



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 3

"Study to show  
thyself  
approved unto  
God, a workman  
that needeth  
not to be  
ashamed,  
rightly dividing  
the word of  
truth." 2  
Timothy 2:15

- "He who seeks  
rest finds  
boredom. He who  
seeks work finds  
rest." -- Unknown
- "The toughest  
part of getting to  
the top of the  
ladder, is getting  
through the  
crowd at the  
bottom."--Seneca

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- **POTPOURRI in the Sabbath School**
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**Blessings? In Prison? You Betcha!**

### FROM ELDER JOHNSON

#### "SCIENTIFIC PRAYER"

Hello, Adult Ministers!

One of the functions of our fellowship is the Ministry of Mutual Encouragement. The Lord has led me to "one" for all of us that just begged to "jump" out of the archives. Elder Walter M. Starks, founder of the General Conference Stewardship Department, and a Spiritual Father of mine, shared this gem back in the 1990s:

"Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a *Divine Science* (emphasis supplied); it is a science that everyone who would make his life work a success must understand. Christ says, "Therefore I say unto you, What things, soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." [Mark 11:24]

"He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will [1 John 5:14]. WE MUST ASK FOR THE THINGS THAT HE HAS PROMISED, AND WHATEVER WE RECEIVE MUST BE USED IN DOING HIS WILL. THE CONDITION MET, THE PROMISE IS UNEQUIVOCAL."

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. THE GIFT IS IN THE PROMISE and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, WHICH WE ALREADY POSSESS, WILL BE REALIZED WHEN WE NEED IT MOST. [*Education*, pp. 257, 258; *Messages to Young People*, p. 252]

My prayer is that this "gem" will assist in "lifting" you, as you and your associates Minister With Our Master. Blessings!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### SABBATH SCHOOL POTPOURRI

**How do you study your Sabbath School Lesson? Do you pour a hot drink and curl up on the sofa, or do you prefer to talk it over with your best friend? Do you doodle in the margins or fill in the blanks? Some adults learn best by hearing stories and sharing personal experiences. Other adults remember best what they see or touch.**

A new class has begun at the church in Palmetto, Florida, for those who like to study by cutting and pasting, or by literally drawing conclusions.

The class, which has chosen the name Creative Christians, is comprised mainly of church members ages 20-50, who either had not been attending Sabbath School at all, or had attended sporadically. They are freethinkers who hold traditional values.

This class begins as all other classes do. The teacher or one of the members asks how each person is doing and what he or she wants the group to pray about. The leader calls each person's name in prayer as he or she prays for each request. Then members plan how they will specifically contact each absentee.

The lesson study begins with each member taking responsibility for the main Scripture passage. As the class progresses, members share the verses in varying ways—a song or picture or statement about how the text relates to his or her life.

Next the leader presents a challenging assignment drawn from the lesson, such as representing the Gifts of the Spirit on a color-coded human body, making a collage that illustrates the goals of Sabbath School outreach, or sculpting an illustration from plasticine clay.

Some challenges are assigned as group projects; others individually or in pairs. The leader is responsible for facilitating the flow of conversation, keeping people honest and real without allowing members to feel threatened or in any way judged as a result of their sharing or preference not to be involved. The leader strives to maintain an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance while encouraging growth.

#### **Creative Christians**

As class members labor together and share their creations, a number of things happen:

- ❖ The lesson becomes meaningful at a new depth.
- ❖ Spiritual truths become concrete realities.
- ❖ Members expose their vulnerabilities and find affirmation.
- ❖ Enthusiasm replaces boredom and alienation.
- ❖ Sabbath School members begin to experience their true potential as creative children of the Creator.
- ❖ Active learning predominates because the whole person is engaged in God!

One of the most of the often heard expressions on Sabbath morning is "Praise God!"—Helene Hubbard



## WHAT'S HOT!

### CONVERSATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON WITH PINE KNOLL.ORG

**INTENT** - The Sabbath School ministry of Pine Knoll is designed as a tool for both teachers and participants to enhance the weekly Bible study, and encourage thoughtful, spiritual growth.

Scripturally based, the audio studies and written study helps, focus on content and concepts shared in practical ways, focusing particularly on the issues in the great controversy, and the character of God. Core principles are truth, trust, evidence, and freedom.

**CONTENT** - The conversational discussions are facilitated by Jonathan Gallagher, General Conference, Associate Director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, and United Nations Liaison. They are hosted by Cherie and Garry Kirk, and shared on the website, [www.pineknoll.org](http://www.pineknoll.org), [www.sabbathschoolstudy.org](http://www.sabbathschoolstudy.org), by webmaster Alan Fahrner.

