



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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*"The liberal soul
shall be made
fat: and he that
watereth shall
be watered also
himself."*

*Proverbs 11:25,
KJV*

- "Wisdom is
knowing that
others might be
right." -The
Pocket Power
Book of Integrity*

- "Our faith should
be our steering
wheel not our
spare tire." -
C. L. Wheeler*

- "He that riseth
late must trot all
day." - Benjamin
Franklin*

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- **The *U.S. Dream Academy***

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"GET SOMETHING DONE!"

Hello, Adult Ministers!

I once had the privilege of serving as Pastor to a very positive and energetic member whose way of cheering me on, and urging me on to higher heights was to cheerfully say, "Pastor, Get Something Done!"

Last month my encouragement to you was focused on the availability of The Holy Ghost to come "Within Us" by the way of The Fruit Of The Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23), which gives us the capacity to reflect the mind and character of Christ in our witness. In other words, "To *BE* Like Jesus." Oh, how we need this benefit, because it offers congruence between our words and our real lives as Advertising Agents of Our Lord. However, He offers the balance to our "*Being Capacity*" with "*Doing Capacity*!"

Jesus IS God, and always WAS God during His sojourn on earth. Yet, we have no record of Him having been involved in any intentional Evangelistic Kingdom Building Activities - "*Getting Something Done*" in the name of The Kingdom—prior to His baptism by John, after which The Holy Ghost *Came* Upon Him (Anointed Him) in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:13-17). Following His Season of Prayer in the wilderness, Jesus burst forth into powerful public ministry with the building of The Kingdom in mind.

The outpouring of The Holy Ghost *UPON* Jesus was His "equipment" for effective Public Ministry! That He wants the same for us was verified in His departure message to the Disciples as recorded in Acts 1:8 - ". . . Ye shall receive *power* after that The Holy Ghost is *come upon you*: and *ye shall be witnesses unto me*. . . ." (Italics supplied.)

Partners in Ministry, The Holy Ghost within empowers us to *BE*. The Holy Ghost *upon* empowers us to *DO*. May God keep on balancing us to "Get Something Done" to brighten the corner where we are. MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

THE SUPER SEVEN!

Seven qualities of character and personality that will increase your effectiveness as a Sabbath School secretary: dependability, punctuality, thoroughness, cheerfulness, friendliness, enthusiasm, and patience.

Dependability and Punctuality

"Where are our copies of *Sabbath School Lead Magazine*?" Sue asked the superintendent.

"Oh, I heard that Martha left on a vacation," Jill replied. "But it isn't like Martha to forget her duties. Maybe she asked someone to cover for her and that person forgot to distribute the magazines. Let's see what we can find in the secretary's room."

This scenario emphasizes the stress that other workers must endure when we are not careful in choosing a replacement or thorough in instructing that person.

It is important that your assistant or substitute deliver Bible study guides, offering envelopes, and other materials to the teachers and division leaders *before* Sabbath School begins. The Sabbath School secretary who is punctual, dependable—always there "rain or shine," cheerfully carrying forward her vital responsibilities—is truly serving Christ in a noble matter.

Thoroughness

Georgia enjoys working with figures and carefully attends to details. When she married Dan, he was relieved to turn the checkbook over to her. Church members also recognized Georgia's gift for thoroughness and detail, so the nominating committee asked her to serve the church as Sabbath School secretary. Peter says, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10, NKJV). God wants all to be happy and content in their work, so He calls each person to do the tasks for which he or she was created.

Patience

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, NLT).

Cheerfulness and Friendliness

Joyce is the Sabbath School secretary for a suburban church. She loves her work and her smile spreads sunshine wherever she goes. This Sabbath morning she stops to greet a boy in the junior class who is on crutches and a senior member who had been absent for a few weeks. Such encouragement is a gift from God.

Enthusiasm

What activities excite you? Growing flowers? Flying? Building race cars? Doing interior decorating? Seeing children, youth, and adults gathered about the Word of God? The Sabbath School at study excites me too!

"We need a life-giving power, a zealous enthusiasm, a true animation, that our schools may become filled with an atmosphere of true piety and purity; that there may be real religious advancement" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 162).

Charles H. Betz



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).

TEXAS CONFERENCE – Spanish Evangelism

Students from Jefferson Christian Academy led out with a Spanish evangelism program at the Longview Seventh-day Adventist Church. Members and visitors numbered from 12-20 each evening as the message was preached.

