

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS ON THE FOUR GOALS OF SABBATH SCHOOL FROM THE SABBATH SCHOOL SUMMIT - APRIL 24-25, 2009

GOAL #1 – BIBLE STUDY

- Conference Live – teleconferencing – face book – email.
- Testimonies in first 15 minutes –take prayer requests.
- Focus on the family – give presents and literature.
- More time for Bible studies for Sabbath School – class in the home – Bible study during pot luck – small group studies on Friday night.
- Small groups with a facilitator to direct the group – facilitator acts as “policeman” to keep timing – being able to complete a lesson; a courteous way to getting back to the lesson without offending anyone.
- Assign people for different days of the week and then call them to remind them of their assignment.
- Every member has a friend to encourage during the week -preferably someone who is not a member.
- Pairing with other members for calls, blogs, and vespers.
- Use different Bible versions, apply to our daily lives and do what we believe. More action - less words.
- Memorize the Bible; emphasize the study of the Word. The Sabbath School should be a study guide.
- Have a gifted facilitator – involving everyone, inviting participation. Learn environment, address felt needs of individuals. Teacher tends to give answers, not allowing others to share; know your group members, visitors and members.
- Individual class rooms – an environment conducive to study. Bible study does not equal Sabbath School – create the expectation on what the student should study. Facilitators should be trained.
- Use the umbrella method to teach; not restrictive to day-by-day discussion.
- Facilitator could ask the students what they are dealing with. Each week the teacher can zero in on one issue to address and bring about a solution/s with the lesson.
- Have the best qualified person teaching a particular subject. If you are not knowledgeable on a subject, please get someone else.
- Switch the time – role play – discuss subjects other than lesson that encourage.

- Alternate topics for meeting different needs in different places, cultures.
- Use of technology for study.
- Personalized classes to meet different needs.
- Make study relevant to today's lifestyle.
- Flip the order of our services - preaching first, Sabbath School second.
- Use more audio visuals; more memorization, more mentoring/facilitating/small groups.
- Diversify from quarterly – more practical application.
- Teachers should assign a part of the lesson to students to share their ideas for the following week.
- Sabbath School Teacher Workshops.
- Ask: What specific point would you want to share and apply?
- Text given a week before, research the text and present it.
- Buddy System – study during the week and present to the class your findings.
- Enthusiasm – make the class interesting – training – leadership – small groups (6-8).
- Pastors involved with Sabbath School.
- Educators study the lessons.
- Bowie (Maryland) Project – used face book. Membership growing!
- Conducive Bible Study for large groups.
- Use 13th Sabbath as Sabbath School – entire day.
- Bible Bowl using Sabbath School Lesson.
- Take time to care for people.
- Class Ministries Secretary follow-up on absentees. Mail quarterly to them.
- Entire class goes to the home of the person who is absent from church.
- Best time to implement something new is at Sabbath School time – it's a flexible period to try anything.
- Sit closer (smaller groups) interaction.
- Use individual class rooms.
- Teach "how to study".
- Call members each week – connect young people to Sabbath School.
- Send Sabbath School lessons to nursing homes – habilitation centers – have Sabbath School with them.
- Start Sabbath School at 9:00 – have a breakfast – spend entire hour studying entire quarter.

- Study ways and means of reinstating local Teachers' Meetings.
- Prepare questions on the lesson and ask them during the study to promote interest.
- Invite people for lunch after service and talk about problems and pray for one another.
- Assign people to study with one another (co-studying).
- Quilts for the sick and shut-ins.
- Special prayer book for each church member with pages for answers to prayer.
- Small groups study on Friday nights.
- Short Sabbath School program to have longer lesson studies.
- Youth interacting with adult groups.
- Summarize lessons for a week.
- Random assignment of facilitator for Sabbath School to encourage members to be prepared for the lessons.
- Sabbath School teachers to meet ahead of time to have informal teaching of Sabbath School lessons.
- Collecting ideas to improve Bible study.
- Pre-test class before the lesson starts to perk their thinking.
- Pre-meeting of the teachers so that they are prepared for the lesson.
- Individual class rooms – an environment conducive to study.
- Bible study does not equal Sabbath School.
- Study should be practical. Tie-in to real world experiences.
- Have students make the lesson relevant.
- Not enough time for study. Lesson can be continued over lunch. Have an afternoon study. – Legislative study.
- Listen to contributions from class members.
- Enthusiasm and sincerity. Make the study alive by making personal applications.
- Try by the help of the Holy Spirit to understand each member.
- Allow for creativity in the class.
- Have Bible study partners for the work.
- Let there be accessibility after the class.
- Address members by name.
- Add humor.
- Build relationships with members.

