



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 4

"Son, if you
endorse a note
for someone
you hardly
know,
guaranteeing
his debt, you
are in serious
trouble."—

Proverbs 6:1, 2

LB

- "A person cannot
travel within and
stand still
without." —James
Allen

- "Believe you are
defeated, believe
it long enough,
and it is likely to
become a fact."—
Norman Vincent
Peale

IN THIS ISSUE

- **"Doing" Thanksgiving - All Year Long**
- **Used By God: Old or Handicapped**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"ON THANKS-GIVING AND PRAISE"

Dear Ministry Partner,

Can you recall the last time you really thought that "Thanksgiving" (in the United States) was the fourth Thursday of November, or the second Monday of October (in Canada)?, or that it was Turkey Day? Over time, you grew to realize and acknowledge that *Thanksgiving* is not a *Day*, but a *Disposition*. You realized that *Praise* is not an action, but a *resident attitude*.

Like identical twins, *Thanks-Giving* and *Praise* are produced by the same Parents, the Trinity, but they are not the same. *Thanks-Giving* involves appreciation expressed by the unworthy for benefits received from The Lord in spite of *unworthiness*. (Remember the Leper that returned to *thank* Jesus?) *Praise* involves often *un-scripted* and often *un-scheduled* crediting of God for "Being" and "Doing" ultimate good! We can *appreciate* each other's *Thanks-Giving*, but we can *participate* in each other's *Praise* – because *Praise* incites corporate celebration of His, as Dr. Rock would put it, "God-ness!"

Thanks-Giving "transitions" into *Worshipful Praise* when the "Uh-Uh-Uh" – "Ooh-Wee" factor of God's "flat-out Goodness" sinks into our consciousness and goes into "Over-Drive!" Where am I going with all of this?

Oh, Ministry Partner, this year as you come to your seat at the blessed bountiful table on the designated day, please allow your mind to meditate on the greatest privilege that Our Lord has extended to us—the privilege of being recipients of The Gospel Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)! Your response is predictable—*Thanks-Giving, Praise, and continued commitment to deeper Service with The Master!*

Blessings and *Thank You!*

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

WITNESSING WITH *BIBLE READINGS FOR THE HOME!*

In the 1930s my father was a deacon in a local Baptist church. During that time a woman came to our home selling books, and my father bought *Bible Readings for the Home*. Then the colporteur returned to our home and led us in Bible study once a week.

Eventually my father accepted the three angels' messages and was baptized. Then for many years, using his Bible and the book he had bought, he guided many people into an understanding of Bible truths and membership in the Adventist Church. He liked to declare: "Bible study is my name."

I am convinced that "the Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10).

In Sabbath School ask each member to choose a partner and develop a religious-interest survey to take into homes. Survey topics would address final events in earth's history, church attendance, and Bible prophecies, plus a series of questions.

The last two questions on my own survey sheet put the prospective student in the driver's seat: "Would you be interested in a free Bible correspondence course?" and "Would you be interested in having someone come to your home to study the Bible with you?" I have found that about 5 percent of the people surveyed check "Yes" for the course, and about 3 percent check "Yes" for having someone come to their home to study the Bible with them. These respondents have opened the door for Sabbath School class teams to use *Bible Readings for the Home* as an effective evangelistic tool.

Why This Tool?

- It has 300 quick references to Bible topics in a systematic question-and-answer arrangement of relevant subjects.
- A large number of Bible scholars, including non-Adventists, have contributed to this book.
- Its style encourages reaction to the immediate answers to questions.
- It provides insights comparable to a Bible dictionary and a Bible commentary.

A Suggested Procedure

1. Visit the people who have requested Bible studies.
2. Find out their preferences: the best day and time of day for the Bible study, and the frequency (once a week, twice a month, etc.).
3. Make sure that each student has a Bible and a copy of *Bible Readings for the Home*, which can be purchased at an Adventist Book Center.
4. Develop lessons that cover the main subjects of the book.
5. Each teacher of a Bible study class should compose a true-or-false quiz that reflects the needs of each student, and should give the quiz after each lesson.
6. At the end of each lesson, endeavor to get a simple response about the student's understanding of the lesson covered.
7. Set up a meeting with Sabbath School teachers and Bible study teams at least twice a month to evaluate progress, answer questions, and share experiences. Winning men and women from darkness to light is God's work. "The Sabbath School teacher should be a laborer together with God, cooperating with Christ. . . . The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls" (*Sabbath School Worker*, Jan. 1, 1892).



