



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 4

*"Do you want more and more of God's kindness and peace? Then learn to know him better and better." 2 Peter 1:2 – The Living Bible*

• *"Do you respect the face in your mirror?" – The Pocket Power Book of Integrity*

• *"Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now—always. – Albert Schweitzer*

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## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

### "THEN AND NOW"

Ministry Partners,

I pray Our Lord's richest Blessing and Anointing, as you and the Ministry Family to which you are attached, move forward with Him in His work!

As so many of us seek reasonable responses to the question, "How did January vanish so quickly?", it is my privilege to first share Initiatives that are to come.

So many of us, approximately 5,000, were richly strengthened by the 2007 North American Division Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity in Orlando, Florida. Therefore, it seemed "good unto us, and to The Spirit," to continue this Initiative through the 2009 Virtual NAD Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity, that will launch in January, 2009.

This Virtual Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity is a response to the type of person who recently asked me, "When will you prepare a great meeting like this that will not require us to pay air fares, registration, hotel fees, etc.?" Well! Here is the response!

The 2009 Virtual NAD Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity, with 101 Training Seminars, covering Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Prison Ministries, will be sent via DVD, to ([www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org)) our Adult Ministries website, and the NAD Digital Vault, starting January, 2009. How about that for *More for Less!* More details to come!

How about now? Wherever you are right now in your Ministry Journey, please take courage in the promise with which Our Lord encourages all of His Disciples, ". . . I am with you always, even until the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).  
MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### COME EARLY!!!!

**What percentage of your members arrives at Sabbath School on time—90%? 50%? 30%? 10%? Most Sabbath Schools begin on time, but the percentage of attendance is usually less than 50%. Is this also a problem in your church? How can you draw people to Sabbath School earlier? Consider these suggestions.**

#### **Prayer**

God is our Source of wisdom. Any revitalization program needs to begin with God. Therefore, an earnest prayer life is urgently needed by all Sabbath School superintendents who are interested in improving our Sabbath Schools. We need to pray for the spiritual growth of our members, for specific goals, for the attendance, and for more converts to come into the church by way of the Sabbath School. Arriving on time or even earlier is very often indicative of the spiritual health of our members.

#### **Planning**

Our God is organized. He who created the whole universe according to His Master Plan desires that we lay careful plans for every aspect of His work. This includes the plan to draw people to Sabbath School on time.

As a Sabbath School superintendent, you need to remember that you get what you work for. If you work for people to come early, they will come early. In planning, you need to know your base. How many people arrived early last year? Last month? What is your specific goal for this year? How are you going to achieve this goal? In setting up your plan, you need to educate your members and advertise your attendance goals.

#### **Feed The Flock**

Since the problem of not arriving at Sabbath School on time may often indicate a spiritual problem, it is necessary to work with all Sabbath School teachers, elders, and church pastors to encourage Sabbath School members through revival sermons and messages. A true revival experience will often create a great desire for coming early to Sabbath School. Members won't want to miss the Sabbath School program or the lesson study, which are food for their souls.

#### **A Plan**

- ❖ Call one another. Invite Sabbath School members to call at least one person on Friday evening. Sabbath School staff, teachers, and members of Sabbath School Council could call one person and invite him/her to come early to Sabbath School. This shows concern and love for one another.
- ❖ Organize Sabbath School programs for the whole year to interest and educate members and their guests. Publish a monthly calendar of Sabbath School programs and events in your church bulletin.
- ❖ Sabbath School staff and teachers need to provide a good example by arriving early and welcoming the rest of the members. Members and visitors need to feel welcome when they come to Sabbath School.
- ❖ Invite Sabbath School classes or other groups such as seniors, youth, or children to present special programs. This will ensure their presence.
- ❖ Plan special musical presentations or other special features early in your program, right after the opening prayer. (Announce it the week before.)
- ❖ Recap the morning activities at the close of the Sabbath School program to let those who came late know what they missed.
- ❖ Show appreciation by giving early arrivals a nice flower or ribbon.

### **Evaluate**

The Sabbath School Council needs to evaluate its program periodically. Does the Sabbath School meet the needs of the Sabbath School members? Does it meet the objectives of the Sabbath School: study of the Word, fellowship, community outreach, and promotion of world missions? Regular evaluation will lead to discovering ways to improve the total Sabbath School program. By the grace of God, Sabbath School revitalization is assured.

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### **WHAT'S HOT!**

#### ***SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD) AND THE WORLD***

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

#### **HOMES OF HOPE – AUSTRALIAN UNION [www.aucsda.com](http://www.aucsda.com)**

Hospitality is the “welcome mat” ministry of God’s Kingdom. Few will enter into church life without having first spent time in a church member’s home. The importance of this work is noted in the words of Hebrews, “Do not neglect to entertain the stranger.”

