



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

MARCH 2008

Volume 4

*"The blessing of  
the Lord makes  
one rich; and  
He adds no  
sorrow with it."*

*Proverbs 10:22,  
--NKJ*

*"Listen with  
compassion."  
Power Book of  
Integrity*

• *"Old error in new  
dress is ever  
error  
nonetheless."*

• *Screwtape Writes  
Again*

• *"Our lives begin  
to end the day we  
become silent  
about things that  
matter." – Martin  
Luther King, Jr.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **Preparing to do Personal Ministries**
- **"Sabbath School Lives" in the Bladensburg Church**
- **Remembering Lide "Big O" Owens**

### FROM ELDER JOHNSON

#### "APTITUDE and ATTITUDE"

Hello, Adult Ministers!

As we have now solidly entered the third quarter of Ministry, through, around, and with our Local Churches, we are all encouraged to take a survey of our effectiveness as we function along with the Members, and those that we hope to see in the ranks.

Two of the qualities that are factors which are considered when one is being evaluated for placement in a position, or after having had the privilege of functioning for a time, are their "Aptitude and Attitude." The positive balancing, or lack thereof, of these two qualities can assist in *making* or *breaking* a Ministry Atmosphere.

One's "Aptitude" has to do with the raw qualifications (Spiritual Gifts, Talents, Education, Training), which are brought to the Ministry. One's "Attitude" has to do with the way in which the factors of "Aptitude" are *packaged and presented* on an interpersonal level. All of us can think of persons who "really know their stuff", but that very few persons can *bear* to work with them.

As we interact with Ministry Partners or Prospects, let us remain mindful that our positive Christ-centered "attitude" – which is *steeped* in the Fruit Of The Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) – will go far in establishing the beneficial atmosphere and context in which Our Lord's Work can be done in a most productive way.

Go forward, partners, in the mindset of David, when he prayed, as recorded in Psalm 51:10 (KJV), "*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*"

MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### SMALL! BUT THRIVING!!!

#### ***In a small but thriving church, located in Bladensburg, Maryland, Sabbath School LIVES!***

Many churches have thriving programs and ministries. I've observed that Sabbath School is normally at the bottom of the list in terms of what many would consider as "life changing," a way to learn how to live inspired, impactful lives in a world of fluid, dynamic changes.

As a facilitator of one of the classes, I did not understand why so few people were attending Sabbath School. After praying and gaining additional insights, God revealed through His Word, that if needs are being met, they would come and continue to come!

#### **Meeting Needs**

The most basic and elementary teaching that Christ's ministry provided was the meeting of "needs." In the context of addressing need, the most critical relevancy of need is the application of God's Word to our specific need. Once the active application of His Word meets our need, it then becomes the active bread of life for every individual participant.

#### **Interaction Sessions**

Our interaction sessions are geared toward the relevancy of God's Word to our lives, whether it is specific or general. One of our main focuses is living unencumbered lives through His Word. To live uncomplicated lives may seem impossible. It's not if we apply God's Word, coupled with the experiences, inspired knowledge and perspectives of others in the context and realization that above all else, God is right there beside us ordering our steps and developing us.

#### **Class Increase**

God has increased the size of our class, as well as bringing missing members back to our ranks, solely because of the prayers, faithfulness, diligence, and application of God's Active Word to our lives. Through fellowship, interaction, and application, SABBATH SCHOOL LIVES!!!

Micheal Blount, Sabbath School Facilitator, Bladensburg, Maryland

### **Care Packages They'll Crave**

One way for a Sabbath School class—or an individual—to become involved in foreign missions is to adopt a missionary somewhere in the world and become his/her support team back home. Here is one former missionary's observations on this idea:

- Reminders of home—a souvenir T-shirt, a scenic calendar, a home-team sports cap
- Music cassettes, CDs, sheet music, DVDs
- Photos
- Recipes
- Simple toys
- Cosmetics
- Magazines
- Hobby supplies
- Plastic containers and "zippered" plastic bags
- Travel-sized toiletries
- Packaged food—chili seasoning, kosher jello, instant soups
- Collection of greeting cards
- Chocolate Chip Cookies (the #1 most coveted care package item.)



## **WHAT'S HOT!**

### **SOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD)**

*Across the NAD in 80 seconds or less (or however long it takes you to read this).*

[www.lifedevelopment.info](http://www.lifedevelopment.info)

The Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies (sponsored by Global Mission) has created a website for the unchurched. Many secular people characterize themselves as spiritual but not religious. This website attempts to open up more discussion about spirituality.