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

NORTHEASTERN MONTANA

The Fort Peck Indiana Reservation hosted a Vacation Bible School in July. Kris Simons, wife of a Lakota Sioux tribe member, worked with Rick and Margaret Marsh of Berrien Springs, Michigan to bring a group of about 75 parents, kids, and youth to present the theme "Kin Sni Otakahe Wakan Tanka – In the Beginning God." Bible stories, activities and crafts were all planned to fit the creation theme.

The days featured action songs, outside stories, health talks, and games. These were followed by lunch, the Bible Story presentation by "Moses", activity booklets prepared for each age level and crafts, reporting the day's lesson by decorating a walking stick. Daily attendance ranged from 75 to 150 children. Many parents stayed to watch and learn.

After VBS each day, the helper group participated in community activities – visiting homes and the Detention Center to pass out *Steps to Christ* and praying with people or painting the inside and outside of a community church, or doing neighborhood cleanup.

Phyllis Washington, director, NAD Children's Ministry.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION (NPUC) – RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON

NPUC Regional Churches Take Major Soul Winning Initiatives. The Regional churches have laid active soul winning plans for 2008-2009. A few are listed. Alaska Conference – Anchorage Community: Two week Winter Reaping Meeting, Youth Bible Studies, Men's Outreach Bible and Literature Program. Oregon Conference Sharon SDA Church: Community Outreach, Evangelistic Crusade, Youth Evangelistic Crusade/Concert. Upper Columbia – Pasco Ephesus Church: Claim a Block: Spend one month per block, praying, going house to house getting acquainted and doing whatever is needed. Two people have been baptized as a result.

Reported by Alphonso McCarthy, vice president for Multi-cultural and African-American Work, North Pacific Union Conference.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYMPOSIUM - CLEVELAND, OHIO

More than 200 people received free health screenings at Present Truth church in Cleveland during their second annual health symposium. Lula Campbell, on her way home from Sunday service, planned to stay a minute, but had such a good time she stayed, received healthy food and drink, health screenings, and a gift. The symposium provided screenings for glaucoma, cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure. In addition, they provided information on the heart, diabetes, kidneys, and substance abuse. Cooking tips, recipes and food samples were offered along with Christian workshops, Bible classes, and storytelling for children. The fire department brought in a hook-and-ladder truck and a smoke house to teach children how to react and safely exit a house filled with smoke.

Allegheny West Conference Newsletter, *Catch the Vision*, September 2008.

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Q & A

How can we "REVIVE" Investment in our church? Part II

Utilize Goal Devices

Adult divisions may develop goal devices with or apart from the children's divisions.

In designing goal devices, try something interesting: Launch a rocket ship, put leaves on a tree or feathers on a bird, build a church by sections. Try something new each quarter that will spark the imaginations of your members.

Perhaps the staggered goal approach can work as well. First, have a goal-device-making marathon. Gather all interested parties into an area with chairs and tables. Provide some materials—paper, pens, water colors, etc. Encourage participants to bring additional materials if they'd like. Possibly encourage classes to work together.

You could get enough goal devices to last for a few years. Be sure to affirm all participants and not just those whose projects are scheduled for use. Take pictures while people are working and develop a bulletin board display.

Also consider having a talented member provide computer-generated certificates for participants and give them out as part of your monthly Investment program.

Productive Investments

The Morgan, North Carolina, church decided on an Investment goal of \$5,000. Many thought the objective too high, but others—young and old—got busy and met the challenge. By the end of the year the church had reached the amazing total of \$6,311.55!

* Spring-cleaning yard sale (\$262).

* Pancake breakfast (\$85).

* Money jug (\$500). A huge glass jug was set in the church foyer three Sabbaths each month. Members deposited money at will and in any amount. The church treasurer found two \$100 bills in the jar.

Investment Leader Checklist

- Does everyone in my church know I'm the Investment Leader?
- Have I shared with the church how the Lord and I are working together on my Investment project?
- Do I share my vision: The most exciting thing about being an Investment Leader is . . . ?
- Do I frequently remind Sabbath School members of the four productive types of Investment projects: *sales, service, savings, and self-denial*?
- Do I help investors find projects and support their efforts?
- Am I excited enough about Investment that I'm training another person in my church to become an effective leader?

Thurman C. Petty, Jr.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

"DOING" THANKSGIVING - ALL YEAR LONG!

I will be celebrating my second Thanksgiving this year. I was privileged to celebrate Thanksgiving Day in Canada with Darlene Remiche and friends on October 13th. Now I shall celebrate Thanksgiving Day in America - November 27th. But Thanksgiving is more than turkey (mock or real) with all the trimmings, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin and sweet potato pies. Along with the "eating" try the following "Doing" Thanksgiving joys. Happy Thanksgiving! – all year long!

