



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

AUGUST 2008

Volume 4

*"A dry crust
eaten in peace
is better than
steak every day
along with
argument and
strife." –
Proverbs 17:1
LB*

• *"You get the best
out of others
when you give
the best of
yourselves." –
Harvey Firestone*

• *"Good work and
good companions
are the buildings
of great
enterprises." --
Anonymous*

• *"If passion drives
you, let reason
hold the reins."—
Benjamin Franklin*

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• 21 Principles to Follow – Part II

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"On Ordination"

Hello, Ministry Partners!

Just this past Sabbath, a very good friend of mine, and a faithful servant of Our Lord, was "Ordained" To The Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ through The Remnant Church at a Camp Meeting. Just learning that the Service was to take place brought a great deal of joy to me.

The privilege of his experience of being "Set Apart", "Commissioned" for a lifetime of service through The Church that may very well carry him to any quarter of the globe, caused me to think about you, and the way you look at your "Ordination" – with a strong hope and a prayer that you think no less of your "Ordination" and the Holy Ghost provided opportunities and authority that attended it, just because your "Ordination" did not take place on center stage at a Camp Meeting.

Ministry Partners, your "Ordination" took place in connection with your Baptism, just as it was connected with the Baptism of Our Lord (Matthew 3:13-17). After Jesus emerged from the water, The Holy Ghost came UPON HIM in the form of a Dove. That Anointing ("Ordination") UPON HIM was the operation that coagulated His Spiritual Gifts and gave Him the capacity to do Public Ministry following His Forty-Day Fast (Matthew 4:1-11), and for the balance of His life on earth.

Oh, Ministry Partner! It matters not where you function. The primary matter is that right now you have the privilege of Ministering under Holy Ghost "Ordained" Authority in cooperation with The Trinity toward the building up of The Kingdom Of God toward His Finished Work! They may never call you President or Pastor. That's fine! Be sure that you allow Our Lord to minister His "Ordination Holy Ghost Anointing" through your humble and dedicated service in His Name, day after day, after day! MARANATHA!

Know that you and yours are constantly and continually in our prayers. Thank you for your service.

JAJ II

P.S. – Plan to attend the April 24-25, 2009 Adult Sabbath School Summit in Silver Spring, Maryland. You can Register - **"No Charge"** in September, 2008!

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

BASIC TEACHING SKILLS FOR THE ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER

The purpose of the Sabbath School is to provide religious education that builds the faith and lifestyle from Bible teachings.

The Sabbath School exists not only to minister to its members, but to train those members to minister to others. The Sabbath School is a school of Christian living, not just an event on Sabbath mornings.

The objectives of the Sabbath School are:

- **To Study the Word of God**
- **To Develop Fellowship**
- **To Promote Evangelism**
- **To Support World Missions**

The Sabbath School Teacher

In no other part of the church's Sabbath morning activities is the ministry of the laity more vital than in the Sabbath School class.

"Those who teach in Sabbath School must have their hearts warmed and invigorated by the truth of God, being not hearers only, but also doers of the Word. They should be nourished in Christ as the branches are nourished in the vine" (Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 94).

Duties of the Adult Sabbath School Teacher

- **Preparation**
- **Helping everyone feel welcome**
- **Serving as the "Undershepherd" of the class**
- **Prayer**
- **Guiding class members to learn and grow**
- **Starting on time**

Learning Styles and the Learning Cycle: Two Dimensions of Learning

1. Perceiving and Processing
2. How We Perceive: Feelers and Thinkers
3. How We Process: Doers and Reflectors

The Learning Cycle

- Connect the learner to the central concept.
- Share with them the expert information.
- Have them apply what they've learned to their personal life.
- Have them explore new possibilities this learning opens up to their lives.



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

Across the NAD in 80 seconds or less (or however long it takes you to read this).

TYLER, TEXAS

The meetings are finished in Tyler, according to Carlos Turcios. In the first four meetings God has graced them with 80 precious souls for His Kingdom. A crusade in Dallas West has already begun.