Jefferson students took turns speaking to the group on the weekends with the "Share Him" format which was continued during the week. At the end of the meetings five people asked to join the Spanish group.

Christiana, an 8th grade student who was baptized with her mother, was impressed with the students who spoke. She has decided she wants to be at Jefferson Christian Academy for her freshman year.

CHATTANOOGA –Larnell Harris Sings for Prison Volunteers

Five-time Grammy award-winning artist Larnell Harris performed April 17 in a free concert at the annual Prison Prevention Ministries Banquet in the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Founded in 1979, Prison Prevention Ministries (PPM) is a local group seeking to keep at risk youth from entering prison and empowering inmates never to return. Volunteers and staff serve in eight regional prisons and jails, distributing the gospel through worship, Bible studies, seminars and revivals. The banquet is an annual way to give thanks to those who support PPM.

TIERRASANTA SDA CHURCH, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Hearts to Heart

The Mission of the Hearts to Hearts is to create gatherings for the Tierrasanta Church family and friends in which "we can all grow deeper in Christ's love by sharing our love for Him and each other." The goal of the Hearts to Hearts Ministry Team is that warmth and love may be established, by cultivating monthly and quarterly social venues through creative activities and functions, in which the church family of all ages may be able to get to know each other more deeply and be supportive of one another.

Resources taken from the various church web sites.

Director: J. Alfred Johnson II

Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org

Editor: Carol Barron

Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

Consultant: Cleveland Houser

cleve.houser@comcast.net

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**North American Division
Adult Ministries Adult
Ministries Network**

12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring MD 20904

Phone

301.680.6430

Fax

301.680.6464

E-mail

Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

We're on the Web!

www.nadadultministries.org

Q & A

Building a Vision for Your Community? Here are some suggestions to help you to get organized.

Every few months, someone in the class works up the courage to suggest that we should be involved in some kind of outreach to our community. Everyone politely agrees, but no one has any specific suggestions, and before long we are back to discussing our families, our jobs, or the evening's study.

We will never progress beyond well-meaning discussion in the confines of a Sabbath School class unless we get a vision for ministry. Vision comes by seeing. It is so easy to move from one day to the next without ever really seeing the communities in which we live. What it will take will be some actual involvement.

Proclaim the next few weeks a "Vision-building Campaign" for your class. Here is a three-week outline to help you organize and to get started.

Week One: Interview

Invade a shopping mall one Sunday or canvass the streets of your business district during a weekday lunch hour and ask people, "What do you consider our community's three greatest needs?" Appoint a group member to compile the results before your next class session.

Week Two: See Through God's Eyes

After looking at the results of your interviews, discuss the following: What changes do you think God wants to make in your community? In other words, what do you think God's vision is for your community?

Week Three: Determine Your Role

Considering what you have learned about your community and what you sense God wants you to do, brainstorm specific things your class could do to help bring this vision about.

- Could you volunteer at your local homeless shelter or crisis pregnancy center?
- Are there elderly residents who would appreciate help with yard work or a fresh coat of paint on their houses?
- How about single moms or dads who could use free babysitting services?
- Or a soap kitchen in need of vegetable choppers and dish washers?

After visioning, developing and creating your own list of ideas, you can also select two of the above to start BUILDING a better community!

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

RETREAT EVANGELISM

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR NON MEMBERS

A Pastor had been leading a Bible Study Group in his home for several months. Six men and women had covered all the doctrines with him, and two had already made decisions for baptism. He felt that the others were ready to make a decision.

One evening, at the close of the Bible Study, someone asked a question about how to keep the Sabbath. The pastor and his wife decided on the spot to invite the entire group, with their families, to spend an entire Sabbath together with them. "We can show you what we do to keep the Sabbath," he told the group. "We can do the whole thing together from sundown Friday through Saturday night."

This resulted in an Evangelistic Weekend Retreat. Everyone brought their sleeping bags and camped out at the pastor's home. They joined in sundown worship and had a light meal Friday evening, and then had a Bible study around the fireplace.

Sabbath morning, after breakfast, the entire group went off to Sabbath School and church. Sabbath dinner was a feast and a joyous time of fellowship. Sabbath afternoon the group gathered again for Bible Study. There was a long time of questions about what it meant to live as an Adventist, and the pastor carefully answered each question. They also took a break for a walk.

At sundown, the group sang hymns and gathered in a circle of prayer. After sundown there was time for games and socializing. Within a few days everyone in the group had been baptized!

