



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

NOVEMBER, 2005

Volume 5

*"Verily I say
unto you,
Inasmuch as
ye have done
it unto one of
the least of
these my
brethren, ye
have done it
unto me."*

- *There's a way to
do it better.
Find it. –
Thomas Edison*
- *Opportunity
knocks only
once.
Temptation
leans on the
doorbell. --
Unknown*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **And The Books Kept Coming And Coming!**
- Potato Salad, Greens, And Sweet Potato Pie.
- Miami Gang Member Comes To Christ.

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Greetings in the name of Our Lord to all of our *Adventist Prison Volunteer Network* family! This month I write to "stir up" your minds relative to a burden that has been laid upon my heart in a special way to respond with contact and assurance of prayer support to those who are incarcerated, who list themselves as Seventh-day Adventists, and/or who are known to have held membership in our congregations.

Though my research is not yet complete, I am aware that our imprisoned brothers and sisters number in the thousands in this Division. I was saddened to learn from Elder E. Wayne Shepherd that as of August 2005, the Pacific Union had documented one thousand Seventh-day Adventist inmates in its territory.

This reality constitutes a very serious and special call to action! As we are so very aware of the mandate of Our Lord to minister to imprisoned populations, our family members need to know that they are remembered by us. Therefore, I urge us, while maintaining all standard security protocols regarding personal address protection, to send a card of spiritual encouragement, an assurance of prayer inclusion, to known Seventh-day Adventist family members.

This brand of special caring ministry can mark the beginning, or continuation, of a life that informs our family members that while we are calling on others is His name, we are not passing them by!

JAJ II

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry Director.

"I wish we had more people involved in Prison Ministry." These are the words of our newest and very excited Prison Ministry Director, Darlene Reimche, way up in beautiful British Columbia. Darlene

may be on the job only a short time, but oh, she is strategizing, formulating, and already implementing plans to have Prison Ministry jumping in her area.

Reimche continued, "So far I've organized an Advisory Committee and Coordinators for the entire Conference. It's all in place and we will be meeting very soon. The biggest challenge at this moment is waiting to get security passes from the prisons. Once they are obtained, we're up and running."

Even during the waiting period, plans are being laid for a Pen Friend Ministry, and once that permission is given to go inside, the implementing of spiritual and social programs to meet the needs of the inmates and their families will begin.

Darlene mentioned that in Abbotsford (the home of the British Columbia Conference) there are five prisons and no ministry, but she said that there are a couple of prison ministers going into a prison once a month.

Knowing the challenges that "sit" at her door and "beckon" her attention as Prison Ministry Director, Darlene is up to the task. "I'm excited" says Reimche, "and I too plan to go back in the prison." Darlene will only be doing what Christ expects of her and of all of us, "When I was in prison you visited me."

Well, the Network will definitely keep its eye on the newest Prison Ministry Director, Darlene Reimche, and to hold up her hands in this wonderful ministry. Let's keep her and the prison ministers in British Columbia in prayer. United we can stand! Divided we will fall! We're in this thing together, Prison Ministry Directors. Encourage her if you would - e-mail her at the conference office – dreimche@bcadventist.ca. Thanks!

Who'll be next? Directors, look for your personal call from the editor, it's coming!



WHAT'S HOT!

Revival in South Bay Correctional Institution – at Last and Amen!

The Head of a Gang in Miami came each night to the weeklong hour and a half meetings only at the urging of other inmates – but he came. He sat on the edge of his seat with the hundred other inmates, drinking in the Word of God. The Truth was penetrating deep within his soul, striking every nerve. The Head of the Miami Gang was responding to the wooing of the Holy Spirit. He even brought a couple of his "hommies" to the meeting. The Holy Spirit kept on working! This soul belongs to God! God loves him. God wants him!

The Head Miami Gang Member was so excited about what he was hearing and receiving and experiencing - the "changes" that he was seeing taking place in his life, that when the call came to "all to Jesus I surrender," he couldn't resist – he surrendered – he was

baptized.

When the prison ministry team left the prison for the last time that Saturday night after the Revival, the gang member asked Frank Barton to “Call my girlfriend, tell her what has happened to me, let her know I’ve given my life to Christ.” Then he added, “Brother Barton, will you perform our marriage?”

