



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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*In the beginning
God created the
heaven and the
earth. And God
said, Let there
be light and
there was light.
Genesis 1: 1, 3.
KJV*

- *"Truth is generally the best vindication against slander."—
Abraham Lincoln*
- *"The heart of the fool is in his mouth but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart."—
Benjamin Franklin*

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Across The NAD In 80 Seconds Or Less**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"REFLECTIONS"

Hello, Adult Ministers!

As 2007 began to wind down, and we moved into the "Thanksgiving Season," I began to "Reflect" on the year, and the implications of the "Season" to our mission as Adult Ministers. The fruit of my "Reflection" was so powerful to me, that I thought it would be selfish to "shout" all by myself.

My thoughts, which came to be anchored in Psalm 100, and Isaiah 6, led me to conclude that "Thanks", which involves appreciation, expressed by the unworthy for benefits received from The Lord, despite our unworthiness, leads to "Praise", which involves often un-scripted, and often un-scheduled crediting of God for His "Being" and "Doing" ultimate good; which leads to "seeing God" in meaningful "Worship", which involves allowing "all things" to be "blocked out" in the awareness that "God IS"; which leads us to offer ourselves in Service to The Lord, like Isaiah did when he said, "Here am I, send me."

Looking back on 2007, let us honor Divinity for His marvelous works of Power and Ministry, even while allowing the likes of us to pose in the picture.

Moving into 2008, may we permit an even greater unleashing of Holy Ghost Authority, as we minister through the motivation driven by the fruit of these "Reflections."

Many blessings to you, your household, and those whom, and to whom you minister. MARANATHA!

Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS PARTIES THAT TRAVEL

When the Christmas season comes around, calendars usually fill up quickly with holiday activities. But before you schedule a Christmas party for your Sabbath School, think about doing something different this year—such as taking your party on the road. How?

Cheer for Children

Load up on children's Christmas books, and "invade" (with permission) the pediatric ward of your local hospital. Read to the kids and distribute holiday-colored balloons, candy canes, inexpensive toys, etc. If your group talents permit it, lead the children in singing Christmas songs, or present an age-appropriate skit for their entertainment.

Bake-a-thon

Gather at the home of the class member with the biggest kitchen and spend a day baking homemade bread for a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Stick to hearty, whole-grain loaves that will pack plenty of nutritional punch. Make a loaf or two to enjoy on the spot as well. Make the entire project festive.

Flower Power

Take small poinsettias to nursing-home residents. Spread out, spend time talking to people one on one, and ask them to tell you what Christmas was like in their youth. The gift of your time and listening ear may be the most precious gift they receive at this time of the year when they are very lonely.

Christmas Crafts

Is your class crafty? One group, whose members were skilled in knitting and crocheting, dedicated one evening a week for four weeks to making mittens, scarves, hats, and socks. Homeless shelters, crisis pregnancy centers, and shelters for battered women appreciate such gifts.

Holiday Hammers

If you live in a mild climate and if Habitat for Humanity (or a similar organization) is building a home near you, replace your Christmas party with a work day at a Habitat project. Brighten the day for other volunteers by wearing holiday duds and bringing a boom box and Christmas tapes. Bring enough Christmas cookies to fuel yourself and your co-workers.

Church Elves

Volunteer as a class to help with one of your church's seasonal outreach projects, such as delivering presents for Project Angel Tree, which collects and distributes gifts to the children of prisoners.

The Christmas season is insanely busy for most of us. But before you groan at the thought of adding one of these activities to your calendar, remember that these outreach projects would replace your regular Christmas party. You're not taking on more—you're just taking your party "on the road!"

This article originally appeared in *Discipleship Journal*, www.discipleshipjournal.com. Reprinted by permission. **Sue Kline**



WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

Across the NAD in 80 seconds or less (or whatever amount of time it takes you to read this).

OTTAWA (ONTARIO) SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The 2007 Theme for the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church is *Seeking the Kingdom*. 1st Quarter: Preparation for the Kingdom; 2nd Quarter: Advancing the Kingdom; 3rd Quarter: Oneness in the Kingdom; 4th Quarter: Heirs of the Kingdom

Key Activities: Personal Ministry Day – First Sabbath of each quarter to promote the mission of the church and provide training to equip the members in executing their God-given charge. Bi-monthly baptisms. Reclaiming missing members. Nurturing new members.

OLEAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, OLEAN, NEW YORK

Active Projects: Holiday Food Drive 2007. They canvassed an area around their church (approximately 300 residences) leaving a paper bag with an attached letter. The letter stated the purpose of the food drive and asked for non-perishable food donations. The letter also asked if the recipient knew of anyone in the local area in need of food. Baskets were distributed the Sabbath before Thanksgiving

Proposed Projects: Health Cooking Classes and Health Seminars.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Equipping and Mobilizing the Laity with: *The Lay Bible Minister Program. An annual training seminar is held to sharpen soul-winning skills. *Adventist Prison Ministry. Coordinating volunteers in reaching out to inmates housed in correctional facilities throughout Eastern Washington. Two fellowship meetings are held each year for leaders to network and coordinate their efforts. *Personal Ministries Leadership Conference. An annual leadership conference held to provide simple hands-on training and inspiration for anyone interested in reaching out to their neighbors and friends with the good news of Christ.

EMMANUEL-BRINKLOW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH – ASHTON, MARYLAND

Theme: *What Are You Doing For Jesus?* Their aim is to enlist every member in active soul-winning service for God. Through seminars, meetings, special classes, and other organized activities, Emmanuel-Brinklow's personal ministries endeavor to prepare members for this important ministry.

Goal: To encourage Brinklow members in their witnessing activities by sharing their own and others' personal ministry experiences. We all should have a ready answer for the question, "*What am I doing for Jesus?*"

Jesus is coming soon! We must share the message of salvation!

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Q & A

Need more suggestions for New Superintendents? How about some Tips for New Teachers?

Sabbath School Superintendent include these goals in your long-range planning:

- ✓ Always begin your program on time. Allow one minute for walking onto the platform. (*We train people to be late. Editor*)
- ✓ Have fun. Plan for an annual Sabbath School outing. Be sure to have it entered on the official church Calendar of Events.
- ✓ Establish a pool of effective storytellers. Conduct monthly storytelling classes to enable established and new storytellers to network and practice.
- ✓ Plan to lead someone to Christ through the Vacation Bible School program.
- ✓ Schedule an annual Appreciation Day for teachers, assistant superintendents, musicians, secretaries, and supportive members.
- ✓ Establish a yearly Investment Goal. Encourage the promotion of Investment in the individual classes as well as in the monthly program. **Arthur Morgan**

Tips For New Teachers

Be Prepared. Before opening God's Word to teach, there should be more preparation than a brief perusal on Friday night. A good habit to establish is to spend a concentrated hour on Sabbath afternoon becoming familiar with the main points of the next lesson. During the rest of the week—dig for more material.

Facilitating Sharing Time. For most of your class members, the class is the primary place where they receive support and friendship. During class time announcements can be made regarding class outreach and fellowship plans. Support for missing members can be arranged, personal visits, providing meals or volunteering to help with housework or child care. This time of sharing opens the door for better participation in the discussion part of the class.

Praying. Maintain an unending circle of prayer for your students. As the class members pray for one another, they come closer together and are enabled to bear one another's burdens. It is important to take time to ask for prayer requests of those present.

Guiding Spiritual Growth. The most important thing for your class members to learn is the practical application of Bible truth. Sabbath School is a place to grow in Christian living. Help students make specific applications of the lesson each week in practical issues they face every day. Key discussion questions include: "What difference does this topic make in how you live your life?" and "How would you explain this truth to a friend who does not attend any church?"

Starting the Class on Time. Nothing is more discouraging for a Sabbath School class than to wonder where the teacher is. You should be one of the first to arrive so that you can greet the class members. In case of emergency or illness, find a substitute teacher and notify the Sabbath School Superintendent that a substitute has been provided.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

PREPARATORY WORK FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES SERIES- PART II

A Special Assignment Sabbath should be preceded by four to six weeks of careful preparation. The church membership list should be studied to determine how many able-bodied, resident family units you have in the church. This will exclude only those members who have moved out of the community without transferring their membership, and the shut-ins. A family unit may be one person, as in the case of a single person or a widow, or it may be a family with mother, father, and children. Territories are assigned by family units.

TOTAL CHURCH TERRITORY - Taking a hypothetical case of a church with one hundred members, you might find that you have thirty resident, able-bodied family units. In such a case the total church territory should be divided into thirty segments.

There are several reasons why it is important to assign the total church territory. Giving a few blocks to each member would advance the work, but we are laying plans to finish the work. When we attempt more than what seems humanly possible God’s miracle-working power comes into action. If we do not assign total territory we will have no provision for the follow-up of radio-TV names, missionary journal names, etc.

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - If we do not attempt to involve the total church membership in soul winning, those who are not working for souls may unintentionally discourage the prospects brought to church by those who are working. Every member needs training to know how to relate to inquirers who are just beginning to show an interest in the church.

Even inactive members can be challenged to renew their commitment to Christ and His church by asking them to accept a territory. In the book *Evangelism*, Ellen White describes a visit to a former member in England. She says they treated him as though he were still with us. She took some books to him and encouraged him to share them with his neighbors. There is a valuable basic principle inherent in this experience.

Showing this kind of attitude toward one who has dropped out of church generates a type of assurance that leads the discouraged member back to the fold. Faith, prayer, and work for others in need will result in growth in love and faith, which produces a stable Christian.

