



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2006

Volume 2

*"It is good thing
to say, "Thank
you" to the
Lord, to sing
praises to the
God who is
above all gods.*

Psalms 92:1.

The Living Bible

Paraphrased

- *God is online – all
knee-mails are
answered. –
Church sign,
Bayonne, N.J.*

- *The real measure
of your wealth is
how much you'd
be worth if you
lost all your
money. – Bernard
Meltzer*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **What Really Happened to Monique? Part II**
- **Family Ministries Sets Church On Fire!**
- **Train! Motivate! Network! The Festival Of The Laity!**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, Ministry Partners!

How might you tend to feel, if after sensing the need to purchase a new pair of shoes, and clearing the time on your schedule to go on the adventure, you enter the store only to find one style, and just one size in the entire inventory? My guess is that you probably would not feel very pleased – especially if the "offering" was not in your size or desired style.

I am so glad that Our Lord has delivered diverse Spiritual Gifts to church members that are designed to translate into diverse Ministries for the up building of the Family Of God! It is a powerful spiritual reality that indeed, **"One Size Does Not Fit All!"**

This truth brings me to the privilege of announcing a central and diverse initiative that will be launched in the North American Division in 2007. The vision is of our President, Elder Don Schneider, in collaboration with the General Conference Quinquennial Evangelism theme: "Tell The World." "Tell The World: Tell North America – Tell Seven in '07" is a challenge to all members of the North American Division to make **seven** additional Ministry Contacts in the year **2007**.

One "Ministry Contact Size" does not fit all, so you and your family of church friends are encouraged to take inventory of your ministry passions – and add **Seven Contacts in 2007!** Just think of the things you like to do and ask The Holy Ghost to give you ideas as to how you can translate those "passions" into Ministry Contacts! Imagine the "lifting" possibilities? Please share some ideas about how you plan to ". . . **Tell Seven in '07.**"

Blessings on your Ministry, and yours.

JAJ II

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry, Sabbath School, and Personal Ministry Director.

Here's a bit of trivia on Sabbath School that you may want to use as a "Who Knows?" or "Did You Know?" quiz. Enjoy these last 10 interesting facts.

Highlights of Sabbath School History – Part II

Source: The Complete Guide for Sabbath School. AdventSource.

- 1911 Primary quarterlies originated in Australia.
- 1912 First Thirteenth Sabbath Offering taken. First Mission Quarterly printed.
- 1913 Junior quarterlies created in Australia.
- 1919 Birthday-Thank Offering introduced.
- 1925 Investment Plan adopted.
- 1952 Centennial of Sabbath School.
- 1956 First Sabbath School Manual published.
- 1982 Cornerstone Connections begins publication—Sabbath School lessons for teens.
- 1995 Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department established.
- 2000 GraceLink published—first international children’s curriculum developed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



WHAT'S HOT!

THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is the hottest thing going right now! It's going to be a Festival of **TRAINING!** – **MOTIVATING!** – **NETWORKING!** – A Festival to **EMPOWER YOUR MINISTRY.**

Opening Night is Wednesday, September 26, 2007!

You've got to be there! Convention Registration - Early Bird Special! \$199.00 before August 16, 2007. Register online www/festivalofthelaity.com or call Heather at 800.732.7587.

EXHIBITORS: Hurry and reserve a booth! Time is moving on and people are reserving their space.

Log on to www.festivalofthelaity.com click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry! Time is moving!

DON'T FORGET – DON'T FORGET

The Adventist Ministries Convention, New Horizons, January 7-11, 2007, Tucson, Arizona, at the gorgeous Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort.

Contact AdventSource/Plusline at 800.732.7587 to register, or register online www.newhorizons2007.org. Convention Registration \$299.00 per person.

For Hotel Accommodations call the Hilton Tucson - 520.544.5000 - mention **Adventist Ministries Convention** to get the **\$109** per night rate. January is right around the corner!

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Q & A

Is There Any Particular Method To Conduct A Bible Study?

When a person accepts Christ through the witness of a Christian friend, it is imperative that they immediately be moved into Bible studies and a discipling process. In Matthew 28:19, 20, the mission of the church is not just to share Christ, but to "make disciples." This includes preparing the new believer for baptism and "teaching them all things."