### **DISABILITIES MINISTRIES**

According to the Census Bureau, at least 54 million Americans have some varying degree of disability. The *Disabilities Ministries Handbook* is a jammed packed resource that can be used as a guide to reach people who are important to Jesus.

In this user-friendly manual you will find job descriptions for people involved in disabilities ministry, how to build a disabilities ministry in your church, an outline of the seven major disabilities, government guidelines for accessibility, practical tips for leaders and members, ideas for activities and sample programs, and an assessment to find out how friendly your church is to people with disabilities. Available through AdventSource at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800.328.0525. US\$14.95.

### **FLEA MARKET EVANGELISM – CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE**

David Graham and the members of the Laurelbrook Academy Church in Dayton, Tennessee, decided to take God's love to the market place—a local flea market!

#### **The Benefits:**

- ❖ Placing truth-filled books, not just tracts, in the hands of people who would otherwise never receive them.
- ❖ A comfortable and easy form of evangelism for Sabbath School classes or small groups to take on as an outreach project.
- ❖ Mission-driven. The entire church benefits from hearing the stories of witnessing opportunities and funds being miraculously supplied for purchasing.
- ❖ Blessings! Answered Prayers! Souls for the Kingdom!

To learn more about Flea Market Evangelism and how you can get started in this exciting ministry, check it all out by logging onto [www.plusline.org/article.php?id=4784](http://www.plusline.org/article.php?id=4784).

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## Q & A

### What is an Extension Division?

An **Extension Division** primarily serves shut-ins and those Seventh-day Adventist members who are unable to attend regular services.

### The Role

The Extension Division leader takes Sabbath School audio or video tapes or DVDs, Bible Study Guides, children's papers and other items to those who, for reasons of transportation difficulties, illness, age or a physical handicap, cannot regularly attend meetings at the church. This Division may also include traveling workers, humanitarian workers, and military personnel.

Where there are no more than three members in the Extension Division, the Sabbath School secretary may care for them. If the membership exceeds three, an Extension Division leader should be elected. If the number exceeds 10, one assistant leader should be elected to care for approximately each additional 10 members.

### Line of Authority

The Extension Division leader reports to the Assistant Coordinator for Membership or to the Sabbath School Coordinator where there is no assistant for membership. The leader is also responsible for reporting membership and offering figures to the Sabbath School secretary, who needs this information for the conference/mission quarterly report. The assistant leaders report to the Extension Division leader.

### Time Commitment – 20 Hours A Month

Two to three hours per week would be needed for visits, phone calls and correspondence with the isolated members. Another one or two hours should be scheduled for the Sabbath School Committee. The amount of time may vary with each individual leader and how often they choose to visit or talk with their assigned members.

### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Compile a list of members of the Extension Division.
2. Maintain regular contact with members of the Extension Division. This may be done in a number of ways—visits, letters, or telephone calls.
3. Provide members with Sabbath School Bible Study Guides, children's papers, if needed, world mission reports, individual offering envelopes, record cards, and other Sabbath School supplies.
4. Serve as a member of the Sabbath School Committee.
5. Submit a complete report of the membership and offerings of the Extension Division to the Sabbath School secretary.
6. Enlist other members of the Sabbath School to send cards, make phone calls, or visit a member of the Extension Division.
7. With the Coordinator for Evangelism, study the possibilities of starting a Branch Sabbath School near an isolated or shut-in member.

## PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL’S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

### PREPARATORY WORK FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES SERIES- FINAL PART

#### ***Pastoral Responsibility***

*Territorial assignment provides an ideal framework for effective pastoral ministry. The pastor and unde shepherds can lead church members into a deepened spiritual experience by taking them along on visits. This provides on-the-job training.*

If a prospect name within the area assigned to an inactive church member lies dormant, the pastor can go to the church member and suggest that together they make the visit, with the pastor assuming responsibility for leading out. After one or two such visits, the timid or inactive church member will often be willing to follow-up the interest discovered.

There is no more rewarding aspect of the ministry than that of leading church members into fruitful soul-winning experiences.

“Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow spiritually, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of leading souls into the truth. Those who are not fulfilling their responsibility should be visited, prayed with, labored for.” *Christian Service*, p. 69.

#### **Suggested Approaches**

Keep adding to the following list of possible activities for use within assigned territories.