Another young man, raised as a Seventh-day Adventist by his grandmother, strayed from the truths of the Word of God, was encouraged to attend the meetings. He came. He listened. He believed. He recommitted his life to Christ. He was re-baptized.

According to Frank Barton, **Florida Prison Ministry (FPM)** Coordinator for the Florida Conference, “Holding a Revival at South Bay Correctional Institution was truly a miracle of God.” Frank had been trying for two years to get into that facility. It took a heap of praying, and the Lord opened the door. The Revival took place, the inmates responded, and eleven men were baptized.

One of the inmates baptized by the **FPM** group a few years ago is now one of the clerks working in the prison Chapel. He has been in for 30 years and expects to be released soon. Another inmate, who has been in for 26 years, was leading the beautiful choir that helped with the program every night. Sad to say, though, his son is in the same prison.

FPM under the guidance and coordination of Frank Barton and those who work closely with him, join in thanking the Lord for opening the prison doors of South Bay making it possible to bring this special message to God’s children who are behind those prison walls. “We’re going back in 2006,” Frank stated with great conviction.

The team is going back to South Bay Correctional because God has more miracles He wants to perform. God has more souls that will respond to His call. God has more men who must say, “Yes” to ‘All to Jesus I Surrender.’ God has more souls that will go down in the watery grave of baptism, committing their lives to His keeping. No, God’s not finished with South Bay. The work has just begun!

Sisters For Christ – Creating a “Safe Place!”

With the numbers growing in women going to prison, the question is raised, “Is there a ‘safe place’ where a young lady can get away from the pollution and the onslaught of junk that pervades the very air they breathe?”

Junk seen, heard, played, advertised, and experimented with day in and day out, 24/7, with the end results of out of wedlock pregnancies, going to jail, or in too, too many cases—death. Is there a ‘shelter anywhere?’ Is there a ‘safe place?’

How about a ‘safe place’ to teach the young ladies Self Respect? How to deal with Issues and Concerns? Drug Abuse? Unwanted Pregnancies? Depression? Suicide? Low Self-Esteem? Survival? Where are the mentors to model for them the Niceties of Life?

I know of a place, and I can say without a doubt **Sisters For**

Christ is the 'safe place' and it is making a difference in the lives of many young ladies! I've seen these young ladies in action.

Sisters For Christ (SFC) is a cross-cultural purpose-driven organization for teen girls ages 10-18. **SFC** has already caught the attention of women's groups and youth workers who recognize it as the 21st Century's answer for a youth leadership program. It involves professional women reaching out to young girls with a commitment to make a positive difference in their lives.

Sisters For Christ is for Empowering! If you're tired of the same oh same oh, of going nowhere fast, let me encourage you to join an organization that is on the fast track, knows where it's going, knows how to get there, and is on the way to greater things. You can be a part of it all because **Sisters for Christ** is all about you. It will bring a 'good' change to your life.

Check them out their website www.sistersforchrist.org or e-mail: sistersforchrist.1@verizon.net. Pick up your cell and dial 1.301.421.4166 or 1.301.213-0601. They're waiting for your call.

Positive Outlook! Positive Exposure! Positive Relationships! **SFC** is what just what you've been looking for!

Sisters for Christ can belong to you, today! Hurry and Join!

Director: J. Alfred Johnson II

Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org

Editor: Carol Barron

Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

Consultant: Cleveland Houser

clevelandhouser@bellsouth.net

Published monthly by the North American Division Adventist Prison Volunteer Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

**North American Division
Adult Ministries Adventist
Prison Volunteer 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!
Nadadultministries.org

Q & A

What Are the Eleven Steps of a Criminal Case?

Before a person accused of a crime can be brought to trial, certain steps must be taken to establish that a crime has been committed and that there is a reason to believe the accused person committed it. Although the sequence of steps may vary from state to state, most follow the following outline:

Information – In this document, filed by the prosecuting attorney, the suspect is formally charged with committing a misdemeanor.