The volunteer participant team gathers monthly in Redlands, California, USA, to record the studies. A wide variety of professions, life experiences, and ages are represented in the group.

Pine Knoll Publications began in 1972 as Study Tapes, recording the Sabbath School and University classes taught by Graham Maxwell in Loma Linda. Listeners represent over seventy countries around the world.

**FORMAT** - The studies are recorded in advance and made available through CD and Tape subscriptions. They are also provided free on the Internet in various audio formats. Churches may request free CD/Tape subscriptions for their libraries from [cheriekirk@roadrunner.com](mailto:cheriekirk@roadrunner.com). Because this is a supportive ministry, Pine Knoll Publication asks that pastors be involved with the gift subscription request.

**INTERNET FUNCTIONS** - The recorded discussions are available on the website in MP3, Windows Media Audio, and RealMedia formats, together with RSS feeds/podcasting. The website also includes other audio and written materials.

**A NOTE FROM ANA AND JONATHAN GALLAGHER** - *We were asked to be a part of this over four years ago. We meet together just once a month in Redlands, California, and record (audio) four, hour long lesson studies, with a group up to 80 people. The class is made up of local folk from the Loma Linda area, including some staff from the University and Hospital, plus others, some who travel considerable distances to attend.*

**Our Motto** is the words of Ellen G. White, which she speaks of seeing at the end-time people engaged in the "Free, conversational study of the Scriptures."

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## Q & A

### **I'm the new Sabbath School Superintendent. I not only want to be a good Superintendent, but I also want to make a difference in our Sabbath School. HELP!!!!**

Help is Here! And you can and will make a difference because you've taken the first step—You want to! Know that a goal is an end toward which effort is directed. The new Sabbath School Superintendent should consider the following essential needs:

- ✓ Always begin your program on time. Allow one minute for walking onto the platform. (*We train people to be late. Editor*)
- ✓ Take time personally to check the record cards given to you by the Sabbath School secretary. Make sure that those who are absent are being cared for either by the Sabbath School teacher, or by your Visitation Superintendent. It is **your** responsibility to see that all absent members are reached, preferably by a personal visit. Work with the Sabbath School teachers and the secretary in this respect if you do not have a Visitation Superintendent.
- ✓ Check occasionally with your extension division secretary to make sure that his or her needs are cared for. Every quarter this secretary should be given an opportunity to report on extension members.
- ✓ A successful Sabbath School Superintendent will always give program participants ample time to do their parts well. Special music should be lined up one month ahead of time.
- ✓ Submit your Sabbath School program material for the church bulletin on time. Promptness is the key word for the Sabbath School.
- ✓ Remember that the Sabbath School is one of the greatest soul-winning agencies. Do not weaken it by neglecting regular Teachers' and Council meetings. It will take much prayer and effort on the part of every Sabbath School officer to make the Sabbath School what God would have it to be.

Keep a list of the jobs to be done in the Sabbath School. Review the list often.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

Are there areas where special attention is needed?

Is attendance growing in all divisions?

What about missing members?

What about the Sabbath School program? Is it interesting? Appealing? Boring?

Do the participants stay with the allotted time so that the teachers have adequate study time?

In your overall Sabbath School program, keep a balance between Fellowship and Study.

Superintendents are supposed to take responsibility and make decisions within the limits of their work. Remember, leaders are judged by what they accomplish.

## PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

### PREPARATORY WORK FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES SERIES- PART I

***Our Lord Himself gave us our original assignment of territory when He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This assignment has been reemphasized for God's remnant church as follows: "The church must realize its obligation to carry the gospel of present truth to every creature."—Christian Service, p. 111.***

#### **TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENT**

In line with the above objective we are reminded that "wherever a church is established, ALL the members should engage ACTIVELY in missionary work. They should visit EVERY family in the neighborhood, and know their spiritual condition." *Christian Service*, p. 12.

That every church member is to be assigned a specific responsibility in the fulfillment of this territorial program is made clear in many inspired statements, including the following: "God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhood." – *Ibid*, p. 9.

"Every one who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty." *Ibid*, p. 74.

While the pastor might logically look to his personal ministries leader for help in organizing and implementing territorial assignment for the church, it should be remembered that this is far more than a departmental program. It is a responsibility that involves administration at every level and every department of the church.

