



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 4

*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*

- *"Every
emergency is not
an urgency." –
James Alfred
Johnson II*
- *"Surround
yourself with
those who tell the
truth and not
necessarily what
you want to
hear."—The
Pocket Power
Book of Integrity*

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FROM ELDER JOHNSON

"ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE"

Hello, Ministry Partners!

What a blessing it is to have been honored by The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost, to see 2008, and to be aware that The Trinity is interested in our cooperation in the accomplishment of Its agenda!

As I contemplate our transition into this New Year, I am reminded of a classic statement often uttered by the beloved Bible Instructor and Professor, Elder C. T. Richard. He would admonish all students that **"Attitude Determines Altitude."**

One of my greatest hopes for all of us as we continue our Service with Jesus in 2008, is that we function within the context of this great biblical **"Attitude"** strengthener:

Micah 6:8 – "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Let's permit this counsel, and this "Spirit" to color all of our service and interactions in the New Year. Allowing Our Lord to minister through us in this way will yield us higher in His Service, as we find ourselves deeper reflectors of His love. **MARANATHA!**

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

CONNECTORS FOR CHRIST

I watched her walk into our church alone. Sabbath School was in progress, and the young woman with short, dark hair, and dressed in a pantsuit took a seat by herself midway between the front and back of the sanctuary. No one spoke to her. Toward the end of the service, she went out through a side door. As far as I know, she never returned.

Why It Matters

The majority of those who visit our Sabbath Schools are experiencing some kind of crisis in their lives. And if they don't experience some warm connectedness with members when they drop in, they simply won't come back. They may be dressed extremely well and look as if they're doing fine, but most are dealing with some form of pain. "If we all acted the way we really felt, four out of eight people at a dinner table would be sitting there sobbing." A Connector for Christ is needed.

The Art of Connecting

Make eye contact with your visitors. Most people don't make eye contact with you. Friendly eye contact carries all kinds of positive emotional connotations. Do you want your visitors to feel love and connectedness when they visit? Make eye contact with them.

Smile. A smile communicates warmth, acceptance, and love. Look at two people who are in love, and what are they doing? They are smiling at each other and making eye contact. Smile at someone when you're feeling lousy, and you'll start feeling better also. Behavior modifies feelings. It's a psychological law.

Touch your visitors. There is healing power in a touch. What kind of touch? A firm handshake can convey warmth and healing. We also need to recognize that not everyone wants to be hugged, so we must be sensitive to people's boundaries, while at the same time reaching out to them. Jesus touched people all the time. Imagine the love of Christ flowing through you to every person you touch.

Ask a few questions. You don't want to grill your visitors, but a few pertinent questions can provide you with valuable information. Some examples: "Are you a regular here?" "Are you visiting?" "Have you been here before?", or "Is this your first time?" Asking a few well-chosen questions demonstrates our interest in someone and gives us an excellent tool for connecting with them.

Practice listening. After asking questions, suture your mouth and you will learn an unbelievable amount about your visitors: why they came, what they're looking for. Listening is hard work, but it pays great dividends in relationship building. Listen to your visitors and they will begin to bond with you.

Talk to your visitors with enthusiasm. Your cheerful tone, along with positive words, can have a terrific impact on your guests.

Feed your visitors! Food is a powerful social component. "Breaking bread together" is a powerful means of forming an emotional connection.

Mike and Diane Jones



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).

MT OLIVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, HEMINGWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Irene and Jonathan Walker, Family Life Directors, are still at it – graduating hundreds of people (over 600 since 2001), from Amazing Facts Bible studies, witnessing baptisms, training people to organize and grow small churches, doing follow-up, and throwing Graduation Parties. More about their exciting ministry in another issue.

GULFHAVEN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Carlos Turcios, pastor, Gulfhaven, has a passion of leading people to Jesus through public evangelism. He e-mails: "As you know we began full time evangelism August, 2007. During these past four months, God has graced us with 85 precious souls! With a deep sense of humility and thankfulness we praise God for His plentiful blessings." Amen and Amen!

