



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

JULY 2007

Volume 3

*"My heart has  
heard you say,  
"Come and talk  
with me, O my  
people." And  
my heart  
responds, "Lord,  
I am coming." –  
Psalms 27:8 LB*

• *"Obstacles are  
those frightful  
things you see  
when you take  
your eyes off  
your goal."—  
Henry Ford*

• *"Laziness travels  
so slowly, that  
poverty soon  
overtakes him."—  
Benjamin Franklin*

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## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

### "They Wanted To Do Right"

Hello, Ministry Partners,

"Every now and then" we are blessed to have one "of those" experiences. I had the honor of participating in one "of those" in the month of June that vividly illustrates the "bottom line" privilege we have of participating with The Trinity in Ministry. The names are changed to keep full focus on the story.

A **Holy boldness** filled Bill as he listened to the message of the Holy Ghost Anointed sermon, which emphasized challenging people to stand up with Jesus.

Leaving the service, Bill went directly to the home of Shirley and Stan. Following obligatory pleasantries, he asked Shirley and Stan if they loved The Lord, and were willing to do His will. After leading them through The Sinner's Prayer, Bill welcomed them into "The Family Of Jesus."

By the way, I do not think I informed you that Shirley and Stan had been living together, without the benefit of Marriage, for nearly twenty years. Bill then asked Shirley and Stan if they really loved each other. The refrain was in the affirmative from both parties. Bill then declared, "Then we are going to have a Wedding this week." A concept to which both parties agreed.

By the way, I do not think I informed you that Stan has been severely weakened by an illness that makes him minimally mobile. With Marriage License acquired by Wednesday, I had the privilege and honor of Officiating their Wedding on Thursday morning, in the parking lot of an office complex. Stan was too weak to go into a Chapel or Church. That is right, I conducted the Ceremony as they sat in the car, and I stood outside. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Shirley said joyfully, "I have been waiting for this for the last nineteen years!"

Here is the joy. Having come into a fully surrendered, saving relationship with The Lord, Shirley and Stan desired to "Do The Right Thing" as a result of appreciation for their new relationship with Jesus. Their decision was compelled by the theme of James 4:17, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not,

to him it is sin.”

It is our privilege, whether we minister through Sabbath School, Personal or Prison Ministries, to unite with The Holy Ghost in encouraging people to walk in God’s Will. Many want to do right. Many need to be challenged, or invited by Spirit-Filled Disciples.

We look forward to seeing you at The Festival Of The Laity—September 26-29, 2007. [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com).

God bless you all!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## **IT’S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL**

### **SABBATH SCHOOL – 1852-2060 WHERE IT CAME FROM AND WHERE IT’S GOING**

**In 1853**, only a few years after the first group of Sabbathkeeping Adventists was formed in Washington, New Hampshire, James White organized the first regular Sabbath School in Rochester. In 1852, estimating an informal membership of about 1,000 in the state of New York, White had written a series of 19 lessons appearing in the new *Youth’s Instructor*. He authored some of the earliest lessons “in the form of questions and answers” as he traveled in a covered carriage with his wife and three-year-old son, Edson, throughout New England. Ellen White describes how he composed much of this material during noon stops: while the horse was feeding, he used the “dinner box” or the “top of his hat” as a desk to write on.

#### **Four Emphases**

From its inception Sabbath School has focused on four emphases that remain essential: Fellowship Development, Community Outreach, Bible Study, and Foreign Mission. A solid balance of these elements characterizes the most vital Sabbath Schools around the world. Together they comprise a rich program of discipleship.

“Jesus, the divine Teacher, assured His disciples of His love toward them. He assumed human nature for no other purpose than to display to men the mercy, the love, and the goodness of God in providing for the salvation and happiness of His creatures” (*Testimonies on Sabbath School*, p. 39). In the Family of God, there are no outsiders.

- As local members grow closer together in small groups, they help one another to grow spiritually as individuals, to hold one another accountable in positive Christian relationships. Potlucks, picnics, socials, and a variety of other outlets bring members into closer relationship with Jesus and with each other.
- Vibrant Sabbath Schools also provide rich spiritual growth through an array of community outreach projects: Vacation Bible Schools, Branch Sabbath Schools, hospital and nursing home visitation, singing bands, and a host of other creative approaches to the community. “The object of Sabbath School work should be the ingathering of souls” (*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 47).

**Personal Ministries** have always been an integral part of the vitality of any Sabbath School, and members are ever seeking new ways to represent Christ in their communities. The view from Sabbath School is outward!

- The study of God’s Word forms the very heart and center of Sabbath

School. "The prayer of Christ for His disciples was, 'Sanctify them through Thy truth: The word is truth'" (*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1884).

When members interact with Scripture and with one another, they are exposed to the everyday value of the Bible in drawing them into closer relationship with Jesus and with the world around them. Where else can they go for answers to the questions that occur to any half-awake viewer of the six o'clock news?