Preliminary Hearing – Some states use this hearing when a suspect is accused of a felony or arrested without a warrant for a misdemeanor. If the judge decides there is sufficient evidence to proceed, he forwards the case to a Grand Jury; if not, he releases the suspect.

Grand Jury – At these proceedings, the Grand Jury decides if there is sufficient evidence for the accused to stand trial. If it votes yes, an indictment (a court order) is issued requiring the suspect to stand trial; if not, the suspect is released.

(December Issue: **Arraignment, Pretrial Hearing, Trial, Verdict, Sentencing.**) Source: *Prison Ministries Handbook*, publisher, AdventSource.

VOLUNTEERS

"Before entering Western Penitentiary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I asked the Lord to lead me to someone who would believe what I would tell them about Jesus. He led me to Inmate George. I had gone into Western with the church choir where we received names of inmates to correspond with. I corresponded with Inmate George, and he put my name on his visitation list. Soon I started my visits to him – the person that the Lord had led me to.

"He had been in prison for a good while. I talked to him about the love of Jesus and Jesus' love for him. I talked to him of God's mercy and His willingness to forgive us of our sins. I told him God would forgive him of his sins and told him to 'straighten up', and that 'I would be there for him.' I let him know that I wasn't any better than he was, to which he remarked, 'But you're on the outside and I'm on the inside.' I told him I was a sinner too, and God loved us both. He was beginning to believe in God and His mercy.

"I continued writing and visiting him for more than a year. The guards would ask me if I was related to him. I would tell them, related only by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. They, too, were noticing a change in Inmate George.

"In one of my letters to Inmate George, I wrote that God could get him out of prison. He didn't believe me or what I said. When I visited him, I told him again that God would answer our prayer about his release. The prayers began, the answer was coming all along, but we didn't know it. We were praying in faith to Jesus.

"After a time, Inmate George wrote me that the Parole Board had called him in. I wrote him back that if it's going to bring God glory and honor for him to be released, it will happen. He was believing! We prayed harder!

"During one of our visits, Inmate George requested two things upon his release (he believed): a new, white, dress shirt, and a good home cooked meal – fried chicken, collard greens, potato salad, and sweet potato pie. I told him it was a 'done deal.' He also asked me if I would be 'ashamed' to walk out of prison with

him, I told him no, I wouldn't.

"Inmate George was paroled. I walked with him out of the prison. He received his brand new, spanking, white dress shirt, and he had his home cooked meal at my home. As he was leaving my home that day, he turned around and said to me, 'You've done all that you were supposed to do. Don't try and keep up with me. I promise you, I'll never let you down.' With that he walked away, out of my life – never to be seen or heard from again.

"This prison experience cemented in my mind that Jesus IS behind bars – and He is with ALL the inmates. I know without a doubt He HEARS and ANSWERS prayers."

(Told to the editor by Mamie Henry Wadkins Clemons, member of the Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pittsburgh, PA.)

"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 Leadership. I believe it was Dale Carnegie who said, "We all have possibilities we don't know about. We can do things we don't even dream we can do." We all have leadership capabilities that need to be discovered, nurtured, and encouraged to blossom. This module is a study of Christian Leadership principles within the Christian church. It encompasses several dimensions: Spiritual, Relational, Professional, and Personal in Christian Leadership, in developing and equipping the church to fulfill its purpose.

This Module enhances the fact that in order for a church to reach its maximum potential, it depends on the dynamics of personal involvement from committed disciples for Christ, exposing the student to the fundamental knowledge required to fulfill the expectations that God requires of a person in a leadership capacity.

The student will obtain and demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of Christian Leadership expectations, while gaining knowledge of how Christian Leadership impacts and equips the purpose driven church. The student will get to study and understand the multi-dimensional facets of Christian Leadership.

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 www.adventsource.org for registration information.