This is the recipe that Christ has prescribed for the fainthearted, doubting, trembling soul. Let the sorrowful ones who walk mournfully before the Lord, arise and help someone who needs help.”—*Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 266.*

TERRITORY MAPS & FAMILY ASSIGNMENTS –Two identical maps covering the entire church territory should be obtained. The same boundaries should be traced on both maps so as to provide territory for each family in the church. Each territory should be assigned to a number. One map remains intact as the permanent file copy. The other map is cut into individual family territories. The master copy of the map should be posted for at least one week in a place accessible to the church members so they may have opportunity to indicate their choice of territory, by placing their name on a sheet of paper alongside the number identifying the territory of their choice.

After giving the church members this opportunity to indicate their selection of territory, the pastor and committee may feel free to select territories for those who did not indicate a preference. Many times members want a territory close to their place of residence. This desire should be honored, whenever possible, so they can work first of all with their immediate neighbors. In assigning the territories, consideration should be given to the size of the family unit.

"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: Introduction to Inmate Spiritual Counseling VCHP.245

There's "counseling" and there's "counseling." There are "Counselors" and there are "Counselors." Depends on where the emphasis is put. In this course, Introduction to Inmate Spiritual Counseling, the student will be exposed to counseling techniques germane to counseling in a correctional setting; relevant to inmates in crisis situations, grief, marriage, family concerns, and individualized spiritual counseling.

Description

This module introduces the student to counseling situations germane to correctional settings. It summarizes Christian counseling concerns apropos to the behavior and feelings of inmates and the work of correctional Chaplains, Inmate and Spiritual Counselors.

Overview of Introduction to Inmate Spiritual Counseling.

This course exposes the student to the fundamentals of communicating with inmates, as well as, how to know them and to gain their confidence and respect. It delineates acceptable and non-acceptable approaches to conversing with inmates. The student will become familiar with Christian counseling techniques and the role of Christian Counselors to the incarcerated. Students will gain insights in the work of a Chaplain/Inmate Spiritual Counselor inside the fence.

Learning Outcomes

1. The student will learn how to know inmates.
2. The student will learn how to talk to inmates.
3. The student will be exposed to Christian counseling techniques.
4. The student will be exposed to some of the hurting situations that inmates are exposed to.
5. The student will learn what Christian Counselor/Chaplains are exposed to in the Department of Corrections.
6. The Inmate Spiritual Counselor will learn the Counselor's responsibility to inmates.

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

INMATES ATONE FOR CRIMES WITH FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

Bright orange pumpkins are ripening in a six-acre garden that provided a summer long cornucopia of fresh vegetables for a food bank serving some of the poorest counties in Missouri.

Those who cultivated and harvested the bounty were inmates at Southeast Correctional Center, where the garden is located. For six hours a day, in one of the hottest summers in memory, they hand-planted, hoed, raked, weeded, watered and picked chemical-free produce, including tomatoes, cabbage, radishes, and sweet corn, along with watermelon, cantaloupe, green beans, cucumbers, onions, zucchini, and sweet potatoes.

The Southeast Correctional Center project, started five years ago, is one of the state's seven restorative-justice gardens that prison officials say provide a way for offenders to repair some of the harm they caused with their crimes—if not directly, in a symbolic way--and to find healing within. Besides food banks, their produce is donated to schools, senior centers, and other nonprofit groups. There are 600 such programs in the United States, today.

Offenders participating in the gardens and other restorative-justice activities, also take classes in which they meet crime victims and reflect on the harm their criminal behavior caused. The 40-hour curriculum is so popular that the class has a waiting list of 200 inmates. Many offenders are very remorseful for the crimes they committed and they want to give back to society in a positive way. They give their whole heart to these projects.

Inmates say, "I'm glad for the opportunity to help others, and I plan to go out and plant me a garden when I'm released." "This is almost like being free here. I like knowing I'm giving to the elderly." Inmate Goeth, who grew up surfing and skateboarding in Cocoa Beach, Florida, had no appreciation for those who labor to produce food. He had made toys for kids in prison, but something about watering plants got him thinking deeply about God and the mystery of life.

Reprinted Associated Press by Cheryl Wittenauer, *The Washington Times*.

EDITOR'S P.S.

2007 was a good year! And I bid farewell to Good Year 2007 with a heart full of thanks for friends, a job, Elder J. Alfred Johnson II, readers, life, deadlines met, sanity in meeting the deadlines, health, *Network News*, D-M, TET, CLT IV, experiences of life, peace, God's constant goodness, His sweet grace, His loving care, His tender mercy, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Looking forward to the New Year – gonna trust God *with* and *in* **ALL** things. Blessings on you! See you in ***Two Thousand and Eight***.

I'm outta here!

CB



