



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 7

*"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." – Psalms 62:8 KJV*

*"What is true by lamplight is not always true by sunlight." – Joseph Joubert*

*"The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress." – Ibid*

*"To teach is to learn twice." – Ibid*

## "LOOKING TOWARD 2012"

Greetings Ministry Partners!

I write to extend full appreciation and affirmation for the manner in which you have allowed Our Lord to Minister through you in 2011. Is it not totally *amazing* that The Godhead is interested in adding value to His Ministry by making use of us! All Praise and Thanks to Our Lord!

All of the Ministries in North America have been honored by Heaven's Blessings in 2011 – and we look forward to more of the same in 2012. We extend many, many thanks for the many ways in which you supported the 2011 North American Division Full Ministries Festival Of The Laity. His *Hand* was "all over" that Initiative! In our "Viewfinder" for 2012 we see:

- Tremendous Numerical and Nurturing growth in our congregations as we emphasize a Sabbath School model that features a balanced approach to the Four Goals of Sabbath School (Bible Study, Community Outreach, Fellowship and Nurture, and World Mission Emphasis) under the titling, "Growing Churches Through Sabbath School Classes: A Relational Approach".
- Introduction of a Sabbath School Teachers Association. Our goal is to equip Facilitators of the Small Group Sabbath School Relational Process *as well as* strengthen those who carry out the Teaching Function.
- Presentation of a method whereby Church Members who do not desire to do Prison Ministry inside an Institution may become involved "Without Going Behind Prison Walls". Nearly three million persons are under Correctional Supervision in our Division – and we *must* become more creative at reaching them. We have been shown a way to do just that.
- More than 600,000 persons are released from prisons in our Division each year many have nowhere to go. We will emphasize greater support of Adventist Supported Transition Houses.

Brothers and Sisters, there is more! Heaven has *Anointed extra special* plans for our Ministry with Him in 2012. Let's continue to reside in Him as we "Look Toward 2012". Blessings!

JAJ II

## ***Sabbath School In-Reach and Out-Reach Evangelism***

**Sabbath School In-Reach Evangelism:** The more participation and interaction that is built into the Sabbath School, the more learning and personal application takes place.

The Christian lifestyle is a witness to others. The way we live should praise the Lord and attract others to Him. The future of in-reach evangelism in our Sabbath School will depend on six major factors:

- a. Our faithfulness.
- b. Our obedience.
- c. Our capacity for love and compassion.
- d. Our faithfulness to the Word of God.
- e. Our trust as we fight spiritual battles.
- f. Our resistance against the twin enemies – complacency and discouragement. Complacency makes us lazy and discouragement paralyzes our spirituality.

**Consider these ideas for Sabbath School In-Reach** - Assign a Sabbath School leader and secretary to various in-reach ministries within the Sabbath School.

### **Areas of Emphasis**

1. Sabbath School Evangelism
2. Sabbath School Membership (with special emphasis on missing members)
3. Sabbath School Investment Liaison with Investment Leader
4. Sabbath School Divisions
5. Sabbath School Class Fellowship
6. Sabbath School Improvement
7. Develop a Children's Ministry
8. Sabbath School/Family Life Liaison with Family Life Leader
9. Sabbath School Hostesses
10. Sabbath School Person of the Week

Establish a link with the Community Service Department, and together do a needs assessment of your immediate church community and plan activities – spiritual, social and development – which will impact the community. Later they will be ready to visit your church because you've met them on their turf and assisted in fulfilling their needs. Many programs can be implemented such as:

1. Adult Reading Classes
2. After School Programs
3. Branch Sabbath School
4. Elderly and Disability Assistance
5. Clothing Distribution
6. Feeding Programs

## **WHAT'S HOT!**

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

#### ***LAKE REGION CONFERENCE – DETROIT, MICHIGAN***

**ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP BUILDS COMMUNITY** – Each year, during a Sabbath afternoon in July (designated as National Ice Cream month), the Burns Seventh-day Adventist Church in Detroit hosts a unique ministry event for its immediate community – the Ice Cream Fellowship. It is an event that confirms Burns as a resource center involved in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the surrounding community. The Ice Cream Fellowship, in its ninth year of operation had the theme, “Reach Up! Reach Out! Reach Across!” In addition to ice cream, spiritual counseling, Adventist health tips, literature and event information were made available. Through this witnessing evening, the community was brought closer to Christ, the Son of Righteousness, giving Him an opportunity to impact their stomachs, hearts and minds.