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Prison Ministry Handbook, prepared by the Adult Ministries Department of the North American Division, is a complete guide for Prison Ministry Coordinators and Directors. Helpful information on How to Work with Security, How to Work with Inmates, How to Communication with Inmates, How to Organize Your Prison Ministry, and so much more. Contact AdventSource, 800-328-0525. **The Art of**

the Con: Avoiding Offender Manipulation, Gary F. Cornelius. In many instances, correctional staff members believe they are too smart to be manipulated by an offender. This book provides the corrections professional with a better understanding of offenders and their characteristics, behavior and culture. Order by fax 301.918.1886 - non members \$20.00– ACA members - \$16.00 - #759 SF5. **Maintaining Performance Goals and Standards**. Working in the correctional environment is both demanding and stressful. Because a failure to manage stress may lead to unethical behavior, maintaining mental and physical fitness is critical. The goal of this course is to help correctional staff learn how to stay mentally and physically fit both in their professional and personal lives. Order by fax 301.918.1886 - \$29.95 - #961-SF5. **Mothering from the Inside: Parenting in a Women’s Prison**, Sandra Enos. It’s no secret the female population behind bars continues to grow. However, what many people forget is that a majority of women incarcerated have children under the age of 18. Enos examines how women manage motherhood from inside a women’s prison, secure living arrangements for their children, and maintain relationships between themselves and their children. Order online – www.aca.org - \$21.95 - #743-SF5. **The Holy Bible**. Available at all book stores. Prices vary.



HAPPENINGS

The Internet. It hosts a wealth of good information about good things taking place with people with good intentions doing them. But one must be careful and intentional when going on the Internet. I was intentional – I was interested in Prison Ministries - I wanted to see what was happening “out there” and “who was making it

happen.” So on to the **Internet** I went. Here’s what I discovered when I logged on to **Prison Ministries Programs**.

Volunteering With Prison Fellowship. **Prison Fellowship (PF)** was founded in 1976. It is a volunteer-dependent ministry that God has blessed with thousands and probably hundreds of thousands of volunteers who have provided ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims and their families.

Today there are Christian volunteers just like you who volunteer to lead Bible studies and in-prison seminars, assist crime victims, impact criminal justice legislation, mentor at-risk youth and ex-prisoners, purchase and deliver gifts to children of prisoners at Christmas, and provide administrative support in **PF**’s offices around the U.S.

Prison Fellowship’s desire is to engage the church and create a seamless structure focused on ministry. “We believe that **PF** must partner with the local church to participate in a special ministry to the “least of these” in response to Matthew 25:34-40. It is our desire to involve volunteers at all levels in the ministry and to provide opportunities to work inter-denominationally, cross-racially, and cross-culturally. Volunteers have been the backbone of our ministry.”

A Heart for Hurting Prisoners: Since 1990, Federal Prisoners have found the love of Christ in Helena Carpenter. She’s 70, a cancer survivor, and her feet hurt, but that doesn’t stop Helena Carpenter from going to prison every week. She’s been at it 14 years now and still shows up at the tough federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, every Monday night to bring encouragement, good cheer, and lessons from the Bible to inmates who call her

"our spiritual mother." A Sunday school teacher the past 20 years – "that is where my heart is" – Helena and her late husband, Clarence, were challenged in 1990 to visit men in prison by their pastor, Glen Kennedy.

Her Mailbox Club Bible correspondence study materials used in her church youth classes, stirred Helena to wonder if the men in prison would be interested in them. They were. She let prison Chaplain Cordero look them over and he gave her the "go ahead." Through word of mouth – the best system of communication – the program grew until more than 100 men were participating. Through transfers and sharing of information, the program spread to inmates in 25 prisons covering five states. One former inmate told Helena that he had saved all of his lessons and was now using them to instruct his children!

So fourteen years later, the ritual is still the same. Every Thursday evening, Helena's daughter, Peggy, plus their two friends—Anita Drick and Jamie Leiby—sit around Helena's dining table correcting the 50 to 80 lessons they receive during the week – doing the thing they love the most. (Written by Ron Humphrey.)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

They are Gentry, Arkansas church members Ella Fisher, Doyle and LeAnn Misener. In 1994 Ella fisher started a small prison ministries group that ministered to ten prisoners. She solicited the help of other church members as the requests for Bible lessons began to come in. Today, over 1,200 prisoners are enrolled in the Bible study lessons. Some members correspond with two or three prisoners; others devote several days a week as they keep in touch with over 100 prisoners.