*Homes Of Hope* is not a program but rather a ministry lifestyle. Jesus modeled to us that building friendships with lost people should be a priority for members of His Kingdom. The key ingredients of this ministry are a home, friendly disposition, partner or friend to share in a weekly party (i.e. social activity), and an open minded supportive Sabbath School class or small group.

Concept is Simple. Once a week the *Home of Hope* hosts will on a weekly basis, make themselves available to seekers. This may be on a social basis or in offering practical assistance; e.g. child minding. Members of the host’s small group of Sabbath School class will be included when appropriate. The aim of *Homes of Hope* is to increase the amount of time spent with seekers.

#### **ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE-WIDE SABBATH SCHOOL TRAINING**

Elder Colin Brathwaite, director of Sabbath School for the Allegheny East Conference, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, held the first Training Session for Sabbath School Leaders, from the Baltimore/Washington area. J. Alfred Johnson II, director of Adult Ministries/NAD was one of the presenters.

The Seminars “A Relational Approach: Keys to Leading Effective Sabbath School Classes” and “The Personality (Attitude) of the Sabbath School Volunteer” were on target – very insightful and helpful. Q&A time was alive and informative.

Keep your eyes and ears open for information about the upcoming April Training Session. You don’t want to miss it. They’re alive! They’re fun! They’re informative! They’re helpful! And they’re needed! And, please remember: SABBATH SCHOOL ISN’T DEAD! It’s Alive and Kickin’!

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## Q & A

### **I want to start a ministry of corresponding with inmates. I don't know anything. Are there some guidelines? Some dos and don'ts?**

We're glad to know that you want to start this type of ministry. It is a Ministry and a Ministry that is much needed. Letters are written to many people, on various topics, but sometimes writing to inmates is forgotten.

What you're speaking of is a Pen Pal Ministry, which is a worthy ministry to begin as a means of communicating with inmates. And, yes, there are guidelines because this is a Ministry where caution must be exercised so that the pen pal will not be manipulated by the cleverness of the inmate/s.

In all of your correspondence with inmates, please allow the Holy Spirit to be your Guide. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your fingers, your thoughts, and your pen so that you will always communicate in the language of heaven. Listed below are some basic dos and don'ts with the Pen Pal Ministry.

#### **Do:**

- ❖ **Have your letters mailed to the church or a post office box.**
- ❖ **Be careful in your communication. You don't want to give the wrong perception to the inmate/s.**
- ❖ **Point the person to Christ and other positive ideas and values.**
- ❖ **Be kind, courteous, and cordial in your correspondence.**
- ❖ **Invite Jesus and the Holy Spirit into your letter writing.**

#### **Don't:**

- ❖ **Give your home address.**
- ❖ **Give your last name.**
- ❖ **Give your phone number.**
- ❖ **Become intimate and romantic through letter writing (you will be tested by the inmate/s).**
- ❖ **Preach to the inmate/s in your correspondence.**
- ❖ **Be manipulated into visiting the inmate/s.**
- ❖ **Send money, clothing, or personal items (you may get used).**
- ❖ **Send literature without consulting the Chaplain.**
- ❖ **Do any self disclosures about yourself or family members.**

Someone Cares Prison Ministry, based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, operates a safe, a sound, and a secure Pen Pal Ministry.

Don and Yvonne McClure have been in this business a long time. We recommend people who are interested in starting a Pen Pal Ministry Ministries, to contact these good people. Help is on the way!

Shoot off an e-mail to them at [sdapm@someoncares.org](mailto:sdapm@someoncares.org).

## PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

### PREPARATORY WORK FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES SERIES- PART IV

#### ***Ensuring Continuity***

*Territorial assignment will benefit every activity of the church. Members can visit within their territories in the interest of programs such as the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, Vacation Bible Schools, healthful cooking classes, invitations to evangelistic meetings, Ingathering, Bible course enrollments, and literature distribution. Experience will prove that more organized witnessing will result in more spontaneous witnessing.*

As with all programs, it is easier to launch the program than to keep it going. Many churches have found it helpful to use the Sabbath School classes as the missionary units. This does not mean that class members must have adjoining territories. The important thing is that they are all involved in witnessing in their own areas. To keep the program operating efficiently, it is necessary for witnessing to become **our way of life**.

Some follow the practice of having the Ten-Minute Missionary Service conducted within the individual Sabbath School classes three weeks out of the month. On the remaining Sabbath, the missionary service is conducted from the rostrum as usual. If the Sabbath School teacher does not care to function as the missionary leader of the class, someone else can be selected for this responsibility.

The Ten-Minute Missionary Service should provide time for sharing fresh territorial experiences, planning for the future, and issuing supplies. It is most effective to have supplies such as survey blanks, Bible correspondence school enrollment cards, gift-Bible lessons, and other literature available to the members through the Sabbath School classes during the ten-minute period. This should also be a time for reporting and monitoring the progress.

A reasonable objective is for each member to dedicate a minimum of two hours each week to work within his territory. This can include visitation, giving Bible studies, and other types of seed sowing and cultivation.

Two Bible studies a week might be a worthy objective for the average member. When the number of interests exceeds this, they can be enrolled in a Bible correspondence course. In such cases, a personal contact should be maintained periodically in order to nurture the interest and cultivate friendship.

The Buddy System has proved a further help to ensure continuity. This is simply a matter of two families being teamed together. Toward the end of each week they check on each other to see if they have been active in their respective territories.

Two or three members might be assigned to share responsibility for a dark county in addition to their individual territories closer to home. Experience has demonstrated that when members band together to pray about these challenges, God hears and answers their prayers.

When there are additions to membership by transfer or baptism, existing territories should be divided to provide territories for new members. This gives a sense of growth and accomplishment.

When a member wins a family within their territory, it is logical to divide the territory in order to provide a mission field for the new convert. It would then be the privilege and responsibility of the original holder of the territory to help the new member get started with a visitation program within their portion of the territory.

## "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 VCHP.301**

***\*A few things you should know about women in prison in the U.S. There are over 90,000 women in prison today. The majority are in prison for economic crimes. 80% of women in prison report incomes of less than \$2,000 per year in the year before their arrest, and 92% report incomes under \$10,000. Of the women convicted of violent crimes, the vast majority were convicted for defending themselves or their children from abuse. 90% of women in prison are single mothers. They lose contact with their children, sometimes forever. There are 167,000 children in the U.S., whose mothers are incarcerated. Women prisoners spend on average 17 hours a day in their cells, with one hour outside for exercise. Compare to men prisoners who spend, on average, 15 hours a day in their cells, with 1.5 hours outside. (Internet [www.prisonactivist.org](http://www.prisonactivist.org)).***

### **Description**

This module 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.

### **Overview**

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. A basic knowledge of the historical, social, economic and psychological factors, impacts on female incarceration. The student will gain knowledge of ethnicity disparities and emotional and sexual abuse from correctional employees. This module will expose the student to numerous facts of women imprisonment.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. To expose the student to the major issues women face in prison.
2. To expose the student to the affects of incarceration on families.
3. To gain a fundamental understanding of the inequities of female incarceration.
4. To gain an understanding of the social, psychological and historical significance of female incarceration.

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

### "HORSES DON'T JUDGE!" Bonding With Horses

'Constructive' program pairs rescued equines with inmates to teach lessons in responsibility.

GOOCHLAND, VA. Ryan Carroll is a marked man. "I know some people see me as nothing more than a felon," he said. The label means nothing to Kippy's Nancy. The rescued thoroughbred, after all, relies on Carroll for her survival.

"We've become friends," Carroll said, as he affectionately stroked the horse's neck. "I've gotten attached to her. And the nice thing is, horses don't judge."

Carroll, 21, is an inmate at the James River Work Center, part of the James River Correctional Center on State Route 6 in Goochland County. It's the last place he expected to interact with a horse. He has two years left to serve of a five-year sentence for breaking and entering. But every day, his bond with Kippy's Nancy grows stronger. He's not the only one devoting each day to horses. Five other inmates have been paired with thoroughbreds as part of the Greener Pastures Program.

The program is the result of a partnership with the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., the nonprofit organization saves horses, no longer able to compete on the racetrack, from possible neglect, abuse, and slaughter.

"The purpose here is not to provide fun and games for the inmates," said Sam Pruett, Warden at the all-male facility. "This is a constructive way for inmates to use their individual energy to accomplish something good." "It is important that we do what we can so they [inmates] can have something to turn to other than their crime when they get out," said Heather Mitchell, program coordinator at James River.

*By Janet Caggiano, Richmond Times-Dispatch*

### **EDITOR'S P.S.**

**I correspond with inmates - been doing it ever since I've been in this office. It's Ministry in the fullest sense of the word.** There's one inmate who writes to me often, encourages me, sends me materials to use, "If you want to," he writes. But the letter I received from him last week was really touching. (I've written some of it just as he wrote it) "*Sister Barron, sometimes when I look around me, I believe we do not know or we lose sight of how good we have it or just how blessed we really are. As I watch the news and even within the walls of this place there is a lot of ugly and chaotic things going on. People do not have any peace or hope or direction.*" He writes about gangs, stabbings, and lockdown. "*Every day I'm finding that it's more important to share what God has given us with those who do not know Christ in the pardoning of their sins. We have just started a faith-based program geared toward trying to share Christ with these misguided young men and try to help those who want to get out of the gangs. I'm asking that you keep us in prayer.*" Correspond with inmates? Oh, yes! That's the best thing that has happened to me.

I'm outta here!

CB

