



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

DECEMBER 2006

Volume 2

*"Call to Me, and
I will answer
you, and show
you great and
mighty things,
which you do
not know."
Jeremiah 33:3,
NKJV*

• *"You can teach
more with your
life than with
your lips." --Daily
Bread*

• *"We make a
living by what we
get, but we make
a life by what we
give." – John C
Maxwell*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Branch Sabbath Schools – They Still Work.**
- **Prisoner Sets His Guards Free!**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Season's Greetings, Ministry Partners!

The Lord, Our Leader, has been "mighty" precious to Himself, through your ministry this year, and we, of the Adult Ministries Department, celebrate His goodness along with you!

I have a personal/family ministry testimony to share with you in the context of our Division-Wide "Tell Seven in '07" Initiative. You will recall that Elder Schneider, our Division President, shared a vision with me of encouraging all of our members to distribute "Seven" articles of literature in 2007. That could add up to Seven Million additional contacts for the Kingdom. That is great!

Well, the Ministry Directors came together and expanded the vision to Seven Christ-Centered contacts of "any" kind. The Publishing Houses are emphasizing a call for members to distribute one piece of literature per day from April 7-14, 2007. Samples of literature packets were distributed to the 2006 NAD Year End Meeting attendees this past October. That is where the testimony comes in.

On the Tuesday following Year End Meeting, an appliance repair person was working in our home. My wife said, "Let's give him some literature." She selected the mission book, *Racing To Victory Lane*, by Crystal Earnhardt, the sister-in-law of the late Dale Earnhardt, NASCAR driver. The man asked her, "How did you know that I liked NASCAR racing?" My wife replied, "Jesus told me." He excitedly responded, "I was present at the race when his accident occurred, and my wife was on duty when he was pronounced dead."

Do you think The Lord was leading in this literature distribution? I think so, "Yes!" Do you think that this Appliance Repair Person was likely to have read that book? I think, "Yes!" The Lord is going to finish His work! Isn't it exciting to be a part of it?

Please do not wait for any advertising brochures to come in the mail, or wait for any announcements from the Pulpit. Become a part of "Seven In '07" right now with your prayers and contacts! May Our God prosper you, yours, and His ministry through you, even more in 2007!

Blessings on your Ministry.

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL!

The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls. Branch Sabbath Schools. It is designed to create spiritual interest and bring souls to a saving relationship with Jesus. Branch Sabbath Schools may be conducted for children, youth, or adults.

Starting A Branch Sabbath School

Branch Sabbath Schools usually begin as follow-up to an evangelistic thrust of some kind, especially Vacation Bible School (VBS). The most effective way to start a Branch Sabbath School in a neighborhood or apartment building is to first conduct a Vacation Bible School, and personally invite all families.

At the conclusion of the VBS, invite families to a once-a-week continuation, where you can run another VBS-style program for 5-10 weeks before transitioning to the regular Sabbath School study for children. As part of this weekly VBS program, run concurrent parenting seminars or health lectures for parents.

Do not try to separate the children into age divisions unless you have plenty of help. Instead, keep children ages 4-10 together in one division, grouped in crews of five plus teen or adult crew leaders.

Where Can Branch Sabbath Schools Meet?

Branch Sabbath Schools can meet in all kinds of places:

- Private homes of members or interested persons from VBS, Bible studies, and other activities
- Public building – courthouse, fire station, school
- Vacant building – store, church, office
- Nursing home
- Prison
- Out of doors if weather and conditions permit

Teen Branch Sabbath Schools

These should be like a youth program. If only a handful of teens attend, use them as crew leaders for the children's program. They will learn a lot there. Invite them to join your church's regular youth Sabbath School.

Adult Branch Sabbath School Programs

Use the same general format as a regular Sabbath School. Depending on the topic of the quarter, the regular Adult Bible Study Guide may be used.

If the group is made up of mostly non-church members, a series of Bible studies may be used. Topics such as health, family life, parenting, and other issues may also be used. Encourage parents to attend an adult Branch Sabbath School while their children attend one for their age group.

The Sabbath School Handbook. AdventSource.



WHAT'S HOT!

THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still the hottest item! It's a Festival of TRAINING! It's a Festival of MOTIVATING! It's a Festival of NETWORKING! And it's a Festival to EMPOWER YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY!

Prison Ministry will offer tracks on "Prison Subcultures" with Dr. Cleveland Houser, who is president/founder of "Don't Follow Me". Dr. Rick McKinney (the story "What Really Happened to Monique?") will present his R.E.S.T. program. Frank Barton who runs a tremendous prison ministry for the Florida Conference will present "Ministry To The Lambs" which involves finding homes for the babies born to women who

are incarcerated.

Many of the seminars will be presented in Spanish, with English translation, and presented in English with Spanish translation.

September 26-29, 2007 - these dates are not to be forgotten! The Festival Of The Laity, in Orlando, Florida, is not only the place where you WANT to be! It's the place where you MUST be. It's the HAPPENING, HOT place! HURRY AND REGISTER! Space is LIMITED!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION - Early Bird Special! \$199.00 before August 16, 2007. Register online www.festivalofthelaity.com or call Heather at 800.732.7587. She knows what's happening!

EXHIBITORS: Hurry and reserve a booth! Time is moving on and people are reserving their space.

Log on to www.festivalofthelaity.com click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry! Time is moving!

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656 or www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com.

NOTE: You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements. Please use the code of "Festival Of The Laity" to receive the rate of \$99 per night for up to four (4) people per room.

JOT THIS IMPORTANT ITEM DOWN, ALSO

The Adventist Ministries Convention, New Horizons, January 7-11, 2007, Tucson, Arizona, at the gorgeous Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort.

For Hotel Accommodations call the Hilton Tucson - 520.544.5000 - mention **Adventist Ministries Convention** to get the **\$109** per night rate.

Convention Registration. Contact AdventSource/Plusline at 800.732.7587 to register, or register online www.newhorizons2007.org. Convention Registration is \$299.00 per person.

January 7-11, 2007 is just around the corner! Register Today!

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Q & A

Really, Is Sabbath School Dead? Is It Dying?

No! Not on your life! Sabbath School is much alive! Let's discuss some quick things you can do to make your Sabbath School program more dynamic.

- Develop a theme for the programs. This could be a monthly theme, or it could run the entire quarter.
- Set goals for attendance, ministries or projects, and offerings.
- Advertise your Sabbath School. Set up a telephone chain to call members, send out a newsletter, advertise in the church bulletin.
- Give the classes names and build loyalty and enthusiasm in the classes.

Research and experience show that Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ. *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p.10.

The more participation and interaction that is built into the Sabbath School program, the more learning and personal application takes place.

Sabbath School Handbook, AdventSource.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Charles Brandler: The Unlikely Evangelist!

Charles Brandler is an inmate at Morgan County Correctional Complex. He is six years into a 20-year sentence at the minimum security, state-run prison in Wartburg, Tennessee. In spite of his label of inmate, Charles is most definitely an evangelist!

For the last 10 years, Meister Memorial Adventist Church in Dodge Lodge, Tennessee, has run an active prison ministries program at Morgan County Correctional Complex. Charles first started attending the services at the urging of his cell partner, a Seventh-day Adventist. Charles accepted the Bible truths he heard and was baptized in early 2005. His baptism and his new beliefs brought about a noticeable change in his life.

One of those who recognized this change in Charles was Cindy Summers, a correctional officer who worked at the prison. Shortly after his baptism, Charles transferred to a housing unit where most of the prisoners are Christians. Cindy was one of the guards assigned to his unit. Cindy, who knew Charles before, said, "He was your normal, typical inmate who was out for himself. Now, I noticed a difference in him."

Sabbath School Quarterly. Cindy began asking Charles questions about his faith. One afternoon in July, 2005, Charles showed her his *Sabbath School Quarterly*. Cindy was intrigued with what she read and asked Charles if she could have a copy. He obliged, and Cindy began using the *Quarterly* as part of her daily devotions.

Around the same time, Cindy's husband, David, also a correctional officer at Morgan County, but in a different housing unit, was reading a book by Herbert Armstrong called *Mystery of the Ages*. While not an Adventist, Armstrong shares the story of how he came from being an unbeliever to being a Sabbath-keeper.

Fast Forward. The Summers found the Meister Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, not knowing anything about how Seventh-day Adventists worshiped, not

knowing if the people would receive them. "We thought, at the worst, they can ask us to leave," Cindy said. What they didn't know was that the church was expecting them. Charles Brandler and the other inmates had sent word that the Summers would be coming. What a warm welcome!

Baptized! Over the next year, many people prayed and studied with the Summers. On August 19, 2006, surrounded by friends and family, the Summers were baptized in the swimming pool of an Adventist church member in Deer Lodge. Charles Brandler was not there to celebrate. He had to wait to welcome the Summers into the family of believers until later that afternoon when church services were held at the prison. And to think it all started with the *Sabbath School Quarterly*. **Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Prison Ministries: there's only one goal - introducing people to Jesus.**

Reprinted from the November, 2006 *Southern Tidings*, by Ken Wetmore.

"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.

Thirteen-year-old Idalmin Santana has a ready smile and long braids. She lives with a foster family in Jamaica, Queens, because her parents are in prison. "My father used to sell drugs, and my mother didn't rat on him," she explains. (Source: The Nation. Internet.)

When women go to prison, it takes a devastating toll on the family. Sixty seven per cent of women incarcerated in state prisons are mothers of children under 18. Seventy percent of these women, compared to 50% of men, had custody of their dependent children prior to incarceration.

Six per cent of women are pregnant when they enter prison. In almost all cases, the woman is abruptly separated from her child after giving birth. (Source: Women In Prison-Walking Steel Index. Internet.)

Women's Issues 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.

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.

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 for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

What Really Happened to Monique?

That day when I arrived at 10:15 for our morning group session, the R.E.S.T. Group of 12 ladies, minus one, was extremely somber and serious. They told me about Monique's death and the letter which they had all read.

They gave me the letter to copy and to share with members of R.E.S.T., our friends and supporters.

Coincidentally, the subject for our therapy group discussion this day was to be *Depression*. They (the ladies) were all depressed! When asked to reflect on Monique's life and death, their comments centered on Monique's eight kids, now left without a mother. They talked about her kids' diminished changes of making it in Philadelphia without her. They had been so hopeful of Monique!

During group processing, they had seen her improvements . . . but now . . . she was suddenly gone! At the end of the session, they came together in a circle and held hands to pray for Monique's kids. It was awesome! I never suggested it. They did it spontaneously at the suggestion of one of the girls that I hadn't yet perceived as being that religious, but I knew that she, like Monique, had several kids.

Two Catholics, two Muslims, and seven Protestants joined hands and each said a short prayer for Monique's children, and for the children of each woman in their unit. It was short, simple, but emotional. Monique's death had reminded them of what faced them upon reentering *the main streets of Philadelphia*. At the end of the prayers, one of the ladies added, "And God, we thank you for R.E.S.T. and the R.E.S.T. counselors who come here to help us. Amen!" Several others quietly whispered Amen, and with tears and soberness, they departed to their rooms. Monique was one of three R.E.S.T. clients who were released in July from RCF, and who died within two weeks of being released.

The last home work assignment Monique turned in was on Anger. In the self-inventory section of her lesson, her Spiritual Replacement Thought (SRT) was that "*God would deliver her from the anger eating away at her heart, and replace it with love and empower her to overcome*". Her last healing thought to me was really a request to God. This ends Monique's story.

Submitted by Dr. Rick McKinney, Founder/CEO – I-R.E.S.T., Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, www.restphilly.com.

EDITOR'S P.S.

Christmas is almost here! The New Year is fast approaching! Here are some helpful suggestions and thoughts to help to make your holiday less stressful and more joyous- using the letters **M. E. R. R. Y C. H. R. I. S. T. M. A. S.**

Make a joyful noise. **E**njoy the child that's within you – laugh – play. **R**est from all that s-h-o-p-p-i-n-g. **R**ead the story of Jesus' birth. **Y**ield to the temptation to "take a nap".

Christ is the reason for the season; **H**is name shall be called Wonderful; **R**ise up shepherd and follow; **I**'m so glad Jesus loves me; **S**avior like a Shepherd lead me; **T**rust and obey; **M**ake me a blessing; **A**nd He walks with me and He talks with me; **S**oon and very soon, we shall see the King.

May the God of Peace be your priority this holiday season and in the New Year.

See you in 2007! PEACE and PROSPERITY!

I'm outta here! CB

