



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JANUARY 2007

Volume 3

"Sing a new
song to the
Lord! Sing out
his praises!
Each day tell
someone that
he saves.—
Psalms 96:1 -
The Living Bible

• "To know the
road ahead—ask
those coming
back. —Chinese
Proverb

• "Begin to weave
and God will give
you the thread.
— German
Proverb

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Who Walks In Your Church?**
- **Small Groups. Good? Bad? Biblical? Necessary?**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Blessed New Year, Adult Ministers! About the very time I contemplated that which I would share for my "Charge" to you, as we begin 2007 in ministry with Jesus, the following came across my screen as a forwarded e-mail. I sense that it is an ideal starter for anyone that is involved in ministry.

A Different Approach To Fasting

Fast from Anger and Hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

Fast from Judging Others. Before making any judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks *your* faults.

Fast from Discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that He has a perfect plan for your life.

Fast from Complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.

Fast from Resentment or Bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may have hurt you.

Fast from Spending too Much Money. Try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give those savings to the poor.

Be blessed at home, and in ministry during the New Year!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director

Cleveland Houser, Prison Ministry Training Consultant

Carol A. Barron, Administrative Assistant

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

Who Walks In Your Church Door?

There are four general categories of guests who walk in your church door:

1. Unchurched people who for one reason or another visit your church
2. Non-attending or occasionally-attending Adventists
3. People brought to church by friends, relatives, and acquaintances
4. Adventists from out of town or from other Adventist churches

Each of these groups has its own set of expectations fears, and preconceived ideas.

Unchurched People

Unchurched people tend to be suspicious and fearful of church people and church buildings. They are in unfamiliar territory and don't know what to expect. They don't understand "church" language.

Non-Attending or Occasionally-Attending Adventists

The language used when greeting them is very important. Do everything in your power to protect these guests from the more unstable people in your congregation who somehow tend to surface in exactly the wrong place at the wrong time.

People Brought to Church by Friends, Relatives and Acquaintances

These guests already have a point of contact. The people who bring them can tell you whether they want to be smothered with affections or left alone.

Adventists from out of town or another Adventist Church

Adventists have a keen sense of "family." We expect to be received in any of our churches as if it were our own. In practice, we may end up being ignored, and as a result feel hurt. Untrained greeters need to pay attention to people they know, not the people they don't know. But it is precisely their job to pay attention to the people they don't know.

The Sabbath School Handbook. AdventSource. 800.328.0525.



WHAT'S HOT!

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

A Festival of MOTIVATING!

A Festival of NETWORKING!

A Festival to EMPOWER YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY!

September 26-29, 2007 - dates not to be forgotten! The Festival Of The Laity, Orlando, Florida, is not only the place where you WANT to be! It's the place where you MUST be. It's the HAPPENING, HOT place! Remember space is LIMITED! Hurry and Register, Today!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION - Early Bird Special! \$199.00 before August 16, 2007. Register online www.festivalofthelaity.com or call Heather at 800.732.7587. She knows what's happening!

EXHIBITORS: Have you reserved your booth, yet? The Festival Of The Laity is the perfect place to exhibit. Reserve your booth NOW!

Log on to www.festivalofthelaity.com click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW! Hurry!

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656 or log on to www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com.

NOTE: You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements. Please use the code of "Festival Of The Laity" to receive the rate of \$99 per night for up to four (4) people per room.

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Q & A

There's talk about Small Groups. What are they? Are they Biblical?

Kurt Johnson, in his book, *Small Group Outreach*, talks about a new and exciting adventure in personal Bible study for yourself and an effective method of outreach to your neighbors. Johnson says, "I am positive that you will find the concept of Home Bible Study groups a refreshing approach to sharing the good news about Jesus with those living near you. This approach is nonoffensive and is not a threat to an individual's current religious status." He continues, "It is an approach that permits you to establish a friendship and dialogue based on biblical truths. It prepares the way for an in-depth look at Seventh-day Adventists' understanding of Scripture."

Are Small Groups Biblical? Let me refer you to the book of Acts where the Holy Ghost was really working. After Pentecost, in Jerusalem, the disciples were preaching up a storm, to the point where the Jewish leaders banned them from the temple, put Peter in jail, and inflicted severe persecution (Acts 4, 5). They were scattered everywhere.

Acts 20:20 reveals that Paul's methods included teaching "house to house." In his letter to the church at Colossae, Paul writes about the church at Laodicea, which met in the home of Nymphas (Colossians. 4:15). Other New Testament references to home meetings are 1 Corinthians 16:19, Romans 16:3-5—the home of Priscilla and Aquila, and Acts 16:40 – Lydia's home.

