



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

SEPTEMBER 2010

Volume 6

"Salvation is not
a reward for the
good we have
done, so none
of us can take
any credit for
it." – Ephesians
2:9 - LB

"Laughter is an
instant vacation."
– Milton Berle

"Admitting that
you were wrong
is a lot less
painful than
covering it up."-
The Pocket Power
Book of Integrity

"Ask yourself:
What would God
do if He were in
my shoes?"- Ibid

IN THIS ISSUE

- **WHO WALKS IN YOUR CHURCH DOOR?**
- **ONE-MILLIONTH VOP BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATE**

"AN APPRECIATED FLOOD"

Hello, Ministry Partners,

Very rarely do people and communities anticipate the destructive potential of "floods" with any positive emotional investment. They do not *appreciate*, even, the concept of potential flooding due to the costly and time consuming defensive efforts that must be put in place to attempt to avert the physical, social, and economic impact of having to deal with water raging out of control. They "anticipate" the event with planning, but do not tend to look forward to, or *appreciate* the potential of coming Floods. Consider the Ninth Ward of New Orleans after Katrina. Think of Pakistan today.

While anticipation of Floods that bring the potential of natural disasters are never positively *appreciated*, I now request that you participate in generating a very positive "Flood" of support for the Ministry of Jesus Christ in the North American Division, the likes of which we have never seen before.

Following a groundswell of expressed desire for an "Initiative Process" that would offer a "Big Tent" environment of Ministry Training, Motivation, Inspiration and Networking Capacity for all the Members and Pastors covering the Ministries sponsored by the North American Division—the Festival Of The Laity process was reborn in 2002 in Orlando, with 8,300 in attendance.

This Division-Wide Festival Of The Laity process continued in 2007, and is scheduled for September 7-10, 2011, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas (www.festivalofthelaity.com).

Now about the "Flood". If you have, or have not, attended a previous Festival Of The Laity and want the Festivals Of The Laity to continue, if you value them and have been equipped for Ministry through them, or sense that many can be—you are invited to participate in a "Flood" that would really be *Appreciated* at this time. Please direct your "appreciation" email of support to www.nadadultministries.org or to jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org as soon as possible. Please know that this invitation is only regarding assessment of support for the North American Division Festival Of The Laity process of equipping for Ministry. God bless you.

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

WHO WALKS IN YOUR CHURCH DOOR?

There are four general categories of guests who walk in your church door:

- 1. Unchurched people who for one reason or another visit your church*
- 2. Non-attending or occasionally-attending Adventists*
- 3. People brought to church by friends, relatives, and acquaintances*
- 4. Adventists from out of town or from other Adventist churches*

Each of these groups has its own set of expectations, fears and preconceived ideas.

Your congregation, and especially your greeters and receptionists, need to have a general idea how to approach each group.

Lasting impressions are made in the first 30 seconds, and guests often decide within about five minutes whether or not they will come back to your church.

KEY STRATEGIES

1. Take – Don't Send Guests
2. Show – Don't Just "Hand to"
3. Connect Guests With Other People As Quickly As Possible

UNCHURCHED PEOPLE

Unchurched people tend to be suspicious and fearful of church people and church buildings. They are in unfamiliar territory and don't know what to expect. They don't understand "church" language.

Unchurch people tend to want anonymity. That means they don't want to stand out from the crowd. They just want to be accepted and feel like part of whatever is happening.

NON-ATTENDING OR OCCASIONALLY-ATTENDING ADVENTISTS

The language used when greeting them is very important. Do everything in your power to protect these guests from the more unstable people in your congregation who somehow tend to surface in exactly the wrong place at the wrong time.

PEOPLE BROUGHT TO CHURCH BY FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES

These guests already have a point of contact. The people who bring them can tell you whether they want to be smothered with affection or left alone.

ADVENTISTS FROM OUT OF TOWN OR ANOTHER ADVENTIST CHURCH

Adventists have a keen sense of "family." We expect to be received in any of our churches as if it were our own. In practice, we may end up being ignored, and as a result feel hurt. Untrained greeters need to pay attention to people they know, not the people they don't know. But it is precisely their job to pay attention to the people they don't know.

WHAT'S HOT!

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

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA – HICKORY MEMBER IS ONE-MILLIONTH VOP GRADUATE

New Hickory Church member Victoria Fullbright is the one-millionth graduate from the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Bible School headquarters in Simi Valley, California.

