



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JANUARY 2009

Volume 5

*"Beloved, I wish
above all things
that thou
mayest prosper
and be in
health, even as
thy soul
prospereth." –
Third John 2*

• *"When God sends
us on hard paths,
He provides
strong shoes."
Unknown*

• *"Kindness is the
language which
the deaf can hear
and the blind can
see."—Mark
Twain."*

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FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"One Day Closer"

Dear Partners,

While in the most "basically real sense" the turn of the Calendar from December 31, 2008 to January 1, 2009 *just* represents the dawn of another day—it means much more to those of us who embrace *The Blessed Hope* in the context of the Mission of Our Lord's Remnant People who have been commissioned to *broadcast* The Three Angel's Messages to those in each global geographical context!

This "one day" transition signals that on January 1, 2009, we will have advanced one day closer to the joy and relief of Union With Our Lord—and Re-Union With Our Loved Ones who fell asleep in *The Blessed Hope*! This Mind-Set takes the transfer of the above mentioned days out of the realm of *just*. I encourage you to view all of your Ministry opportunities, challenges, highs and lows from the vantage point of the privilege of having been *Called* to participate with The Trinity in the Greatest Mission On Earth. Just think, His Coming grows *One Day Closer* with each passing day—and we are a part of that process. SELAH.

Please know that I, and those of us on the Adult Ministries Staff and the North American Division Administration, appreciate all of your selfless sharings during 2008, and look forward to our combined and supportive Ministries in 2009.

Please keep in mind that in January 2009 your congregation will receive, at no charge, The 2009 North American Division Adult Ministries Semi-Virtual Festival Of The Laity DVD (134 Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Prison Ministry PowerPoint Training Seminars).

In addition, the NAD Adult Sabbath School Summit convenes **April 24-25, 2009** at the General Conference Headquarters. Go to www.plusline.org for details. All of these are very *close*!

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

A Transformational Sabbath School Class for Youth

Teachers want to prepare their students to be mentally and physically healthy and productive in the society around them. Learning that fulfills this desire is doubly essential for Christians because it has bearing on citizenship in God's present and eternal kingdom. Imagine how God feels about His children—anyone who accepts His saving grace and chooses to be adopted into His family. Much more than human parents and educators do, He wants each to grow spiritually, physically, and mentally, to be well-informed, well-balanced, and good citizens in His kingdom, both present and future.

The verbs we associate with Christ's Commission to His disciples are "go," "make disciples," "preach," "baptize," and "teach." Matthew 28:18-20 speaks of making disciples and teaching, which indicates that we are to instruct and mentor. Mark 16:15-18 gives a version of the Great Commission that uses the word "preach" with the implication of being a public crier of the truth.

Although they might be hard-pressed to explain it, most teachers know the difference between the activities of teaching and telling. Teaching implies that some type of plan or method exists that is repeatable by the learner, that the needs of the learner are taken into consideration, that some type of two-way communication continues, especially when mentoring is involved. Telling is more of a one-way street. So is preaching.

Sometimes it seems we consider the Mark-written commission to apply to the church setting, and the Matthew-written commission, at least parts of it, to be fulfilled by our extensive parochial school system. But we would have much better success at "doing church" if we informed our activities there with the knowledge base we use to inform "doing school."

The implementation of sound educational practices would be the very thing needed to revive Sabbath School and make it the much-needed biblical core of youth ministry. "Youth have left Sabbath School," says David Neal, a youth director, "for mainly the same reason as adults. This once brilliant nurture program has in many cases turned into little more than a prelude to the main worship service, rather than the life-transforming agency it is meant to be. The class discussion time is often an intellectual exercise without members having their felt needs met. Groups of 10 or 20 youth may meet together on a Sabbath morning, but there is little bonding. There could be two reasons for this, either an inadequate curriculum or poor teaching." Neal goes on to state that he does not believe the problem is an inadequate curriculum.

Education should focus on the learner, but the beginning of curriculum is the teacher. Whoever the teacher is—even in his or her most hidden moments—is the most influential thing he or she brings to the learning table. The teacher's impact as curriculum is greatly magnified when the nature of the learning is about God. Then the mode of learning is primarily discipleship, fulfilling the great commission, whether or not the teachers are comfortable with their own discipleship status—of feel competent to "make disciples."

A knowledge of the professional practices of formal educators should never discourage the spirit-led lay person who is stepping out in faith and volunteering to fill the need of youth disciple in their local church. But churches that embrace their role as educational centers should provide ways for dedicated lay persons to be equipped with educational tools that will enhance their ministry of discipling young people.

(Part I of A Series from Cool Tools for Sabbath School by Kathy Beagles)



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

Kids In Discipleship

Kids in Discipleship (K.I.D.) is a mentoring ministry conducted in local churches. Many parents are unsure of how to be their children's primary spiritual mentors. K.I.D. is designed for families and focuses on children, to help parents grow as disciples and disciple makers to their own children.

