



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 4

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

2 Peter 3:18 – KJV

• *Do not lower your standards to accommodate others." The Pocket Power Book of Integrity*

• *"Anger is the only thing to put off till tomorrow." – Bits and Pieces*

• *"Worry is a misuse of the imagination." -- Dan Zadra*

IN THIS ISSUE

• 10 Keys to Unlock Your Teaching Potential

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"Brighten The Corner Where You Are!"

Hello, Ministry Partners!

As I have engaged in preparation for sharing the Evangelism Report for one of the Camp Meetings, the words from the *Singing Youth* (from MV days in the 50s and 60s) came racing into my consciousness.

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do, Do not wait to shed your light afar. Someone far from Harbor you may guide across the Bar, Brighten The Corner Where You Are!

The Holy Ghost is indeed moving by adding daily to His Remnant Family around the world. The General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics reports that as of September 19, 2007 - 2, 859.18 persons are coming into The Remnant Church every day! That amounts to one person coming into The Family every 30.22 seconds! These are awesome statistics regarding a blessed reality! The Holy Ghost *is indeed* finishing His Work!

The challenge and joyful opportunity for us, as well as for the people we lead and encourage in Ministry, is to not only gladly and happily read the reports of what others are doing, but to prayerfully solicit the leading of The Holy Ghost regarding the direct ministry of our Spiritual Gifts in *Front Line* or *Supply Line* service, that will continue to contribute to our joyful participation in the process of swelling those quality numbers, so that the Great Gospel Commission can be completed to the Glory of God. The Holy Ghost will work through us to *Brighten The Corner Where We Are!*

Would you share a portion of the pure joy I experienced earlier this year when after leading them through Baptismal Preparation, which they requested, I had the honor of baptizing my Nephew, his Wife, and their Son into The Remnant Church earlier this year? Service *With Jesus Is "Sweet,"* I Know! Let's keep on promoting it, and doing it!

Blessings to you, and to all who Minister along with you. Know that we are grateful for your service and that you are in our prayers! Be encouraged! MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

10 KEYS FOR UNLOCKING YOUR TEACHING POTENTIAL

Two Foundational Principles of Adult Sabbath: Sabbath School is the Heart of the Church; Sabbath School is the Learning Center of the Church.

"Our Sabbath Schools are not what the Lord would have them to be, for there is altogether too much dependence placed upon form and machinery while the life-giving power of God is not manifested for the conversion of souls for whom Christ died. This order of things must be changed if our Sabbath Schools are to meet the purpose for which they exist." *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 156, 157.

"THE 10 KEYS"

Key #1 -The Teacher is the single most determining factor of a growing Sabbath School class.

Key #2 – Teaching is a calling not an office or obligation.

Key #3 - Teaching is a skill that can be *Acquired*.

Key #4 – The teacher's objective in Sabbath School is "People Building" not to cover the lesson.

Key #5 – Effective teachers focus on Learning not *Teaching*.

Key #6 – People have different Learning Styles and we must teach to them all.

Key #7 – When it comes to learning – Less is More!

Key #8 – The teacher's task is to get their students to *Think*, not give them the answer.

Key #9 – Effective teaching is also preceded by careful Preparation.

Key #10 – Teachers must be Perpetual Learners.



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

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

TYLER, TEXAS

Carlos Turcios reports 68 precious souls in the first three crusades of 2008! A crusade is already in progress in Tyler. Turcios said they have asked God for 200 souls by the end of the year. Tyler, Texas is well on the way.

SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA - THE VOICE OF PROPHECY - DISCOVER GUIDES AVAILABLE ON CELL PHONE

The Discover Bible Guides produced by the Voice of Prophecy have been formatted for use on the cell phone.

Kurt Johnson, teaming up with Gordon Harty, has formatted the Discover Guides to be accessed and easily read via a cell phone browser. The guides are currently self-grading and text only. Future development will include interactive grading and a graphic version. The test site was launched in January 2008. The go-live site date was June 11, 2008.

To access, open up your cell phone browser and enter in: www.biblestudies.com/cell. You will be able to take the first lesson and register for future log-in. The guides can also be accessed at www.bibleschools.com/cell and www.discoveronline.org/cell. Cell phone Bible studies! Yes!

