



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 8

**"Publish** his  
glorious acts  
throughout the  
earth. Tell  
everyone about  
the amazing  
things he does."  
– Psalms 96:3 –  
LVB

**"In** heroic  
organization,  
people mentor  
each other  
unselfishly." –  
Anonymous

**"Innovation** is  
simply group  
intelligence  
having fun." –  
Michael Nolan

**"Diversity:** the  
art of thinking  
independently  
together." –  
Malcolm Forbes

## "We Share This Hope"

Hello, Ministry Partners!

Church Members around the world are familiar with what has become known as The Seventh-day Adventist *Anthem*, which is sung with *Passion* and *Purpose* each time it is rendered. It is, of course, the timeless melody and lyric penned by Wayne Hooper, *We Have This Hope*. (You are getting "Goose Pimples" all over again, aren't you?) The song underscores the *Hope* and assurance we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians in the Bible "Promise" of the Second Coming of Our Lord which will bring an end to all of these "Former Things" that now frustrate us-*and* impels/compels us to respond to the Great Gospel Commission of Matthew 28, which instructs us to allow Our Lord to use us to share this Good News with those within our spheres of influence so that they, too, may benefit positively from relationship with Our Lord and His glorious Second Coming.

Our entire World Church Family, and that includes the North American Division, has responded to an invitation by our World Church President, Elder Ted N. C. Wilson, to spread the message of The *Great Controversy* around the world. To date, 166,000,000 volumes of this book, in various forms, have been committed for distribution under the name, "*The Great Hope Project*".

In the North American Division we are committed within "The Great Hope Project" to a minimum distribution goal of 3,000,000 volumes, and of completing "The Project" with distribution of an Eleven Chapter abridged version of *The Great Controversy* (94 pages) entitled, *The Great Hope!* The Lord has blessed and inspired our Publishing Houses (Review and Herald and Pacific Press) to offer an astounding pre-publication price of \$0.49 per book (plus shipping) for 1,000,000 copies of *The Great Hope*, ordered directly from Adventist Book Centers, by **April 15, 2012!** You know that is wonderful! Here is what the North American Division *Great Hope Project* looks like:

1. January-May, 2012 – Our members read the full version of *The Great Controversy*, prayerfully asking The Lord to lead regarding who they should Relationally/Personally share *The Great Hope* with.
2. January-April 15, 2012 – Conferences/Churches/Individuals may place orders directly to Adventist Book Centers.
3. May 15, 2012 – Publishing Houses make *The Great Hope* available to the ABCs.
4. June 1, 2012 – Our Members begin distribution of *The Great Hope*, to neighbors, friends and family, and then we all watch Our Lord create and mature decisions to follow Him!

JAJ II

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### **Adult Sabbath School Facilitator**

***As a facilitator, be a learner with your group rather than an expert authority figure.***

#### **Job Description**

The role of the Adult Sabbath School facilitator is to guide a small group toward growth in the study of God's Word, in fellowship, in community service and in support of world missions. (The title Sabbath School teacher has been used for a long time, but this person really acts as a group facilitator.) For most of the Sabbath service people listen – to the prayers, special music and sermon. The main opportunity for fellowship and sharing comes in the Sabbath School. As a facilitator, you have a sacred responsibility to share your spiritual journey, as well as your knowledge, and to encourage others to share theirs. The facilitator reports to the division leader. The assistants report to the facilitator.

#### **Time Commitment: Approximately 25 hours per month**

The time involved in weekly preparation depends on the background and training of the facilitator. Usually a successful facilitator will devote three to five hours in preparation during the week. He or she should also set aside two to four hours per month for facilitators' meetings. In some cases facilitators are also asked to attend monthly Sabbath School Committee meetings.

#### **Desired Qualities**

It is of utmost importance for facilitators to display a caring, accepting attitude toward all people, and have the ability to connect with people on a personal level. They must be kind and understanding, as well as able to lead spiritual discussions.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the facilitator to lead the Sabbath School group in a meaningful and redemptive study of God's Word through creative and effective teaching methodologies. The facilitator should encourage regular Bible study and seek to involve members in discussion and active learning.

Facilitators also need to be sensitive to the characteristics of adult learners and their current life issues and needs. Greet each person in the group warmly every week and ask them to share their spiritual journeys, both the joys and disappointments. If possible, invite members to your home and visit theirs. Spending time with a person in his or her home environment will accelerate the friendship and help you to understand each other better.

Sabbath School members enjoy the friendship and support that comes with being part of a close-knit group. This fellowship will be encouraged by a sharing time including announcements, prayer requests and updates on missing members. As members pray with and for one another, they will come closer to each other. Prayer is an incredible bonding force!