The February Issue of *Network News* will deal with Commonly Asked Questions (CAQs) of Small Groups. Tell us what you think about Small Groups.

Source: *Small Group Outreach: How to Begin and Lead Outreach Bible Study Groups*, by Kurt Johnson. Review and Herald Publishing Association.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS

"The Primary goal of a Community Bible Class is to reach people who want to know God's Word."

This evangelistic Bible Class usually meets during Sabbath School time, but it should be self-contained and not "require" contact with the rest of Sabbath worship activities. The idea of a Community Bible Class is to position the group so that attenders may come to only the class and not attend the Sabbath School "preliminaries." The class could begin at 9 or 9:30 a.m., and conclude at 10 or 10:30 a.m., or it can be at any other time that fits the local pattern in your community.

A Community Bible Class is designed to reach beyond the pool of people who are thinking about joining the church, to reach those who are interested only in a Bible study that is not affiliated with a religious organization. At least initially, they have no interest in attending church or even joining the Sabbath School.

The primary goal of a Community Bible Class is to reach people who want to know God's Word. As they learn more about the Bible and then your church, the Holy Spirit may impress them to attend worship or other church activities. Your purpose is simply to be **friendly** and **responsive** to these neighbors, **make friends** and **study** the Bible.

"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: Criminal Justice Overview – SOC.10

Someone you know commits a crime and is arrested. Taken to jail! Booked! Locked up! This is all strange and new to you! You're scared – the person is scared. What's going to happen once they get in the "system? How are they going to be treated? Fair? Just? How much time will they get? What? What? What? You want answers to your questions.

The **Criminal Justice Overview** module will help the student to understand the basic fundamentals in the criminal justice process, from the arrest by the police officer, through the sentencing process, assignment to a correctional or jail facility, and the issues that inmates face in confinement facilities.

The **Learning Outcomes** are to 1. Acquaint the students with the criminal justice process; 2. Gain an overview of the courts, corrections, and the police department; 3. Understand some of the issues that inmates face; 4. Familiarize the student with statistical data germane to the Criminal Justice System, and 5. Understand some of the ethical issues that surround the Criminal Justice System.

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 for registration information.



PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

An Inmate Thanks a Prison Minister.

Dear _____,

My name is Donna _____ (D-49849), and I have been coming to Prison Ministry every Sunday since mid-August. Today I will begin a new journey. I will be leaving the Bergen County Jail. I could not have left without thanking you for taking time in your life, to bring the Lord back into mine.

I came to jail alone, sad, scared, but that is not how I am leaving. I am leaving with the Lord in my heart, in my life, and what could be better than that – for that I thank you.

Don't give up on me or ladies who pass in and out of this jail. We need you – at least I know I did and still do.

Keep me in your prayers, and I know now that: "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God--Luke 18:27; "The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."

Thank you again. Donna.

EDITOR'S P.S.

You know, I don't do this "New Year Resolution" thing. Ask me "Why?" My answer is simple, "I just don't."

According to *Guideposts*, January 2007, **forty-five** percent of the American population makes New Year's Resolutions. Resolution Makers mean well. They are full of heart and good intentions (bless their good intentioned hearts). But before the New Year gets any "age" on it, "BAM! The resolutions are broken! Forgotten! (Resolutions? what Resolutions are you talking about?). Never to be brought to mind again. So I ask, "Why make New Year Resolutions in the first place?"

New Year's Resolutions may not be for me, but I do believe in "self improvement." Anything that will help me along life's tough little highway, I will give it a try.

Two Thousand and Seven – 2007 – has now presented itself. Spanking clean and brand new. Chock full of opportunities. Jammed pack with potential. Exciting experiences to experience. Permit me, if you will, to indulge in some "down-to-earth", "make sense", "every day" home spun helps as we travel the **New Road, Two Thousand and Seven - 2007.**

1. Be forgiving to others and to yourself
2. Take one day at a time – and enjoy it
3. If it's not bleeding, or a limb isn't lost – S-M-I-L-E
4. Be kind – "cast your bread [kindness] upon the waters. . . ." it will return to you
5. Take care of your health
6. Reach out and "touch" somebody

The highway is newly paved. Not too much traffic. The signs are clear. Enjoy the journey! PEACE!

I'm outta here!

CB

CORRECTION

In December issue of *Network News* under "What's Hot" Ministry to the Lambs – *Network News* wrote: "Ministry to The Lambs involves finding homes for the babies born to women who are incarcerated."

Frank Barton, who coordinates Ministry to the Lambs, wrote to us the following, correct statement: "We don't try to find housing for the babies, we only make contact with the Caretaker of the child if the inmate wants us to, then we visit the baby and whoever that Caretaker may be, usually a family member."