- Teach inductive Bible study.
- Use technology – Facebook – teleconferencing.
- Use the Bible in study – Scripture with Scripture – home work for class – application.
- Secular challenge: defense or support of our beliefs.
- Study outside regular Sabbath School time.
- Study other subjects other than the lesson encourages.
- Use more visuals – act it out – more time for lesson study.
- More participation by general congregation.
- More in-depth study – how.
- Additional study time at a different time.
- Continue Sabbath School in someone's house.
- Study a topic from the Sabbath School – studied at a later time.
- Smaller classes.
- Implementation from the pulpit (pastor?).
- Assign class members to summarize portions of the lesson.
- Involve more volunteer teachers.
- Pre-Sabbath School Teachers' Meetings to highlight key points in lesson.
- More text memorization.
- Special pot luck for leadership for the whole quarter to review.
- Engage the class members more in the study and teaching.
- Methods to get members to study in advance.
- Assign points of Sabbath School to others to teach in advance.
- Creative teaching methods.
- Quizzes and gifts to increase motivation.
- Teachers teach – not preach.
- Individual summarize lesson in church service.
- Fasting and prayer for Sabbath School.
- More audio visuals.
- More memorization.
- More mentoring/facilitating /small groups.
- Have each teacher/student to take a day to get involved.
- Team teaching concept.
- Train teachers to be more of facilitators and equip them to teach better.
- More teacher/student interaction from teachers to igniters.
- Expanding Sabbath School to entertain more difficult topics.

- Smaller classes. Check how they are organized look for a more dynamic model.
- Make goals/evaluate quarterly.
- Preparation begins at home.
- Emphasize key issues.
- Make connections between previous lesson and current lesson (weekly).
- Simplify quarterly – Easy Reading.
- Location: park – songs, games, light food, transportation.
- Every member would present a day within the class.
- Demonstrate how to study the Sabbath School lesson.
- Facilitator would focus on the main points of the lesson.
- Once a quarter have Sabbath School in place of divine service. Study the lesson throughout the day.
- Game: to construct a “lesson bowl.”

GOAL #2 – FELLOWSHIP

- Get together at non church events – meet new people – start new relationships – knowing that the church cannot win strangers.
- Identify and eliminate classes or cliques that exclude certain people.
- Operate a postcard ministry for church and non church families – writing affirming and encouraging messages.
- Have a “Dress Alike” or “Twin Day” – i.e. same tie, same dress.
- Individual Sabbath School class project – visiting nursing home – visiting people’s homes that are in need, fixing, repairing items.
- Neighbors’ Day meeting at church.
- Face book – inviting friends to come and attend Sabbath School programs – go to the park and have Sabbath School.
- Prepare dinner and invite people to come and enjoy the fellowship.
- Community Guest Day - invite non members try and meet their needs.
- Personal touch – interviewing others – birthday acknowledgement – pray for others and let them know you’re praying for them.
- Integrate small groups – outings.
- Sabbath School Appreciation Day – acknowledge students for accomplishments, anniversaries/birthdays.
- Befriend them to win them.
- Plan a potluck with non Adventist spouses.
- Greeters to personally welcome visitors and personally take them to the Sabbath School class. Facilitator recognizes and welcomes them.
- Know your members. We say “Hello” but don’t want to hear their response on how they are actually feeling. Help visitors feel at home.
- Ask God to give you someone to pray for. Ask God to bring a visitor.
- Know how to approach visitors – spend time to know about their family.
- Potlucks or pot blessings – eating together. Breakfast repast in the morning before Sabbath School.
- Chat room for fellowship – face book or Tweeter website.
- Attending each other’s family special occasions.
- Follow Jesus’ method of meeting people’s needs first to build relationships then invite.
- Begin a buddy system.
- Send a card to every visitor or missing member each week.