URICK and DACIA LaDONIS, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Founders, of ChurchPond.com

In the fall of 2002, Urick LaDonis joined a group of other Seventh-day Adventist twentysomethings, college students, and recent graduates, who would meet for vespers on Friday nights. Many of the students found themselves isolated from their churches back home, and disconnected from fellow believers in the Atlanta area.

Urick, known to family and friends as an inventor and innovator, began to think of a way for these students to have access to Christian content whenever they wished. He came up with the idea to film these vesper programs and stream them online so that students could watch them from their dorm rooms. As time passed, this service grew to include church services and flooded its banks to include a wider cross section of the Adventist community.

Today, ChurchPond has its own Web site, which streams live and prerecorded programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Letters, e-mails, and phone calls come in from around the world—Australia, China, India, Trinidad, Jamaica, the African continent, Korea, Europe, and across the United States. A search on Google for the words "live church service" will show ChurchPond as the very first of 2.4 million results.

ChurchPond has come a long way from sharing a weekly vesper service. More than 120, 000 viewers per month access the Web site to view sermons from around the world.

Visitors to the ChurchPond Web site will find church services from more than 48 churches across North America and the Caribbean—and the number is growing steadily.

ChurchPond.com reports at least four people were baptized as a result of InterNet '07. (See the Brenda Perkins' story in the July 2008 issue of *Southern Tidings*, or go online www.adventistreview.org, the issue for July 17, 2008.) With InterNet 2008 slated for the fall of 2008, ChurchPond anticipates an even larger response. Churches are encouraged to contact ChurchPond directly for details on how to become downlink sites for InterNet '08.

Article by D. Dwayne Adams for

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Q & A

How can I get a Ministry for Singles/Single Parents started?

We're here to help you. Read over this outline, customize it for your church and community needs, and give it a try.

A Planning Session

Invite the Family Ministries coordinator, Women's Ministries leader, Sabbath School superintendent, Communication representative, the Pastor, your local Adventist Community Services director, and the members of the Personal Ministries committee or Church Ministries Council.

The purpose of the meeting is to develop a ministry with singles and single parents in your community as well as within the congregation.

In preparation for the meeting, talk with the directors of Family Ministries and Women's Ministries for your conference. Get ideas for programs and services to help singles and single parents, and find out what resource materials are available.

Agenda

Read Matthew 19:13-15 for the devotional. Ask the group to discuss the implications of denying a youngster the Kingdom of God.

Single parents frequently suffer from a shortage of time, money and energy. Discuss the local church's role in helping a single parent, and in the social and spiritual development of a child.

Discuss format and options of programs that will minister to single parents. For instance, consider whether it will be a one-time activity or on-going. Plan for child care. The goal is to provide a lovely experience that is relaxing and rejuvenating for the mothers and fathers.

- Decide place, date, and time for a kick-off event.
- Appoint a ministry coordinator and steering committee.
- Vote a budget and outline spending and income.
- Agree on criteria for measuring the success of this ministry after six months or a year.

After the Meeting

As soon as possible after the meeting, type the list of assignments and deadlines, the names and phone numbers of key personnel, and other information.

Promptly send copies to each of the individuals invited to the meeting, as well as anyone who was given an assignment during the meeting.

Note: The statistics for divorce among Christians aren't significantly different from those of non-Christians. However, there may be a greater proportion of pain and sense of failure. The additional burden comes from the underlying feeling that the religious system did not resolve the source of conflict in the relationship. One questions God's lack of intervention, another wonders why prayers went unanswered. Congregations must guard against the inclination to add to the burden of [divorce] by condemning. Jesus ate with sinners, much to the dismay of the religious leaders.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

21 PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW

IN LEADING A SMALL GROUP – PART II

Principle #11 – “Follow-up” of members between meetings is essential.

