



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JUNE 2008

Volume 4

*"I would have  
you learn this  
great fact: that  
a life of doing  
right is the  
wisest life there  
is." -- Proverbs  
5:11, LB*

- "Try Jesus and if  
you don't like  
Him, the devil will  
always take you  
back." -- Sign on  
a Baptist Church*
- "What a man is  
has greater  
influence than  
what he says." –  
Ellen G. White*
- "It is not the  
mountain that we  
conquer, but  
ourselves." –Sir  
Edmund Hillary*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Fun + Projects + Pray + Sharing =  
Sabbath School Class Fellowship**

### **FROM ELDER JOHNSON**

Hello, Ministry Partners,

I am writing at this time to emphasize two 2009 Adult Ministries Division-wide Initiatives that are designed by The Holy Ghost to have a direct and positive impact on your Ministry through the Local Congregation.

In mid January, the 2009 North American Division Adult Ministries Semi-Virtual Festival Of The Laity will be launched. There will be no Travel Expenses, Registration Fees, or Hotel Bills with this Semi-Virtual Festival, because *it will come to your Local Congregation at no cost* in the form of a Training DVD that will contain *101 Power Point Training Seminars* by highly qualified instructors in the areas of Sabbath School, Prison, and Personal Ministries. Look for it not later than mid February.

The other Initiative will be the 2009 North American Division Adult Sabbath School Summit, which will take place at the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters, April 24-25, 2009 – again **at no cost to the attendee!** We will gather under the banner of the theme, "Sabbath School: One Mission, Many Methods" to brainstorm as many methods of creatively implementing the Four Goals of Sabbath School (Bible Study, Fellowship, Outreach, World Mission) that The Holy Ghost will share through us.

We want you to be a part of this powerful Initiative, which will be open to any Adult who has an interest in strengthening Adult Sabbath School. There is no Registration Fee! You will be asked to Register at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) (when registration opens this Fall), so that we will have an idea of how many materials and *no cost meals* to prepare. Plan to join us in person, or on the Internet. Mark the date and start making plans.

We are grateful for your Prayer Partnership as we move toward these ventures with The Holy Ghost for the building of The Kingdom and the finishing of His Work. May He minister powerfully through you right now, right where you are!  
BLESSINGS.

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### IDEAS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS FELLOWSHIP

***What Fellowship Is: a community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience; to join in fellowship especially with a church member.***

**Fellowship Luncheon** -teachers, encourage your class to have a class fellowship luncheon at least once a quarter. It does not have to be elaborate, but one in which you want all the members to participate.

**Prayer Partners** - each class member could be assigned a prayer partner within the class. Members should call each other at least once a week to pray for each other. It is very important for prayer partners to remember that if your prayer partner says something to you in confidence it should remain between the two of you. Encourage your prayer partner to come to Sabbath School on time and to study the lesson, and if there's something that's not understood, you can discuss it together.

**Testify** - before you start the lesson, teachers ask the members how their week went. Take a few minutes to hear testimonies of the goodness of God.

**Share! Share! Share** - share with each other. Share the blessings, the victories won, the battles fought. Share thoughts received from the study of the Sabbath School lesson.

**Class Project** - plan a class project and have members contribute to it on a weekly basis. Proceeds from the project can help members to purchase hymnals and Bibles for new believers, or birthday gifts for class members.

**Network** - with each other. Do not be ashamed to let the class know that you are looking for a job, or you're in a hard situation. Perhaps, someone in the class may be able to provide the help you need.

**Choose** - an evangelistic project with the class and encourage class participation. Afterward, have members share the experiences with the general Sabbath School.

**Add** - to this list your ideas for Sabbath School class fellowship and spiritual delight.

*Think About It*

*Have I been faithful in all my Sabbath School commitments?*

*Have I been arriving on time for Sabbath School?*

*Do I study my Sabbath School lesson daily?*

*Have I been encouraging my fellow Sabbath School members to remain faithful?*

*Have I been doing all I can to introduce others to Jesus?*

*Have I prayed earnestly for a change in my life?*

*Did my actions and attitudes reflect Jesus in all that I have done?*

*Sources: Bethel Sabbath School Department  
Humility, The Hallmark of Sabbath School Leadership, by Barbara E. Jolly*



## **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).*

#### **ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH OF THE ORANGES – ORANGE, NEW JERSEY**

**SOUP KITCHEN** - serving hot meals to anyone in the community each Sunday from noon to 2:00 p.m.

**YOUTH WITH PURPOSE** – a group of 25-30 young people – ages 12-17 - that's determined to make Community Service a lifestyle. The first Sabbath, immediately following services, they hit the streets to visit local homeless shelters where they serve food, distribute clothing and toiletries. All items are provided by church members.

**YOUTH WITH PURPOSE** was recognized by the local mayor and featured in the local newspaper. They also won the Community Leadership Award H.A.N.D.S., Inc., a community development cooperative based in Orange, New Jersey. *Insight* magazine featured them as an outstanding youth ministry.