For those ages 8-12 – a second website was recently launched - www.kidzvop.com - hosts the popular Junior-age lessons KidZone which were produced and introduced online in October 2007.

The VOICE OF PROPHECY, in partnership with the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference, assist in maintaining the www.hopetalk.org website. This website includes a Bible lesson page for each of the World Divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each Division maintains the material on their particular page.

Lay Cheng Tan, Internet Bible School Coordinator for the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, assisted in the development and set-up of all the websites listed.

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Q & A

Our Church is strictly family-oriented. Is there anything out there for Singles and Single parents to do? Got any ideas or thoughts to share?

Singles and Single parenting is not new to the church. Divorce, death, and prolonged separations are part of life for members of every congregation. And it is time to examine the issues and develop some strategies by which to minister to these hurting families and individuals.

One of the biggest issues for single parents and singles is that of self-perception. Regardless of the reason for the divorce or death or separation, there is an overwhelming sense of guilt. One feels labeled a "failure." The definition of a "normal" family is two parents and children. When this is not the situation, the tendency is to think it is "abnormal" or not perfect. Too often, the reaction of people around the single parent is to ask who was at fault in the divorce. (If divorce is the case.)

But Jesus made it clear in Matthew 19:13-15, that He loves children and that He calls them to His kingdom. It is interesting to note that His statement follows His discourse on divorce.

One imagines that following His public statements, He was approached by some single mothers asking that He bless their children, perhaps as a way to bringing to their pain. If Jesus is concerned about children, He is definitely concerned about their care givers, including single parents.

Now! If you Google www.seventhdayadventistsingles you'll be introduced to and amazed at what some churches are doing in their Single Ministry. There are many things that singles can do together, for others, or in a group project. How about a Walk-A-Thon? Get a number of singles and organize Walking To Live Healthy, or walking for a cause, i.e. Cancer. (I bet some married people would want to join in the fun.)

Begin thinking of how the Singles in your congregation can raise funds for good, legitimate projects, locally or overseas. Here are a few ideas (taken from churches on the internet) that would be exciting to try:

- A Fashion Show with proceeds going toward a local homeless shelter, or a project of your choice. All ages can be involved.
- Collect goodies to prepare C.A.R.E. packages for Service Personnel. How special it would be if there is deployed military personnel in your church. C.A.R.E. packages could be sent to his/her unit.
- Select an ADRA project, and purchase water filters for a village, books, or hygiene supplies. Check online to see the countries and the needs.

There are many things you can get involved with. Look around for a project, a family, a child—just waiting for your help. There are a lot of things out there just waiting for a helping hand from Singles. At home or abroad. The choice is yours.

We have a good outline for getting a Singles Ministry started, which will be in the August issue of *Network News*. Be on the lookout for it.

In the meantime, go online, check out what other churches are doing, get some ideas of your own, talk it up with other singles in your church and "get busy!" There's nothing to hold you back.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

21 PRINCIPLES

TO FOLLOW IN LEADING A SMALL GROUP – PART I

Principle #1 – *There are four parts to a life changing small group.*

- *Building Friendships (Sharing)*
- *Getting to know God (Bible Study)*
- *Talking to God about Life (Prayer)*
- *Rallying Cry (Our Missionary/Ministry—What Brought Us Together)*

“Church” naturally happens in a small group!

Principle #2 – A small group must be outreach centered to be biblical.

- Decisions are made in a small group.

“The formation of *small companies* as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church let the church members be formed into *small companies* to work not only for the *church members*, but for *unbelievers*. (*Evangelism*, p. 115)

Principle #3 – Participation is the KEY to Success.

- A group leader is a facilitator—a guide—not the authority or teacher.
- Arrangement of members—where they sit—will make a difference in the way they participate.
- Don’t pressure or put anyone on the “spot” to talk, read, pray, or speak.

Principle #4 – Leadership.

- Leaders must be equipped.
- Every group member is in training.
- Everyone in a group is a leader to someone else.

Principle #5 – Lead in Love.

- Love, acceptance, and forgiveness are a way of life.

Principle #6 – Respond loving, with kindness *immediately* to a need expressed.

- How do you teach people to share their needs? (James 5:16)
- Teach people by example.
- Other ways to respond to a member’s needs.