ANDREWS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, ANDREWS, NORTH CAROLINA

Carl Hartman, personal ministries leader for the Andrews church, organized a city-wide wellness walk for the Andrews community which concluded with a celebration program.

As part of the project called "Walk the U.S.A.," participants collected "miles" through various physical activities such as walking, swimming, jumping rope, and playing tennis.

Using these miles, the group simulated walking the 4,000 mile round trip journey of the Appalachian Trail. They didn't stop there. Participants continued to walk the entire 10,870 mile perimeter of the United States. In total 18,462 miles were accumulated by 178 people during the program.

E. W. Dempsey, Georgia-Cumberland Conference health ministries director, said, "Carl Hartman has set a perfect example for how churches can get involved in their communities." Walk Together!

(Reprinted from the Southern Tidings.)

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Q & A

Hymns? Hip? In Sabbath School? For Praise Music? Aren't they Old-fashioned? Are they Needed? Check out these "Hymn" ideas!

Many people think the hymn book is old-fashioned. Hymns are actually really hip! The hymnal in your pew has a lot to offer beyond Sabbath morning services. It is a collection of the church fathers' eclectic poetry, about their intimate relationship with God and His awe-inspiring character. Try some of these hip hymn ideas.

✓ Congregation sings a hymn, then discusses the characteristics of the God the hymn describes.

✓ Take a few minutes to write out a phrase, sentence, or verse from the hymn on an index card. Keep the cards during the week to reflect on the word's meaning. Then on the following Sabbath discuss how this contemplation affected each member.

✓ Read the lyrics of a hymn collectively; then challenge each member to find a psalm that praises the same attribute of God's character.

✓ Choose hymns that relate to the theme of the Sabbath School lessons. Hymnbooks have many familiar hymns that echo lesson themes. Many of these hymnbooks also include topical indexes that are helpful in this process.

✓ Use variety in participation. Even small congregations have many possibilities for varying the unison singing. These include singing *a capella*, singing in rounds, singing in the spirit of the piece (solemnly, softly, lively, etc.), and each member singing in their vocal range.

✓ Sing intelligibly. Angels "delight to hear the simple songs of praise sung in a natural tone. The songs in which every word is uttered clearly . . . are the songs that they join us in singing. They take up the refrain that is sung from the heart" (*Evangelism*, p. 510). You really can sing with the angels!

A few suggested songs for a lively Song/Praise Service to be sung with joy, hope, and gladness. All songs are taken from the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.

Power in the Blood, p. 294

Redeemed! p. 337

Standing on the Promises, p. 518

Lift Up the Trumpet, p. 213

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less, p. 522

Many Sabbath School members desire a revival of the song service. Try the above lively hymns for reviving the musical praise songs in Sabbath School.
Sing With the Angels. Sing For Joy! Hymn singing *is* really Hip!

Rose Chestnut

J. R. Briggs

PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

PREPARATORY WORK FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES SERIES- PART III

Assignment Sabbath

The assignment of territory should climax the worship hour on Assignment Sabbath. There should be a deeply spiritual sermon on the finishing of the work and the responsibility of each church member.

The territories can be assigned in one of two ways. In those churches where the deacons know the entire membership, the territories can be delivered to the members as they sit in their pews. In large churches one representative from each family should come to the front of the sanctuary to receive the family's territory. It may be necessary to have several stations across the front of the church. Members with surnames beginning with the letters A-G go to one station, etc. Each station will be identified by a placard and manned by two members who will have in their hands the family territories already selected for those in that segment of the alphabet.

On Assignment Sabbath, each family member receives an *Every Member Personal Territory Guide* booklet. These booklets are ordered through the Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference. Along with the booklet each family gets its segment of the map.

Some pastors follow the practice of providing the family with duplicates from the interest file of those names that are in their territory. From that point on, the Interest Coordinator channels copies of incoming prospective names to the family responsible for that territory. Care should be taken to make the presentation of territories a beautiful and spiritual occasion. Appropriate Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy quotations can be read against a soft organ background as the territories are being assigned.