At their church potluck (a lot takes place at potlucks, you know), Evelyn Walker encouraged Doyle Misener to get involved in marking and returning Bible lessons. Doyle, who had been a police officer and sheriff, on the other hand, didn't think he was ready for that challenge. He couldn't help feeling somewhat hardened to criminals who had deservedly ended up behind bars. But Jesus' love softened his heart and he realized each prisoner was a captive soul in need of a Savior.

Doyle received 10 names. Today he has 250 names from personal references from prisoners with whom he has corresponded. The story gets real interesting from here on. One day a prisoner, Patricia Rawson, asked Doyle to write to Billy Vickers, an acquaintance of hers on death row for murder. Doyle wrote. Billy didn't answer. Doyle wrote again – six times in fact before Billy Vickers answered. Vickers didn't want Bible lessons or any spiritual guidance—he wanted a friend. Doyle and Vickers corresponded for two years as they recalled fishing holes all over Texas and Oklahoma. But Doyle eventually made sure Billy had a Bible he could read. Billy began making comments such as, "Hey, how about that little guy, David. He sure took care of Goliath." A spiritual pathway to heaven was opening, and Billy began to walk in it.

November 2003, Doyle received news that Billy was scheduled to die on December 9. Doyle and Billy began to write each other daily and spiritual things became a common topic. Billy wrote, "Doyle, would you be my spiritual adviser?" Wow!! Spiritual leader. But God was moving on Doyle, too. He was granted a 'lay pastor' license by the Southwestern Union Conference. He and his wife traveled to Livingston, Texas, to visit with Billy.

When they met Billy for the first time, he said, "Bob Dew (Doyle's pen name) I am ready to meet my Jesus." Billy had a lot to confess, but he wasn't ready to confess the murders. The fateful day of December 9 came and the death warrant expired. Never in the history of Texas, since the introduction of the lethal

injection, had this ever happened. A new execution date was issued for January 28, 2004. Billy had 50 days to deepen his relationship with God, and Doyle. Billy learned more truths about the lives of Christians and God. He promised Doyle that he would confess the truth before he died. He had not been ready to do that in December.

Traveling back to Huntsville and being strapped down again for execution, Billy told the warden that he had a few things to say. He confessed to committing 14 murders – four people were in prison serving time for some of those crimes. His confession cleared one woman who was sentenced to 85 years for shooting her husband. Her name? Patricia Rawson, the woman who asked Doyle to write to Vickers. Billy Vickers died eight seconds later, paying for crimes he had committed, yet with the full assurance that he was totally forgiven by God.

Before he died, Vickers signed a release for his story to be told with this message: "There are thousands of people behind bars; you might say a captive audience, waiting for someone to tell them that Jesus loves them.

(Used by permission from the Southwestern Union Record.)

MINISTRY BLESSING/SUCCESS STORY

Remember the Bible story The Feeding of the Five Thousand? The meal that would never be forgotten? After the blessing had been said over the two loaves and five fishes – that was God seasoning the food – the disciples took from Jesus' hands and the people took from the disciples' hands and the food kept coming and coming until everyone had eaten and were stuffed full with fish and bread. But get this, 12 baskets overflowing and jammed with bread and fish – seasoned with the seasonings of God's Goodness - were "gathered up" and given to the people to take home to share with those who had "missed the blessing/miracle." This Blessing/Success Story isn't dealing with fish and bread, but it carries the same excitement, the same dynamics, the same miracle making power, with the same Miracle Maker -- Jesus Christ!

Richard Bland and Steve Dickie were in the Ukraine. **United Prison Ministries International (UPMI)** had accepted an invitation to meet the Head of the Prison (comparable to Warden in the U.S.A.), along with Alf Andvick, and Stass their Russian translator. The team spent half an hour with the Head of the Prison talking general talk, and then Bland graciously presented the Head of the Prison with the first and only Bible this man had ever owned in his entire life. He was so excited and was so grateful about receiving and having his own Bible, that without any previous notice, he said, "Would you speak with 'some' of the inmates? The men gladly said, "Yes" to his unexpected invitation to speak.