*First published in the Lake Union Herald, September 2011*

#### ***SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA***

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS COMPLETE DISCOVER** – The Discover Bible Guides are promoted by Voice of Prophecy as a course for adults, but with a little help from their teachers, older elementary school students at San Gabriel Adventist Elementary School in Southern California successfully completed the series.

About 80 students in grades six through eight received Discover diplomas near the end of last May. All had studied the 26 lessons and viewed the corresponding 26 half-hour DVDs.

“Five students requested baptism,” says Vi Bokermann, director of the local Discover Bible School at the Temple City Church, who encouraged the San Gabriel teachers to use the Discover Guides in their Bible classes.

Sandra Olivares, Bible teachers, says, “I was so impressed at how my students expressed their interest in the lessons. We were able to have some great discussions. They also loved thinking up creative ways to share the lessons. I was truly blessed by their experience.”

As the students continued through the lessons, many wrote comments on their answer sheets, for example: “I want to be ready when Jesus comes.” “I want to be baptized like Jesus was.” “Please pray for my uncle – he drinks too much!” “Please pray for my mother and dad – they are not Christians.”

**We are planting seeds and asking God to take care of the harvest.**

*First published in Voice of Prophecy News, Summer 2011*

[www.vop.com](http://www.vop.com)

## **Q & A on Spiritual Gifts – Part 1 of 2**

**After reading Romans 12, I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, on Spiritual Gifts, many people ask, "What do these gifts mean? How can I find out whether or not I have a gift, if I don't understand it? In the Q & A we are going to give brief descriptions of the gifts.**

**Administration – A person with this gift is able to put plans together; to meet the short and long term goals of a particular church, or church organization; and to implement the plans for the furthering of the work of God.**

**Apostleship – This gift is manifested in the person who has the ability to have general leadership over a large body or group of churches, directing those churches through their spiritual leadership. Various names can be applied to this gift, such as bishop, conference president.**

**Discernment of Spirits – This is the gift to recognize whether or not a particular person, place, or thing is of God or of Satan.**

**Encouraging – A member with this gift is able, through words, to bring comfort, and hope, and inner healing to members of the body of Christ.**

**Evangelism – The gift of an evangelist enables a person to reach people who are non-Christian and bring them to Jesus Christ.**

**Faith – The gift of faith goes beyond the normal realm of faith that all Christians should have. The greater realm of faith as a special gift equips a believer to readily see the purposes of God's workings, and to know without a doubt that God's purposes will be fulfilled.**

**Giving – There are members with this gift who go beyond the returning of the 10 percent tithe, and the giving of regular offerings. They find it a joy to give their material resources to the work of the Lord. Giving can include other than material things. One can give of time, knowledge, faith.**

**Healing – The recipients of this gift have the ability to restore health and peace of mind to sick members of the church. Perhaps you have met someone who can visit the sick and by his presence alone, inspire health and hope. This, too, is the gift of healing.**

**Why is it important for you to discover your Spiritual Gift? Because the Lord wants to use your gift. With your gift you can help God's church to succeed. The use of your gift can spell the difference between a good local church and an excellent one.**

**Welcome to the Family, Home Study International**

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**PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL'S  
PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

**Tobacco Awareness Event – Part 1**

***Will the new century be smoke-free in North America? More and more employers and most public facilities are becoming "smoke-free." Researchers have irrefutably documented the dangers related to smoking. Rising insurance rates and health care costs are forcing employers to change their policies regarding smoking by employees. Not only the smoker but the coworkers who are exposed to the smoke are at risk.***

***The same health concerns are responsible for an increasing number of government regulations regarding public places. There are a growing number of posted notices prohibiting smoking and enforced by health authorities.***

***The tobacco manufacturers have admitted in court that they have lied to the public, and are fully aware of the health risks attached to their products. Juries have awarded major damages to the family of tobacco victims. Massive financial settlements are being negotiated with state and Federal governments to cover the costs incurred by public health assistance programs which have had to pay for increased numbers of heart attacks, cancers, etc.***