Principle #7 – The Bible is our Authority and our Guidebook.

- *The Bible is not only for learning, but for living.*

Principle #8 – Encourage *Everyone* in the Group.

- Each person must be made to feel that his/her ideas and questions are important.
- Dialogue, sharing, prayer, Scripture application is what we are after.

Principle #9 – Don’t allow doctrinal discussion that is divisive or argumentative.

Principle #10 – Practice life and team building (Romans 14:19).

"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: Chaplains Relations VCHP.201

"The Chaplain provides a vital part of the whole process within the law enforcement community. The primary goal of the prison Chaplain is to provide Pastoral care to the inmate. The Chaplain becomes pastor to the inmates as well as their teacher in spiritual matters. This important aspect incorporates areas of spiritual, moral and emotional development for the incarcerated. Source: ezinearticles.com/Internet

Description

This module provides the student with hands on opportunity to understand how chaplains relate to prison personnel through personal interviews with prison staff and inmates. The student will develop and formulate his finding in a written composition that will aid him/her in understanding the complexity of a Chaplain's relationship with staff.

Overview

This Module seeks to involve the student in understanding and developing clear concepts regarding the role and relationships of Chaplains in the work place. This Module affords the student the opportunity to understand the Chaplain's Relationship with inmates and institutional expectations in his overall relationship with the Correctional make up.

Learning Outcomes

1. To provide the student with the opportunity to do independent, non bias research regarding Chaplain Relationships in a Correctional setting with prison personnel and inmates.
2. The student will interview designated prison personnel and inmates and compile a written composition that will serve as a model of understanding of the complexity of the Chaplain's job.
3. The student will gain a greater appreciation of the role of a Chaplain.

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

A Day of Prayer and Fasting – In Prison!

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – Seventh-day Adventist Inmates, at the one of the largest prisons in New Jersey, told Oswald Goulding, director of The Reformation Prison Ministry, their desire to have a

day of fasting and prayer for the inmate population. Could he (Brother Goulding) work it out for this to happen? The real question was How do you convince the prison officials to allow something of this nature take place? Prayer and Fasting? In Prison? By Inmates?

Brother Goulding wrote a letter to the Liaison Office at the Northern State Prison asking for permission.

The letter. "Dear Sir, The Reformation Prison Ministry would like to spend a day of fasting and prayer on August 2, 2008 from 9 a.m., to Sunset. Our congregation hopes to use this day to enlighten the population about the importance of respecting one another, despite our differences.

We will be praying for forgiveness, for the safety of the staff, and their families. We intend to use this time to bring members of the inmate population together to share the joy of fasting and prayer as part of the ministry.

Prison Ministry strives to better the working and living environment of all concerned. Change comes from within, and prayer and fasting is the starting line for this change. Most importantly, the inmates who are seeking a change for the better will be participating in this spiritual exercise. Respectfully yours, Oswald Goulding." Permission - granted!

EDITOR'S P.S.

Have you ever had the privilege of participating in a brain storming session where ideas are flying and bouncing all over the place, where no one thinks your ideas are stupid, and where the ideas don't just "stay ideas" but are put into action and implemented? You're just the person I want to talk to. I am so excited about an upcoming Initiative – (drum roll, please) the NAD 2009 Sabbath School Summit. The theme is: *"Adult Sabbath School: One Mission, Many Methods."* The Objective is to brainstorm multiple creative methods of implementing the four goals of Sabbath School: *Bible Study, Fellowship, Outreach, and World Mission.*

Who Should Come? Adult Sabbath School leaders and other adults who have an interest in strengthening Adult Sabbath School.

When and Where? April 24, 25, 2009 at the General Conference Headquarters. Registration opens Friday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m. Put those dates down **NOW!!!**

THE SURPRISE! There's **NO** registration fee! Yes! You read it correctly. No fee! However, attendees will be required to Register at www.plusline.org (this fall), so that we may adequately plan for Materials Preparation and Food Service on the Sabbath Day of the *Summit*, which will come to the attendees at **NO** charge! (Surprised again?) Hard to believe, huh? Then contact me at 301.680.6430 or carol.barron@nad.adventist.org, and hear it again "for the very first time".

I'm outta here!

CB