- Send e-cards letting them know “we missed you, glad to see you”, or words of encouragement or send a regular card.
- Each class takes a turn in providing lunch or breakfast.
- Prayer groups to let people know you are praying for them.
- Call roster for class that each member of the class will have.
- Intentional activities to make friends – 2 major events a year.
- Designate a person each week to invite a guest home.
- Be intentional about getting to know people – ice breaker exercise – rearrange the class setting – field trips outside the church building.
- Register class and “pick-a-pal” for getting to know the members.
- Give the classes a name so they will have an identity.
- More creative type programming to involve more people. Rotate teachers.
- Have Sabbath School Teams – pray with visitors.
- Sabbath School class needs fellowship director. Facilitate PAL Ministry – pen pal.
- Call people by their names. Call each other “Brother” and “Sister instead of “Doctor”.
- Give class names of disciples, i.e. Peter, James, John, etc., it will help to keep focus about ministry.
- Have a monthly or quarterly meeting with class for fellowship.
- Take prayer requests before starting lesson study.
- Start Sabbath program consistently on time whether you have one or two people inside the church.
- Nursing home and hospital visitation and make them happy by fellowshipping with sick people.
- Create a pin “ringing someone”.
- Greeters to personally welcome visitors and personally take them to the Sabbath School class and facilitators to recognize and welcome them.
- Show interest in visitors, ask their names.
- Visit each others’ homes.
- Shifting time until after service for fellowship.
- Acknowledge special events (graduations, anniversaries, and birthdays).
- Have a Class Directory – members call each other during the week.
- Telephone ministry.
- Go outdoors as the weather permits.
- Plan an activity as the weather permits.

- The one who does the most talking is invited to dinner – family and all.
- Show genuine concern for members.
- Two to three years in class before turnover in class – to build consistency and intimacy.
- Incorporate reporting system again into the Sabbath School.
- Increase our welcoming system to include parking lot.
- Go back to one service.
- Re-institute 13th Sabbath celebration.
- Contact people during the week to encourage and help.
- Sabbath classes provide lunch each week.
- Membership list complete for contacting members when missing.
- Get names of missing members and pray for them.
- Visit, call missing members, as appropriate.
- Include more people in the program.
- Sabbath School members to vocally welcome non-members to fellowship.
- Assign family to sit with visitors to make them feel welcome.
- Use young people to distribute videos and collect later – and interview /Block Buster approach.
- Be alert to vocally welcome everyone.
- Visit missing members by the class to teach the Sabbath School lesson.
- Branch Sabbath School in community centers, nursing homes, etc.
- Outside Sabbath School activities, inviting non-members to attend.
- Celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.
- Adopt new habits of welcoming people by offering your seat.
- Personal accountability for fellowship.
- Follow-up various programs with contacts and fellowship.
- Numerous churches come together.
- Invite someone to lunch.
- Get visitors involved.
- Follow-up with a call to visitors.
- Invite to social event in place outside of church.
- Class leader coordinate fellowship.
- Buddy system.
- Birthday club.
- Birthday celebration for birthdays in the month.
- Switch class around to get to know others.

- Sabbath School greeters that would get to know the visitor (befriend the visitor).
- Each person in the class gets the opportunity to facilitate the class.
- A Call roster for class that each member of the class will have.
- Intentional activities to make friends – two major events per year – class exercise – buddy system – social events.
- Interview one individual per class to learn more about the person.
- Emphasize the need for warmth in the greeters, have name tags.
- Encourage members to share something of god's blessing each week.
- Open Sabbath School with an ice breaker; i.e. Who would you want to meet of all persons throughout history?
- Have an in-house picnic – include someone else.
- Sabbath School breakfast – have lesson at the table.
- Rearrange the class setting.
- Field trips outside the church building.
- Recognize individuals, special days and achievements.
- Joint family worship. Have all family members participate.
- Have activities of a social nature outside of Sabbath (block party) invite non-members.
- Sabbath School potluck.
- Sports activities as ministries.
- Lord's Table with food. Literature table for outreach.

