



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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*"A Christian who doesn't amount to much in this world should be glad, for he is great in the Lord's sight." –James 1:9 LVB*

*"Trust your hunches. They're usually based on facts filed away just below the conscious level." –Dr. Joyce Brothers*

*"Listening not imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery." – Ibid*

*"Accept blame as well as fame." – Pocket Book of Integrity*

## IN THIS ISSUE READ ABOUT

- **RECEPTIVITY: IT WORKS**
- **FRIENDSHIP SABBATH**

### "GOD WILL MAKE A WAY"

Dear Ministry Partners,

Do you remember 'back in the days' when in any given situation, the old folks would say, "The Lord Will Make A Way . . . Somehow?" I couldn't understand how The Lord was going to "Make A Way" and "Somehow" when everything was looking bleak, dark and dreary. But yet, they said it, they believed it, and sure enough, in time, "God Made A Way."

My Friends, there are many individuals who want to come to the Festival Of The Laity, but financially, they are not able to do so. We are so concerned for these people. They call our office expressing their desire to attend this exciting event – but the money just isn't there. Have you ever said, as many of us have, "If I were a millionaire . . . I would. . . ."

Perhaps this person is interested and longs to be involved in the ministries of the church, but just needs a jump start on how to minister to the blind, or interact with youth/young adults, or they've been thinking about entering public evangelism, or they have a friend or loved one that they want to see reconnected to the church. Or they may have an interest in prison ministry or music and worship. What an opportunity they will have to grow in these and other ministries, by attending the Festival Of The Laity. All because of you.

Please join us in prayer that **God Will Make A Way**. His ways are past finding out. If you're one of the persons that the Holy Spirit is impressing to "make a way" for that individual to attend the Festival, please contact that person now. God bless you, and we thank you for listening and responding to the Holy Spirit.

It's not too late to register – [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com). We'll see you in Dallas, September 7-10, 2011 at the Festival Of The Laity.

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

## ***FRIENDSHIP SABBATH – PART I***

Friendship Sabbath can be the most exciting event of the year! It is a time when every member is encouraged to bring a visitor. It is a simple but highly effective outreach.

### **PRAY**

1. At least three months before Friendship Sabbath every Sabbath School officer and department leader should begin claiming each day the promise found in John 14:13, 14. Although growth in attendance will not be accomplished by prayer alone, a Sabbath School cannot consistently grow without prayer.
2. Members should be encouraged to pray for Friendship Sabbath not only at their devotional times but also at meals.
3. Some members and officers may feel so burdened about reaching out to community friends that they will join together for a day of fasting to seek God's special blessings on this program.

### **SET GOALS**

As you share this program with council members, one of the first projections will be goals set by divisions. Each leader should decide what attendance figure they want to reach. After division goals have been established, they should be shared with the church. Each division should devise a unique way of posting these attendance goals. Not only must the goals be posted but there must be progress reports as plans go into operation. Enthusiasm will result from a united program like this.

### **EDUCATE SABBATH SCHOOL STAFF AND MEMBERSHIP ON OUTREACH CONCEPTS**

Just as muscles are built by jogging, lifting weights or aerobic exercise, soul-winning is achieved in a similar manner. People who are not accustomed to soul-winning programs must be led step by step by precept and example. First, explain that God will not do the work He has commissioned the church to do. Nor can the church do what God must do. For instance, to pray only for those out of Christ and do nothing personally to win them to Christ, will accomplish very little. Only God can convict of sin. Only God can put broken homes together again. But God must use His people in this redemptive work. It is a team operation.

To prepare for Friendship Sabbath, the congregation should be informed approximately two months before it is scheduled. From that time forward, increased promotion and organization should take place. Remember, the larger the goals, the longer it takes to convince people to reach them.

## **WHAT'S HOT!**

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

#### ***TEXICO CONFERENCE – PASO, TEXAS***

The Adventist Community Services ministry of the El Paso Central church hosted the biggest baby shower ever held in the city of El Paso on January 29, 2011 at the El Paso Junior Academy gym. The event, which was designed to provide for the needs of single mothers and battered women, received wide support from both the church family and community. Angie McFarland, the community services leader, spearheaded the planning and preparations for almost three months.