## **WHAT'S HOT!**

### **SABBATH SCHOOL TOLLS OUT RESOURCE FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Lessons prepared specifically for new members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be available for Sabbath School and other small study groups in first quarter 2012. Entitled *In Step With Jesus*, the four quarterly Bible study guides introduce new members to Adventist belief, heritage, language, and lifestyle in a series of 52 lessons and then to transition them smoothly into the regular study of the Sabbath School *Adult Bible Study Guide* – and to a full, rich life in the church.

“For many years,” says Gary B. Swanson, editor of *In Step With Jesus* and associate director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, General Conference, “there have been numerous expressions of need from leadership and from local churches for this kind of resource. They have asked for a way to introduce recent converts to Adventist culture and to start them on a path of ever enriching discipleship that will encourage them to engage in an increasingly active part of our church life.”

The four quarterly student resources were authored by Jane Thayer, professor of religious education the Andrews University Theological Seminary. They are grounded firmly in the “Growing Fruitful Disciple” curriculum developed in a cooperative effort among the General Conference departments and the Andrews University Theological Seminary and the School of Education.

The “Growing Fruitful Disciples” curriculum centers on development of four essential elements: connecting (growing in relationship with God, self, and others); understanding (growing in knowledge of Jesus and His teachers); equipping (growing the body of Christ by walking alongside other disciples to support, nurture, and strengthen in love), and ministering (growing in participation in God’s mission of revelation, reconciliation, and restoration). These four emphases serve as the framework for the full spiritual development of disciples. (For additional information regarding the framework, see  [<HTTP://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com>](http://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com).)

The New Members’ Bible Study Guide, *In Step With Jesus*, offers a multimedia approach to this introduction to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is comprised of:

- Four quarterly Bible study guides for the student
- Four corresponding teacher/leader guides to provide transformational, interactive tools for the group studies
- A Web site where new members may explore a rich array of content, commentary, and other creative resources. (See  [<Http://www.InStepWithJesus.org>](http://www.InStepWithJesus.org).)

*In Step With Jesus* offers a balance of content and socialization that will encourage new members to become fully engaged in church life. Published by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, printed at the Pacific Press Publishing Association.

## **Q & A on Spiritual Gifts – Part 2 of 2**

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**Helps** – This gift is made manifest by those who are able to accentuate the gift of another person so that the other person may be more effective. For example, a person with the gift of helps might take attendance for the Sabbath School teacher/facilitator or watch her children so that she might then be more effective in her Sabbath School class for the morning.

**Knowledge** – This gift allows one to understand information, assimilate it, analyze it, and present it to the body of Christ (the church) in such a way that it is understood, and is applicable to the Christian experience.

**Leadership** – This gift is made manifest in the lives of members who are able to catch a vision of something that needs to be done in the church and to help other people catch a glimpse of this vision so that they, too, become inspired to participate.

**Miracles** – When one has the gift of miracles, one can do extraordinary things that are not explainable by the laws of nature. The extraordinary event brings glory to God, as when Moses led the children of Israel to the Red Sea and it parted.

**Pastoring** – A pastor takes on the responsibility of overseeing the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

**Prophecy** – God uses prophecy, inspiration and revelation, to speak through certain individuals in order to give messages to His church. Seventh-day Adventists see this gift evident in the life and work of Ellen G. White. Prophecy can be oral or written.

**Servicing, Ministering** – A person with this gift is able to find the needs of others and to meet and satisfy those needs.

**Showing Mercy** – This is the special ability to empathize with someone else whether he/she has spiritual, mental, or physical problems and to alleviate his/her problems through good deeds that relieve suffering and reflect the love of Christ.

**You know what a Spiritual Gift is. You have reviewed definitions for each individual gift. Now you are anxious to find out which of these gifts from God you can claim. Where do you begin the search for your Spiritual Gift?**

**Study the Scriptures. Understand the Church's position on Spiritual Gifts. Read other articles and books on Spiritual Gifts. Rub shoulders with gifted people. Form a group and discuss your Spiritual Gift possibilities. Activate Your Spiritual Gift, NOW!**

Welcome to the Family, Home Study International

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL'S  
PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

**Tobacco Awareness Event  
Taking Public Action- Part 2 of 2**

*Your congregation can do something about the evils of the tobacco industry, just as Seventh-day Adventists have done for more than a hundred years. Here are some options:*

