



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 3

*"Before anything else existed, there was Christ with God. He has always been alive and is himself God."*

*John 1:1 – The Living Bible–*

- *"Common sense is sense with its sleeves rolled up." -- Kyle Farnsworth, Pitcher for NY Yankees*

- *"Map out your future, but do it in pencil." -- Bon Jovi,*

- *"Be a warrior not a worrier." – Karen Salamsohn*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **"DINNER WITH THE DOCTORS!"**
- **Party Time in Jessup – Baptisms!**

## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, Adult Ministers! With this writing, I may sound like the little boy who beat the drum with no variation, just a boom, boom, boom, the same sound, the same rhythm. But at this point in time, the only sound I can make is the sound of the coming of the Festival Of The Laity – **September 26-29, 2007.**

I want you to come! I urge you to come! But don't come for me. Come because it is going to be 100% doused with the Holy Ghost, and I want you to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Think of the benefits to be gained from attending: Churches will be changed! Communities will be changed! Families will be changed because of the information that will be shared from the General Sessions and the Seminars. Your life will not be the same after having attended the Festival Of The Laity.

"No man is an island, no man stands alone." Sabbath School is not an island to itself. Personal Ministries is not an island to itself. Prison Ministries is not an island to itself. All three of these ministries are a part of the People Preparation Cake. All are lead ingredients in preparing a people to "Meet Their God." I don't know when the Lord will come. Only the Lord knows when He will come. What I do know is we can have a great part to prepare a people in evangelism to have others ready when He does come.

Come to the Festival Of The Laity and find a key to motivate your community, your church, your family. If you can't come, **SEND** someone. Sponsor someone who wants to come to the Festival.

Last week I visited the hotel, and saw that many rooms have already been reserved. We want the numbers to increase. I strongly urge you to reserve your room today. Use the code "Festival Of The Laity" to get the \$99.00 per night room rate – 800.588.4656. Online [www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com](http://www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com).

The \$199.00 Early Bird Special rate for the Festival is good until **August 16, 2007**. Call PlusLine at 800.732.7587 – or go online and register at [www.thefestivalofthelaity.com](http://www.thefestivalofthelaity.com). Thank you for registering. Thank you for being at the **Festival Of The Laity**.

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### SEVENTY-SEVEN WAYS TO GET OUT OF THE RUT

Creative ways to help you get out of the Sabbath School Rut

Are many pews in your church empty when it's time to start Sabbath school? Do the "faithful" catch up on their sleep during the Sabbath school program? Are more people in the foyer than in the pews during the superintendent's remarks? Do young people complain that your programs are B-O-R-I-N-G? If you said "yes" to any of those questions, your Sabbath School is in a RUT! You need to get out of the rut before it gets any deeper.

Dorothy Watts has written some great Sabbath School Planner Program books that will get your Sabbath school out of the rut on to the track with leaps and bounds. Yes, there are Seventy-seven ways and more, but I will share with you, from Dorothy's book, *Sabbath School Program Planner, Book One, Six Ways to Get Out the Rut*. Try these:

#1. *Arrange the program in a different order.* Who says you must **always** begin with an opening song? Try having the mission story first, for a change. Why not have special music first? There's no law that says Scripture reading must be followed by prayer. Doing things in a different order will **lift** you out of the rut!

#2. *Look at things in a new light.* What would happen if you looked upon the Sabbath school as a spiritual clinic, with you as the doctor? Can you imagine the Christian life to be like a highway to heaven, complete with speed limit and road signs? Imagine your Sabbath school to be a classroom and you are the teacher. Looking at things in a different way will **bounce** you out of the rut!

#3. *Change the way you do things.* Who says you have to stand behind a pulpit? Try removing the pulpit and using a circle of chairs, as for a TV talk show. Sit around a table, as for a newscast. Get out into the audience, as a roving reporter. Divide your audience into small groups for an interactive program. Plan a program on the church lawn or in a park. A change of location can **move** you out of your rut!

#4. *Use visual aids.* If the theme is Christian growth, set up a scene with gardening tools, fertilizer, and plants. Set the scene for a banquet and talk about the spiritual food we receive at the Lord's banquet table. Talk about going on a trip and enhance your point with suitcases. Use signs, posters, object lessons, blackboards, maps, flipcharts, and overhead projectors. Having visual aids will **get** an adult Sabbath school out of a rut!

#5. *Use different types of program formats.* *Sabbath School Program Planner, Book One*, gives 12 different formats to use in building interesting programs. Sunrise programs, quiz programs, interviews, demonstrations, and small group sharing are all ways to **pull** your Sabbath school out of the rut!