One hundred and thirty volunteers participated, including 35 non-Adventists, who helped to set up the venue and sorted donated goods from the church members, local department stores, schools, and individuals. Other community organizations, such as Alcoholic Anonymous, were also involved. The media played a major role in the success of the event with Fox News and K-Love Radio providing pre-event reporting and the El Paso Times covering the main event. A total of five organizations benefited from this occasion. Aside from the baby shower, different booths were also set up, which provided free blood pressure checks and blood sugar screening.

*Rodel Liwanag, pastor. Published in Southwestern Union Record, June 2011*

#### ***OHIO CONFERENCE – MISSION, OHIO***

The Ohio Conference recently launched their Jewish Ministry outreach with Pastor Alexander Bolotnikov, PhD, at the helm. With an estimated 150,000 Jews in Ohio, this new ministry is banking on similarities between Judaism and Adventism to broker understanding and dialogue between the two communities.

*Published in Visitor, July 2011*

#### ***PROJECT LINUS – DES MOINES, IOWA***

Students in grades 4 to 6 at Des Moines Adventist Junior Academy make fleece blankets for Project Linus, which distributes them to children in crisis at women's shelters, police stations and hospital emergency rooms. Church families donate materials to be cut and tied. So far the students have finished 15 blankets. They also write letters to go with the blankets.

*June 2011 [www.outlookmag.org](http://www.outlookmag.org)*

#### ***PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA***

Members of the Prentis Park Worship Center are leading the fight against AIDS, providing HIV testing and prevention education. They're also serving and ministering to patients.

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

## Q & A

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**Q – We want to give each visitor a packet. What should go in it?**

**A – This is a very good idea and also helpful. You can include a map of the Sabbath School rooms and church; some history of the church such as Bible study groups, a list of weekday activities, Pathfinder or Adventurer Clubs, Health classes, Community Services Center, Family Life workshops and Evangelistic seminars, the brochure What's An Adventist? And Information about the local Seventh-day Adventist School.**

**Q – In our church we would like to start honoring people on Community Guest Day. Any suggestions who to honor?**

**A – There are many people in your community who service your church, such as the church florist, funeral director, bank manager, postal service, Fire Department, feeding program director in the community, homeless shelter director, or public school principal. Check your Yellow Pages or go on the Internet. Have fun doing this. It's a wonderful way to really get to know your community.**

**Q – A good while back you wrote about parties for homeless children – it was good! Would you write something again?**

**A – Thank you. There are a lot of myths about the homeless. One is that the homeless are mostly "winos" who are shiftless and are on the street by choice. Not so. According to the Children's Defense Fund, the fastest growing segment of the homeless is families. It is estimated that at any one time more than 100,000 children are homeless across North America. The sad thing is that children usually grow up to be what they experience. What kind of future do homeless children have unless someone shows love and concern? Your congregation can create some good memories for homeless children.**

**A – "Back-To-School" party in August during which gifts of school clothing and supplies are distributed and parents are encouraged to see that their children go to school despite the problems they face. A "Birthday Party" which could be conducted once a month, once a quarter or even once a year, inviting all homeless or low income children. Whatever type of party you throw, make it a truly festive occasion with balloons, door prizes, healthful meals, because that meal may be the only decent meal some of the children get for a week or more. Let the Party Begin!**

## **PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL'S PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

### ***Receptivity: What it Is and How it Works – Part 2 of 2***

***A pastor and a visitor from another country rounded a corner on the road and saw stretched out before them a well-watered plain divided into sections by dusty roads. As far as the eye could see there were palm trees eight to ten feet tall.***

***"Beautiful sight," said the visitor.***

***"See those small palm trees," the pastor said, "new churches can be started here."***

***"What," asked the visitor, "do palm trees have to do with starting new churches?"***

***"Everything," replied the pastor. "Those small trees tell me that this is a new population, recently moved into this valley. They have broken away from their former associates and families. They are making new friends and looking for new ideas. This is the time to start churches here."***

***For a number of reasons, people become receptive to the gospel at different times. "Receptive" means that they are willing, and even eager, to hear the gospel story, make a decision, and become followers of the Lord.***

