



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

DECEMBER 2008

Volume 4

"Don't worry
about anything;
instead, pray
about
everything; tell
God your needs
and don't forget
to thank him for
his answers."

-Philippians 4:6

LB

- "There's one
thing you can
give and still
keep - it's your
word."- Rueben
Matiko
- "Integrity can
make a company,
church, or home;
lack of it can
break those
institutions." -
The Pocket Power
Book of Integrity

IN THIS ISSUE

- **JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN PARTY**
- **Welcome! New Sabbath School Superintendent!**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"Yes, He Can! Yes, He Will!"

Hello, Partners!

This month I particularly urge that if you have read the foregoing fourteen words (not including the title), that you read each word of this Editorial. Otherwise you may be inclined to draw a conclusion that I do not intend. This being said. . . .

One would have had to have been out of communication range with media outlets (and other human beings, for that matter) to have not learned that on November 4, 2008, the United States of America embraced a Historical Milestone when she mandated that Senator Barack Obama serve as the 44th President-Elect of this great Nation. At no time in the history of American Politics has a candidate drawn such a diverse (ethnic, age, gender) and broad-based coalition of support--from even hundreds of thousands from other nations who did not qualify to participate in our Electoral Process.

This coalition was galvanized as a result of a message that targeted positive "Hope" for the future at its center, included people working together, under the watchword, "**Yes, We Can,**" using the method of employing as many means as possible (electronic and extreme personal human touch), to carry his message to the people. History has documented that he succeeded.

It seems to me that we, couriers of The Hope of Eternal Salvation to this generation, can take inspiration and encouragement for the carrying forth of our Mission, The Great Commission, from the recent campaign strategy of the 44th President-Elect of The United States of America -- and our Mission is one of wider consequence.

While humility, combined with sound biblical knowledge would never incline us to shout from the rooftops, "**Yes, We Can**" accomplish The Great Gospel Commission through purely human efforts, we *do* have the privilege of boldly declaring, "**Yes, He Can**" accomplish His Great Gospel Commission through the surrendering of His Spiritual Gifts to us as a result of His Promise found in Acts 1:8. **Yes, He Can,** and **Yes, He Will!**

Let us ask Our Lord to make us *super creative* and *super diligent* with our methods in our effort to accomplish the "Blessed Privilege" He has invited us to share with Him.

Yes, He Can! Yes, He Will Come! Let's be ready with all of the Saints He has *Elected*, when He Comes!

Thank you for your dedicated service.

JAJ II

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW SUPERINTENDENTS!

The New Year is just around the corner and coming in with it, is **You**, the **New Sabbath School Superintendent!** Listed are some great suggestions. (Google Cool Tools for Sabbath School where you will find more helps, all courtesy of the General Conference Sabbath School Department.)

A goal is an end toward which effort is directed. New Sabbath School Superintendent, please consider these essential needs:

- 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.

Superintendents are supposed to take responsibility and make decision within the limits of their work. Remember, leaders are judged by what they accomplish. Keep a list of the jobs to be done in the Sabbath School. Review the list often. 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 and appealing? Do the participants stay within the allotted time so that the teachers have adequate time? In your overall Sabbath School program, keep a balance between fellowship and study.

Are offerings for missions on the increase? Are regular teachers' meetings held? Many Sabbath Schools are finding that 9:00 a.m., on Sabbath mornings or an hour before prayer meetings are good times for teachers' meetings.

Include these goals in your long-range planning:

- 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 E. Morgan

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WHAT'S HOT!

SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)

CHURCHWORKS

ChurchWorks is an official meeting of a Local Conference for pastors and a mission-focused leadership team of 10-12 from each church or district. These teams work together around tables creating a skeleton strategy, and upon returning home are able to create and share the vision and continue to develop their plan for reaching every person in their territory for God.

Components of the ChurchWorks Vision include: Taking responsibility for the territory assigned to the church or district. Reaching every person in the territory, an ongoing task. Getting every ministry focused on outreach. Involving every member in ministry. Partnering members for ministry encouragement. Drawing every member into daily devotions. Seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit for ministry.

Submitted by Marti Schneider, General Conference

For more information contact carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

ADVENTIST SINGLE MINISTRIES – B.C. CANADA

Where is Adventist Single Ministries Going in the Future? Darlene Reimche, British Columbia Conference, says the single adult population in Canada and across the United States, is growing, and as a result there needs to be a growth in the Singles Ministries. Also, it needs to be known as a *ministry* that *ministers* to each single adult church member, who in turn, reaches out to this fast growing portion of our communities.