#### **NEW HOPE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH – ELLENWOOD, GEORGIA**

The ongoing service of the Community Service Department is to provide physical and spiritual food for the community. Thus far, Community Service has served 67 households, and has given away, along with literature and tracts, 3,800 pounds of food. Their hope through this ministry is that someone will come to know Christ.

#### **OREGON CONFERENCE SOULWINNING FOCUS – WOODBURN CHURCH**

A weeklong reaping crusade with Woodburn and 2 church plants, Monitor and Canby, was just completed. "Attendance all week was a blessing with an average of more than 60 non-Adventist adults attending the crusade and more than 200 church members. Five were baptized on Wednesday, two on Thursday, two on Friday, and 20 or 21 on Sabbath. Others will be baptized at the next crusade in July with Alejandro Bullon." –Roger Hernandez, Hispanic Ministries

**RED 2008** (Redimiendo-redeeming, Entrenando -training, Discipulando -discipling) is the first of a yearly Commission Culture Training event for the "top" 200 delegates of the Oregon Conference. For 3 days and 2 nights, delegates, selected by the churches, were inspired, trained and sent out to "live out their faith."

Resources taken from the various church web sites.

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## Q & A

**Sabbath School Secretary: A Job With Many Hats? Yes! Whether you are a veteran secretary or a newcomer who is eager to dig in and get going, you will wear many hats. Let's identify some of the "hats" and functions.**

**Media Consultant.** As media consultant, you link division leaders and the people who can help them fill the needs of their Sabbath School classes. You will receive information of all kinds from the personal ministries department and distribute it to various people in your congregation. You will gather and record the offerings, review the membership lists, order and deliver supplies. Once a month you have the opportunity to make a presentation to the entire Sabbath School, showing what the Sabbath School has been doing and how it has grown. You are the Sabbath School's main public relations spokesperson.

**Physician.** Think of Sabbath School as your patient. The division leaders are your nurses and orderlies. The health and welfare of your patient is your responsibility, so you must check with the nurses and orderlies for information about the patient. Each week you record vital statistics, such as attendance and offerings, and then you evaluate them. Check on your patient to see if it is thriving or growing weak. Each quarter you assess the health of the patient by counting attendance. Record these statistics in the patient's chart, and give it to the church clerk.

**Ringmaster.** It's up to you to tame the paper tiger or be covered with paper cuts and devoured by stress. You may be assigned to order the numerous Sabbath School materials and supplies needed to run the Sabbath School. If you store them so that you know what you have, what you don't have, and what you need, you will be able to distribute materials on time.

**Secretary.** If your church is not large enough to hire an office secretary, you may be called upon to file, compose, or type correspondence, mail materials, take minutes at meetings, plus prepare announcements and agendas.

**Coordinator Extraordinaire.** Whenever the Sabbath School Council meets, you provide secretarial support. Depending on the size of your church, you may also be a member of other committees.

**Banker.** Have you ever wondered where the money goes that you put in the offering plate during Sabbath School? The Sabbath School Secretary collects it, counts it, and turns it over to the church treasurer. If you don't automatically get monthly financial reports from the treasurer, request them. You must monitor funds in the Sabbath School accounts so that you can order supplies and approve bills.

Some of the "hats" you have just tried on no doubt felt more comfortable than others. That's okay. In time, you'll be wearing them all, sometimes one at a time and sometimes all at once! The job of the Sabbath School Secretary has the potential to be as much, or as little as **you** make it.

When you become comfortable with your new responsibilities, you will discover ways to improve the tasks you are performing. You will discard some ideas, improve some, and love some just the way you get them. I take my one "hat" off to you!

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

### Using A Spiritual Retreat For Outreach – Part II

*The Chaplain decided to invite a number of students for an informal weekend at a lodge in the mountains. Around the fireplace, during walks and over meals, he opened up discussions on How to know God, Why the Bible is important, What to say in prayer, and other topics. There was a free flow of questions and answers.*

*The students asked probing questions, and the Chaplain found that he had to clearly state the reasons for his faith. But more than that, the students were interested in the "why" and "how" of faith. Many of them had never opened a Bible, although they were from educated homes. Some participated in pray for the very first time.*

*By departure time on Sunday, two of the students had met privately with the Chaplain and given their hearts to Christ.*

*Within a few days after that weekend, similar decisions were made by two other students. The results of an informal Spiritual Retreat.*

#### **The following Curriculum Resources can help you plan a Spiritual Retreat for Outreach.**

*How to Know God* is a set of six presentations on the basics of spirituality. This is an excellent tool if your retreat is focused on people who have not made any religious commitment as a Christian, or unchurched people who want to know more about spiritual things. The package includes handouts, complete lecture scripts, teaching outlines, and promotional materials. Published by Concerned Communications and available from Seminars Unlimited at 800.982.3344.

