



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JUNE 2011

Volume 7

"**WINE** is a
mocker, strong
drink is raging:
and whosoever
is deceived
thereby is not
wise."- Proverbs
20:1 KJV

"IMAGINATION

is the strongest
nation on
earth."—Great
Quotes from Zig
Ziglar

"**KEEP** trying. It's
only from the
valley that the
mountain seems
high." - Ibid

"**YOU** may give
out, but never
give up." - Ibid,
Mary Crowley

IN THIS ISSUE READ ABOUT

- **THE NEW AND EXCITING: SABBATH SCHOOL TOOLBOX**

"A GOOD SCRATCHED / BROKEN RECORD"

Would you mind taking a brief journey *back* with me to 'the Thrilling Days of Yesteryear' or on a *ride* with me on The "Way-Back Machine"? I refer to those days when *Record Players / Phonograph Machines* were the only means we had to play, and replay, our favorite recordings (you fill in the categories).

There tended to be joy in "Listening Land" as long as one's Records were in good shape. But "Oh the sadness—even bereavement that would set in when one's favorite Record would become *Scratched* (Broken)." Scratched/Broken Records would become extremely irritating, at best, if not useless, due to their constant *repeating* at the point of the Scratch/Break. That condition gave way to usage in interpersonal communication during that era, which was designed to convey to someone that they were talking about the *same thing* a little *too* often. One would say, "You sound like a Broken (Scratched) Record". People got the point.

At this time I am willing to sound like a "Scratched/Broken Record" because it is a **GOOD ONE!** I am referring to the most wide ranging Ministry Development Initiative for all Members and Pastors that will take place in the North American Division under "One Roof" this year! It is the 2011 North American Division Full Ministries Festival Of The Laity that will convene September 7-10, 2011 in Dallas, Texas (www.festivalofthelaity.com) – and you, and representatives from your Congregation cannot afford to miss it. The Holy Ghost has promised to be there, and to empower you and the Facilitators of Enhancement in the majority of Ministries sponsored by the North American Division in all of our Congregations. I am just plain excited about what The Holy Ghost is going to do in Dallas!

Please do two things: Pray, Pray, Pray, and Register, Register, Register! Got questions? Call 301.680.6430/31. Blessings!

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

SPECIAL DAYS –PART II

The majority of adult Sabbath Schools tend to follow a traditional format similar to worship service. This is not the best for Sabbath School. A "school" suggests active participation and learning activities.

Whatever format is used, the four basic purposes of Sabbath School should be included. Study of the Word, Fellowship and Nurture, Community Outreach, and World Mission Emphasis.

Coordinators and the workers in our Sabbath Schools have a very important, broad field to cultivate. They need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit of God, that their minds may be impressed to use the very best methods, and follow the best plans to make their work wholly successful. – Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 11

Different minds and qualities will bring in fresh ideas, fresh lines of thought, and this is essential. – Ibid, p. 165

ORGANIZING THE PROGRAM

These are some planning principles common to organizing Special Days.

General Planning

1. Stay on time during each feature of the program.
2. The person offering the opening prayer should remember to ask for a blessing on friends and guests. People appreciate being remembered in prayer.
3. The coordinator should extend a cordial welcome to all guests and mention that this is an annual Promotion or Community Guest Day.
4. Mission Presentation. The person or persons chosen to talk about missions should be carefully chosen and urged to prepare well. If the story from the *Mission Quarterly* is used, be sure it is told and not read . A brief statement should be made about the part that Sabbath School plays in supporting the worldwide mission of the church. An invitation should be given to all guests to participate if they care to do so.
5. The Lesson Study. Class leaders/ facilitators should be instructed to prepare especially well for this day. Visitors should be welcomed, introduced by name to the class, and encouraged to participate in the discussion of the lesson if they wish. They should not be asked direct questions that might embarrass them if the answer depends on specific knowledge of the weeks' lesson. Teachers should avoid denominational clichés and controversial subjects.

WHAT'S HOT!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

From its in-house media studio, New Jersey Conference created a virtual church, where they broadcast the gospel to the world via the Internet 24/7.

TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Twelve Washington Adventist University students were trained to hold a full-scale evangelism series using the ShareHim program. When they traveled to Uganda to use their newfound skills, 200 people accepted Christ.

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Conference's Social Action Leadership teams provide weekend training to help congregations become actively involved in their communities and make disciples. After learning how to conduct community interviews, mapping and demographic research, churches set goals and plan action steps.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Young adults formed the South Philadelphia Community Action Group and hosted Bible study discussion in cafés, restaurants and bookstores. They also created a computer literacy training program and online church to encourage unity amidst racial diversity.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Through the Adventist Community Development Services, Allegheny East and New Jersey Conference churches combined resources to reach their shared community. Their Strengthening Families curriculum and youth-led community-mapping project helped them identify and address local needs.

FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

Leaders of Clarksville, Maryland's Triadelphia Church are working with the Chesapeake Conference to plant a Seventh-day Adventist Church in nearby Fort Meade, a military community. To that end, they're looking to establish several community-impacting ministries, including a thrift store.

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Q & A

Q – I'm interested in volunteering at our local prison. Are there any requirements I need to know about?

A – Yes there are.

1. You must be 18 years old and not an employee at the job site where you are volunteering.
2. You will be interviewed, screened, given a description of your duties and responsibilities, and assigned a staff supervisor by the Volunteer Coordinator.
3. You will be assigned the days, times, and length of commitment needed for your service.
4. You will be required to fill out a Volunteer Application and to supply references.
5. A NCIC Criminal History shall be requested.
6. You shall be fingerprinted and have a photo ID made.
7. After this the Warden will approve you for service.

Q – I'm in need of some resources for Personal Ministries. Can you suggest a few?

A – Definitely – A few are listed below.

Does Your Church Need a Doctor? Written by James Zackrison, it includes a number of instruments to help you diagnose what is keeping your church from growing.

Christ's Way of Reaching People by Philip Samaan is a careful presentation of the relational elements in personal evangelism.

Finding His Lost Sheep by Fordyce Detamore is a classic text on how to visit in the homes of inactive and former Seventh-day Adventist Church members, and win them back to the church.

How to Say "Hello" Without Saying "Good-bye" by James Zackrison and Rodger Ratcliffe describes ways to assure that guests will feel welcome and comfortable and want to return. Guests include former members who return to church as well as first-time newcomers.

Evangelism by Ellen G. White is a compilation from her letters to leading evangelists and church leaders, periodical articles and printed testimonies on topics related to public and personal evangelism. Published in 1946.

All the above resources are available from www.adventsource.org

Principles of Church Growth and Evangelism Part 3 of 3

"Christ's Method Alone Will Give True Success In Reaching The People."

A dedicated, compassionate Seventh-day Adventist grandmother gives two mornings a week helping in a day care center. She meets and becomes friendly with a young single mother who leaves her three-year-old at the center. Soon the young mother is taking Bible studies.

A consecrated, caring Seventh-day Adventist businessman agrees to take on a 45-year-old warehouse foreman who is unemployed because the company is going out of business. They struggle together to get the man established in a new line of work, and together they meet the problems of family adjustment. One day the ex-foreman is in church for the first time.

***THIRD*, Jesus won the trust of individuals. He did not simply participate in a faceless program. His service was "disinterested" – without thought of gain- but His love for those He served was unyielding. We must learn to build individual relationships as we "do good" in our vocations and in ministries of compassion. We must reach across the barriers our society has raised between persons and mold caring relationships with those around us— unselfish, humble, patient friendships.**

***FOURTH*, "Then, He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" After He had demonstrated the doctrine of love, and they had accepted it and shown that they understood it by responding with their trust, He asked them to admit they were sinners and accept His saving grace and keep His commandments. He did not impatiently, selfishly rush on to those important doctrines that relate the person directly to God as Lord; He selflessly waited until they had in their own way come to the right moment when speaking of these doctrines would be best appreciated.**

We must follow His example. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people," Ellen White says. We must learn the timing and flexibility that made Christ the Master Soul Winner. We must know how and when to concentrate on the gospel of love through our actions, and how and when to use the wide array of communications media available to us as we teach the full message that indeed answers the questions in hearts and minds everywhere.