British Columbia Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministries will be celebrating 30 years of Ministry in 2009.

It all began with a retreat at Camp Hope on October 21, 1979, with Anna (Samograd) Singbeil, the first president and Lillian Beaton-Sorenson, the first secretary. God led these ladies to establish a Singles Ministry, and God is still leading and calling singles to come and work with Him.

Submitted by Darlene Reimche, Director, Sabbath School, Children's, Family Ministries, Personal, Stewardship, British Columbia Conference

FREE BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

Bible Bay offers free Bible study guides that can be printed off and shared with friends and interests. Search of the 16 study guides features true and false questions that cover all of the Adventist points of faith. An answer sheet is available to help you administer the lessons. Visit: www.biblebay.org/go/lessons.

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Published monthly by the North American Division Adult Ministries Network.

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

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Q & A

Many questions have been asked and answered in this column, but nothing has been said about prayer. We still believe that prayer works. Are there different ways of approaching prayer? Or must it be the same old way? Please help us out here.

Yes! We still believe in prayer. There is a wide variety of ways to pray that can be used in the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries. And prayer can be a very active and interactive way to learn. Here are just a few approaches, and please add your ideas to this list.

Lightning Prayer: Participants contribute a single sentence whenever it occurs to them. A variation of this is to limit the participation to one word: "thanks," a person's name, "help," a personally significant date, "joy,"—God knows what is meant by the word.

Thank-you Notes: Distribute thank-you notes and have members write down as many things as they can think of for which they are thankful. Close with a prayer of thanks for all the blessings that we receive from God.

Prayer Lists: List requests and praises on paper, or the praises and requests can be spoken. Then pray about them. Explain that simply talking about these can be a form of a prayer in itself.

Celebration: Share good things as praise to God.

Partners: Pray in partners, sharing praise and concerns and then praying for one another.

Secret Partners: Have each person in the group draw from a hat a name of someone else in the group to pray for. After a predetermined period of time, plan some kind of event or party in which the names of secret partners are revealed.

Prayer Tree: When needs arise during the week, each member calls another until all are praying.

Prayer in the Hat: Write prayer requests on papers and place them in a hat or box. Take turns drawing from the hat or box and praying for that need. This allows the anonymity that encourages honesty.

Notes to God: Because some Sabbath School class members (and members of other departments, as well) find it easier to write notes than to speak out, guide them to write a note to God.

Dialogue: Guide members to write a prayer dialogue beginning with their words and writing what they think God says back, or write a dialogue between God and a Bible character.

Listening: Because prayer includes listening, guide participants to write one prayer entirely from God to them.

Sources: Karen Dockrey, *The Youth Worker's Guide to Creative Bible Study*; Lois Keffer, *Creative Worship Ideas*; Deena Davis, *Discipleship Journal's 101 Best Small-Group Ideas*; Greg McKinnon, *Helping Youth Pray*; *Innovative Worship*.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

"A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN"

The above title might make a great theme for your party for children (motherless, fatherless). Of course you have people in your congregation who know how to throw a party! Please note some of the following considerations in planning a children’s party.

- 1.** To find children to invite to the party, consult with your Adventist Community Services Director, either in your congregation or at the nearest ACS center. They may be able to supply you with a list of clients they have already worked with and know are in need. You can also contact homeless shelters, soup kitchens, women’s shelters, or shelters for runaways. If there is an organization that ministers to migrant workers, they may know families in need.

A shelter or soup kitchen may be happy to have you hold the party at their facilities. This is a location that the homeless already know how to get to and feel is safe. If you have this event at your church, you will likely need to provide transportation unless your church is located in a neighborhood where there are many homeless families. Some may be somewhat fearful of going to a church.

