



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 3

*"Honor doesn't
go with fools
any more than
snow with
summertime or
rain with
harvest time!"—
Proverbs 26:1—
The Living Bible*

• *"Courage is what
it takes to stand
up and speak;
courage is also
what it takes to
sit down and
listen." – Winston
Churchill*

• *"You cannot
antagonize and
influence at the
same time." –
John Knox,
Clergyman*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **"SABBATH SCHOOL -- ALL DAY LONG!"**
- **Personal Ministries Around the Michigan Conference**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, Adult Ministers! I write to affirm you as you faithfully carry out the Ministry that your Spiritual Gifts equip you to share in Jesus' name. Keep on keeping on!

We continue to urge you to Register for the Festival Of The Laity as quickly as possible (as slots are limited), and to influence as many friends as possible to attend. The dates are **September 26-29, 2007** in Orlando, Florida. All information can be retrieved from www.festivalofthelaity.com or by calling 800.732.7587.

In addition, we are pleased to share that at the Tucson Ministry Convention (January, 2007), we released several new Adult Ministries Training Resources that are available through www.Adventsource.org.

1. The seventeen course Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Training Curriculum which comes with PowerPoint CD Rom's that cover each course. In addition, Participant Packages are available for each course.
2. The new *Basic Training For Prison Ministers* (in Spanish and English) is now available through AdventSource, or by free download at www.nadadultministries.org.
3. The seventeen course *Inmate Spiritual Counseling* curriculum was also shared. This is an "A-Z" orientation for the person who is moving into advanced levels of Prison Ministry. We are grateful to Dr. Cleveland Houser for developing both of these Prison Ministry resources.

Our office is pleased to keep you uplifted in prayer. We are grateful for your return of the compliment. MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

MELROSE AVENUE SABBATH SCHOOL, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA
"We're having a great time in Sabbath School!!!!!"

"Sabbath School at my church is off and running in a tremendous way! We now

have four active Adult Sabbath School classes with about 15-20 people per class coming out each Sabbath," writes Superintendent Theresa Britt.

The Sabbath School Lesson Study takes on an atmosphere all its own – each class has two teacher/facilitators, an Elder and a member.

Each week there is an activity that generates movement and discussion with ALL members. For example. The first Sabbath School program was a skit about making an actual Sabbath School cake. Each ingredient for the cake had a spiritual connotation attached to it. A great celebration followed after the service. (E-mail Theresa Britt for the cake ingredients, and for more Sabbath School ideas - brite22@msn.com.)

Missions have not been forgotten by Melrose, they still show the Mission DVD. "The church body is thrilled to see the mission stories on the big screen."

Action Unit Classes are where class members and visitors are welcomed; Prayers and Praises are recorded in journals; discussions focus on missing members, sick and shut-ins, Investment goals and other felt needs.

Last Sabbath, Melrose experimented with having Sabbath School ALL DAY LONG! ALL Day LONG? Yes! ALL DAY LONG! Theresa e-mailed: The ambiance in the church upon the members' arrival was set with beautiful nature scenes from a spiritual video entitled *Tranquility*.

After the preliminaries, Elder Kenneth Washington (SS/PM Director for the Allegheny West Conference), presented a wonderful mission video presentation and web site information regarding all aspects about Sabbath School. A mini concert served as intermission between the end of Sabbath School and the 11 o'clock Service. The 11 o'clock Service consisted of an eight member panel group discussing Lesson #7. Audience interaction was excellent.

Lunch, fellowship, and an informal discussion and PowerPoint presentation brought the Sabbath School to a close. Sabbath School All day long! Some of the members asked if there could be an all day Sabbath School once a quarter. "Our goal," says Britt, "is to reclaim Sabbath School participation, and show that it is still a vital link to the Sabbath Day Experience." SABBATH SCHOOL ALL DAY? Why Not!



WHAT'S HOT!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still your hottest item!
A Festival of TRAINING!**

A Festival of MOTIVATING!

A Festival of NETWORKING!

A Festival to EMPOWER YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY!

Two Hundred and ten days until the Festival Of The Laity. Yes! ONLY 210 days before the BIG event takes place.