When we have achieved this "relational" approach to soul winning, we will succeed in the work Christ has given us to do as His "body." When we begin to bring this Christlike lifestyle into our congregations, then we will see true renewal in the church. This is fundamental to growth in the local church.

"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: Pluralism / Religions VCHP.202

Quotes showing different meanings of "religious pluralism"

- ***It means religious inclusivism:" . . . the worldview according to which one's religion is not the sole and exclusive source of truth, and thus that at least some truths and true values exist in other religions."***
- ***It means religious tolerance: ". . . the condition of harmonious co-existence between adherents of different religions or religious denominations.***

Internet:www.religioustolerance.org/rel_plur1.htm

Description

This module provides the student with a fundamental knowledge of religious pluralism and its historical development from its inception to the present. It also exposes the student to the reality of religious and cultural pluralism emanating in Department of Correction facilities.

Overview

This model attempts to provide the student a basic grasp of ideas and beliefs that influence the development of pluralism in religion in a global culture. Students will be familiarized with the pluralistic religious development in a subcultural experience behind the fences or prison walls. It hopes to promote a general understanding and toleration of the beliefs and concerns of other religious groups.

Learning Outcomes

- 1. To acquaint the student with a basic understanding of pluralism in religion.***
- 2. To acquaint the student with the historical development of religious pluralism.***
- 3. To acquaint the student with beliefs and practices of numerous religions fostered behind the walls of prison by faith groups.***

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

Famous Island Prison Closed after 135 Years

The McNeil Island Corrections Complex, the only U.S. prison accessible only by boat or air, closed on April 1, reported The Sacramento Bee. At its peak, McNeil Island housed 1,700 inmates, including famous offenders such as Charles Manson, Robert Stroud (better known as the "Birdman of Alcatraz) and Frank Colacurico Sr. The prison was closed due to high operating costs associated with transporting everything to and from the prison by water. According to Washington State Department of Corrections spokesman, Chad Lewis, the closure will save the DOC an estimated \$8.6 million per year. Prior to the closing the DOC spent roughly \$1,200 more per inmate each year to house inmates at McNeil Island than at other state prisons. Twenty inmates and a few employees will remain on the island until June 30 to help transfer the responsibilities of ferry, fire-protection and water-treatment duties to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

--Jenna Scafuri, Corrections Today, April/May 2011

Inmates Grow Their Own Food to Cut Costs

Inmates at Ellis County Jail in Texas are growing their own food as part of a new program implemented by Sheriff Johnny Brown, according to WFAA-TV. The goal of the program is to cut kitchen costs at the jail, which currently relies on canned vegetables. "We're doing everything we can to reduce our cost to house an inmate on a daily basis," Brown said. He estimated that inmates can supply their own food for at least five months a year, which will lower the jail's food budget. Only nonviolent offenders facing misdemeanor charges are eligible. The garden, located three miles from the jail on an old county farm, has currently been planted with peas, onions and other vegetables. Altogether, the inmates will plant and cultivate nearly 200 rows of produce, all of which will be served at the jail.

--Jenna Scafuri, Corrections Today, April/May 2011

EDITOR'S P.S

Guess what I'm describing! Put on your thinking caps. Here we go. It's about the size of your Sabbath School Study Guide. It has twenty-eight jammed packed pages and pictures. It's sleek looking. It's easy to handle. It's easy to read. Have you guessed it yet? Here's another clue. Jim Zackrison is the editor, J. Alfred Johnson II is the special consultant. Got it now? No? Really, I'm not being fair with you – of course you don't know what it is. It's so brand new – so recently off the press – let me tell you. It's the new and exciting Sabbath School Toolbox!

The Toolbox is packed with everything you need! You want to know how to build a powerful, dynamic Sabbath School? Check The Toolbox. Call the ABC Book Center – 800.765.6955 or my office 301.680.6430; I'll make sure you will have a copy BEFORE the Festival Of The Laity. I'm holding the July-September 2011 issue in my hands now – it feels good, it looks good, it's excellent! This is a MUST HAVE resource. The official unveiling will be at the Festival Of The Laity, September 7-10, 2011 in Dallas, Texas. You must be there. See you in Dallas at the unveiling!

I'm outta here!

CB