The needs, personality and learning style of each individual needs to be taken into consideration in deciding whether one-on-one Bible studies, family Bible studies, or small group Bible study is more appropriate. Each method is equally valid and can be the most effective in a given situation.

- One-on-One Bible studies are always appropriate in the early stages of working with a new person. The individual attention helps to strengthen the relationship and anchor the nonmember in the Bible study process.
- Family studies are an excellent idea where a couple or a parent with children over 10 years of age is involved. It is best if the entire household joins the church at the same time.
- Small group Bible studies are popular with Women's Bible study and prayer groups, Singles Bible studies, Prayer Breakfasts. The group setting not only allows a Lay Bible Minister to study with more people in less time than if he or she were to have individual studies with each one, it also helps the new believer to learn how to behave in the context of Christian fellowship.

Source: Practical Guide to Personal Ministries. North American Division Edition. AdventSource.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Family Life Ministries Goes Evangelistic

What started out as a Personal Ministries Bible Study Program where members and friends could learn about Jesus, burst into a roaring blaze and set everything in its path on fire. The entire church was on fire!

Using Amazing Facts Bible Lessons, Family Life, husband and wife team directors, Jonathan and Irene Walker, never in their wildest dreams could have imagined the fire they were going to start with the Bible lessons.

It all began in 2001 at the Mt. Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hemingway, South Carolina. The members of the church were challenged to give names of people they knew, family members, and neighbors, inviting them to take the lessons and study the Bible. In the first year, the church graduated more than 200 people.

Then the ladies of the church, who were always sitting alone, Sabbath after Sabbath, wanted their husbands to take the lessons. So, with lessons in hand, they decided to "go after" their husbands. Of the eighteen wives, ten of the husbands have been baptized. To date Irene and Jonathan have seen over 500 graduates, and more baptisms are coming.

This can happen in your church. Get busy and contact Irene and Jonathan gaylew222@msn.com to help you get the fire started. They'll not only set you on fire – they'll set the entire church on fire for the Glory of God!

HAPPENINGS

Rich and Judy Willey e-mailed me about the **Happenings** in their church – the Grangeville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Grangeville, Idaho, and the sister church, the Kamiah Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kamiah, Idaho.

Depression Recovery Program: With the new year right around the corner, the members are thinking how they can reach out to those who will probably have broken their resolutions, be depressed with the let down of the holiday behind them, and facing debt from Christmas. With this in mind, the church will open its doors, offering help, encouragement, and cheer to those who will come.

Health Bites for the public. Health lectures were given at a free dinner prepared by the ladies of the church. The attendees received the recipes of the delicious food that was served, tasted/tested, and enjoyed.

Passion Of Love. Every resident in the small town of Grangeville – **3,600** - received a copy of the book. It was handed out in other small towns, too.

Fall Plans. To have seminars on how to organize small groups in individual homes.

Rich and Judy e-mailed: "We are always looking for outreach ideas that are fresh and have results. We all cannot be missionaries in the 10/40 window, but we can all be missionaries in our own communities and neighborhoods! These are just some of the things that our tiny church has been doing. I hope it will help someone else with their church work."

"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: Ministry to Women in Prison. From the Bureau of Justice Statistics Criminal Offenders Statistics (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/crimoff.htm) characteristics of State Prison inmates – women were 6.6% of the State Prison inmates in 2001, up from 6% in 1995. In 1998 there were an estimated 3.2 million arrests of women, accounting for 22% of all arrests that year. In 1998 more than 950,000 women were under correctional supervision, about 1% of the U.S. female population.

Ministry to Women in Prison will expose the student to the spiritual and the physical needs of women inmates. The student will obtain a fundamental awareness of various dilemmas that surround female inmates.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the feminine dilemma.
2. To understand unfair justice and sentence disparity.
3. To be exposed to unfair treatment to women inmates by prison guards and officials.
4. To be exposed to ministry opportunities for female inmates.