***Unfortunately, while the dangers of smoking are being given much more attention and advertising of tobacco products restricted, people are still being influenced to smoke. Teens and even pre-teen children are still getting started in a habit that will sometimes entangle them for a lifetime.***

***The Seventh-day Adventist Church has always taken a clear stand against this evil. Perhaps in your community it is time to make a public statement about the evil effects of tobacco.***

***A public demonstration of our position on tobacco is not only a way to gain visibility and provide a witness in the community; it is also a way to reinforce this standard with our own young people.***

***When they see adults stand up publicly against tobacco, they know we take this standard seriously.***

## **"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: Principles of Personal Christian Witnessing CR.102**

***"Christian witnessing is merely sharing our heartfelt faith in Christ.***

***[www.allaboutgod.com/christian-witnessing.htm](http://www.allaboutgod.com/christian-witnessing.htm)***

### **Description**

***This Module is a study of the implementation of the principles of personal Christian witnessing techniques in soul winning.***

### **Overview**

***The major theme of this module is Personal Christian Witnessing.***

- 1. How to listen and detect the needs and desires of others.***
- 2. To win the confidence of those that you engage in your witnessing endeavor.***

***The aim of this module is to liberate you from anxiety that could prohibit you from witnessing and to instill within you the joy that Jesus gives when you are connected to Him. The comprehensive hope of this module is to totally immobilize any concerns, apprehensions and personal witnessing obstacles from your life.***

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the methods of personal Christian witnessing.***
- 2. The student will gain knowledge of Christ's method of personal witnessing.***
- 3. The student will be acquainted with personal witnessing decision-making techniques.***
- 4. The student will possess the witnessing tools necessary to do personal witnessing to prohibit anxiety about witnessing.***
- 5. The student will learn how to use his/her gifts to advance the work for the Kingdom of God.***

***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

### **My Friend, Brother Marvin**

*My Friend writes me often. I enjoy his letters; they are always full of encouragement, funny stories, and tidbits of advice. My Friend is incarcerated.*

*The letter I just received started off with the first verse of Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! He wrote all the verses. After the third verse, he wrote, "Happy Sabbath, Sister Barron, I pray all is still well with you and yours! I hope you don't mind, but I wanted to spend some time fellowshipping with you today, this most special day [the Sabbath] that God has set aside and consecrated and blessed.*

*"And, by the time this act of worship reaches you, [I received it on a work day] you can pause for a moment in your busy day and take a few short minutes to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords with me. For not only is He worthy, He is the only wise God of Heaven and earth, the only One who is Immortal, Righteous, and He has made a way for our sin debts to be paid. A debt that we could not pay for ourselves and now through Him, who shed His blood for us, we can have peace with God the Father, and fellowship and an inheritance with the saints."*

*In his letter, Brother Marvin continues to encourage me and to lift my heart and mind toward Jesus. He shares his gratitude to Christ with me. Incarcerated? Yes! Grateful? Yes! He thanks Jesus for "shelter from life's storms, shelter from the elements, for food, clothes, health, strength, a job (he returns a tithe from his prison job) for taking care of loved ones, for the work in the ministry that You [Christ] have given us to do."*

*My Friend is thoughtful. He continues, "I don't want to keep you long from your work so I am getting ready to bring this to a close, but it was on my heart to fellowship with you today. In closing, let us sing a portion of another song together, 'My chains are gone; I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, His mercy reigns, unending love, Amazing Grace!"*

#### **EDITOR'S P.S**

***Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty – aka Guerrilla Kindness. Adair Lara writes in 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul, "Like all revolutions guerrilla goodness begins slowly with a single act.***

***Remember as children we would dare each other into doing something? Sometimes we would say "I double dare you". I dare you; no, I double dare you to do some guerrilla kindness during the holiday season and all through the rest of the year. Now is a good time to start to. Light up someone's life – ease a burden – help make someone's life a wee bit better.***

***In your travels, and if you use the toll booth, pay for yourself and the next six cars behind you. At the grocery store, pick a bouquet of flowers, pay for them and then hand them to the cashier, and relish the expression of surprise and joy.***

***Guerrilla Kindness –I dare you to try it! No. I double dare you!***

***I'm outta here!***

**CB**