- 1. An offering of letters could be scheduled for a Sabbath morning during the worship service. Ask all of the members to write a letter to one or more public officials and bring it to church, ready to mail, on the announced Sabbath. A list of the names and addresses of the officials, guidelines for proper address and protocol, a fact sheet on the issues and even a sample letter should be passed out weeks ahead of the date.*
- 2. A local civic leader or public official could be invited to address the congregation on that Sabbath. All of the letters will be brought forward and piled on the table in front of the pulpit before the invited guest speaks. This makes a visible statement against tobacco and will attract the attention of the news media.*
- 3. The general public can be asked to join in the offering of letters. Encourage church members to take the fact sheets to their place of work or pass them around in their neighborhoods. Talk to the news media in advance and see if they will publish an announcement of the campaign, including a phone number where individuals can call and request copies of the fact sheets.*
- 4. Your congregation's youth group or Pathfinder Club might want to set up a table (with permission) at a local mall or shopping center, and distribute copies of the fact sheet. Be sure to include an address where individuals can send their letters if they want to include them in the big pile. And invite them to attend that day.*

*Through all of these means, and others, even a small congregation can collect hundreds of letters. This can have a significant impact on government decision makers, as well as make a public witness in your community and in the eyes of your young people.*

## **"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: How to Teach Basic Seventh-day Adventist Doctrines CR.104**

***A sound understanding of what the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches is fundamental to all forms of outreach, evangelism, and nurture.***

*General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries*

### **Description**

***This Module is a study of the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It exposes students to the fundamental techniques and knowledge essential for sharing the love of Jesus Christ.***

### **Overview**

***The major theme of this module is how to teach basis Seventh-day Adventist doctrines. Students will be acquainted with a series of doctrinal Bible studies, with an emphasis on frequently asked questions and supportive scriptural answers. Students will familiarize themselves with Bible lessons and how to make practical applications of these lessons to the vicissitudes of struggles and problems that often corral individuals in everyday life. The student will attain a basic knowledge and description of religious diverse faith groups with fundamental concepts for approaching them in the spirit of Christ.***

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1. The student will attain a fundamental knowledge of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.***
- 2. The student will understand the fundamentals and how to teach the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.***
- 3. The student will be acquainted with the basic beliefs of numerous faith groups and traditions.***
- 4. The student will learn how to address these groups in the spirit of Christ.***
- 5. The student will learn how to make practical application of these lessons to everyday life situations.***

***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**

### **New Reentry Program Lets Young Offenders Learn From Lifers**

*New Orleans judges Laurie Whit and Arthur Hunter were tired of seeing offenders in their courtrooms over and over again, going from prison to the streets and back. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported on Hunter's and White's proposed solution to New Orleans' recidivism, a new program called Re-entry Court.*

*Re-Entry Court allows nonviolent "short-timer" offenders to serve their sentences at the Louisiana State Penitentiary-Angola under the guidance of inmate mentors who will be at Angola until they die. These "lifers" teach younger criminals anger management and parenting skills, welding, culinary arts, horticulture, carpentry and auto repair-and they teach the true price of committing more crimes. "Having these skills, witnessing what goes on here, I don't want to be in this situation no more," said Re-entry Court participant Christopher Fauria, age 34. Inmates in the Re-entry Court program – mentors and mentees – describe the program as life-changing. Offenders like Fauria are not just earning their GED and trade certificates at Angola; they are learning self-respect and gaining a chance at a new way of life on the outside.*

*October 2011 Corrections Today*

*On a Monday evening in November 2011, 16 inmates of the True Gospel Ministries Church, Maryland Correctional Institute, Jessup, Maryland, were awarded diplomas upon their completion of the Amazing Facts Bible Study course. Four more inmates took the course by correspondence.*

*Submitted by Michael Stango, Volunteer Elder*

*According to Oswald Goulding, director of the Reformation Prison Ministry, Teaneck, New Jersey, membership for the Seventh-day Adventist Congregation at the Northern State Prison, Newark, N.J., now stands at 150.*

*Submitted by Oswald Goulding*

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

***Time. What is time? Ben Franklin said, ". . . that is the stuff life is made of." We're into the second month of 2012. January acted like a whirlwind – what will February and the rest of the year be like in terms of "time".***

***Time is significant because it is so rare. It is completely irretrievable. You can never repeat it or relive it. There is no such thing as a literal instant replay. That appears only on film. It travels alongside us every day, yet it has eternity wrapped up in it. Although this is true, time often seems relative, doesn't it? For example, two weeks on a vacation is not at all like two weeks on a diet. Also some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week! Time forms life's building blocks. The "Preacher" [Ecclesiastes 3] said it all, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens." There are 10 months left to this year –John Haggai says, "Yesterday is a cashed check; tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is cash in hand so use it – invest it." Let's make the best use of our time for the balance of 2012– and let it all be for the Glory of God!***

***I'm outta here!***

***CB***