- 2.** “Wherever two or more are gathered, someone spills his milk.” It is best to use paper plates, plastic ware and other utensils that do not break. It is also best to find a facility where the floor can be easily mopped after the party.
- 3.** You will want to serve a healthful meal because it may be the only decent meal some of the children get for a week or more. But, you will also want to make it fun for children. Hot dogs (Leanies, Linkettes), Griller burgers, and spaghetti, always a favorite with children. Take into consideration that some will appreciate seasonal foods or dishes from particular cultural backgrounds.
- 4.** Make it a truly festive occasion with balloons, fun centerpieces, and dessert. It is good idea to have a “door prize” too, which is something that children can begin to use their energy on immediately. Children have a lot of energy and do not do well with “sit quietly and wait.”
- 5.** Of course, an older person—guardian/relative should be invited with the child. This will give you the opportunity to reach out to them. Be prepared for some who will want to drop off the children while they go to work or take care of some other business. Have a number of adult volunteers ready to serve as “stand-in” parents.
- 6.** Plan plenty of activities. Children need to keep active. They have short attention spans. Idle hands and feet often get into trouble.

“Jesus first met people’s physical needs and then He preached the Gospel. The church is called to follow His example.”

Source: *Practical Guide to Personal Ministries*

North American Division

"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: Spiritual Gifts: Keys to Ministry CR.101

"To every man [woman] is committed individual gifts, termed talents. To everyone is committed some special endowment for which he will be held responsible by the Lord.

"Time, Reason, Means, Strength, Mental Powers, Tenderness of Heart all are gifts from God entrusted to be used in the great work of blessing humanity" (Letter 180, 1907). This course is a study of Spiritual Gifts and how these gifts may be discovered and utilized in the ministry of the church.

Description

This Module explores and assists the student in finding and developing the various gifts and abilities that God has instilled within their personhood.

Overview

The Lord calls every Christian to a ministry of ministries. God has equipped every one of us with one or more gifts which will be an intricate part of our being. This Module seeks to assist Christians to discover and utilize those inherent gifts that God has instilled within us. Once God reveals to us our spiritual gifts, He expects us to use these gifts to advance His kingdom. A knowledge of our gifts, developed and guided by the Holy Spirit, will lead us to a proper use of these gifts in the church and cause us to promote unity in the church.

Learning Outcomes

1. The student will gain knowledge of the theology of spiritual gifts.
2. The student will understand how to identify his/her spiritual gifts.
3. The student will understand how to use his/her gifts in the ministry of the church.
4. The student will learn how to use his/her gifts to help others.
5. The student will learn how to use his/her gifts to advance the work for the kingdom of God.

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

Reentry: Partnership, Mutuality and Accountability

In the state of Washington, reentry is a network of relationships and partners among citizens, businesses, agencies, faith-based volunteers and groups, tribal authorities, and others who want to preserve order and maintain the unique character of their communities. Take for example the following vignettes:

FOOD \$ENSE, a cooking program in collaboration with the Washington State University Extension Program, teaches offenders to cook on a very modest scale. A DOC (Department of Correction) staff member, along with Goodwill Industries, shows offenders how to manage money, beginning with how to open a bank account and ending with how to purchase a home. Graduates are provided with a gift certificate to spend with their new-found knowledge about personal finance.

In two of the DOC's three female institutions, a volunteer group called Rebuilding Families raises funds through a nonprofit organization developed especially for returning female offenders. The group addresses the multiple, immediate needs of returning women with children.

A released offender is connected with a job specialist and a case manager through a nonprofit organization called People of Color Against AIDS Network, funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The principle needs of returning offenders—employment, housing, identification documents, food and clothing—are just like the needs of those in the general population. Offenders also need acceptance from the communities they left wounded. This acceptance is not easy to come by, especially when offenders have no choice but to return to less than tolerant communities. Reentry of offenders is a demographic fact, and correctional employees accept the responsibility of helping make that reentry successful.

Source: April 2008 Corrections Today, by Mary V. Leftridge Byrd

Incarcerated but Free! (A letter to MESSAGE Magazine.)

"I'm writing in reference to obtaining a subscription of MESSAGE Magazine. I've been incarcerated since December 22, 2003, and I have truly found the Lord and I know we (believers) are living in the last days until our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns for His children (believers). Even though I'm incarcerated, I never felt so free!" **Inmate Ivan writes from the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton.**

EDITOR'S P.S.

We're here! December! The last month in 2008! For all practical purposes - 2008 was a good year. But we're looking forward to some exciting happenings in 2009. The kick off of the Semi-Virtual Festival Of The Laity DVD - coming to YOUR church in January 2009. The Sabbath School Summit, **April 24, 25, 2009**, at the G.C. Headquarters. Call me about the SUMMIT - 301.680.6430.

But my heartfelt thanksgiving to all of you for always reading *Network News*. Let's keep this relationship going - it's a good thing! See you next year!

I'm outta here!

CB