We're excited about our Spanish Tracks with English Translations. Ernest Castillo will challenge and inspire all who are involved in Sabbath School on the topic La Elevada Vocación Del Maestro Cristiano.

- **Jesús, el Gran Maestro**
- **Los Resultados de la Enseñanza En La Escuela Sabática**
- **Una Labor Importante Y Sagrada**
- **El Gozo de la Elevada Vocación**

Rudy Bermudez, Adult Sabbath School Director for the Southeastern California Conference, will present in English with Spanish translation, *Como Mantener Miembros y haga Crecer su Iglesia por medio de la Escuela Sabática*.

Jim Zackrison will show *Metodos Simples para dar Estudios Bibliocos*.

Gerson Santos, Director, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Greater New York Conference, will present in English with Spanish translation *Habilidades Basicas para el Maestro de Escuela Sabática*.

English Track: Pastor Milton Adams in presenting *Growth Groups* will speak about *Loneliness: Today's Leprosy*. When 7 out of 10 people don't know their neighbors, or 1 out of 4 people you pass is friendless, you know there's a need. *Growth Groups* are trust-based caring communities where people connect with God and with each other. *Growth Groups* may be what you're looking for.

NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY - 210

210 days until September 26, 2007 (As of March 1). With **210** days left until the FESTIVAL you're encouraged to register and register EARLY because space is limited.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Convention Registration is \$225.00 per person, but the Early Bird Special! is \$199.00 BEFORE August 16, 2007.

For easy online registration www.plusline.org/events.php. You can still register at www.festivalofthelaity.com, and you can still call Heather at 800.732.7587, because she's in on all the happenings.

EXHIBITORS: Have you reserved your booth, yet? The Festival Of The Laity is the perfect place to inform people about your ministry. Reserve your booth NOW!

LOG ON to www.festivalofthelaity.com - click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry!

WHERE THE FESTIVAL WILL BE: The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656. Visit www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Please remember you are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Use the code "Festival Of The Laity" to receive the rate of \$99 per night. You can have up to four (4) people per room. Reserve your room now! Call 800.588.4656 TODAY!

Looking to see you - September 26-29, 2007.

WHERE? ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

FOR? THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY!

WHY? Gentle People, the FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is THE EVENT to attend.

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Q & A

Q. How Does a Small Group Differ from a Public Meeting?

A: The differences are:

1. The meeting is in a home rather than a church or public building.
2. The seating arrangement is chairs in a circle rather than in rows.
3. Group meetings are usually one night a week, one to two hours long.
4. Rather than a prepared lecture by a teacher, there is a leader-guided Bible study and discussion.
5. The lesson focuses on interpersonal relationships, biblical understanding and application of biblical knowledge.
6. Care is taken to not give heavy doctrinal material before the group members are ready. Follow-up groups and classes are usually needed to present all doctrines and instruction.
7. Decisions are called for throughout the lessons, but not to the point of producing pressure that would cause some to stop attending.
8. The maximum number of participants in a small group should be approximately 12, in contrast to a class lecture style accommodating any number.

Still have questions about Small Groups? E-mail us – or read Kurt's book. We also welcome your suggestions.

Source: *Small Group Outreach: How to Begin and Lead Outreach Bible Study Groups*, by Kurt Johnson. Review and Herald Publishing Association.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Personal Ministries is jumping all over the Michigan Conference. With information from Laurie Snyman, let's take a fast trip across the Conference and check out some of these happening. Ready? Let's go!

The **Charlotte Church** has been making friends with the community by having a family activity night for the past two years. The gym is open for basketball and volleyball. A Bible study is taught by the pastor. A fitness walking video was shown.

Edmore and Lakeview Churches (Pastor Dave Gotshall). For about two years these churches have periodically conducted Supper or Dinner Clubs. These begin with a meal planned around a specific theme, such as soups and breads, dairy-free Italian foods, holiday recipes, etc. A short health talk follows. Attendees are given the opportunity to request Bible study guides. One young person has been baptized as a result of coming and dining at the Supper Club.