- Throughout its history the focus of Sabbath School on foreign mission has inspired creative and exciting projects that have impacted the far corners of the earth. "God's people have a mighty work before them, a work that must continually rise to greater prominence. . . . [They] are not to cease their labors until they shall encircle the world" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 23, 24).

**The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering**, weekly mission stories, and *Mission Spotlight* have focused attention on ministry needs around the world. In 1890 Sabbath School offerings were the soul source for the building of the *Pitcairn*, a schooner used for ten years to transport missionaries across the Pacific Ocean. The heart of Sabbath School's emphasis on world mission beats north and south, east and west.

Rooted firmly on these timeless four emphases, from its beginning in 1853, Sabbath School membership has exploded from a handful of believers in upstate New York to an estimated 14 million today. Worldwide, in fact, attendance at Sabbath School each week exceeds that of the worship service. This underscores well Ellen White's assertion that "the influence growing out of Sabbath School work should improve and enlarge the church" (*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 29).

General Conference President Jan Paulsen has said that Sabbath School is like breakfast. For more than 150 years, it has provided the spiritual nourishment that is needed to meet the challenges that arise during the rest of the week.

*Gary B. Swanson, General Conference Associate Director, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.*



#### WHAT'S HOT!

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY is still HOT & SIZZLING!**

**At the Festival you will get TRAINING!**

**At the Festival you will be MOTIVATED!**

**At the Festival you will do NETWORKING!**

**BE EMPOWERED AND EMPOWER YOUR MINISTRY AT THE FESTIVAL!**

**88 days until September 26, 2007 (As of July 1). With 88 days left until the FESTIVAL, if you have not registered, REGISTER NOW! Our hotel room block is almost booked.**

**Take advantage of the \$149.00 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL BEFORE August 16, 2007. AFTER August 16, 2007 – the price will be \$225.00 per person. The \$149.00 Convention Fee - good until August 16, 2007, still includes six meals, eight General Sessions and 45 Seminars. So good people REGISTER! REGISTER! REGISTER NOW! THE PRICE IS SOOOO RIGHT!**

Register at [www.festivalofthelaity.com](http://www.festivalofthelaity.com), or call PlusLine 800.732.7587 – they are ready, able, and willing to help you register.

**EXHIBITORS: BOOTHS – SOLD OUT! SOLD OUT! SOLD OUT!**

**FESTIVAL SITE:** The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida -800.588.4656 – is the beautiful site for the Festival Of The Laity. To see what the hotel and the rooms look like - visit [www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com](http://www.TheFloridaHotelOrlando.com) – take the online tour of this fabulous hotel and quickly make your reservation. Our hotel rooms are moving fast.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** When you reserve your room/s at the hotel, use the code "Festival Of The Laity" to get the \$99 per night rate. If you want help with the expenses, by all means, invite three other friends to share the room with you. You can have up to four (4) people in your room. Reserve by calling 800.588.4656.

September 26-29, 2007 is **88** days out – that's just around the corner! Please don't miss out on this grand occasion. We want you there!

The Specialized Training Seminars in Sabbath School, Personal and Prison Ministry - all 45 of them -- are yours by attendance!

The Delicious Meals – all 6 of them – will scrumptiously start your day!

The General Sessions - all 8 of them - will spiritually boost your day!

The Cutting Edge Seminars – all 45 of them – will empower your day!

The Shopping - AH! Sweet shopping - will end your day – perfectly!

**REGISTER! REGISTER! REGISTER!**

**\$149.00** until August 16, 2007 Includes:

**6 Delicious Meals**

**8 Dynamic General Sessions**

**45 Cutting Edge Seminars**

See you in ORLANDO!

At The FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY!

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## Q & A

### Duties of the Sabbath School Secretary – Part II

1. **Secretarial Assistance.** Unless you are in a large church which hires an office secretary, the leaders of your congregation will need you to help provide secretarial work necessary to carry on the business of the Sabbath School. This may include general correspondence, mailings, filing, setting up and maintaining mailing lists, preparing announcements and agendas. You may need additional help when major projects require lots of work.
2. **Meetings.** At meetings of the Sabbath School Council, you will need to be secretary of the group. Depending on the size and organization of your local church, you may also be a member of various other committees.
3. **Money.** The Sabbath School Secretary and his or her assistants collect the offerings taken in Sabbath School classes and divisions, counts the offerings and turns the money over to the church treasurer. Special donations may also be given to you from time to time to be deposited in specific accounts with the church treasurer. You will need to get regularly monthly financial statements from the treasurer so you can monitor the funds in the various accounts of the Sabbath School as you order supplies. The treasurer should not pay any bill from the Adventist Book Center or other supplier until you have checked and approved it. **You are an important link in the management of the church's funds.**

**Source: Responsibilities in the Local Church: Ministry Descriptions for Every Church Office. AdventSource.**

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

#### FAIR BOOTH MINISTRY Summertime and County Fairs

***The County Fair provides an opportunity to feel good about one's community and to enjoy a change of pace which provides time to chat and listen to messages that people are often too busy for.***

**A Well Planned Booth** that focuses on one aspect of our church program can reach a lot of people that otherwise wouldn't be open to learning about the Adventist Church. One of the benefits of this setting is the blending of attractive visuals with both printed items that can be studied later and the personal touch of friendly, outgoing volunteers staffing the booth.