Now, before I get too far in this Blessing/Success Story, (I'm so excited I can hardly type) you must know that the **UPMI** representatives were not planning on speaking to the inmate population, their plan was to speak only to the Head of the Prison. With that plan in mind, they brought only one box of books with them, a box of *Steps to Christ*, printed in Norway in the Russian Language. The box contained only 260 books! On with the story.

Bland, Dickie, Andvick, and Stass enter the auditorium. They sit on a stage waiting for the arrival of 'some' inmates. The door opens -- hundreds of men start filing in and they keep filing into the auditorium -- approximately 700 inmates! They take their seats. There are about 20 armed officers lined up around the wall on both sides of the auditorium to guard the inmates.

After greeting the inmates, and bringing greetings from America, speaking

through the translator, Bland begins sharing the Word of God with them. Toward the end of his talk, he says to inmates, "We are going to leave some materials (books) with you that will lead you to Christ."

Now, I shall continue in Richard Bland's own words. "At that time, when that statement was made, 'We are going to leave some materials with you' my colleagues started praying, 'Lord, what are we going to do?' Knowing we had only 260 books, knowing there were more than 260 men sitting out in that audience, and upon opening the box, it was obvious to everyone in the auditorium that there were not enough books to go around.

"With the box now opened and books in our hands, the inmates starting rushing toward the front of the auditorium, grabbing the books we had started passing out. The officers, who were supposed to be guarding the prisoners, also ran to the front of the auditorium to receive a book. Officers and inmates running together to the front, started taking books out of the box. Each time we reached into the box to get books, more books came out. As hands went in, books came out! The books multiplied before our very eyes! The books kept coming! And coming! And coming until every inmate and officer had received one. When the "run for the books" was over and the men had settled down, we looked in the box -- there were five books left over!"

It's in His Word, people; My God will supply ALL your NEEDS according to His riches in glory – be it loaves, fishes, or books. Nothing is impossible with Him! God can multiply Anything He wants to! Anywhere He wants to! Anytime He wants to! What a Mighty God we serve! He's still in the miracle-making business. Give Him some praise!

Note: According to Richard Bland, **UPMI** was the first religious organization to bring any type of spiritual materials into a Russian prison. It had never been allowed before.

BEST PRACTICE TIPS

When men and women have been won to Christ through prison ministry and enter our churches, we must:

- Be loving, compassionate, and understanding.
- Accept them for who they are.
- Help them to adjust to society.
- Help them with finding jobs and housing.
- Not be hypocritical.
- Not be snobbish and self-righteous.
- Continue to nurture them in Christ.
- Not be critical and judgmental.
- Not become involved in love affairs; allow them to get settled with a job, a place to live, and to get stabilized in Christ for two years or more.

HELP THE NETWORK GROW

Calling all our readers! Please ask your friends to sign on to *The Network*. Feel free to forward the newsletters to people on your e-mail list. The newsletters are archived on our Web site www.nadadulthoodministries.org - just keep us posted on how many people you forward **Network News** to. Thanks for keeping *The Network* growing!

EDITOR'S P.S.

Gathering the information to put a newsletter together is a challenge. Oh, but when it all finally comes together -- everything falling into place, it's then I can kick back and actually read these stories about everyday folk, like you and me,

folk who are out there doing heart business, taking risks, making things happen, going places, forgetting self, getting involved in the lives of people – people written off by society and family.

When I read about people like the Miseners, Helena Carpenter, **Sisters For Christ**, Bland and his team, Frank Barton and **FPM** – hearing them talk about what matters the most to them, ministry to people, it only strengthens my conviction, prompting me to proclaim, because I strongly believe . . .

1. people are still compassionate;
2. people are still in the people “caring” and people “helping” business;
3. people still want to help other people, no matter what they’ve done or what society thinks about them;
4. God still has people who will “go anywhere” and “do whatever” He asks without any questions;
5. there are unsung heroes doing heroic deeds;
6. God is God! And He’s still in the miracle performing business.

People needing People! People helping People! It all boils down to “If you’ve done it unto the least of these my brethren, you’ve done it unto me.” The words of Jesus!

We’re still waiting to hear who is forwarding this great newsletter and to whom! Talk to me, people – carol.barron@nad.adventist.org.

I’ m out of here. Until next month!

CB

b