Fullbright, a 20-year-old college student, attended Sunday School as a child, but during her teen years she drifted away. In early 2009, while going through an extremely difficult time in her life, she found Lesson One of the VOP *Discover Bible Guide* in her mailbox. She had not requested them and has no idea who sent them. She says, "They just appeared."

Fullbright eagerly studied the guides as they arrived. Her instructor at the Bible School, Anna, wrote notes of encouragement and support that assisted in Fullbright's spiritual journey.

A study about the Sabbath changed her life. She was impressed that she should worship on Saturday. One Sabbath in September 2009, she woke early under deep conviction that she was to attend church that day. She found the address of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in her hometown of Hickory, N.C. With apprehension, she drove to the address and entered. The members at Hickory Church immediately made her feel welcomed and wanted. She continued to attend each Sabbath, and as the Holy Spirit encouraged Fullbright to fully accept Jesus as her Lord, she made her decision and sealed it in the waters of baptism on December 26, 2009.

Kurt Johnson, director of the VOP Bible School, says, "Victoria exemplifies the purpose of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School—to lead people into a relationship with Jesus and involve them in a study of the Bible, which leads to a faith in God that meets their needs on this earth and the assurance of eternal life."

This article was first printed in the Visitor. Contributed by VOP

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – STUDENTS LEARN TO WEAVE HATS FOR HOMELESS

The Pensacola, Florida University Parkway School sixth through eighth grade students participated in a new humanitarian project this year. The children learned to weave hats on different sized looms to create many unique, one-of-a-kind, handmade hats. Sizes ranged from new-born infant to large. The children not only learned a new skill that could lead to a fun hobby, but they also learned about giving of one's self for others.

They completed a total of 25 hats and four scarves, which were donated to the Shelter for Battered and Abused Women just in time for Christmas.

This article was first printed in the Visitor. Submitted by Rebecca Grice

LEADERSHIP TIPS

Partnerships Blend Talent: Partners Prefer Team Success to Personal Accolades.

His name is Elmer Booze. He's a professional page-turner. His job is to follow the score a concert pianist plays and turn pages at the proper times. His goal is to be as unobtrusive as possible, working quickly and quietly without obscuring the pianist's vision. Booze does his job so well that he is called "the ghost."

Though he helps a performer be successful, a good page-turner doesn't share the bows—nor is he listed in the program. If he has done his job right, he remains unnoticed.

Elmer Booze is content in his work because his anonymous contribution adds value to something bigger than himself. Every time he steps on stage, he helps achieve a goal he could never accomplish alone.

"We have not come together to compete with one another—but to complete one another." Bill McCartney, Founder of Promise Keepers

A Silent Partner: A Successful Partnership Recognizes the Importance of Every Player.

During the 1800s, a famous organist traveled from town to town across America giving concerts. It was in the days of the old pump organs, so in each town he hired a boy to work the pump behind the organ during the concert. After a performance in one town, he couldn't shake the young boy he'd hired.

As the organist walked towards his hotel in the cool of the evening, the boy beamed up at him. "We sure had a great concert tonight, didn't we?"

"You mean I had a great concert tonight," replied the maestro. "You only pumped the organ. Now, go home!"

The next night, the organist gave another concert in the same town, and once again the boy worked the bellows behind the scenes. The opening piece of the concert was a beautiful fugue by Bach. But as the performer masterfully attacked the notes of the second piece, the music suddenly stopped, his rapid fingering bringing nothing more than a faint clicking sound from the keyboard. That's when the little boy stuck his head around the corner of the organ, smiled, and said to the maestro, "We aren't havin' a very good concert tonight, are we?"

Source: The Power of Partnership in the Church, John C. Maxwell

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Published monthly by the North American Division Adult Ministries Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Personal Ministries, and Sabbath School Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

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PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

"FAMILY DRUG PREVENTION PARTY – PART II

A PLANNING SESSION

Invite the health ministries leader for your congregation, the family ministries coordinator, the pastor and the members of the personal ministries committee or Church Ministries Council.

The goal of this meeting is to encourage church families to plan a party for several other families, including nonmember families from their neighborhood, to focus on drug prevention strategies for their children.

In preparation, contact the Health Connection at 800.548.8700 and ask for a free copy of their catalog. Also, ask your conference health director if there is a video that can be borrowed which will illustrate the potential of this idea at the meeting. Discuss with the pastor and your congregation’s health ministries leader the possibility of the church purchasing several videos that can be loaned to church families.