The pastor will bring to the church board or church evangelism council their responsibility to divide and assign the total territory of the church. The enthusiastic support of church leaders can be enlisted by challenging them to consider such questions as the following:

1. What is the evangelistic objective that God has given His church?
2. Does our church presently have an adequate plan to confront every person in our territory with the claims of Christ and His final message of mercy?
3. Can the gospel commission be carried out by paid workers alone, or must we involve total church membership?
4. How can we "carry the Word of God to every man's door?" *Ibid*, p. 144.
5. Are we to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit before laying plans to reach our God-given objective, or is God waiting for us to move forward with bold plans that will demand the power of the Holy Spirit?

*Network News* will run this series *Preparatory Work for Personal Ministries*, prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, with the hope that EVERY church member will take up his/her PERSONAL obligation to Christ, to INTRODUCE someone to the SAVIOUR.

What a privilege we have to be engaged in such an exciting work. Let's "go into all the world and preach the gospel" so we can go home!

## "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: How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines CR.104**

***Quoting from the book, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe: An exposition of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*, "Adventists have one creed: The Bible, and the Bible alone. Doctrines define the character of the God we serve. They interpret events, both past and present, establishing a place and purpose in the cosmos. Doctrines feed the human intellect and establish goals that inspire Christians and motivate them with concern for other persons. True doctrines call for more than belief—it calls for action." Thus, we have the course, *How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines*.***

***How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines*** is a study of the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It exposes the students to the fundamental techniques and knowledge essential for sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

***Overview of How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines.*** The major theme of this module is "how to" teach Adventist Doctrines. Students will be acquainted with a series of doctrinal Bible studies, with an emphasis on frequently asked questions and supportive scriptural answers.

Students will familiarize themselves with Bible lessons and how to make practice applications of these lessons to the vicissitudes of struggles and problems that often corral individuals in every day life.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will obtain a fundamental knowledge of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. The student will understand the fundamentals and how to teach the basic doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
3. The student will be acquainted with the basic beliefs of numerous faith groups and traditions.
4. The student will learn how to address these groups in the spirit of Christ.
5. The student will learn how to make practical application of these lessons to every day life situations.

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

### FAITHFULLY RETURNING GOD'S TITHES

#### EXCERPTS FROM INMATE LETTERS

**"Greetings in the precious name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus. It is my prayer that this writing finds all of you there (the letter was addressed to the**

**General Conference) in the very best of health and in God's care.**

**"I want to apologize. I have not sent my tithes for the last several months. I allowed myself to get distracted from doing all that I should be [doing] by some concerns of this life. . . . Please accept my tithes for the past several months, and this month, and also, sometimes when you pray, remember to mention my name before His throne. Thank you!"**

**Inmate "MC" returned \$12.00 tithe.**

**Inmate "WT" returned \$8.00 tithe.**

**Inmate "JH" returned two tithe checks - \$400.00 and \$95.00. His two letters simply read, "Dear Sir/Ms, Here is \$400.00 for Tithe and Offerings. Thank you." Another letter was received from "JH": "Here is \$95.00 for Tithe and Offerings. Thank you."**

**Inmate "LB" returned \$4.00 tithe.**

Monies are received into our office and we turn them over to Treasury. A letter of thanksgiving and encouragement is sent to the inmate, along with one of our periodicals or a book.

Their freedom may be taken away from them, but the inmates are free in Christ Jesus. They are faithful to God in Tithes and Offerings, even behind prison walls.

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." -Malachi 3:10.*

Blessings? Even to those in prison? Yes! Blessings! Even to those in prison.

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

"Dolly" Cockshott (her baptized name is Antoinette, her family, which I am a member of, call her "Dolly"). "Dolly" and Eddie (Antoinette's hubby and personal chauffeur) have been baptized members in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than a year. They are active members in Burnt Mills - Dolly is a Deaconess, and Eddie is a Deacon. The Cockshotts receive the *Adventist Review* and other church papers "which we do not allow to pile up on the table," says Dolly.

When Eddie drives Dolly to her doctors' appointments, they take **all** church papers with them, leaving them in the various offices. Mark Finley has a Bible Study in *Adventist World*, which Dolly completes, "So," she says, "If someone reads the magazines, they'll read the Bible Study, and it will already be done for them. Then they'll come to know about Jesus." Simple, easy, Personal Ministry.

Where are your Church Papers? Neatly piled on the coffee table? Just food for thought!

I'm outta here!

CB