***No one knows exactly why some individuals, and even large groups of people like tribes or families, suddenly become receptive. Apparently the Holy Spirit manages to make breakthroughs at certain times.***

***Here's the rule of thumb: When it is apparent that people are receptive to the gospel, concentrate your human and material resources on that receptive group.***

#### **Receptive Times**

- **Moving to a new community**
- **A new baby**
- **Death of a loved one**
- **A change in marital status**
- **A change in job status**
- **Sickness**
- **First child enters school**
- **Change in financial status**
- **Foreclosure on a loan or mortgage**
- **Outstanding personal achievement**
- **Change in social activities**
- **Christmas season**
- **Retirement**
- **Change in residence**

## **"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 Communication VCHP.244**

*What if you could diffuse tension and create accord in even the most volatile situations?*

*--Jorea McNamee-Blount -Internet*

*The purpose of communication is to get your message across to others clearly and unambiguously.*

*www.mindtools.com*

### **Description**

*This Module describes basic communication practices with inmates and surveys communicative guidelines for promoting proper and effective communication with inmates.*

### **Overview**

*This model introduces fundamental guidelines for volunteers to effectively communicate with inmates. It suggests how to communicate and methods of communication. This Module briefly describes the kind of people that volunteers will encounter, as well as acquainting them with volunteer expectation in dealing with inmates.*

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1. To acquaint the student with the fundamentals of communicating with inmates.*
- 2. To introduce the student to guidelines for communication with inmates.*
- 3. To introduce the volunteers to the kind of inmates that they will be communicating with.*

*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

### ***Making Ministers of Inmates: Unlocking the potential of the church within Angola prison.***

*If I told you there was a place where the church was growing dramatically—conversions followed by baptisms and discipleship, red-hot leadership development, and measurable improvements in the well-being of the surrounding community—and it was in North America, not Africa or Asia, you might not believe me. If I told you it was happening in the nation’s largest maximum security prison, Louisiana State Penitentiary, you wouldn’t believe. Given the prison’s sordid history, which has inspired books and movies, including *Dead Man Walking* (1995) and *The Green Mile* (1999), it is indeed an unlikely story. “It’s truly a God thing,” said Norris Grubbs, senior associate dean of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS), which has administered a seminary training program inside Louisiana’s penitentiary, known as Angola, since 1995. With an inmate population of some 5,200, 85 percent of whom are violent offenders, Angola is the nation’s largest, and historically most notorious, prison. But now Angola has a very different reputation, largely a result of NOBTS program, called the Angola Extension, which has graduated 192 inmate ministers, as they are called, since it began 15 years ago.*

*Modeled after the seminary’s Bachelor of Ministry degree, the Angola Extension is a 126-hour program operated year-round in the prison, fall and spring semesters, with lighter, modular courses offered during the summer. The curriculum in this fully accredited Bible college is taught by a rotation of NOBTS and visiting faculty—Greek and Hebrew, pastoral care, preaching, biblical studies, church history, systematic theology, and evangelism.*

*“We didn’t have any idea what it would develop into—God has kept opening doors,” Grubbs said. The goal of the program, to graduate a corps of educated inmate ministers, has been realized—all of them now busy ministering among Angola’s huge prison population, and beyond. “Men in prison are in a constant state of crisis—it’s 100 percent of the time,” said inmate minister Tom (inmates’ names have been disguised for publication), who graduated from the Extension program in 2007. “The inmate ministers”, said Jim Rentz, senior chaplain with the prison’s chaplain’s department which oversees and mentors the inmate ministry, “walk with tears in the cells.”*

*--Phillip Apol, Leadership Journal, Summer 2011*

### **EDITOR’S P.S**

***Do you need a cure for self-consciousness? Instead of saying, How do I look?” What can I say? Or “What do they think of me?” switch your consciousness to other people by giving ‘em L. How? Lose yourself in other people by: L=Look at people’s faces intently. L=Lean forward and direct your complete attention on them and nothing else. L=Lift your eyebrows to counteract passivity. L=Listen with you head cocked to one side. “The essence of charm is the ability to lose yourself in the other person.” – Eleanor Roosevelt***

***What’s Holding You Back? By Sam Horn***

***I’m outta here!***

**CB**