It is important to emphasize that all we ask of our members initially, is that they accept the territory, and begin praying for the people in it, as well as for themselves, that they may know how to reach these people for Christ and His message. We encourage our people to get acquainted with their territory by walking through it, or driving through it, and recognizing that these people are their responsibility.

It will prove most effective to give the church families freedom to select the means of working their territory. Many more will respond if such freedom is provided.

While the initial emphasis is on prayer, the ultimate objective is to lead each member into service and to reach every door with the message. "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p, 149.

Suggestions of different methods of sowing seed and cultivating the territory should ever be kept before our people. Time should be provided for those who are experiencing success to share their experience for the encouragement of others.

Some who have not previously been active will begin to work once they have a territorial responsibility. Simply removing the uncertainty of where to work results in more soul-winning activity.

There must always be flexibility to provide for the one who has a contact living in someone else's territory. All that is necessary is to ask for the privilege of continuing with such a contact. This is simply an act of courtesy to the one responsible for that territory. It also helps to avoid confusion and possible embarrassment.

"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: Women in Prison VCHP.300

****Since 1980, the number of women in prison has increased at nearly double the rate for men. *The number of women in state and federal prisons has increased eight-fold from 12,300 in 1990 to 107,500 in 2005. *30% of women prisoners are African American and 16% are Latinas. (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics) *Women receive harsher sentences for killing their male partners than men receive for killing their female partners. *Once in prison, many women are subjected to further violence at the hands of prison guards. (Source: ACLU)***

Description

This module exposes the student to the spiritual and the physical needs of women inmates. The student will obtain a fundamental awareness of various dilemmas that surround female inmates. Numerous ministry components for various forms of ministry to female inmates will be introduced to the student.

Overview

This module underscores the fundamental reasons for female incarceration and the disparities that female inmates encounter. Female inmates are exposed to numerous atrocities from both prison guards and prison administrators. This module introduces ministry opportunities that will promote rehabilitation inside, as well as, developing support groups beyond the confines of the prison facilities.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the feminine dilemma.
2. To understand unfair justice and sentence disparity.
3. To be exposed to unfair treatment to women inmates by prison guards and officials.
4. To be exposed to ministry opportunities for female inmates.
5. To be exposed to training opportunities.
6. To know how to develop ministry programs for female inmates and their families.

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

TWO HOPE CHANNEL STAFF GO TO PRISON

Joe Sloan, operations and productions manager for ATN, and Frenita Buddy, ATN producer, went to prison in the month of September.

The Hope Channel Team was in Nairobi, Kenya, taping satellite evangelism services—hoping to set up the very first Hope Channel Media Center in the East Central Africa Division.

Joe Sloan visited a prison in Kiisi Town. “It was one of the most memorable experiences of the trip. Some 600 of the 900 inmates have been baptized into the Adventist Church since Hope Channel was made available in the prison.” Sloan continued, “It was a bleak East African prison by sight, but the prisoners were joyful and very cheerful. It was proof that no matter where you are and what circumstances you may be in, God can free your heart.”

Frenita Buddy said the prison visit also made an impression on her life. “The Gospel of Jesus Christ can reach anyone! I saw the power of God while talking with converted prisoners who learned about Jesus by watching the Hope Channel.”

Teamwork Makes a Difference

On November 18, 2007, the Faithful Flock of the Calvary Seventh-day Adventist Church, composed of inmates at the Jessup Correctional Institution, teamed up with the Miracle Temple Eagle Pathfinder Club, and several other local churches, to provide 60 inmate families with Thanksgiving Baskets. The Thanksgiving Baskets included a turkey with all the “fixings.” The Thanksgiving Basket Project is a ministry that exemplifies the true spirit of teamwork.

Hats off to Elder Leroy Neal and Elder Ronald Ellis, first Elder, and Resident Leader of Faithful Flock, respectively.

EDITOR'S P.S.

Just For Today: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot. **Just For Today:** I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer. **Just For Today:** I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just For Today: I will refrain from improving anybody but myself. **Just For Today:** I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully—if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block. **Just For Today:** I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

No Resolutions! No Promises! Living **Just For Today!** (The Washington Times)

I'm outta here!

CB