AGENDA

1. For a devotional, read Proverbs 3:1, 2 and ask the group to discuss what kind of commands kept in the heart will prolong life today. Focus on how to “drug-proof” the children in your congregation and in your community.
2. Discuss the need for families to tailor drug prevention strategies for their children, while schools are an important source of drug prevention education, we cannot forget that the family has a deep influence and responsibility.
3. Share a sample video and pass around the Health Connection catalog which shows the array of materials available for learning about drugs and alcohol, their effects, and how to prevent their use among children.
4. Brainstorm creative ideas and compile a list of suggested activities for family parties.
5. Decide how to organize and promote the idea in your congregation and community.
6. Appoint a project coordinator and steering committee.
7. Consider sponsoring a training event for families who are willing to host parties. This should include demonstrating the range of resources available and include some group leadership and listening skills. Select a date for the training event.
8. Develop a plan to promote the strategy.
9. Make recommendations regarding the purchase of videos and other educational materials for the church library.

AFTER THE MEETING

Write down assignments as soon as the meeting ends and get the document typed as soon as possible. Copy it and mail to each person who was invited to the meeting and anyone else who was given an assignment at the meeting.

"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: Women's Issues VCHP.301

Women in the contemporary prison face many problems; some resulting from their lives prior to imprisonment, others resulting from their imprisonment itself. Women in prison have experienced victimization, unstable family life, school and work failure, and substance abuse and mental health problems. Social factors that marginalize their participation in mainstream society and contribute to the rising number of women in prison include poverty, minority group member, single motherhood, and homelessness.

<http://law.jrank.org/pages/1805>

Description

This module will acquaint the student with the major issues that women face in Department of Correction Facilities. The impact of imprisonment will be seen on the social, historical, psychological and emotional levels. Facts of imprisonment and disparities of imprisonment among women will be portrayed in this module.

Overview

This module will help the student to gain a fundamental knowledge of the impact of imprisonment of women and the devastating effects of imprisonment on families. A basic knowledge of the historical, social, economic and psychological factors, impacts on female incarceration. The student will gain knowledge of ethnicity disparities and emotional and sexual abuse from correctional employees. This module will expose the student to numerous facts of women imprisonment.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To expose the student to the major issues women face in prison.***
- 2. To expose the student to the affects of incarceration on families.***
- 3. To gain a fundamental understanding of the inequities of female incarceration.***
- 4. To gain an understanding of the social, psychological and historical significance of female incarceration.***

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

Washington, D.C., Uses Missouri Model

At New Beginnings Youth Development Center in Laurel, Maryland, the District of Columbia's most troubled youths receive intensive counseling, spend days in group activities, are held accountable for their offenses, and make collective art from melted-down guns.

This approach to their treatment and rehabilitation is based on that used in Missouri, which has the lowest juvenile recidivism rate in the nation. USA TODAY reports on the children's tightly scheduled day, activities like sports and theater, and the successes of this more personalized way of incarcerating young people. Under the new guidelines, juvenile offenders "don't get lost."

Each classroom has two teachers, who track students' progress in daily reports and the students' progress through six levels of education and treatment by performing well academically, following rules, and learning to express themselves without violence. New Beginnings' success has yet to be measured, and there have been set-backs. Teenagers have run away from the facility, and about 25 percent of those who have completed the six-level program have been rearrested. Still, officials are confident that the Missouri model can help prevent youths from choosing a criminal career.

Jeannelle Ferreira, August 2010 Corrections Today

EDITOR'S P.S.

While keying in the articles for this newsletter, I find myself identifying with some of them – one in particular – "Elmer Booze, The Professional Page Turner."

Now, I was a page turner, not a professional one, mind you. I was a "just helping out" page turner. But I discovered that being a page turner can be a very nerve racking ordeal. Why? Because everything must be done "just right".

The pages must be turned "just right" at the right time – not too fast, not too slow. The position of the fingers on the page must be "just right" – don't cover the music – don't block the pianist's view – keep your eyes "just right" on the music – no looking around. Stand up and sit back down "just right". Everything done "just right".

If every page that Professional Page Turner Elmer Booze turns must be done "just right" What about you? Me? The task that we have been assigned to do. The job that no one else wants to take on. The project that seems to be going nowhere. No matter what the task, job, project may be, no matter the reasons they have been assigned to us, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV; or as the Living Bible puts it "Whatever you do, do it well".

Many times, my father would say to us, especially when we didn't think a job was worthy of our attention or time, or if it was too big or too small, Daddy would say, "Whatever you do –no matter what the job is – regardless of the size – do it 'just right'".

Today, let's do things "just right".

I'm outta here!

CB