Strips of Kindness

- Pick up trash lying around your neighborhood.
- Send a care package to a college student or student missionary.
- Give fast-food gift certificates to a homeless person.
- Write a note of thanks to the local police or firefighters.
- Leave quarters in the change slot of a phone, soda pop machine, or expired parking meter.
- Give someone flowers.
- Buy lunch for a friend or coworker.
- Pay for the meal of the person who is behind you in the drive-through lane.
- Give someone a ride home.
- Send someone a prepaid calling card.
- Bake cookies for a neighbor.

Turn Up Your Hospitality - The Sabbath School Council could:

- ✓ Develop a hospitality plan that includes warm, effective greeters.
- ✓ Provide cards in the pews for members to write such notes as "I appreciate you" or "I missed you!" Collect and mail to members.
- ✓ Organize sponsors for new members to help them enter the established fellowship circles of the church.

Mercy In A Minute –

- The next time someone shares a hurt with you, don't just say, "I'll pray for you." Take them aside right then and pray for them.
- While you're raking your leaves, rake your neighbor's as well. You might be easing the pressure of an overwhelming do-list.
- Watch for people at church who sit alone, stand alone after the service, or otherwise look lonely. Introduce yourself. Make a special effort outside of Sabbath School and church time to make them feel accepted.

Contributors: Sue Kline, Dorothy Eaton Watts, Sean Michael Murphy.

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Cool Tools for Sabbath School.

"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: Inmate Communication VCHP.244

Inmate Communication is a survey of basic communication practices with inmates and precautionary communicative guidelines for proper and effective communication with inmates, such as: face the person you're talking to, listen to the person, don't judge ideas by the inmate's appearance or delivery, and let Christ, who is The Answer, have the last word.

Description

This Module describes basic communication practices with inmates and surveys communicative guidelines for prompting proper and effective communication with inmates.

Overview

Inmate Communication introduces fundamental guidelines for volunteers to effectively communicate with inmates. It suggests how to communicate and methods of communication. This Module briefly describes the kind of people that volunteers will encounter, as well as acquainting them with volunteer expectation in dealing with inmates.

Learning Outcomes

1. To acquaint the student with the fundamentals of communicating with inmates.
2. To introduce the student to guidelines for communication with inmates.
3. To introduce the volunteers to the kind of inmates that they will be communicating with.

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

THE LORD CAN USE YOU! OLD OR HANDICAPPED!

If you think that you are just too old or handicapped and can't serve the Lord, well guess again. The Bible is full of examples of people that the Lord used to serve Him. I don't recall the Lord telling anyone they were too old or

handicapped.

Ms. Priscilla Kyles has been a part of our prison ministry team for the better part of twelve years. She gives health tidbits, presents sermons, gives Bible studies and most importantly gives the inmates encouragement and prayers. She faithfully goes into the McRae Correctional Facility and Central State Prison, Macon, Georgia. The men love her dearly. Her good friend, Theo Smith, goes into both prisons with her. Theo also preaches and holds Bible Studies. Did I mention Priscilla is 91 years old and Theo, her friend, is 80?

Bobby Harris goes with our team into Central State Prison. He is our "music and" and provides singing and keyboard during our service. The men love to see Bobby, not only because of his great music, but his humor and his love for the Lord. I think Bobby "sees" the Lord far better than many sighted people. These three people have made a difference in the lives of the men in the prisons we serve, and they are an integral part of our prison ministry team.

The Lord CAN use you, too. I can't think of any prison ministry that can't use more volunteers. So what does it take to be a part of a prison ministry team? First, pray about it and ask the Lord if this is the ministry that He wants you to enter. If this is where God is leading you, then get training from your prison ministry leader to enter the prison.

Bill Smith, Wimbish Road Prison Ministry Coordinator, Macon, Georgia.

EDITOR'S P.S.

I believe reading is good for the soul! Among the many books I read, there is one book I pick up every so often, titled *8,787 Words of Wisdom* by Barbara Ann Kipfer. That's a lot of wisdom written on those pages. But the Good Book also counsels us to "Get wisdom" (Proverbs 4:7a). Please indulge me for a few moments as I share a few of the 8,787 "bits of wisdom" with you.

Regularly examine your motives. Never hate the truth. Do not become what you cannot stand. Respond to rudeness with kindness. Always make your bed. Remember where you came from.

Listen with your eyes. Pick your battles big enough to matter, small enough to win. Old age is for the strong. Everything tastes good when you are hungry.

Argue in a way that ensures your opponent does not become an enemy. He who hesitates is sometimes saved.

"See ya' at the Summit!" – I'm talking about the upcoming and very exciting, brainstorming **Sabbath School Summit, April 24, 25, 2009.**

More about the Summit in the December newsletter.

I'm outta here!

CB