- ❖ *Absentees telephoned and encouraged.*
- ❖ *Visitors/new people telephoned and invited to attend.*
- ❖ *Regular attendees telephoned and encouraged.*

Principle #12 – New members being brought into the group will keep it alive and growing.

Principle #13 – Handle people with difficult emotional needs and counseling issues away from the group on a one-to-one basis.

Principle #14 – Don’t allow anyone to confess anyone else’s faults but their own.

Principle #15 – The leader must take care of their personal spiritual need through personal Bible study, prayer and quiet time with God.

Principle #16 – Keep learning - don’t have all the answers.

Principle #17 – Be *relaxed* and maintain a *relaxed* attitude in the group.

**Principle #18 – A good sense of humor is a valuable asset!
(Proverbs 17:22) It . . .**

- ❖ *Releases tension*
- ❖ *Relaxes our bodies*
- ❖ *Rests our spirits*
- ❖ *Renews our hearts/energy*
- ❖ *Re-orientes our life perspective*

Principle #19 – When you have a need in your own life, ask your group for help.

Principle #20 – When you have problems or need help, go to your pastor or leader for assistance.

Principle #21 – Remember it is Jesus who does the leading – not us.

"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

"The dictionary defines "subculture" as an ethnic, regional, economic, or social group exhibiting characteristic patterns of behavior sufficient to distinguish it from others within an embracing culture or society. The study of Prison Subcultures investigates the way prisoners adjust to prison, the way they learn to "do their time," and the resulting prison social structure.

Description

Prison Subcultures 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 students 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 the 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 subcultural 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 for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Truth Speaks For Itself!

He's about eighteen years old – incarcerated at the Oakhill Youth Center, Laurel, Maryland. He's a Christian, but the majority of the population is Muslims or claim-to-be-Muslims.

“There wasn't a group meeting the night that I went to Oakhill, but I met with a few of the guys who wanted to talk with me. They were asking questions, and I was trying to answer them.

“Tavone, the eighteen year old, wanted to know what was going to happen at the end of the world. I took him straight to the Bible, and read to him I Thessalonians 4:15-18.

“After the texts were read, Tavone thought about it, and said 'That doesn't sound like when you die you go to heaven.' He wanted to know where the spirit went. I explained to him from Genesis 2:7 how God breathed into man the breath of life. I explained that the breath (spirit) goes back to God when a person dies.

“After reading from the Bible to him and to the other guys who were sitting with us, it became as clear as a light shining in the darkness to Tavone, that when you die you don't go straight to heaven, but you return to the dust of the earth, and the breath goes back to God.

“Truth speaks for itself. Truth shines like a light in darkness. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

Told by Scott Iskanian, Silver Spring, Maryland

EDITOR'S P.S.

This is a good issue. ChurchPond.com excited me. With a click of the control you can go “live” to church in Australia, Korea, or Atlanta, Georgia. Praise God for the technology, and for those who are using it for His Glory and Honor.

Or how Scott (see Prison Ministry Happenings) obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit, even when he didn't *really* want to go out that rainy night to the prison. God had something for him to do. Scott obeyed. Some guys received the truth!

Elder Johnson's editorial “On Ordination” really got to me. What an assurance to know that the blessed Holy Ghost Ordination Anointing is on our ministry. We're ministering under Divine Unction. That's powerful and exciting!

The upcoming **Sabbath School Summit – April 24, 25, 2009**, is definitely anointed of God – the “Ordination”. The Summit is planned to encourage you to do a greater work for the Lord, to reaffirm your “ordination” in the ministry of Sabbath School. You really **shouldn't** miss this Summit!

We're going to *feed* you, *instruct* you, and *fellowship* with you. With our **No Registration Fee**, there'll be no excuse for not attending. You just book your airfare and hotel, and get to the General Conference Headquarters. I'll have more information for you in the September newsletter. Or, better yet, contact me and get ahead of the rush - 301.680.6430 - carol.barron@nad.adventist.org.

I'm outta here!

CB

