



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

AUGUST 2006

Volume 2

*"Verily I say  
unto you,  
Inasmuch as  
ye have done  
it unto one of  
the least of  
these my  
brethren, ye  
have done it  
unto me."*

- Personality can  
open doors, but  
only character  
can keep them  
open. - Elmer G.  
Leterman,  
Business  
executive.*
- Anger is the  
only thing to be  
put off till  
tomorrow.—  
Slovakian  
Proverb.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **The Holy Ghost Within Us!**
- **Finding Christ in Solitary Confinement!**
- **Making Something Happen IS Personal Ministries!**

## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, Ministry Partners!

Have you ever wondered why there are so many nice, lovely persons in the congregation where you hold memberships who are doing very little, if anything or exciting that tends to lead souls to embrace the life of Christ and His remnant church?

Very quickly it should be stated that persons in this category should not necessarily be classified as hypocrites or spiritual "ne'er-do-wells". While they may be in "sympathy" with our Mission to church members to minister the great Gospel Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) through the Spiritual Gifts which are designated to all church members by the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 12) – **they lack the Power that is necessary to carry out the mission!**

Much too long, too many members have been unaware of the fact that, in terms of successful witnessing capacity ("**Power for the Mission**"), the Holy Spirit has at least **Two** ministries to us, not just one.

The ministry of the Holy Ghost, which many understand to be the exclusive Gift of the Spirit to us for all times and occasions, is conversion to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, manifested through display of the character and attitude of Jesus with "Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance . . ." (Galatians 5:22, 23) – The Fruit of the Spirit.

It should be noted very clearly that the Fruit of the Spirit has a very clear objective—to demonstrate the result of The Holy Ghost **Within Us!** When the Holy Ghost comes **Within Us**, we naturally begin to manifest the character of Christ—we become nice people. Some suggest, and live as though this manifestation of the Holy Ghost **Within Us** is all we need to be successful in our mission with Christ. As wonderful and wonder working as it is, it indicates personal nurture as opposed to pro-active participation in an intentional soul winning process.

The Holy Ghost **Within Us** demonstrates that our lives, our characters, are congruent with the Life of Christ as revealed in the Bible. The Holy Ghost **Within Us** grants us the capacity **To Be** like Jesus in our characters, but does not offer

us the capacity (power, strength, ability) **To Do** the works of Jesus as directed in the Great Gospel Commission. **We need special "Power for the Mission!"**

To be continued.

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

## **MEET THE DIRECTORS**

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry, Sabbath School, and Personal Ministry Director.

### **Sabbath School Highlight – "In Anticipation of Adventure."**

I sense that in many Sabbath school classes each week's Lesson is perceived as an independent unit. Rather, it should be seen as a link in a chain of study, all together supporting an understanding of the quarter's focus.

One factor contributing to this pattern of disconnected-ness could well be the practice of asking a different person each week to teach the class. Thus there is no carryover of context or format. A sense of progression is lacking in this potluck approach. Could not the church find an individual who will commit to take the class for a full quarter, and assign an available associate from within the class, who is acquainted with the format, to fill in if needed?

Usually the teacher is one from among the group and not a professional scholar in a biblical field. This class leader may therefore appropriately wear humility; respect other members as equals, as partners in learning. The function here is more like that of a chairperson, assigned to organize the outline, to direct the process, and to monitor the time. Some like the metaphor of a bus driver. All passengers take part in the ride, but someone has to sit behind the wheel and negotiate the traffic—and announce the rest stops.

Of course, the teacher/leader should encourage each one in the class to take part in the common search for understanding. Let me repeat that – "**encourage each one,**" especially those who tend to be shy. He or she should use probing questions designed to uncover insights and enhance discovery. Queries such as:

"How does this paragraph relate to the use of the same phrase in the previous chapter?"

"Why might this event have been important to the church there?"

"What issues in our culture do you see as a parallel to this attitude in Ephesus?"

Have you contemplated assigning a class secretary to keep a record of serious questions that came up during the class discussion, to note a summary of principles discovered, and maybe list some decisions that ought to be implemented (maybe even recommended to the church board)? Why not? Is it threatening to be that serious about growth through learning? Should not Bible study be "**for real**"?

Being "**for real**" must consist of more than just occupying a seat for 13 weeks. Or even learning a few facts and knowing some answers. What is learned must be "present truth," as it was for early Adventist. Present truth means that it goes past the head to the heart and then reaches out to others in the church and in the community. It is not just knowing the **Book**, but knowing the **One** about whom that **Book** testifies.