#6. *Start at a different time.* Occasionally announce that your Sabbath school will begin a half hour early. Plan something special for those who come early, such as a film, hot drink and muffins in the fellowship room, or a musical program by the children. Changing the time will **get** you out of the rut!

Seventy-seven ways to get out of a rut! You've just learned six! This volume is the first of a series of four. Hurry! Buy the books! Use the programs! Get out of the **RUT!**

*Sabbath School Program Planner, Book One*, by Dorothy Eaton Watts. Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Maryland.



## WHAT'S HOT!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still your hottest item!  
A Festival of TRAINING!**

**A Festival of MOTIVATING!**

**A Festival of NETWORKING!**

**A Festival to EMPOWER YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY!**

**VOICES FROM THE PAST - 2002 FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY.** I thought you'd like to hear some excited "voices" that experienced the 2002 Festival. These "voices" will motivate you to attend the 2007 Festival Of The Laity. **LISTEN TO THE VOICES FROM THE PAST!** Then, please **REGISTER!** So you can experience what they experienced and much, much more.

*"I'm going to take home the knowledge that so many people are working in their churches, young and old."—Cheryl Volsch.*

*"There are so many young people here."—Elvina Wolcott.*

*"Working as soul winners is a privilege. Because God loves us so much, He allows us to be a part of finishing His work, but He doesn't need us."—Walter Pearson.*

*"We have a work to do. We can't do it alone. But thankfully, we've been given the Holy Spirit."—Jan Paulsen.*

**179** days until September 26, 2007 (As of April 1). With **179** days left until the FESTIVAL you're encouraged to register and register **SOON** because space is limited.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Early Bird Special! \$199.00 BEFORE August 16, 2007. AFTER August 16, 2007 - \$225.00 per person.**

Register at [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com), or call 800.732.7587, and talk to the good people there. They're anxious to help you.

**EXHIBITORS:** The Festival Of The Laity is the perfect place to show and to inform people about your ministry. **Reserve your booth NOW!**

**LOG ON** to [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com) - click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry!

**THE FESTIVAL WILL BE** at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656. Visit [www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com](http://www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com) – take the online tour of this fabulous hotel. See the beautiful rooms, and then quickly make your reservation to stay in one of them! **AAH! Sweet comfort!**

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** When you reserve your room at the hotel, use the code "Festival Of The Laity" to get the \$99 per night rate. To help with expenses, you can have up to four (4) people in your room. **Reserve your room now! Call 800.588.4656.**

September 26-29, 2007 is around the corner – it will be here before you can blink. I think Orlando is definitely **THE** place to be in September. And where the Festival Of The Laity will be held – the Florida Mall, "My Soul!" **Eating! Shopping! Visiting! A one stop "Everything" place.**

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## Q & A

### What is Community Guest Day? Purpose? Programs? Fellowship?

A Community Guest Day is listed in the church calendar for the fourth quarter of each year. The purpose is to introduce the surrounding community to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to interest new members.

**Programs** are planned by the Sabbath School Committee one quarter in advance. Topics might include the history of your local church, a special church anniversary, a celebration of volunteerism. These programs are developed with nonmembers in mind. Care should be taken to avoid subjects that might offend those invited. You may want to invite a city or county official to participate and say a few words. Community service awards to outstanding volunteers in your community can also be awarded at Community Guest Day.

**Fellowship Meal** can be a planned, colorful, well-balanced (*and tasty*) meal for members and visitors. Make a special effort to decorate the room and make the meal attractive. You might ask the choir or a musical group to provide music. Mix the seating of guests with friendly members. Do not send all the visitors through the serving line first, as it gives them limited opportunity to mingle with members. Assign special hosts to mix with the visitors and make them feel at home during the fellowship time.

#### Additional Ideas

1. Provide name tags for everyone, including members.
2. Provide lesson quarterlies for all the visitors.
3. Give a Welcome Packet to each visitor. The packet could include: a church bulletin, welcome letter from the pastor, a copy of *Signs or Message, What's an Adventist?*, a local church calendar of services and activities, special notice of any upcoming seminars, and a welcome card.
4. Send a thank-you note to all visitors who attend. Invite them to come again.
5. Be alert for parts of the program that may need an explanation to nonmembers. Choose well known hymns that are easy to sing.