*Come Alive* is a set of brief lessons covering the very first steps in becoming a Christian. These could easily be used with the book, *Steps to Christ*, as the outline for five or six presentations. Your Retreat leader will need to develop his or her own teaching notes. Available from Hart Resource Center at 800.487.4278.

If the purpose of the retreat is to bring people to decision who have already heard a full presentation of Adventist doctrine, you might want to use the following outline for the weekend:

Friday night – The Sabbath and How to Keep It

Sabbath morning, early – The Second Coming

Sabbath morning, later – The Remnant Church

Sabbath afternoon – The Nature of Man, followed by a (Q&A) Question and Answer period on Adventist lifestyle.

Of course, the materials for this outline can be selected from any set of full message lessons or seminar presentations. The newest tool of this type is *Practical Evangelism Sermons and Soul Winning Techniques*, by William C. Scales, Jr., which can be purchased through Real Truth Associates at 410.730.4854.

*Decisions* by Mark Finley, is the best book on the subject of getting decisions for Christ, for the "testing truths" of Adventism, and to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You may want to review this subject as you plan for your retreat. If you don't have a copy of this book, you can get one at your local Adventist Book Center at 800.765.6955.

## "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: Criminal Justice Overview SOC.109**

***"The Criminal Justice System can be overwhelming, confusing and intimidating for anyone who does not work within the system on a regular basis. Imagine the response of a crime victim as he or she attempts to navigate the very imposing "criminal" justice system. The purpose of the Criminal Justice System is to deal with those who commit or are accused of committing acts against individuals and society that have been deemed to be crimes. Crimes are the reason for the system's existent.***

**Criminal Justice Overview is a summary of the sociological components that make up the Criminal Justice System. An integration of the police, courts and corrections in the arrest and sentencing, classification, security levels, statistical criminal analysis and court processes.**

### ***Overview***

**The Criminal Justice Overview** module will acquaint the student with the fundamentals of the workings of the Criminal Justice System. The student will gain an overview of the processes of the Criminal Justice System from its genesis to its culmination in the corrections. The student will gain a basic understanding of the issues those men and women encounter from the arrest through sentencing and subculture and litigious events that surround the incarcerated. He/she will be familiarized with statistical information that will be helpful in understanding some of the dilemmas that are unique to criminal justice.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. To acquaint the student with the criminal justice process.
2. To gain an overview of the courts, corrections, and the police department.
3. To understand some of the issues that inmates face.
4. To familiarize the student with statistical data germane to the Criminal Justice System.
5. To understand some of the ethical issues that surrounds the Criminal Justice System.

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

### *Prison Welcomes Bear*

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** – The way the Warden sees it, the more than 400-pound black bear living in the middle of the sprawling Louisiana State Penitentiary provides an extra layer of security.

“I love that bear being right where it is,” said Warden Burl Cain. “I tell you what, none of our inmates are going to try to get out after dark and wander around when they might run into a big old bear. It’s like having another guard at no cost to the taxpayer.”

The bear was first seen by an inmate. It was taking a stroll near the center of the state’s only maximum-security prison, which is about 115 miles northwest of New Orleans. Most of the roughly 28-square-mile prison is run as a farm, but about 5 ½ square miles is mostly untouched piney woods.

Prison workers measured the bear’s footprints, which were 6 inches in diameter, Mr. Cain said. “Every inch equals 75 pounds, so that would make it about 450 pounds,” he said. “The wildlife people told us they think it’s a big female they’ve been tracking for a while.”

Prison officials think they have eight to 10 bears on the grounds, said Gary Young, head of the executive management office at the prison.

*The Washington Times*

### **Reformation Prison Ministry – Changing Lives - Teaneck, New Jersey**

**A blood gang leader. A Hebrew Muslim. Both are now Seventh-day Adventists. Both are active evangelists. Gang leaders are now choir members. Fifteen inmates have graduated from the Bible Course.**

**“The changes that are seen in the lives of these inmates are so astonishing, it is hard to believe,” says Oswald Goulding, director of Reformation Prison Ministry. He says the Chapel has a capacity for 70 people and it’s full at each service. Inmates are turned away because there is no space for them to sit. Prison Ministry --God’s ordained ministry. And it’s happening in Teaneck!**

### ***EDITOR’S P.S.***

Bruce Lockerbie in his book, *Fatherlove*, tells this story. “When I was 11 years old, our family traveled from Toronto to Eastern Ontario, where my father had been born. We reached the village just before midnight; the residents had long since gone to bed. But Dad needed directions to find the old homestead, where we were to spend the night. Reluctantly he stopped at a darkened house and knocked on the door. After several minutes of waiting, the yard light came on and an older man opened the door. I could hear my father apologizing for the inconvenience; and then he identified himself as the son of Pearson Lockerbie—my grandfather dead for more than a score of years. Oh, come in, come in, the old man said, no trouble at all. We knew your father.” That’s the greatest legacy a man can leave his son. I know your Father. Happy Father’s Day, “Dads!”

I’m outta here!

CB