1. Friendship visitation. See *Christian Service*, pages 113-131.
2. Community religious survey.
3. Radio-TV survey. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Discover Bible School*.
4. Community Services Survey. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Community Services*.
5. Bible Correspondence School enrollments. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Discover Bible School*.
6. Missionary journal distribution. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Visiting With Literature*.
7. Literature distribution. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Visiting With Literature*.
8. Welfare approach. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Community Services*.
9. Temperance approach. This could include Five-Day Plans and temperance literature, including *Listen*.
10. Health approach. This could include health screenings, cooking classes, and health literature, including *Life and Health*.
11. Lending library for books or cassettes. Lend cassettes or books to interested persons in conjunction with weekly visits.
12. Give Bible Plan. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Bible Studies*.
13. Ingathering. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Ingathering Evangelism*.
14. Audio-visual Bible studies. See Personal Ministries leaflet *Discover Bible School* and *Bible Studies*.

The community religious survey has proved to be one of the most practical approaches for determining the spiritual condition of men and women and finding openings for Bible studies.

Let’s press ahead with territorial assignment until all the territory has been assigned and every family has a territory. Let us remember the promise that “when the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad . . . the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

## "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 Volunteer Chaplaincy PM.104**

***Introduction to Volunteer Chaplaincy introduces fundamental expectations of Chaplains in an everyday setting in Department of Correction Facilities.***

***"The Macon Telegraph quoted Chaplain Rob Peecher as saying, "Prison Chaplains believe God called them to minister to prisoners, and that God works through them in the lives of people behind bars." Another Chaplain said, "We couldn't do our ministry without volunteers; our arms aren't long enough." (Internet [www.prisonchaplains.org](http://www.prisonchaplains.org)).***

#### **Description**

**Introduction to Volunteer Chaplaincy** introduces fundamental concepts and expectations of Chaplains from Wardens and local managers of Department of Correction Facilities. Exposes the student to the ministry of Chaplains to incarcerated individuals, as well as to staff. Establishes parameters of service to a culturally diverse community with emphasis on Cultural Pluralism.

#### **Overview**

This module exposes the student to selection criteria and fundamental expectations of Chaplains called to be servants to an ostracized community. The student will gain insight into religious programming and the range of service that Chaplains provide to inmates and staff. The student will be exposed to the uniqueness of Chaplaincy Ministries.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

1. To expose the student to the work and the expectations of Chaplaincy.
2. To gain a knowledge of religious programming and policy.
3. To gain an understanding of selection criteria and American Correctional Association (ACA) standards and ethics for correctional Chaplains.
4. To gain insight in cultural diversity and pluralism in the correctional community.

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

Lide "Big O" Owens, III, died, June 22, 2007, in a Hagerstown, Maryland prison hospital, of lung cancer. He was 59. Who was "Big O"? Read on.

Reared in the tough neighborhoods of northwest Washington, D.C., Lide graduated from High School, worked for the U.S. IRS, became a small business owner. But in the pursuit of the American Dream, he got caught in Satan's snare of night life, drugs, and violence, which finally landed him in prison – for more than 20 years - until his death.

In one of the country's oldest and most infamous prisons, the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore, a changed life was beginning to take root. On the very day that Lide was preparing to launch a violent assault against a fellow inmate, Lide sought temporary concealment from his intended victim in a prison chapel Seventh-day Adventist Service. On that hot summer day in June, 1990, the Holy Spirit intervened and broke the heart of a hardened man, and saved the life of an assailant and potential victim, simultaneously.

A soul that had been degraded into an instrument of Satan was, through the power of Christ, transformed into a messenger of righteousness. From that point forward, "Big O" . . . "was sent forth by the Son of God to tell what great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 341. What an awesome testimony of the transforming power of God.

"Big O" went on to become one of the foundational pillars in inmate coordinated Seventh-day Adventist Prison Ministries at the Maryland House of Correction, Jessup, Maryland, ascending to the office of ordained Elder in January, 2000, and was for the past seven years, Elder/Resident Leader of the largest organized prison company in the state of Maryland, with 60 to 80 weekly Sabbath Service participants, and 35 baptized Seventh-day Adventists.

Like "Big O", most of the men he served as their spiritual leader, were serving long sentences for violent crimes. None of the men would be considered as the image of core-value voters in America. Yet, a God of the second . . . third . . . fourth chance, and well beyond, sees fit to do what a large segment of society cannot even fathom, change hearts and minds of hardcore convicts. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise (Psalm 51:17)*.

*Douglas A. Wiley, Senior Elder (Emeritus) Faithful Flock SDA Church*

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

Here's the entire statement. *And souls that have been degraded into instruments of Satan are still through the power of Christ transformed into messengers of righteousness, and sent forth by the Son of God to tell what "great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." (Desire of Ages, 341.2)*

"Big O" found in God, a gracious, sweet, merciful, and forgiving Heavenly Father! Now I understand why Mr. Wiley had to write about Mr. Lide "Big O" Owens, III.

I'm outta here!

CB