In the informal setting of a weekend retreat, nonmembers can get to know members on a personal basis and the "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit can work. There is plenty of time for questions to be fully answered and personal applications of Bible truths made. Especially for younger adults who are turned off by the traditional religious setting of a preaching meeting, a retreat can be a powerful time of spiritual change and growth. That is why retreat evangelism is being tried in many places across North America.

Elder and Mrs. Gordon Retzer, former president of the Florida Conference, can tell you more about this story because it happened to them. As the story has been shared at pastors' meetings, it has started the creative juices flowing for a number of people.

Using A Spiritual Retreat For Outreach – Part I

An Adventist Chaplain on a state university campus had sponsored a series that included a stress seminar, a fitness event, and a couple communication workshops over the school year. He had made friends with a number of students, including some who once were members of the Adventist Church and many who had little or no religious background.

During the spring semester the chaplain began to wonder how he might begin to bring some of his new friends to an understanding of the importance of committing their lives to Christ. He realized they would not likely feel comfortable in a traditional evangelistic meeting or even a Bible seminar. Yet he had heard them express considerable interest in spiritual things.

(To be continued.)

"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: Volunteer Policy PM.210

"Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, says "A policy is a deliberate plan of action to guide decisions and achieve rational outcome(s). Policies such as Domestic, Education, Health, Water, Urban, Social, Housing, Environmental, Foreign, to name a few. Policy differs from rules or laws. While law can compel or prohibit behaviors (e.g. a law requiring the payment of taxes on income), policy merely guides actions toward those that are most likely to achieve a desired out." Hence, Volunteer Policy.

Volunteer Policy will acquaint the Inmate Spiritual Counselor to the Department of Correction's policy, protocol, Volunteer liability and the responsibility germane to the Volunteer. It summarizes requirements and expectations from local managers, Wardens, or jail superintendents.

Overview

Volunteer Policy will expose the volunteer to standards and policies that involve Volunteers in their correctional responsibilities to the Department of Correction and the community. The Volunteer will understand protocol, expectations and job responsibilities as designated by the Volunteer Coordinator and endorsed by the Warden.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand what is expected of a Volunteer.
2. To understand volunteering and volunteer policy.
3. To acquaint the counselor with the responsibilities of Volunteer coordinators and other correctional designees.
4. To have a working knowledge of Volunteer Policy and Volunteer involvement.

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

U. S. Dream Academy

When Wintley Phipps was on the board of directors for Chuck Colson's ministry, *Prison Fellowship*, Wintley had the opportunity to be mentored by him. He traveled with Colson to various prisons around the country from 1992 to 1997. Once in Ridgeland, South Carolina, in 1994, Wintley looked around at the prisoners and had a wake-up call.

"It's a national crisis," says Wintley. He says that when the family unit disintegrates, the children in the family need to be mentored. "A child with a dream is a child with a future," he says.

In 1998 Wintley founded the *U.S.h Dream Academy*. The target age group is third through eight grade students. For the last 20 years, they have served over 1,500 students in neighborhoods where arrests and incarcerations are common occurrences, and the local schools are not meeting federally mandated Adequate Yearly Progress.

After school, selected Dream Academy students immediately begin their homework. Assisted by mentors and volunteers, children wrap up their assignments and are fed a nutritious meal that encompasses the four food groups.

Currently, there are 11 Dream Academy Learning Centers nationwide that are located in communities with higher than average crime rates, lower than average graduation rates and high rates of poverty.

Source: U.S. Dream Academy web site.

EDITOR'S P.S.

The Stages of Motherhood! **4 Years Of Age** – My Mommy can do anything. **8 years of age** – My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot! **12 Years Of Age** – My Mother doesn't really know quite everything. **14 Years Of Age** – Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either. **16 Years Of Age** – Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned. **18 Years Of Age** – That old woman? She's way out of date. **25 Years Of Age** – Well, she might know a little bit about it. **35 Years Of Age** – Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion. **45 Years Of Age** – Wonder what Mom would have thought about it. **65 Years Of Age** – Wish, I could talk it over with Mom. - **Internet**

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world." –**Bits and Pieces, 1989**

Mere, Mutter, Maji, Ammee, Mom, Mummy, Mother, Madre, Ema, Mãe, Matka, may you continue to be the "light of the world. Happy Mother's Day!

I'm outta here!

CB