That's the reason for Sabbath school. Could we say, the **ONLY** reason?

**Lester Bennett** is a retired Sabbath school ministries director of the Northern California Conference. He continues to produce Sabbath school lesson teaching helps. His e-mail address is: [les175@sbcglobal.net](mailto:les175@sbcglobal.net). Reprinted by Permission from *Adventist World-NAD, October 2005*.



#### WHAT'S HOT!

#### **The Festival Of The Laity! September 26-29, 2007.**

Things are really heating up for the Festival Of The Laity. Space is limited! Early registration is a **NECESSITY!** It's **URGENT** that you register **NOW!** Really! Here's why.

There will be **forty-five**, yes, you read me right, **45** seminars that will take you straight to the top of learning and implementation. You name the Seminar; in all probability it will be presented at the **Festival Of The Laity**.

Perhaps you're interested in knowing **How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost**. We'll have that seminar. Or if you've always wanted to know **How To Baptize Hundreds Without Running Public Meetings**. That seminar will be presented too, with **43 others!**

How about this one? **Obteniendo Decisiones Para El Bautismo En Una Base Personal**. Spanish! You're right! We'll have that seminar too, and others in Spanish. Some seminars will be presented in English and translated in Spanish. Are we something? Just trying to facilitate, that's all.

Have I stirred up within your heart a strong desire, a need to attend? Am I feeling your urgency to register? Good!

Okay! You wanna' hear something really, really Hot? Drum roll, please – **Elder Walter Pearson** will be our Sabbath Keynote Speaker. Oh, yes! I'm feeling your excitement!

Let me throw in this one last **Hot** item. The hotel where all this excitement – **The Festival Of The Laity**, of course - will take place, (I'm almost too excited to write this) sits in the middle – the heart – dead center – of The Florida Mall with **two hundred and fifty** (250) stores! The battle is over! The war is won!

Stop reading - go and register. Click [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) and follow the easy steps to register online for **THE Festival Of The Laity**.

Register by phone and you get to talk to a live person. Please dial **PlusLine - 800.732.7587** – and ask for **Heather**.

For Hotel Reservations call 800.588.4656 and say **Festival Of The Laity**.

Elder Johnson has registered. Elder Frank Bondurant has registered. I'm registered. Others are registering! You register!

Just wait until the next issue of **Network News** when I tell you about the yummy and interesting **Breakfast Forums** that will take place at Where? Where else but **The Festival Of The Laity**.

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## Q & A

### What's the Mission and Objectives of Sabbath School?

The primary mission of Sabbath School is to teach members how to work for the Lord, reach people successfully, and share God's grace and truth.

**Can there be a Successful Sabbath School?** The most successful Sabbath Schools include elements of **outreach** and **soul winning**. Sabbath Schools should be one of the "greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual in bringing souls to Christ." (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.)

### Objectives of the Sabbath School

1. **Study of the Word** will help members understand the Gospel and make a personal commitment to Christ and His Word. It will help them grow spiritually through study of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. **Study of the Word** through Sabbath School will help members develop a devotional life and teach them how to interpret and apply the principle of the Scriptures to their lives.
2. **Fellowship** through Sabbath School fosters fellowship among members in the weekly Sabbath School program. Classes develop projects for recruiting new members and integrating them into church life. Through **Fellowship**, Sabbath Schools foster ways to restore inactive members.
3. **Community Outreach** through Sabbath School help members catch a vision of the church's mission in the community, train members for service, and inspire them to witness. Classes can develop programs to involve members in soul winning activities.
4. **World Mission Emphasis** through Sabbath School presents a clear vision of the global mission of the church. It promotes a personal, systematic, and self-denying commitment to the support of world missions and fosters in members a desire to help fulfill the Gospel Commission.

*Source: The Sabbath School Handbook. The Second Edition for the North American Division. Advertsources.*

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

**MAKE** something happen in your church! My church? Yes! Your church! Who me? Yes! You, Personal Ministries and Lay Activities Leader. You ask, How? Through Evangelism! Which are Outreach, Personal Ministries, Personal Evangelism, Small Group Evangelism, Church Growth, and Soul Winning.

Why does the church exist? And why do people join the church and enter into its activities? For various reasons: "Because God requires it." "Forsake not the gathering . . ." "To be fed." "Out of habit." Whatever the reason, many people are driven to church every Sabbath by acute personal needs.

All of these reasons for attending church are acceptable, until we take the plunge and become baptized servants of Jesus Christ. **Then**, we must acknowledge that He **establishes** His church and He **determines** its purpose or ends.