GOAL #3 – OUTREACH

- Start creative sports ministries involving youth from 8 to 12 years of age.
- Adopt a doctor's office for Media outreach.
- Invite and interview local community leaders.
- Form small groups for friendships with Muslim friends – sharing food, beliefs with one another.
- Create booth for community with health books about diabetes, how to stop smoking, blood pressure problems, etc.
- Create sunshine band that provides music ministry for senior residents.
- Don't be afraid to offer up your church facility as a community service center – host social, civic and even scholastic events.
- Survey the community – do a needs assessment then work to address specific needs in a consistent, persistent way.
- Coordinate witnessing ministries with all departments of the church – it should not be a competition between departments, but a general church ministries.
- Youth and children have a way to get community attention. Use them!
- Sabbath School members could visit nursing homes, prisons, adopt military families – shovel snow, mow the neighbor's lawn, give them spiritual DVD to watch.
- "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?" Invite visitors, friends or share an invitation – interface hospitality network provide food, help with home work.
- Designate a Sabbath School class to go out and do street ministry.
- Have an Outreach for people who speak other languages.
- Reclamation: targeted effort to contact lost members using small group/team efforts.
- Sabbath School fellowship in peoples' homes so that the community can be invited to enjoy a Bible study. Doesn't have to be on the Sabbath.
- Sabbath School should choose a ministry feeding program, a children's ministry.
- Give a series of tracts to church members to hand out – tracts about programs for kids, women, men that will be held at the church/community center in succeeding weeks.
- Work and play with other churches in the community to build relationships.
- Offer classes to community, e.g., CPR, First aid, etc.
- Rainbow program for kids experiencing losses, i.e. – death, divorce.

- Extend Sabbath School outside to the community through field trips.
- Provide counseling services to the community. Vegetarian cooking classes.
- Put quarterlies in public places, hair salons, and shopping centers.
- Take Sabbath School to the sick and shut in.
- Take a small group to the home or hospital and fellowship and study with the people.
- Interfaith programs – community programs – sharing and praying with persons in the community who need prayer.
- Community outings – learn of the needs of the people – meet the needs of the community.
- Adopt a college student.
- Free car wash. Free grass cutting service.
- Health fair participation – use CNAs – medical professionals.
- Pass out pamphlets at Halloween at houses (using kids).
- Prayer walking.
- International Food Fest – have literature available at different tables.
- Mailing of Discover Bible Studies and follow-up visits – Evangelism one-on-one.
- Training leaders in the class to make a connection with 5 people – foster small group ministry.
- Seminars on How to Volunteer in the Community.
- Sabbath School class becomes a discover Bible School run by students over Internet.
- Sabbath School sponsors a Sunday Prayer Service for the community.
- Invite a Christian celebrity to share his/her faith.
- Hold community classes i.e., tutoring, financial, computer for adults and children.
- Join in community sponsored activities – block party – open church facilities.
- Back pack – providing items for children.
- Adopt a family in the neighborhood.
- Adopt a group home.
- Bible Games Day for children and elderly.
- “Get Together Day” learning how to get along with others.
- NAPS Students – drum and bugle corps – marching attracts people – be prepared to answer questions from bystanders.

- Community – deacons pass out parking cones on Sabbath to residents – showing respect to community.
- Have Sabbath School class sponsor a project – it becomes a Sabbath School Project.
- Put up a special Sabbath day such as Community Guest Day, Visitors’ Day, and Youth Day.
- Befriend somebody and offer service to meet their need physically, emotionally and other.
- Pet blessing like you can have non-members to bring their pets to be blessed. Some people consider pets as part of their family.
- Door-to-door survey.
- Providers for tax preparation for low-income tax payers, immigrants, non-church.
- Flea markets – pass out information.
- Outreach programs to children to reach parents and build relationships.
- V.B.S. programs include adult program.
- Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs to gain community children.
- Gift package to need persons – make up by church members.
- Help people in their homes i.e., yard work, cleaning, etc.
- Leave tracts in restrooms, stations, etc.
- Visiting Nurses Association – get names of people to help.
- Kids do can drive and pathfinders deliver.
- In place of Sabbath School go into the community and pray with people – prayer walking.
- Pray for a street by going to that street and pray.
- Target a needy community and pray for them. Once a month take food to that area to give away.
- Work and play with other churches in the community to build relationships.
- Prison ministry – take Sabbath School to teach lesson onsite.
- Start a bilingual prison Sabbath School with several churches working together on a week night.
- Bilingual classes for the community.
- A kid’s community center that offers various programs to community kids.
- Bible classes via radio, TV, internet.
- Seventh-day Adventist and non Seventh-day Adventist churches get together to promote specific ministries.