Source: *The Sabbath School Handbook: The Second Edition for the North American Division*. AdventSource, Lincoln, Nebraska. [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

#### Dundalk's Dinner With A Doctor

There are various ways of doing Personal Ministries. Handing out literature. Giving Bible studies. Revelation Seminars. I received an e-mail from Pastor Darriel Hoy, pastor in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Hoy and Pastor Sedley Johnson, Prayer Ministry Coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference and pastor of the Dundalk Seventh-day Adventist Church, hosts **Dinner With A Doctor**.

**Dinner With A Doctor** is a health education program designed to help our community overcome chronic diseases. And you do have **Dinner With A Doctor**. A scrumptious meal is served. People who come are able to enjoy a healthy meal, plus hear lectures on how to better their health, and how to stay healthy.

The "Doctors of the Day" on March 18, 2007, were Drs. Anabel Facemire and Karen Piper. Nurses Donnetta and Cheryl Hatcher were on duty to give free blood pressure checks

**Dinner With A Doctor.** This free service offered to the community, serves as an avenue to share the health message and to invite people to our churches where they can learn more about Seventh-day Adventists.

There's no better way to discuss having good health, while eating delicious food, in a non threatening and pleasant environment, plus it's a good way to get to know your neighbors and community. If you want to know more, and I believe you do, contact Pastor Darriel Hoy at [darriel@abetterbaltimore.org](mailto:darriel@abetterbaltimore.org).

### **"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: Religious Pluralism – VCHP.202**

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia states: **Religious pluralism** (rel. comparative religion) is a loosely defined term concerning peaceful relations between difference religions, and is also used in a number of related ways, for example, as a synonym for religious tolerance, which is a condition of harmonious co-existence between adherents of different religions or religious denominations. Religious pluralism is sometimes used as a synonym for Interfaith dialogue.

**Religious Pluralism**, as described in this Module, will provide the student with a fundamental knowledge of religious pluralism and its historical development from its inception to the present. It also exposes the student to the reality of religious and cultural pluralism emanating in Department of Corrections.

**The Overview** of this Module will attempt to provide the student a basic grasp of ideas and beliefs that influence the development of pluralism in religion in a global culture. Students will be familiarized with the pluralistic religious development in a sub cultural experience behind the fences of prison walls. This Module hopes to promote a general understanding and toleration of the beliefs and concerns of other religious groups.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Acquaint the student with a basic understanding of pluralism in religion.
- Acquaint the student with the historical development of religious pluralism.
- Acquaint the student with beliefs and practices of numerous religions fostered behind the walls of prison by faith groups.

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](http://www.adventsource.org) for registration information.



## PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

### Party Time At Jessup

A group of people get together every Sabbath to worship Our God. Thirty members and 10 volunteers have been meeting at the Jessup prison, singing, praying, preaching, and giving testimonies of the power of God. The

volunteers help minister to the church members in their language, Spanish or English. What a Celebration!

A lot of good things are happening at the Church in Jessup. "With the direction of the Holy Spirit, the church attendance is growing, and members are getting more involved in the religious activities", according to Chaplain Balemy, "and we are getting more support." The members requested the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* in Spanish, and with the help of one of the volunteers, a publishing house donated the hymn books. Each Monday night, these Jessup church members study from the book, *The 28 Fundamental Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs*.

**April 21, 2007 – Is Party Time! Nine new members are going to be baptized for the Glory of Our Lord.** We are preparing a great party against Satan. Think about it. Nine inmates! These men entered prison without knowing any thing about God, and thanks to the love and mercy of Our Lord, and through the faithful visits of the volunteers, who studied with these men, their lives have been touched and changed – they want to be better persons. PARTY TIME! CELEBRATION! BAPTISMS! PRAISE THE LORD!

*Submitted by Carlos Gomez, an active Prison Minister and Prison Chaplain.*

### EDITOR'S P.S.

Confession time! Reading about "getting out of the rut" got to me. Dorothy Watt's book gave some great "getting out of the rut" ideas for Sabbath School. All well and good!

But it made me think about my relationship with God. And with those I associate with. Has my life become "same oh, same oh?" Yawning situations?

I was reading an article by Dave Anderson, who said, "Some ruts are so powerful you don't even know you're in one." He also said, "You can't take ruts lightly because if you stay in one long enough it can turn into a grave."

Back to me and my relationship with God and others. Is it exciting? Enjoyable? Fun? Alive? Or is it Ho Hum, Yawning. B-o-r-i-n-g!

Dave Anderson gives three possible signs of being in a rut. You might be in a rut if:

1. You can't remember the last time you tried something for the first time.
2. You compare yourself to others more than to your former self.
3. You've become comfortable living a life filled with goals mostly unrealized.

Just – Food for Thought! Good people. Food for Thought!

I'm outta here!

CB



