find solutions to problems that have surfaced. Review activities that have already occurred, and ask what can be learned for the future. Spend time praising the Lord for His blessings and guidance!***

***The December issue of Network News will give you ideas for planning the year for service.***

## **"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: Chaplains Relations VCHP.201***

***The Chaplain provides a vital part of the whole process within the law enforcement community. The primary goal of the prison Chaplain is to provide pastoral care to the inmates. The Chaplain becomes pastor to the inmates as well as their teacher in spiritual matters. This important aspect incorporates areas of spiritual, moral and emotional development for the incarcerated.***

*Prison Chaplain/http://ezinarticles.com*

### ***Description***

***This Module provides the student with hands on opportunity to understand how Chaplains relate to prison personnel through personal interviews with prison staff and inmates. The student will develop and formulate his finding in a written composition that will aid him/her in understanding the complexity of a Chaplain's relationship with staff.***

### ***Overview***

***This Module seeks to involve the student in understanding and developing clear concepts regarding the role and relationships of Chaplains in the work place. This Module affords the student the opportunity to understand the Chaplain's relationship with inmates and institutional expectations in his overall relationship with the correctional make up.***

### ***Learning Outcomes***

- 1. To provide the student with the opportunity to do independent, non bias research regarding Chaplain Relationships in a correctional setting with prison personnel and inmates.***
- 2. The student will interview designated prison personnel and inmates and compile a written composition that will serve as a model of understanding of the complexity of the Chaplain's job.***
- 3. The student will gain a greater appreciation of the role of a Chaplain.***

***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**

### ***Prison Sentence Enables Inmate to Witness***

***Sean Fairbrother was sentenced to a maximum of three years in a Pennsylvania state prison for a misdemeanor. His family was devastated. They had expected probation and a fine for this first offense.***

***Determined to make the most of the situation, they prayed for a way to reach the lost in this dark time. While in the Camp Hill State Correctional Institute, Sean distributed literature sent to him by his wife and their pastor from the Danville church. He witnessed to murderers and gangsters. Inmates nicknamed him "Moses."***

***After being transferred to the Waymart State Correctional Institute, he handed out almost 80 Amazing Facts Bible study lessons. Some inmates began sending the studies home to family members.***

***As a result of studying the Bible with inmates, the desire for a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the prison grew. Sean's wife Tara, contacted Pastor Tom Cusack of the nearby Honesdale church, who began working with her to plant a church within the Waymart prison. Fifteen inmates are already interested in attending services. "This is a mission field ripe for harvest!" shares Tara.***

***While it is hard for the family to have Sean in prison, they are encouraged that God is using their situation to help others who are going through similar circumstances.***

***Pennsylvania Pen, published in the October 2009 Visitor***

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

***There's a very small book entitled *The Power of Goals: quotations to strengthen your climb to new heights*. Basil S. Walsh (bless him whoever he is) wrote: "An intelligent plan is the first step to success. The man who plans knows where he is going, knows what progress he is making and has a pretty good idea when he will arrive. Planning is the open road to your destination."***

***When I read that quote, I thought about the One Day Training which the North American Division Adult Ministries will sponsor next year. If you want the Lord's work to succeed! If you want to have plans to know where you're going in the Lord's work and how you will arrive, then the One Day Training is what you're looking for. Come join us and sharpen your ministry tools in Sabbath School, Personal and Prison Ministries.***

***This One Day Training features rotating Seminars offered – hear this clearly – "Free of Charge" to interested members residing in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area and to the early attendees to the General Conference Session. The Westin Peachtree Plaza Atlanta is the hotel where it will all happen on Monday, June 21, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 301.680.6430 or [www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org) to make it happen for you.***

***Together, let's strengthen your climb to new heights in your Ministry.***

***I'm outta here!***

**CB**

