



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JUNE 2007

Volume 3

*"My help  
cometh from  
the Lord which  
made heaven  
and earth. --  
Psalm 121: 1, 2  
KJV*

• *"If you want to  
lift yourself up,  
lift up someone  
else. – Booker T.  
Washington*

• *"If you tell the  
truth, you don't  
have to  
remember  
anything." – Mark  
Twain*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **IS YOUR CHURCH MISSION DRIVEN? YES? NO?**
- **PRETTY BASKETS AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS**
- **118 DAYS UNTIL "THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY!"**

## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

### In His Presence

Dear Ministry Partner,

As we go about our privilege as Personal, Prison, and Sabbath School Ministers, let us continue to be motivated by **The Power Of The Presence Of Jesus** to keep us buoyant, encouraged, and sufficiently supplied as we function in service with Him.

Think about it. It was **In His Presence** that the storm was stilled. It was **In His Presence** that five loaves and two small fishes fed thousands. It was **In His Presence** that demons disappeared. It was **In His Presence** that a convicted criminal experienced Salvation. It was **In His Presence** that the victim of the violence of a "hot-headed" disciple received healing.

**The Presence Of Jesus** is the **Powerful Answer** in all of our challenges and opportunities as we go about ministry. Be comforted and encouraged by the promise of Our Lord that comes at the conclusion of the Great Gospel Commission that guarantees, ". . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We all look forward to our fellowship and ministry together at The Festival Of The Laity— [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com)!

God bless you all!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### SABBATH SCHOOL WEEKLY PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE AND IDEAS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

**Use the form below as a guide for organizing weekly Sabbath School Programs. Answering these questions will help focus the program so it does not become routine and similar each week. It will add creativity and innovation to your planning.**

#### **NEEDS**

What are the needs of my church that can be met by this week's program?

#### **EMPHASIS AND FOCUS**

What is the emphasis and focus of this week's program?

#### **Participation**

How can this program motivate members to participate?

#### **Objectives**

Which of the four main purposes of Sabbath School are emphasized in this week's program—Study of the Word, Fellowship, Community Outreach and World Mission Emphasis?

#### **RESULTS**

What specific results do we expect from this week's program?

Resource: *The Sabbath School Handbook*. Sabbath School Programs & Special Days. AdventSource.

### SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Lorraine Juberg, who for more than 50 years served as a leader in many branches of Sabbath School, remembers the "old way" of taking the Sabbath School offerings—you know the green/grey or blue/grey envelope. (The word "ugly" was used.)

"It seemed to me," Juberg said, "we could come up with a more 'attractive' collection vehicle for Missions and Expenses. If it worked for the children, why couldn't it work for the adults?"

#### **PRETTY BASKETS**

An attractive basket with two compartments and one or two fold-down handles. The baskets would be stackable when empty, fitting into each other. One compartment could be labeled: MISSIONS. The other compartment could be labeled EXPENSE. For those who wanted them, Tithe Envelopes could be available in each class area.

The basket/s could be made of regular woven basket material, plastic, or metal. Some baskets are inexpensive, classy woven silver or gold metal baskets. (**Hint:** There are good buys at the Dollar Store.)

Lorraine continues, "With the children, I found that if we would 'dress up' the offering container, and/or create a special incentive, the offerings greatly increased. Why wouldn't this also work for adults?"

The challenge is before you, Sabbath School. It wouldn't hurt to try something different. Purchase some baskets or pails, or whatever, and decorate them – use them for the offerings and see if the giving increases as Lorraine has already experienced. Then let *Network News* know. Our thanks to Lorraine Juberg for sharing her ideas. Other Sabbath School ideas? Please share them with us.



## WHAT'S HOT!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still your hottest item!  
TRAINING! At the Festival!**

**MOTIVATION! At the Festival!**

**NETWORKING! At the Festival!**

**BE EMPOWERED AND EMPOWER YOUR MINISTRY AT THE FESTIVAL!**

**118** days until September 26, 2007 (as of June 1). With **118** days left until the FESTIVAL, you're encouraged to register and register SOON, because space is limited.

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** is \$149.00 BEFORE August 16, 2007. AFTER August 16, 2007 - \$225.00 per person. The \$149.00 Convention Fee - good until August 16, 2007, still includes six meals, eight General Sessions, and 45 Seminars. So good people REGISTER NOW! THE PRICE IS RIGHT!

Register at [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com), or call 800.732.7587 – the folk there are ready and willing to help you get registered for the Festival.

**EXHIBITORS: BOOTHS – SOLD OUT! SOLD OUT! SOLD OUT!**

**FESTIVAL SITE:** The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656 – is the site for the Festival Of The Laity. Visit [www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com](http://www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com) – take the online tour of this fabulous hotel. View the beautiful rooms, and quickly make your reservation to stay in one of them! AAH! Such sweet comfort!

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** When you reserve your room/s at the hotel, use the code "Festival Of The Laity" to get the \$99 per night rate. If you want help with the expenses, invite three (3) other people to share the room with you. You can have up to four (4) people in your room. Reserve by calling 800.588.4656.

September 26-29, 2007 is **118** days out – that's just around the corner! You really don't want to miss out on this grand occasion.

If you want Specialized Training in Sabbath School, Personal and Prison Ministry – the Seminars - all 45 of them -- are for YOU!

The General Sessions - all 8 of them - will be your boost for the day!

And the Shopping - at The FLORIDA MALL - will bring you to the end of a perfect day!