5. To know how to develop ministry programs for female inmates and their families.

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

What Really Happened to Monique? Part II

She had filled out one of our Reentry Needs Forms and listed her legal problems, court dates, Probation Officer, Public Defender, and each court case charge and Judge.

To her, this court date was to be just a formality and the first step in her reentry process.

However, when she went to this first court appointment, she was unexpectedly released. Someone had posted her bail and she was set free until her next hearing. She was in shock! She wrote the following in a letter to her cell-mate at RCF: *"They let me out (from court). No token (O). I came out to O. No job – O. I have no where to stay – they took even my ID . . . all my info was in my cell . . . I never expected to leave from downtown. I am starting with O."* (Each O was a nothing sign that she was known to make as she talked, by forming a circle with her thumb and index finger, and then holding it up to illustrate. As far as she was concerned, her life to date had been O, except for her kids who were now being taken care of by relatives in the System (Child Protective Care Custody).

A day or so later, she wrote the following note on the other side of the above mentioned letter and then mailed it: *"I still have no where to stay or any clothes and I don't want to pros (prostitute), but I don't have ID to work even at McDonalds. I'm sorry I didn't get sentenced."* (In other words, she was sorry that she didn't get immediately sent back to the Riverside prison). *"Also I am sick for some reason, the n . . . 's headache etc. etc. it's so hot out here . . . I may see you soon – I still have two open cases which look bad. Love Ya."*

Within the week word spread throughout RCF like a wild fire that Monique was dead – that she had died of a drug overdose. Her letter arrived two days after the girls learned of her death. The prison unit (dormitory) where she had made her residence with 75 other females was silenced. She had been so vivacious as she mingled with other females, especially when they shared pictures, told stories of their children, and expressed their hopes of mother-children reunions.

Submitted by Dr. Rick McKinney, Founder/CEO – I-R.E.S.T., Inc., Philadelphia, PA. www.restphilly.com.

STATS ON WOMEN IN PRISON

- **In 1998 there were an estimated 3.2 million arrests of women, accounting for 22% of all arrests that year.**
- **Based on self-reports of victims of violence, women account for 14% of violent offenders, an annual average of about 2.1 million violent female offenders.**
- **Women accounted for about 16% of all felons convicted in State courts in 1996: 8% of convicted violent felons, 23% of property felons, and 17% of drug felons.**

- **In 1998 more than 950,000 women were under correctional supervision, about 1% of all the U.S. female population.**

Source: U.S. Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics.
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/absstract/worpris.htm.

EDITOR'S P.S.

We talk about lots of subjects and issues of interest in *Network News* - our aim is to share with you information that can facilitate you in your area of ministry. A few days ago I received some exciting news about a TV program that will deal with Addictions of Drug and Alcohol, Food, Tobacco, Pornography, Sex.

The other day, I talked with Dyane Barron Pergerson (yes, she's related to me – my sister), about her TV Program "The Better Way To Health TV Ministry. After speaking with Dyane and then Loretta Spivey, I got totally excited about what is getting ready to air – live - in the Richmond, Virginia area.

Addictions are REAL! And the person/s addicted could be someone very close to you, a friend, a church member, a relative, or a co-worker. People are addicted and people want help. People want to know where they can go for this help – People want to know if they will make it through.

For the next seven (7) weeks The Better Way To Health TV Ministry will be addressing these Addictions, offering help, and giving possible solutions.

The programming is:

- November 3 – Tobacco – Dr. James Sharp
- November 7 – Food Addictions – Dr. James Sharp
- November 14 – Drug and Alcohol – Cliff and Freddie Harris
- November 21 – Pornography – Dr. Joyce Woods
- November 28 – Sex Addiction – Dr. James Dotson
- December 5 – Loretta Spivey
- December 12 – Pastor John Starks – Spiritual Aspect of Overcoming Addiction

If you're in the Richmond, Virginia area, tune in to Cable Comcast, Public Access Channel. Even if you're not in the Richmond area, you can confidentially contact thebetterwaytohealth@hotmail.com or [break free now@hotmail.com](mailto:break_free_now@hotmail.com) (break underscore) free (underscore) to get the information you need to break free NOW from whatever addition is enslaving you. There is help out there – the choice is yours!

I'm outta here! CB

