



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

OCTOBER 2006

Volume 2

*"God is our
refuge and
strength, a
tested help in
times of trouble.
The Living Bible
Paraphrased*

- *When you
subtract by giving
away, you get
more. –
Archbishop
Desmond Tutu*
- *Nothing lasts
forever – not
even your
troubles. – Arnold
Glasow*

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FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, Ministry Partners!

Our Lord was in perfect harmony and sympathy with the statement quoted. It was for that reason that on the day of His ascension, He assured His now converted (**Power Within**), but not evangelistically empowered (**Power Upon**) Disciples, as recorded in Acts 1:8 (KJV):

"But ye shall receive **Power** (the ability to perform; function), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

My friend, "Power For The Mission" is realized through the combined (and complementary) ministry of the Holy Ghost. **Within** and **Upon** us! I encourage you do to this as I did, and examine each Bible passage that deals with these two aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to us for the building of His work. You will happily discover that when The Holy Spirit came **Upon** someone, something special took place (i.e. Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost). When The Holy Spirit came **Within** a person, they showed a willingness to obey God and to display general righteousness.

My prayer is that all members of God's family, regardless of the nature of our ministry calling, will be willing to imbibe this "Empowerment Offering" from the Holy Ghost, so that we may be successful (as Heaven counts success), because we possess "Power For The Mission." It is free! Knowing and understanding that such an offer **compels** and **propels** us to express a willingness to be **right** with our God, and our brothers and sisters (1 John 1:9; Acts 1:14). Jesus promises: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give The Holy Spirit to them that ask Him" (Luke 11:13, KJV).

Many blessed returns in your Sabbath School ministry!

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry, Sabbath School, and Personal Ministry Director.

Here's a bit of trivia on Sabbath School that you may want to use as a "Who Knows?" or "Did You Know?" quiz. Enjoy these first 10 of 20 interesting facts.

Highlights of Sabbath School History

Source: *The Complete Guide for Sabbath School. AdventSource.*

- **1853 First Sabbath School – Rochester, New York, founded by James White.**
- **1863 First series of Sabbath School lessons adapted for children. First Adult Sabbath School lessons written by Uriah Smith.**
- **1877 State Sabbath School Associations formed in California and Michigan.**
- **1878 General Sabbath School Association formed.**
- **1879 First Branch Sabbath Schools organized.**
- **1885 First Sabbath School Mission Offering; contributed by Oakland, California, for Australian Mission. Sabbath School Worker begins publication.**
- **1886 First Kindergarten Division, Battle Creek, Michigan.**
- **1889 Senior Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly begun. First Sabbath School quarterlies printed in language other than English: Danish, Swedish, French and German.**
- **1901 International Sabbath School Association replaced by Sabbath School Department of the General Conference.**
- **1909 Plan for weekly Sabbath School Mission Offerings adopted.**



WHAT'S HOT!

Shawn Boonstra! Speaker/Director of It Is Written International Television - Keynote Speaker for Opening Night of The Festival Of The Laity – Wednesday, September 26, 2007! Is this HOT?

There's another HOT! The Adventist Ministries Convention, New Horizons, January 7-11, 2007, Tucson, Arizona, at the gorgeous Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort. Deborah Harris will be the Opening Keynote. This is very HOT!

Call *AdventSource/Plusline* at 800.732.7587 to register, or do it online www.newhorizons2007.org. Convention Registration \$249 per person through November 1, 2006.

For Hotel Accommodations call 520.544.5000 - mention **Adventist Ministries Convention** to get the **\$109** per night rate. Look to see you in Tucson in January.

BACK TO THE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY

The Festival Of The Laity is **ONE YEAR AWAY!** I'm writing this editorial on September 26th – the Festival Of The Laity begins **ONE YEAR FROM NOW** – Wednesday night, September 26th at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center in grand and beautiful Orlando. And by the time I post this newsletter on October 1, and by the time you open it up, and download it, or read it online – there will be fewer days than that. If you're planning on attending the **Festival Of The Laity** you've going to have to act fast. Space is limited!

Thinking about exhibiting at the **Festival Of The Laity?** Rent a booth! Log on to www.festivalofthelaity.com click on **Exhibitor Info** and reserve your booth space NOW!

Time is flying by quickly. That's why you must REGISTER NOW www.festivalofthelaity.com – or call PlusLine 800.732.7587 and ask for Heather. She will be pleased to help you. You can also register at www.plusline.org.

Don't forget to reserve your room at the **Florida Hotel and Conference Center** – where you will have a comfortable, restful night, after having experienced the excitement of attending the Festival Of The Laity during the day. Call today - 800.588.4656, and say the Special Words: **Festival Of The Laity** - to get the Special Rate: **\$99 per night** for up to four people per room.

Check out the **Keynote Speakers** page at www.festivalofthelaity.com and see that line-up of speakers! Boonstra! Bradford! Trujillo! Vincent! Halvorsen! To name a few. You can imagine what the messages are going to be like –

POWERFUL!

SENSATIONAL!

SPIRITUAL!

ENCOURAGING!

ONE YEAR OUT! - AND IT WILL BE FESTIVAL OF THE LAITY TIME!

REGISTER TODAY!

See Ya' Soon In Orlando!

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Q & A

What's the Procedure in Selecting Sabbath School Personnel? Part II

Sabbath School personnel must be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. There are three ways Sabbath School personnel are chosen.

Appointment by the Church Board. Between the annual elections any vacancies that occur shall be filled by the church board in consultation with the Sabbath School officers. (See *Network News*, September 2006, Part I, for Officers).