The Purpose or Mission, of the church is clearly stated in the Great Commission passage, Matthew 28:18-20. It begins with Christ's authority, which Ephesians 4:7-16 places in the context of His death on the cross and His resurrection. Then it connects each believer, through spiritual gifts for ministry, with the living, growing body of Christ on earth—the church.

Matthew quotes Christ in an explicit command. The imperative verb is “**make disciples.**” Three other helping verbs describe elements in achieving the primary end of making disciples – “**Go . . . . . Baptize . . . . . Teach.**” That Ladies and Gentlemen is **Personal Ministries!**

*Source: Personal Guide to Personal Ministries. The Complete Resources for Leaders in Outreach Ministries, Bible Study and Assimilation Committees. Adventsource.*

### “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: Inmate Worship.** Worship. We sing the song ‘O, Come let us adore Him’ – speaking of Jesus. Psalms 29:2: “*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; **worship** the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*” Men and women everywhere are encouraged to worship the Lord. Whether on they are on the outside or behind prison walls, God is to be worshiped. He’s worthy of our praise.

**Inmate Worship** will expose the student to the need to foster religion in Corrections. This course will provide a fundamental knowledge of the cultural environment that he/she will be called upon to minister to the incarcerated.

Not only will the student receive a general knowledge of how to be an effective worker in the prison providing worship for inmates, it will expose the volunteer to the need to minister to the prisoners and to establish the basis for inmate worship.

**Inmate Worship** will also examine Religious Beliefs and Practices, Effective Prison Ministry, and Measuring Inmate Involvement and Its Consequences.

Overall, **Inmate Worship** denotes a microcosm of sub-cultural events that necessitates ministry to the incarcerated and to provide a base and a need for reconciliation. Worship can bring healing.

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 click on [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) for registration information.

### RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

**New! The Sabbath School Handbook.** You’ll read *How Sabbath School was Introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church*, and *How the Local Church Sabbath Schools Should be Organized and Operated*. A “must have” reference tool for those involved in Sabbath School. Available in English and Spanish - \$8.95 - #550000. Order online – [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800.328.0525.

**Practical Guide to Personal Ministries.** Personal Ministries is all about individuals sharing what God has done, is doing, and will do in the life of each person who is open to the direction of the Spirit. Learn about ministry programs

your church can use to reach others: Health Screening, Literacy Ministry, AIDS Ministry and many more. Order online [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800.328.0525 - \$19.95 - #420520. **The Holy Bible**, bestseller - jammed packed with real life stories. Available at most book stores. Prices vary.



## **PRISON HAPPENINGS**

### **Solitary Confinement and a Bible.**

It was on a Sabbath afternoon when I met Jerry at the Maryland Correction Institute Worship Service. He started telling me about his childhood – he had the need to talk.

He was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home, his father was a pastor. “But something went wrong,” he said. His parents divorced when he was 11 years old. It was at that time, Jerry said, “I stopped going to church, I began smoking and drinking. I became very worldly. And this is where I wound up.”

He spoke of being put in solitary confinement and finding a Bible that another inmate had left behind. Jerry picked up the Bible and read it only because he had nothing else to do and nothing else to read.

All alone with only the Bible. Because of this experience, Jerry is now a new creature in Christ. He attends worship service and Bible study regularly. During Testimony Time, he motivates other inmates to study the Bible.

He also has been witnessing to some of the Correctional officers, showing them truths and what the Word has to say about the Sabbath, the Mark of the Beast, the Ten Commandments, and End Time Prophecies.

One simple act on the part of an unknown prisoner - leaving a Bible, in not just a cell, but in solitary confinement – another soul has come to Christ. AMEN!

“Let’s continue to work for the Lord in the prisons,” Mike says, “so that many more souls will be won for Jesus.”

Mike Stango is an active prison minister who goes in to Jessup. He writes from Silver Spring, Maryland.

## **EDITOR’S P.S.**

It was fun kicking off this issue which includes **Sabbath School** and **Personal Ministries**.

The column **From Elder Johnson**- that’s some “real good reading” isn’t it? And there’s more to come. We’re going to stretch out that “good reading” for about an issue or two so you can get the full meaning of what it means to have The Holy Ghost Within Us.

I know there are a lot of good happenings taking place in Personal Ministries and in Sabbath School. Learning and sharing is what **Network News** is all about. So, please start sharing your ideas. Call me at 301.680.6430 or e-mail me at [carol.barron@nad.adventist.org](mailto:carol.barron@nad.adventist.org).

I’m outta here!

CB