- Inviting families to Sabbath School – sending quarterly to them and following-up for the outcome.
- Connecting to the community through newsletters.
- Planning community fellowship.
- Take lesson to members who cannot come to Sabbath School.
- Save a specific coin for a project.
- Get a CD of the Sabbath School lesson copied and share it with others.
- Have educational classes and invite the community.
- Have a spiritual gift class.
- Clean a street – adopt a highway.
- Have a project to help senior members.
- Establish a Branch Sabbath School.
- Community Health Fair.
- Vacation Bible School Reunion.
- Pass out water at fairs or on a hot day.
- Have an outreach weekend and members decide their tasks: paint, sew, etc.
- Ask for permission to place magazines in various types of offices.
- In a senior citizen building offer some sort of service.
- Reaching out to college students – care packages.
- Free grass cutting.
- Free reading materials available at sales.
- Wearing t-Shirts with church's name during a street clean-up.
- Place Sabbath School roll on excel to know who's coming and who's not.
- Bring friends and relatives.
- Train church to go into the community.
- Branch Sabbath School with clearly defined goals.
- Community Day.
- Cooperate with other department ministries under Outreach.
- Bible Story Hour.
- Kid sponsored programs.
- Missing former member contact.
- Outreach to physically and mentally challenged.
- Printed invitations.
- Contact church community and plan activities in neighborhood.
- Tutoring program for neighborhood kids and adults who need it.

- Join in community sponsored activities.
- Block party and open church facilities.
- Food bank, clothing closet, Dorcas for needy.
- Community service.
- Invite police, fire department to make presentation.
- Plan activity to meet all ages and all needs of community.
- Invite community to school – school breakfast.
- Get acquainted with people around the church.
- Offer community classes.
- Adopt a family in the neighborhood.
- Fair before school begins.

GOAL #4 – WORLD MISSION

- Find someone from the area of Outreach to put a personal face on the mission area of focus.
- Plan a mission trip or adopt a mission project.
- Sabbath School could sponsor one class member to go on a mission trip.
- A class could sponsor to train a lay person to minister in a particular place.
- Help members to be aware of mission opportunities, particularly short-term mission trips.
- Keep the focus on the 13th Sabbath Offering.
- Have a potluck that reflects the food from the mission area for a particular quarter. Ask members to bring a 13th Sabbath love offering.
- Adopt a child.
- Sponsor Literature Evangelists within the United States.
- Have a mobile clinic.
- Make friends with non Adventists. Develop friendship letting them know “we care”.
- Make friends with other cultures, race and religions. Learn and understand other cultures.
- Be a missionary 24/7 – asking God for the Holy Spirit through prayer.
- Invite families of different countries to church. World Sabbath Day or International Day.
- Follow patterns of Christ.
- Invite retired missionary to share experience in Sabbath School.
- Bring mission focus to Sabbath School to better identify and understand peoples’ needs.
- Share Him Program- raise money to fund different programs.
- Sponsor evangelistic crusade at home. Provide monetary manpower to minister to people in our homeland.
- Collect food labels for Kellogg cereals which are 5 cents each (this is done in the U.S. to promote Investment). Identify and promote specific mission projects at home and abroad. People give to what they see and feel.
- Promote actual mission trips to targeted areas – not just to support it.
- Capitalize on technology to enhance the Gospel around the world.
- Orientate new members that we are a worldwide church; also, it will be a refresher for the older members.