Appointment by the Sabbath School Committee. Positions filled by appointment of the Sabbath School are the following:

1. Assistant Division Leaders
2. Division Secretaries
3. Music Directors
4. Pianists/Organists
5. Class Leaders/Facilitators (Teachers)
6. Greeters
7. Ushers

The above list should be understood as "guidelines" for the Nominating Committee and the Sabbath School Committee. Small churches may choose few people and large churches may require more.

Source: Sabbath School Handbook: The Complete Guide for Sabbath School Coordinators, Secretaries and Class Leaders. North American Division Edition. AdventSource.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IN SABBATH SCHOOL – PERSONAL MINISTRIES

The Dropout Track

Are you acquainted with that term? The Dropout Track. Dropping out is something that happens as a long, slow process, not an abrupt change. The **dropout track** unfolds over a period of six to eighteen months. The key phases of the **dropout track** have consistently surfaced in hundreds of interviews with inactive Adventists conducted by Adventist pastors.

1. A cluster of stressful events
2. Subtle attempts to reach out for help
3. Pastor and members do not respond
4. Hurting member feels angry at nonresponse
5. Involvement in church decreases
6. Hurting member quits attending, expecting to be contacted
7. No one contacts them to ask why they dropped out
8. They try to forget the painful memories
9. They reinvest the time they use to spend at church

The majority of those who drop out of church do not think they have lost their faith. They often state they do not need to be church members to be believers. Many say they intend to come back, and would probably do so now, *if someone cared enough about them to invite them back, and to welcome them when they return.* Those who drop out generally feel no one has seriously missed them.

Okay! Go and Reclaim! Here are some resources for Reclaiming Ministry:

SafetyZone - A Workshop for Friends Reaching Friends Who Quit

Church - Center for Creative Ministry - 800.272.4664

Learning To Care - AdventSource - 800.328.0525

Reclaiming Missing Members - AdventSource - 800.328.0525

Welcome Home - Center for Creative Ministry - 800.272.4664

Source: 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: Introduction to Inmate Spiritual Counseling exposes the Inmate Spiritual Counselor to counseling techniques germane to counseling in a correctional setting; apropos to inmate crisis situation, grief, marriage, family concerns, and individualized spiritual counseling.

The Learning Outcomes for Introduction to Spiritual Counseling are:

1. The student will be exposed to Christian counseling techniques.
2. The student will be exposed to some of the hurting situations that inmates are exposed to.
3. The student will learn what Christian Counselors/Chaplains are exposed to in the Department of Corrections.
4. The Inmate Spiritual Counselor will learn the Counselor's responsibility to inmates.

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

What Really Happened to Monique? Part I

She was a 38 year old white female, 5 feet 7 inches tall, about 130 lbs. She was the mother of eight kids and was single (divorced). She was incarcerated for prostitution and she had a serious drug problem.

She enrolled in the R.E.S.T. (Rational Emotive Spiritual Therapy) 14-session cognitive-spiritual group therapy program inside the Riverside Correctional facility (RCF) for Women in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was one of approximately

800 females incarcerated in RCF and one of 83 females that enrolled in our summer therapy program – The R.E.S.T. Philly Project. She attended the R.E.S.T. group on July 27 and left me a note, “I go to court tomorrow. I also have a court date for September 2nd.” The R.E.S.T. clients keep us posted on their court dates and other legal proceedings. She was attending the R.E.S.T. groups hoping to be accepted into the R.E.S.T. Early Release Reentry Program, and be released to R.E.S.T., sponsored by a church and receive the personal services of a trained faith-based mentor. Her religious affiliation was Protestant-Christian – a member of the Lutheran Church.

Reviewing her record and charges, we figured that she had at least six months of jail time left and would be able to complete the first and second phases of the R.E.S.T. program. She felt that through R.E.S.T. she would finally get the kind of support that would work for her to clean herself up from drugs, help her to stay out of crime, and to become the respected mother, member of society and faith member she believed she could be.

Submitted by Dr. Rick McKinney, Founder/CEO – I-R.E.S.T., Inc., Philadelphia, PA. www.restphilly.com.

BEST PRACTICE TIPS FOR VISITING MISSING MEMBERS

1. Pray for the absent member/s daily. Pray especially before you visit that angels of God may attend you and that the Holy Ghost will give you wisdom.
2. In some cases it may be wise to phone ahead for an appointment. Identify yourself with the church and a specific Sabbath School class, if that is appropriate.
3. Approach the home with a cheerful, optimistic attitude. Determine to be warm, tactful, and gentle.
4. Have a friendly visit about things they are interested in: family, hobbies, occupation. You might ask what led them to Christ and when they first joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
5. Bring greetings from the Sabbath School and your class.

Source: *The Sabbath School Handbook*. AdventSource.

EDITOR’S P.S.

I read with sadness and a heavy heart the story “What Really Happened to Monique?” It touched me. People are much too often forgotten, much too often left alone, much too long without receiving a letter, a phone call, or visit.

Today, I talked with a pastor friend who pastors a very small church. He said, “Carol, do you know what I’ve been doing? I’ve been making visits.” He’s out making contact with the people – the members.

We use the term “missing members.” May I kindly inquire Who’s Missing? Could it be we are the missing members? Missing in the lives of those who once worshiped with us – missing in the lives of those who use to sing *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*, with us – missing in the lives of those who use to pray with us. Missing? Who’s missing? Me? You? Them?

Let’s turn this thing around. Get a name of a member who has been absent. Call the member letting him/her know, “I’m the missing member – I miss being a part of your life. I miss singing with you. I miss praying with you. I miss sharing Jesus with you. Please return so I won’t be missing anymore.” Try it – tell me how it went - carol.barron@nad.adventist.org.

I’m outta here! CB