**REGISTER! REGISTER! REGISTER!**

**\$149.00** until August 16, 2007

**See you in ORLANDO!**

**At THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY!**

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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

### Is A Sabbath School Secretary Necessary? How About Duties? Part I

Yes! The Sabbath School Secretary is necessary. God asks the Church to be a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship, continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

The Church is a servant body. Created for service, it serves the Lord in praise, serves one another in love, and serves the world in humility. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Ephesians 2:10)

The Sabbath School Secretary, like every other church officer, is a ministering servant of God. Every Christian believer is called to ministry, gifted by the Holy Spirit, and in baptism ordained for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

### Duties of the Sabbath School Secretary

1. **Communication.** You will send out announcements or phone to remind people of the meetings of the Sabbath School Committee. You will check with the leaders of the adult Sabbath School classes and other Divisions each week to review their membership list, gather their offerings, provide them with supplies, as well as listen for their suggestions and needs. You will communicate these needs to the pastor or other appropriate leader. You are the contact person for the Conference Church Ministries Department and will be sent bulletins, and other items of information which needs to be routed to the right person in your congregation. **You are the link in the chain through which most communication will travel.**
2. **Records and Statistics.** The minutes of the Church Ministries Council and perhaps other communities may be kept by the Sabbath School Secretary, and copies promptly sent to each of the committee members as a reminder of decisions and assignments, and a way to inform absent members. Each Sabbath School teacher and Division leader is to be supplied with a Membership Record Folder and encouraged to keep a list of people in the group. On the second Sabbath of each quarter, attendance counts are to be collected both during Sabbath School and the Worship Hour. These form the basis for filling out the Sabbath School Profile (Form A-300) which is the official Statistical Report of the Sabbath School in your church.
3. **Supplies.** A number of Sabbath School supplies and materials are needed in each local Adventist Church. The Sabbath School must have Quarterlies, Helps for Teachers and Leaders, and many other items in order to function. It is the responsibility of the Sabbath School Secretary to see that these items are ordered in advance of the need, received, stored carefully, and distributed on time. **You are the supply agent upon which all of the other Sabbath School leaders depend.**

Part II next month.

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

#### THE MISSION DRIVEN CHURCH

**Question: Is Your Church Mission Driven? Answer: Yes? No? Maybe So?**

**We are all Missionaries! A missionary church is sent by Christ on a**

**journey, and faithfulness to Christ's command will lead that church to "move" from "place" to "place," just as Abraham set out in response to God's direction. This means that if your congregation is truly a mission driven church, it will change its activities from time to time in order to be more effective in outreach and evangelism.**

1. The Church exists to serve the people who are not members, the people outside itself, "the world." Ellen White says that "*When we have come to love the world as [Christ] loved it, then, for us, His mission is accomplished.*" (*Desire of Ages*, page 64)
2. The focus and goals of the Church are determined by Christ, not by majority vote and not by ecclesiastical authority. It is His mission upon which we are sent. It is His purpose which He assigns us to attain. It is only as we center our individual lives in Christ, and our life together in His mission that we can really be completely faithful to Jesus.

**"A soul winning church cannot be a church that resists change. If it does, it will eventually quit winning souls." Again the question is asked. Is your church mission driven? Now, what's your answer?**

*Practical Guide to Personal Ministries. AdventSource.*

### **"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: Inmate Communication – VCHP.244**

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary says "Communication is a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior."

**Inmate Communication** describes basic communication practices with inmates and surveys communicative guidelines for promoting proper and effective communication with inmates.

**The Overview** of this Module, **Inmate Communication**, will give suggestions on how to communicate and show methods of communication with inmates. This Module briefly describes the kind of people that volunteers will encounter, as well as acquainting them with volunteer expectation in dealing with inmates.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- To acquaint the student with the fundamentals of communicating with inmates.
- To introduce the student to guidelines for communicating with inmates.
- To introduce volunteers to the kind of inmates that they will be communicating with.

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

Carlos Gomez, an active prison minister and Chaplain writes: "I have been involved in Prison Ministry for more than ten years, but I what I saw Sabbath, April 21, 2007— was like heaven.

Ten men, in prison because they broke the law. They are not just prisoners, but 'Children of God' – 'new creatures', changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. You can't get anything better than this in your life.

**Baptismal Day – April 21, 2007.** The first candidate for baptism felt the touch of the Holy Spirit. Once in the water and baptized, he did not want to get out of the water. There was silence for a moment. We, the Volunteers, started clapping and jumping to show our happiness of witnessing this special time. Then the rest of the candidates were baptized – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Each time there was joy, clapping, jumping –this was done **ten times!** After each man went down into the watery grave of baptism. What joy!

I want to encourage those who are volunteers in prison ministry, to continue to visit those behind bars. I've waited more than ten years to see people accept the calling of Jesus. Keep ministering, Prison Ministers. The timing is not our, it's God's - He's always right on time.

### EDITOR'S P.S.

#### A Poem: **THANK YOU**

*I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and you discussed my hunger.  
**Thank you.***

*I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar to pray for my release. **Thank you.***

*I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.  
**Thank you.***

*I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health. **Thank you.***

*I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.  
**Thank you.***

*I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me. **Thank you.***

*You seem so holy; so close to God.*

*But, I'm still very hungry, and lonely, and cold.*

*So where have your prayers gone? What have they done? What does it profit a man to page through his book of prayers when the rest of the world is crying for help?*

*Author Unknown.*

I'm outta here!

CB