As fair goers pass your booth, they should be able to grasp your theme in a glance. As they pause, they will see your smiling representatives and two or three interesting, practical handouts relating to the theme that caught their attention. They have the opportunity to pick up a brochure and to ask more questions. The key is to make them feel welcome, not pressured, to investigate further.

**Remember** what pulls a person into a booth is motivation based on their practical needs, not religion or the institutional strength of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Themes related to health, family life, nature and hobbies will more likely attract people than those focused on prophetic events or religious topics.

**Screenings** can be done for high blood pressure, diabetes, hypoglycemia, glaucoma, breast cancer, emphysema, and sickle cell anemia. A drawing for a free book or service related to the theme will attract even more people to the booth. The names collected for the drawing can be sent a follow-up mailing

shortly after the fair with further information about related programs and services later in the year. Bible lessons or appropriate literature can be offered in the mailing and this will get a response from those who are more keenly interested in the church. It's Fair Time – get out and do the Fair Booth Thing!

*Practical Guide to Personal Ministries.* AdventSource.

### **“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: Chaplain’s Relations – VCHP.201**

**Chaplain Relations** is an independent project that allows the student to interview prison officials in a correctional setting to ascertain facts, statistics and information regarding the Chaplain’s relationship in the work place with the Warden, Administration, Security, Counselors, Staff, and Inmates.

**Chaplain Relations** provides the student with hands on opportunity to understand how Chaplains relate to prison personnel through personal interviews with prison staff and inmates. The student will develop and formulate his finding in a written composition that will aid him/her in understanding the complexity of a Chaplain’s relationship with staff.

The student will request interviews with the Warden, OIC (head of security), Chaplain, Counselor, Administrative Staff, and one to three inmates.

**Chaplain Relations** seeks to involve the student in understanding and developing clear concepts regarding the role and relationships of Chaplains in the work place. This module affords the student the opportunity to understand the Chaplain’s relationship with inmates and institutional expectations in his overall relationship with the correctional make up.

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



### **PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS**

#### **Bill’s Story (A letter to DAP)**

Thin, gaunt, emaciated, strung out—too many years of unrelenting drug use—I walked into the DAP (Drug Alternative Program) begging for “just a bed” to sleep in. No home, family or hope. I was pretty much at the end of my rope and with only bad prospects available until I finally responded to the Spirit’s leading and called Freddie and Cliff Harris at DAP. I never regretted making that decision. I did not know of anyone else who could handle a person like me. Between God, and you two, I did get a new life. *To read the rest of Bill’s Story, Google Cliff and Freddie Harris.*

## DAP – Drug Alternative Program

The ultimate mission of the Drug Alternative Program is to be a safe, structured, supportive environment for persons who have decided to replace their substance abusing lifestyle for a more productive drug-free one. DAP's primary goal is to help others believe in Jesus Christ, and allow Him to take an active part in their recovery process.

DAP is currently incorporated as a nonprofit California Corporation. Cliff and Freddie Harris, co-directors, operate two, licensed six-bed, men's recovery homes, and a transition home in Grand Terrace, California. It is a 12-18 month in-patient service for men ages 18 to 64.

On their website it says, ***Christ leads us to help you. We'll lead you to Christ for help.*** If you have someone who needs help, please call or e-mail Cliff and Freddie Harris at: 1.800.784.1094 – [dapcalif@aol.com](mailto:dapcalif@aol.com).

*Source: Internet*

### ***EDITOR'S P.S.***

It's my privilege to visit many Sabbath School classes - wonderful classes where I see you, teachers, "in action." I want to give a big "Thank you," to all the Teachers – you are doing a grand job each Sabbath morning.

In front of me are "Tips for Teachers." Sitting in some of your Sabbath School classes, I have seen many of these "Tips" used while you were teaching. Smiling! Maintaining eye contact! Being sure all can hear one another! Encouraging thoughtful responses! Allowing and encouraging interaction!

Let me share a few more "Tips" with you:

- Evaluate yourself after each class. What was good? What could be better? What should you change?
- Try some active and interactive learning: have class members do something—then talk about it.
- Accept all responses with a smile.
- Avoid criticism. Be positive.
- Know each person in your class. Pray for each one.

At this time, I shall follow one of the "Tips for Teachers" - the K.I.S.S. rule: Keep it short and simple.

I'm outta here!

CB