- Have a potluck with food from the mission field currently being studied – decorate with flags of that country, etc.
- Connect online to members in the mission field to a specific Seventh-day Adventist church/school/university.
- Do a mission program outside of Sabbath School, A.Y., etc.
- Set up phone communication with the people where the offering is going.
- Sponsor International Dress and Food Day – collect donations to go overseas.
- Show DVD Mission moments.
- Pray for specific missionary and get feedback on how things are going.
- Go into the community to see if they know of individuals who are missionaries and need assistance and help.
- Set aside money that you may have saved from something else.
- Raise awareness activities – use website – ethnic dress and foods.
- Adopt a Sister Sabbath School class abroad.
- Reinstitute and improve Investment projects and programs.
- Have special prayers for missionaries in specific areas.
- Present Jesus through music (similar to Flag Day) with other cultures. Music is a universal language.
- Buying Bibles is another mission project for cultures asking for them. Also literature distribution.
- Educate members about mission needs.
- Returning missionaries can help to educate members about needs.
- Share success stories from the mission field.
- Have visual and information from the mission field.
- Have projects within the local church that support a mission need.
- Have a personal connection between our Sabbath School and overseas. Bring in someone living in the community from that particular country.
- Medical ministry should be out front leading. Have a mobile Health Ministry going from community to community.
- On the envelope explain “Mission Offering”. Have teachers give Mission Story in the Sabbath School class itself.
- Find someone from the area of outreach to put a personal face on the mission area of focus.
- Plan a mission trip or adopt a mission project.
- Translate the Sabbath calendar as a witnessing tool.

- Web pals.
- Have local mission volunteers
- Do sacrificial giving to world mission project.
- Invite families of different countries – world Sabbath Day and/or International Day.
- Bring mission focus to Sabbath to better identify and understand people's needs. Example: Sabbath School project going to the Philippines.
- Small group with offering and with these monies help people in need. Example: help pastors (missions can't pay) with the money – give money to support pastor and minister.
- Invest in people.
- Adopt a school from the current mission field for the quarter.
- Learn about the culture/different ethnic groups so when we meet them we can better relate to them.
- Have the younger Sabbath school members donate their mission offering to a cause they have selected.
- Use the Mission DVD.
- Raise money for books and Bibles.
- Collect old Bibles and quarterlies that are in good condition for overseas.
- Video of country for family going through crises.
- ADRA sponsorship emphasis on projects all over the world.
- Orphanage sponsorship.
- Raising awareness to the membership.
- Send financial support to designated areas.
- Support missionaries.
- Have return missionaries in a pageant.
- DVDs that spotlight world missions.
- Adopt a country to send children clothing.
- Sabbath School class adopts a region and prays for it.
- Get acquainted with immigrants to find out their needs – nationals to come and share.
- Pass out tracts.
- Send surplus of Sabbath School supplies overseas.
- Mission projects advertised so people would know about them to provide assistance.
- Send linens to colleges abroad.

- Share Him to participate in mission trip.
- Raise money to assist individuals who are missionaries or becoming missionaries.
- Fundraisers to raise money for missions at home or abroad.
- Program on how to become a missionary.
- Special campaigns for world missions each quarter.
- Set a goal for world mission.
- Use a web page/internet.
- Supporting mission work through 13th Sabbath School so that the members don't lose the mission.
- Bring back Investment giving.
- Donate time to go out and build a building, school, etc., project.
- Educate Sabbath School to donate more for mission.
- Sabbath School adopt a church anywhere in the world and through their giving – help support that culture.
- Using the Sabbath School to use funds collected toward church buildings in a day, wells (water).
- Musical events used for missionary projects such as building projects, house projects, and well projects.
- Support countries where disasters have hit.
- Missionary work in dark communities.
- Sending a medical supplies to countries hit by disasters.
- Sponsor a child for education in mission work (academies).
- Sponsor specific projects in mission fields with funds.
- Special mission trips to help i.e. nurses, doctors, etc., address needs (done by local church).
- Academy mission trips sponsor trips.
- Return missionaries educate members about needs.
- Re-focus our Sabbath Schools on world mission.
- Share your faith when you travel.
- Send Sabbath School materials to mission field with contact with NAD Sabbath School.