Holland Church (Dale Wolcott) is reactivating the Breathe Free Plan to Stop Smoking. The church also sponsors a daily five-minute radio broadcast "**Health, Happiness and Habits**", airing at 11:55, just before the CBS noon news. February 1, Tom Burns, MD, and Laurie Snyman held the Breathe Free sessions at the American Cancer Society's West Michigan Chapter. At graduation on February 28, five very happy ex-smokers received their "Bachelor of No-Smoking" diplomas. One man had smoked for 55 years. A former SDA (who had smoked

for 53 years) has recently begun attending church. Another participant dropped by the church with a check for \$135.00 – the amount of money she had already saved since she stopped smoking.

Mesick Church (Tim Zemsta), an elder, puts different sayings on the church sign in front of the church. One sign was “The Ten Commandments are God’s Eternal Moral law.” A woman, who had moved to the area a couple of months before, saw the sign and stopped in during Prayer Meeting. She said she had seen the sign and wanted to get more information about what Adventists believe. Tim talked with her for quite awhile, gave her a Bible study on the Sabbath. She said she was coming back with her children. Whee! What a trip! Tell us what’s happening in your area. We’d like another whirlwind trip!

“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: Qualifications and Selection Criteria for Chaplaincy – VCHP.101

If “Chap” says its okay, it’s okay! If “Chap” says it’s not okay, it’s not okay! If “Chap” says it’s a go, it’s a go! “Chap” is Chaplain. That’s the influence of Chaplains in Correctional Institutions. I googled Prison Chaplaincy and found this interesting summary these **Ordinary People in Extraordinary Ministries**. “Despite armed guards, gigantic fences topped with razor wire and peers with a penchant for trouble, many men and women and juveniles are coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ while in prison.

“Currently there are more than 2 million people incarcerated in the United States –most do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Where some people only see in prisons the worst that society has to offer, Chaplains see a massive and continually growing mission field filled with desperate people hungry for the peace only a relationship with Christ can bring.”

Qualifications and Selection Criteria for Chaplaincy introduces fundamental concepts and expectations of Chaplains from wardens and local managers of Department of Correction Facilities. It also gives a general overview of various selection criteria used by Department of Correction Facilities including State and Federal.

Students will be introduced to the minimum standards of correctional hiring that institutions require of Chaplain applicants. They will understand the essential preparatory requirements to engage in Correctional Chaplaincy Ministries.

Learning Outcomes:

- Exposes the student to the work and the expectations of Chaplaincy.
- Gain knowledge of religious policy and the criteria for Chaplaincy.
- Be exposed to State and Federal selection criteria for Chaplaincy.

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 click on www.adventsource.org for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

There's a song that goes "Reach out and touch a soul that is hungry; Reach out and touch a spirit in despair; Reach out and touch a life torn and dirty, A man who is lonely, if you care!" Mike and Joanne Stango cared enough to reach out and touch, not only a mother's heart, but the heart of her son, also. The Mother wrote the Stangos the

following, moving letter.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stango:

I just received your package sent to my son Kennett, and I am speechless. I could never dream such a bounty would come our way, to make my little son's Christmas so happy.

I have no clue how you came to have Kenny's name, to send him such wonderful presents. In addition, the fact that they came from "Daddy" and his "Uncle," made his little face beam with joy.

This has been a very hard year for my family. My brother-in-law- is incarcerated and my husband is being deported. However, the joy on my son's face at the profusion of wrapped gifts "from" his father and uncle, made my heart burst with gratitude.

May God bless you and your organization richly, and know that my thanks come from my heart.

In Christ's Holy Name,

Laura

EDITOR'S P.S.

There's a lot of "reaching out and touching" taking place across the NAD. The Michigan Conference is reaching out and touching. (Check the article.)

May 11-26, 2007, Carlos Turcios and the youth in the Greater Houston, Texas area will be "reaching out and touching" with 43 (yes, 43) simultaneous Youth Crusades.

22 Inmates in the Northern State Prison in Newark, New Jersey, have requested baptism and want to establish a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Oswald Goulding and the Reformation Prison Ministry Team are "reaching out and touching." Let us all --

Reach out and touch that neighbor who hates you;

Reach out and touch that stranger who meets you;

Reach out and touch the brother who needs you;

Reach out and let the smile of God touch through you.

I'm outta here!

CB