K.I.D. University is three days of intensive training to equip volunteer leaders to direct Kids in Discipleship in the local church. Training is conducted at church-based centers with active K.I.D. ministries and is structured to offer the highest possible level of experience and training.

Visit www.kidsindiscipleship.org or call 423.893.3266 for information about future training sessions.

Disability Ministries Website

Helen Keller was both blind and deaf. She said, "Blindness separates people from things. Deafness separates people from people." North American Disability Ministries includes all and omits none.

Jesus in His three-and-a-half year earthly ministry performed thirty-five miracles. Twenty-five of those miracles were related to people with disabilities.

Disability Ministries offers resources to members with disabilities to maximize their worship experience and communion with Christ and support churches ministering to people with disabilities.

Visit <http://nad.adventist.org/disability>

Steps for Life: Fitness Challenge

Did You Know? Exercise appears to be the magic bullet for better health and faster, more permanent weight loss. It helps us live longer and more productive lives. The health benefits of simply walking are astonishing. Not only does walking help reduce stress and depression; it also reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, stroke, and various cancer. Walking daily reduces the risk of dying from many major illnesses by as much as 50 to 75 percent.

Research has shown that taking 10,000 steps each day can have a huge effect on body measurements and composition.

Tips for getting your 10,000 steps include: Participating in the North American Division's 2009 Steps for Life Fitness Challenge; Using a pedometer to track your steps; Taking the stairs at work; Walking to lunch and back; Listening to a devotion on tape while walking; Take a virtual walk with Jesus and "walking" where He walked.

Visit the Steps for Life website at www.instepforlife.com.

Source: Passport

Available online at www.adventsource.org

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Published monthly by the North American Division Adult Ministries Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Personal Ministries, and Sabbath School Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

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Q & A

It's a new year. Can you offer some tips – suggestions that will help the new Investment Leader get off to an enthusiastic start?

We will do our very best with the help of an exciting new resource, ***A Quick Start Guide: Sabbath School Investment*** available from AdventSource.

There is no direct mention in the Bible concerning the Investment program. Nevertheless, it has roots in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). "The talents which God has entrusted to us, whether they be large or small, whether they be money or strength or time, are talents for which we are responsible and we should invest them. As we do, God will multiply them for the finishing of His work" (Nash and Parker, *Investment: The Miracle Offering*). Investment is not simply another offering; it is a plan whereby an individual invests money, time, or effort in a faithful partnership with God for the purpose of supporting His world mission. It is a contract bound by faith. "However small your talent, God has a place for it" (Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*).

Duties of the Investment Leader. The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes an Investment leader will include the following duties.

Promote Investment at all age levels. You, or someone you designate, should promote Investment in each division on a regular monthly schedule. Ideally, the presentations would begin in January and conclude in November. Choosing the same Sabbath each month makes it easy for the division leaders to plan and remember. Possibly the second Sabbath of each month would be appropriate.

Investment materials. Plan far enough ahead so you can have the Investment leaflets and goal devices in hand the Sabbath you introduce your Investment plan. Leaflets can be ordered from your local conference.

Setting goals. At the beginning of the year, you should meet with the Sabbath School leaders to plan for the year's activities. In consultation with the previous Investment leader and the current division leaders, come to an agreement on a suitable goal. Keep a goal chart in a central location to show the funds being raised and the percentage of members participating.

Keep records. Meet with the church treasurer on a regular basis to keep track of the money being turned in for Investment. Give progress reports in your monthly presentations to the divisions. It is also your responsibility to gather the information from your various division leaders regarding the number of health food labels received. Send this compiled report to your local conference Stewardship or Investment Director for the refund.

Communicate. It is your responsibility to keep the church members informed as to the progress of the Investment plan, and what the funds are used for. Keep the needs of world mission before the congregation and show them how the Investment plan makes a specific, significant contribution. It is also appreciated when Investment leaders send success stories and accompanying pictures to the church ministries department of the local conference to be used in conference newsletter and union papers.

**Source: *A Quick Start Guide: Sabbath School Investment*
AdventSource, 800.328.0525 or www.adventsource.org**

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

RECLAIMING LOST MEMBERS

Christians will not leave the world to perish unwarned, and make no effort for the reclaiming of the lost. – Ellen White

Nobody knows why the Williams family doesn’t attend anymore. They were always so active in church. Bill was a Sabbath School teacher and an active deacon. Cathy, his wife, was a hard-working member of the Women’s Ministries Group. They always had their well-behaved children with them at church and at the monthly fellowship luncheon. But Bill and his family gradually drifted away from regular attendance. These days, about the only contact the congregation has with Bill and Cathy is when someone runs into them at the mall.

And what about the newly-wed couple that began attending the last evangelistic crusade? They seemed to be enthusiastic and sincere. They kept up with their studies and accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Steven and Jill Byers were so joyous when they recited their baptismal vows and let their sins be washed away. But after their baptism they only attended every now and then. They have been seen in church only once this whole quarter.

There are many other stories like this that you know personally—the elderly man who recently lost his wife and has not attended since; the student who went off to college and was never heard of again. Straying members wear all sorts of labels: “inactives,” “delinquents.” The real problem with straying members is not that they are bad for morale. The problem is that straying members are in danger of losing their faith in Jesus.

Why Did They Leave in the First Place?

Mark Finley’s book *Studying Together* brings out four points.

1. A conflict with some other church member or their pastor.
2. A perception the church is no longer relevant in their life and does not meet their needs.
3. Discouragement with themselves over a failure to live in harmony with church standards.
4. A growing disinterest in spiritual things in general due to a lack of adequate devotional and Bible study life.

The Path of Commitment: Why Should You Go?

Christians are the Body of Christ, and therefore, “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (I Corinthians 12:26). The result is that every Christian will want to follow Paul’s instruction: “If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him . . . carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:1-2). The law of Christ is love!

Today!

Today is the day to drop by the straying member’s home. Today is the day to phone for an appointment. As the saying goes, “The best way to begin is to begin.” Today!

Resource: *Reclaiming Lost Members*, by Jim Ayer

"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: Principles of Personal Christian Witnessing CR.102

"God has promised to go before us and open the way. He even makes it fun, and His presence, mixed with our kindness, can change a life for eternity. (Taken from Bridges 101, by Ruthie Jacobsen.)

Description

This Module is a study of the implementation of the principles of personal Christian witnessing techniques in soul winning.

Overview

The major theme of this Module is personal Christian witnessing.

1. How to listen and detect the needs and desires of others.
2. To win the confidence of those that you engage in your witnessing endeavor.

The aim of this Module is to liberate you from anxiety that could prohibit you from witnessing and to instill within you the joy that Jesus gives when you are connected to Him.

The comprehensive hope of this Module is to totally immobilize any concerns, apprehensions and personal witnessing obstacles from your life.

Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the methods of personal Christian witnessing.
2. The student will gain knowledge of Christ's method of personal witnessing.
3. The student will be acquainted with personal witnessing decision-making techniques.
4. The student will possess the witnessing tools necessary to do personal witnessing to prohibit anxiety about witnessing.

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 for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Northern State Prison, Newark, New Jersey

The total is now thirty-eight baptized Seventh-day Adventists in the Northern State Prison.

August 30, 2008 eleven men were baptized by immersion and two by profession of faith. After the baptism an appeal was made, four more inmates took their stand for Jesus, turning their lives over to Christ. There are twelve more inmates waiting for baptism which will bring the total to 50 Seventh-day Adventist members.

The Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Corrections, because of his constant support was made an honorary member of the Reformation Prison Ministry. Also five officers and a Captain were recipients of an Award of Appreciation.

To show how the grace of God can transform a life. There is an inmate who has been locked up for eighteen years. Prison officials say that no one can reach him because he has no respect for anyone. He is so bad he has to have a mask placed over his mouth. I asked for permission to talk with this man. The Deputy Commissioner came from the head office and took me to see this inmate. After talking to him for about an hour and fifteen minutes, he accepted to take a *Steps to Christ* from me and a set of Bible lessons, *Good News for Today*. There is no place where the grace of God can't go and reach a hard heart and soften it.

Submitted by Oswald Goulding, Reformation Prison Ministries, Teaneck, New Jersey

CLIP, CURL and CUT – Inside the Fence

The development of pre-employment training, workplace competencies, on-the-job training and work experience are essential to an effective transitional program for juveniles in corrections. Cameline Beauty School, a component of the Robert Farrell School, is an example of this type of program. Robert Farrell School, a fully accredited middle school and high school, is located on the campus of the Hillcrest Oregon Youth Correctional Facility in Salem. Hillcrest serves male and female students between the ages of 12 and 25. The school enrolls an average of 185 students and includes general education, special education, post-high school and intake services.

In Cameline Beauty School, students learn all aspects of hair design, hair cutting using scissors and clippers, air waving, bleaching, color weaving, conditioning, iron curling, relaxing, shampooing, styling and tinting. A minimum number of training hours in these services are required prior to working on clients, so all students start their practical work on mannequins.

June 2008 Corrections Today

EDITOR'S P.S.

Each year Resolutions are made! Each year Resolutions are broken! It's not planned – but it happens. No Resolutions for me this year. I'm going to take the counsel of Micah 6:8 and let it be my guide. *"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"* Care to join me? Blessed 2009!

I'm outta here!

CB



