



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 3

*"The blessing of
the Lord makes
one rich; and
He adds no
sorrow with it."*

--Proverbs

10:22, NKJ

- *"Pride is
tasteless,
colorless and
sizeless. Yet it is
the hardest thing
to swallow. –
August B. Black*

- *"The best thing to
do behind a
friend's back is
pat it. – Ruth
Brillhart*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **"The MOB?" Yes! The MOB!"**
- **Bladensburg Sabbath School – Striving For Heaven in 2007!**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

A grand "Hello!" to all Adult Ministers and Friends! The "word" this month is FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY! Yes, in a few short months the North American Division Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity will convene in Orlando, Florida. The dates are September 26-29, 2007. If you are interested in strengthening your capacities in Sabbath School, Personal, or Prison Ministry – we strongly encourage you to ask Our Lord to see to it that you are in attendance.

Our theme is "Anointed, Disciplined, Disciples: Telling Our World." We will experience the best Training with forty-five (45) Seminars, Preaching, Worship, Networking, and Fellowship. Please! Please! Please register immediately because an attendance limit exists, and we want you and representatives from your congregation to benefit from the FESTIVAL!

Contact information looks like this: Register for the Festival and for hotel housing on the internet at www.festivalofthelaity.com. Call for Festival Registration (\$199.00 includes Seminars and Six (6) meals) at 800.732.7587. Call for Hotel Registration (\$99.00 plus tax per night up to four person) at 800.588.4656.

Our prayer is that you may be one that Our Lord has selected to experience this initiative that is guaranteed to have a positive impact on the balance of your ministry. Should you be in this category, we thank you for joining those who have assured their slots by Registering at this time. BLESSINGS!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

"STRIVING FOR HEAVEN IN 2007!"

That's the Theme for Sabbath School at the Bladensburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, Bladensburg, Maryland, where the pastor, Brenda Billingsy, and the members are doing some serious Sabbath School – even to the point where they have a Sabbath School Bulletin and Theme Song.

Superintendent Carole Hunt has written a theme song, *Sabbath School Theme Song 2007*© (sung to the tune of *Sowing in the Morning*). As you approach the church doors at 9:15 on Sabbath morning, you will hear voices joyfully singing:

Every Sabbath Morning, will you heed God's calling
To be present and on time at 9:15,
In the rain or sunshine, He'll be here to meet us,
He'll bestow more blessings than we've ever seen.

Chorus

*He will meet us here, He will meet us here,
Graciously supplying mercies ever new.
He will meet us here, He will meet us here,
Every Sabbath Morning, He'll be here, will you?*

I will meet Him here, I will meet Him here,
To receive my blessings and mercies ever new.
I will meet Him here, I will meet Him here,
Every Sabbath morning, I'll be here, will you?

Their Sabbath School Goals for 2007 are to:

- **Increase** attendance and encourage members to **arrive on time**
- **Increase** giving to enhance offerings to Missions and Sabbath School expense
- **Encourage** members to **study** the Sabbath School Lesson daily, and to **learn** the memory verse each week
- **Encourage** members to **visit** with neighbors and friends in their own community, and the community surrounding the church, and **invite** the community to visit the Sabbath School

Their Sabbath School Objectives:

- **Study the Word of God**
- **Fellowship**
- **Community Outreach**
- **World Mission Emphasis**

Pastor Billingsy and the members of the Bladensburg Sabbath School have gotten it right when they say, "Sabbath School is God's Appetizer before the main course. Each week He sets the table and personally invites us to **COME, TASTE,** and **SEE** that the Lord is good!



WHAT'S HOT!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still your hottest item!
A Festival of TRAINING!**

A Festival of MOTIVATING!

A Festival of NETWORKING!

A Festival to EMPOWER YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY!

**Two Hundred and Thirty Eight days until the Festival Of The Laity. Yes!
ONLY 238 days before the BIG event takes place.**

SEMINAR INFORMATION

The seminars are cutting edge and out of sight! You'll hear Gary Swanson (GC SS/PM) talking about "Bringing Some *Style* to Sabbath School. *Style* is a "good thing." *Style* can definitely be an "In Thing" in Sabbath School.

You've heard talk about the Holy Ghost – How about "The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost? J. Alfred Johnson II (NAD Adult Ministries) will show you how to be baptized by the Holy Ghost – and the power that comes with the "Baptism."

Have you ever said, "I CAN'T witness." "I don't know HOW to witness." "I'm SCARED to witness." "Witnessing is NOT My Thing!"

When you get through listening to Calvin Watkins (Pastor, South Atlantic Conference) you'll want to get out and witness right then and there! Watkins has the remedy. He will show not only ONE way to witness, but "**101** Ways To Witness." And one of those witnessing ways has YOUR name written all on it – Festival Of The Laity Attendee! This seminar is designed with YOU in mind!

NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY - 328

328 days until September 26, 2007 (As of February 1). With **328** days left until the FESTIVAL you're encouraged to register and register EARLY because 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 definitely knows what's going on!

EXHIBITORS: Have you reserved your booth, yet? The Festival Of The Laity is the perfect place to exhibit. Reserve your booth NOW!

LOG ON to www.festivalofthelaity.com - click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry!

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

REMEMBER: You are responsible for making your own hotel 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.

Looking to see you in Orlando. FOR? THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY!

WHERE? ORLANDO - the place to be. WHY? Because the FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is THE event to attend.

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Q & A

Many questions arise concerning Small Groups - questions not only from beginners, but seasoned pros. Let's look at a couple.

Q: I don't want anyone smoking in my house, but one of the group members smokes. What should I do?

A: There are several approaches to take in this situation. The easiest is to take a five-minute break just prior to the Bible study time. This allows for no interruptions during the study. One or two individuals can accompany the smokers outside and chat with them while they are smoking.

The second approach is to have an understanding that if someone can't wait to smoke during the group meeting, he should get up and go out on the porch and then return. The problem with this approach is that it focuses attention on the individual and may embarrass him so he won't return. Also, they might have to leave at a vital part of the discussion.

Q: Should an offering be taken in a home group meeting?

A: No! It is very inexpensive to conduct a home meeting. Study guides for six to eight members will be only a few dollars. It is very awkward to ask for an offering from six people whom you have invited to your home. However, some groups ask the members to purchase their own materials.

You may have some questions about Small Groups. E-mail us - we'll do our best to answer. We welcome your suggestions.

Source: *Small Group Outreach: How to Begin and Lead Outreach Bible Study Groups*, by Kurt Johnson. Review and Herald Publishing Association.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL - PERSONAL MINISTRIES

THE MOB!

Michael, from Pennsylvania, "I saw a pamphlet about the MOB at camp meeting, and I felt God was calling me to do this." He joined "The MOB."

More than 100 Adventists in 28 states are working for "The MOB."

Pastor David Klinedinst, director of Personal Ministries at Christian Record Services, Lincoln, Nebraska, is looking for "more Seventh-day Adventists to join "The MOB."

What is the MOB? Who is the MOB? Where is the MOB?

Christian Record Services, the Adventist ministry to the blind, based in Lincoln, Nebraska, has created a Personal Ministries program called **Missionaries Of the Blind** - hence **MOB** - and people everywhere are joining **The MOB**.

Missionaries Of the Blind (MOB) offers local church members the opportunity to visit and minister to blind people in their local communities. More than 32,000 blind and visually-impaired individuals in the United States receive Braille, large print, or audio publications from Christian Record Services on a regular basis.

Christian Record Services is looking for Seventh-day Adventist Volunteers, who are willing to spend one, or two hours a month visiting the blind, building friendships, praying with them, and perhaps inviting them to church.

Christian Record Services provides the names, and Volunteers provide the visits. This is a great Personal Ministries Outreach.

Contact the Personal Ministries Department at 1.877.288.1188 or e-mail personalministries@christianrecord.org. You can visit the web at www.christianrecord.org/pm and click on **Missionaries Of the Blind**.

Become a member of **"The MOB"**. **Begin the experience - join Today!**

"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

We know that life on the "outside" has its own personality and subculture, just as life on the "inside" has its own personality and subculture.

We also know that people in different states/cities speak differently, just as people inside different prisons speak differently.

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.

In the **Learning Outcomes of the Module Prison Subcultures**, the student will

1. Gain a fundamental knowledge of the intricacies of inmate behavior behind prison walls.
2. Understand the anatomy of a prison subculture.
3. Be able to make the analogy of sub cultural activities and vices behind prison walls to that of mainstreaming culture.
4. 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 click on www.adventsource.org for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

"To be here on a Saturday afternoon is a blessing. "Welcome to the first Seventh-day Adventist Church Program Graduation Ceremony." These words were spoken by Prison Administrator, Lydell B. Sherrer at the Northern State Prison, Newark, New Jersey.

The Reformation Prison Ministry, Oswald Goulding, Director and his team, had faithfully studied with the inmates, and now were celebrating with the 20 graduates as they receive their Certificates of Completion.

Mr. Sherrer continued. "To each graduate, I wish to extend to each and every one of you my sincerest congratulations on your successful achievements. You have taken a negative event in your life and have transformed it into a positive event. Make this the beginning, not the end."

Sabbath, January 27, 2007, Graduation Day at the Northern State Prison, will long be remembered.

EDITOR'S P.S.

I read a statement (can't remember where), that said, "We should not only "Read the Bible" but we should **"Do the Bible"**.

At the January 2007 Adventist Ministries Convention in Tucson, Arizona, Elder J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of the NAD Adult Ministries Department, awarded three people the *Adventist Ministries Award for Faithfulness to Vision and Excellence in Ministry*, who **"Do The Bible"**.

Sabbath School: Carol Ramsey, Sabbath School superintendent from the Kansas Avenue SDA Church, Riverside, CA., where this *Purpose Driven Sabbath School* is building a church in Zimbabwe; donating money to send encouraging, spiritual books to college students at Adventist or non Adventist schools, Bibles to Prisoners, young people to Pathfinder Camporee, and visiting Nursing Homes. This Sabbath School is **"Doing the Bible."**

Personal Ministries: Carol Barron an active Bible Instructor and Soul Winner (3 baptized in the 3rd quarter of 2006), Preacher/Evangelist/Revivalist (on multiple continents), Street and Homeless Person's Minister, International Prayer Ministry and Prayer Conference Facilitator, Foreign Mission (12 years) Co-author of *Quiet Times With Jesus* (devotional for children) Certified Lay Minister of Evangelism with an emphasis on Evangelism, Church Growth and Pastoral Ministry from the Adventist Theological Seminary, editor of the Adult Ministries Newsletter. Carol Barron is **"Doing the Bible."**

Prison Ministries: Oswald Goulding, Prison Ministries Coordinator for The Reformation Prison Ministry, First Seventh-day Adventist Church, Teaneck, New Jersey. He and his ministers go into three categories of institutions: Federal, County Jail, and State Prison, along with having exclusive Seventh-day Adventist privileges at the second largest institution in New Jersey – 3,000 inmates. They are active doing Bible Studies (numerous graduates), Angel Tree, Literature Distribution, Keeping In Touch (assisting the parolee), and so much more. Reformation Prison Ministry of Teaneck New Jersey is **"Doing the Bible."**

There are 250,000 people, Adventists and non Adventists (ages 15 -80+) online studying the Sabbath School Lesson. Let's all **"DO THE BIBLE."**

I'm outta here!

CB



