



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADULT MINISTRIES NETWORK

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Volume 3

*"And he pointed  
out to me a  
river of pure  
Water of Life,  
clear as crystal,  
flowing from the  
throne of God  
and the Lamb. .  
. . ." Revelation  
22:1 LV*

- *"The Bible will tell  
you what is  
wrong before you  
have done it. –  
D. L. Moody*
- *"Consider the  
postage stamp,  
its usefulness  
consists in  
sticking to a thing  
until it gets  
there.— Joshua  
Billing*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **DEAD? SABBATH SCHOOL IS NOT DEAD!**
- **FREE MISSION SPOTLIGHT DVD**

### **FROM ELDER JOHNSON**

#### **"After The Festival: Where Do We Go From Here?"**

One day, I heard a sermon that was based on the Cleansing and Conversion of the Two Former Demoniacs (Matthew 8; Mark 5). The Preacher described their longing to linger with The One, who in just a few moments had become the answer to their deepest desire—to be sane, saved and appropriately socialized.

He lingered around the thought of their initial disappointment of these new Disciples, when The Savior refused their, seemingly very reasonable request to go with Him, and learn of Him, and to become "steeped" in His ways. Jesus' refusal to take them left them, in essence, asking, "Where do WE Go From Here?"

The Preacher went on to talk about Mountain Top and Valley Experiences. He indicated that the "Mountain Top" is for Insight, Inspiration, Education, and Motivation. That the "Valley" is for "PERSPIRATION" – working out the benefits gained on the Mountain in our local areas of ministry through the Anointing Power Of The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost.

Those new Disciples obeyed the command of Jesus to simply "Go and Tell" about their personal experience with The Master. *The Desire of Ages* tells us that when Jesus returned some time later to the very region that once rejected Him, that many were open to His message, due to the faithful testimony of two faithful Disciples.

The 2007 North American Division Adult Ministries Festival Of The Laity was truly a "Mountain Top" experience for those of us that attended in person, or by Internet.

Where Do We Go From Here? Higher in His Service, Deeper in dedication to the Mission of "reflecting" His loving character--RIGHT WHERE WE ARE!  
MARANATHA!

J. Alfred Johnson II, Director of Adult Ministries

North American Division

## IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

### SABBATH SCHOOL IS NOT DEAD!

**A "school" suggests active participation and learning activities. Ellen White gives some clear counsel on Sabbath School programs, and if followed, it will not longer be said, "Sabbath School Is Dead."**

#### **Innovation and Creativity**

*Coordinators and the work in our Sabbath Schools have a very important, broad field to cultivate. They need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit of God, that their minds may be impressed to use the very best methods, and follow the best plans to make their work wholly successful.—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 11.*

*Different minds and qualities will bring in fresh ideas, fresh lines of thought, and this is essential.—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 165.*

#### **"Mechanical" vs. Interactive**

*The object of the Sabbath School should not be lost sight of in mechanical arrangements, thus occupying time which should be given to other important matters. We should ever be guarded against forms and ceremonies which will eclipse the real object for which we are laboring. There is a danger of carrying system to such an extreme that the Sabbath School will become weariness, when, on the contrary, it should be a rest, a refreshment, and blessing. There is altogether too much dependence placed upon form and machinery, while the life-giving power of God is not manifested for the conversion of souls, for whom Christ died. The order of things must be changed if our Sabbath Schools meet the purpose for which they exist.—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 151, 156, 157.*

#### **Quick Things You Can Do To Make Your Sabbath School Program More Dynamic**

- **Develop a theme for the programs. This could be a monthly theme, or it could run the entire quarter.**
- **Set goals for attendance, ministries or projects, and offerings.**
- **Advertise your Sabbath School. Set up a telephone chain to call members. Send out a newsletter. Advertise in the Church Bulletin.**
- **Give the classes names and build loyalty and enthusiasm in the classes.**

*Let not those who have a mechanical way of doing things, take complete charge of the school, and mold it into formal ways, into precise habits, and yet all its life stifled in a multiplicity of regulations. It is essential to have order, but we need a great deal more spiritual knowledge along with rules and regulations. We need a life-giving power, a zealous enthusiasm, a true animation, that our schools may become filled with an atmosphere of true piety and purity, that there may be real religious advancement.—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 162.*

*The Sabbath School Handbook. AdventSource.*



## WHAT'S HOT!

Something Good! Something New! Something Free!

**FREE QUARTERLY 13<sup>TH</sup> SABBATH**

**OFFERING MISSION DVD**

For years, Oscar and Judy Heinrich kept us informed about the Missions of the church through Mission Spotlight. Mission Spotlight served the Church well and it was a blessing.

With Mission Spotlight closing operations at the end of this year, many churches are wondering what to use in its place. The General Conference Office of Adventist Mission is producing video mission stories on DVD, and these are being distributed to every church in North America by the North American Division – absolutely FREE!

The Quarterly DVD focuses on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering Division, but it also includes video stories from other areas of the world to promote general mission offerings. The 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering videos can be used near the end of the quarter, and others can be used any time.

The videos come in a variety of lengths. There is one story on every DVD, specifically for children. These can be shown in Sabbath Schools, Prayer Meetings, Youth Programs, and more.

Your church should already be receiving one copy in the mail every quarter, and churches can make additional copies for church use. You can also download the videos as a Podcast using I-Tunes, or via RSS feed to show, even if you can't find the DVD.

Adventist Mission is working closely with the Inter-American and South American Divisions to have the DVDs in Portuguese and Spanish.

Please visit [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) to learn more, or to receive your free Mission DVD. Bookmark their web site and give them a weekly visit.

Thank you for using this tool to "Tell The World About God's Love."

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## Q & A

### **Any ideas on how my Sabbath School Class can become global-minded?**

To get people in our Sabbath School classes involved in the church around the world, we must stir them to think about global realities, cross-cultural relationships, and a world much bigger than our own. Experiment with one or two of the following nine global-minded ideas for Sabbath Schools.

#### **In The Sabbath School Class:**

Check the labels in the back collars of shirts, blouses, and sweaters, and pray for the countries represented by the labels in your clothes.

#### **Outside The Sabbath School Class:**

Take a group field trip to a local Mosque, Hindu Temple, or Synagogue, and try to interview the religious leader. Don't make this an evangelistic effort, but simply to learn about the belief of others.

#### **In The Sabbath School Class:**

Identify and pray for neighbors and coworkers who are internationals. If no one in your group knows such people, look up foreign-sounding names in the community phone book, and pray for these people by name.

#### **Outside The Sabbath School Class:**

Go to an ethnic restaurant, and seek out the owners or hosts with the goal of interviewing them about their culture, religious beliefs, and—if they are immigrants—their experiences in and impressions of your country.

#### **In The Sabbath School Class:**

Identify and pray for neighbors and coworkers who are members of other world religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, etc.

#### **Outside The Sabbath School Class:**

Assign class members specific countries or nationalities to be researched on the Internet. Ask the members to present a five-minute summary to the rest of the group.

#### **Inside The Sabbath School Class:**

Get an up-to-date map, choose a country per meeting, and pray for Christians living in those countries.

#### **Outside The Sabbath School Class:**

Go together to a Christian worship service that is different from yours either culturally or ethnically. Use this opportunity to remind yourselves that God's people constitute a broad range of races and ethnicities. Reflect on Revelation 7:9.

#### **In The Sabbath School Class:**

Listen to a short-wave radio broadcasting the gospel through Trans World Radio, HCJB (Ecuador) or other global transmission ministries.

--Paul Borthwick

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

### HOLY WEEK – A PLANNING SESSION

***Invite your pastor, Bible worker and the members of the Personal Ministries Committee or Church Ministries Council. The goal of this meeting is to organize an outreach project for the week of Easter (also known as “Holy Week” in some denominations).***

#### **AGENDA**

1. As a devotional, share the following statement from Ellen G. White: “The words of Christ must be meditated upon and cherished and enshrined in the heart” (*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4, page 355*). Ask group members to reflect on the last words of Christ. Conclude the devotional with each person praying one or two sentences.
2. Discuss the idea of conducting some outreach series during “Holy Week.” Set goals and parameters of the project. For instance, will members simply invite people they know, or will the church invite the public to a series of special events at the church building or a public meeting place?
3. Appoint a project coordinator and a publicity person.
4. Plan all logistics, including type of supplies that will be needed. Will videos on the Life of Christ be purchased to loan or give away?
5. Plan publicity and reservation phone number.
6. Identify measures of success: attendance, news coverage, enrollments in Bible studies, etc.
7. Pray for a special blessing of the Lord in this outreach.

#### **AFTER THE MEETING**

Type up the plan and assignments as soon as the meeting ends. Copy it and mail to each person who was invited to the meeting and those who were given assignments.

If there are those among your members who are uneasy about using this yearly opportunity, share with them Ellen White’s counsel that we should “Dwell upon the marvelous plan of salvation, the great sacrifice made by the King of glory that you might be elevated through the merits of His blood, and by obedience, finally be exalted to the throne of Christ. This subject should engage the noblest contemplation of the mind” (*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 504*).

If your congregation focuses on Christ and what He did for us on the cross during this time, it will not only provide a “bridge” to others in the community, but also strengthen their own spiritual lives. This is the core belief for Christians. If He hadn’t given His life for us, there would be no point to the Bible. We need to be challenged to contemplate His life daily.

*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: Principles of Christian Leadership and Church Growth CR.103

*In an article in the Review and Herald, September 6, 1881, by Ellen G. White, she wrote: "The real character of the church is measured, not by the high profession she makes, not by the names enrolled upon the church book, but by what she is actually doing for the Master, by the number of her persevering, faithful workers. Personal interest and vigilant, individual effort will accomplish more for the cause of Christ than can be wrought by sermons or creeds."*

**Principles of Personal Christian Leadership and Church Growth** will encompass some of the broad and complex areas of Christian leadership. It will acquaint the student with the various components to equip the church and give it a sense of purpose. It is a study of Christian leadership principles within the Christian church.

**Overview of Principles of Personal Christian Leadership and Church Growth.** It is noted that the solidarity of any progressive and successful church is the project of positive Christian leadership. This module enhances the fact that in order for a church to reach its maximum potential, it depends on the dynamics of personal involvement from committed disciples for Christ.

### Learning Outcomes

- The student will obtain and demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of Christian leadership expectations.
- The student will gain a fundamental knowledge of how Christian leadership impacts and equips the purpose driven church.
- The student will understand the multi-dimensional facets of Christian leadership.
- The student will understand the value of holistic and the integration of different aspects of leadership.

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

#### NEW MEXICO ADDRESSES THE NEEDS OF WOMEN

**A Woman-Centered Approach for Female Offenders in New Mexico.** New Mexico has been promoting a new attitude toward female offenders, and particularly during the past four years, has become more gender-responsive. It was not initially clear what the concept of "gender responsiveness" entailed, but when it was learned that it simply meant taking into account the difference between males and females and what brings them to the criminal justice system, New Mexico was pleased to find it was on the right track. New Mexico offers numerous women-centered programming to female offenders.

With Governor Bill Richardson's support, the New Mexico Corrections Department began implementing innovative programming specifically for female offenders. The department has adopted a new approach and a new attitude toward improving the women's lives.

**Intensive Gender-Specific Case Management/Programming.** Topics significant to a women's well-being and necessary to moving forward such as safety in relations, building trust, coping skills.

**P.S. I Love You.** This is a family literacy program that allows incarcerated mothers to be videotaped reading a story to their children. Videotapes and books are sent to the children, allowing them to maintain communication with their mother even though she is incarcerated.

**Project SOAR (Success for Offenders After Release).** A long-term transitional program designed to build solid employment skills and develop individual, family and social skills and attitudes toward a positive future.

**DADA (Dolls Against Domestic Abuse).** The inmates make dolls for children who were present at a domestic violence scene and subsequently were transported to a safe house. The dolls provide a sense of security for the children in spite of the traumatic experience they may have endured.

Also: **Therapeutic Visits; Overnight Visitation for Incarcerated Mothers; Creative Writing and Poetry for Females; Reentry Planning; Community Work Release; Women's Business Enterprise Program; Visitation Assistance for Female Offenders' Families; Televisitation; Teamworks; and New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy.**

*Reprinted from August 2007 Corrections Today.*

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

How God Blessed The Festival Of The Laity!!! Were You Blessed? Empowered? Enlightened? Trained? Motivated? Encouraged to be a more Anointed, Disciplined Disciple, Telling Our World? I knew you would be. Once you made up your mind to attend. But, I want to hear all about it – from you. E-mail me! Call me! Do something – just get in touch with me! Tell us how the Festival Of The Laity impacted your life.

I was in on the initial planning part of the Festival – and I'm NOT the same. I've been motivated to be more determined to do my part to hasten the coming of Jesus.

I've stepped up my missionary endeavors of Bible study, handing out more literature, being bolder for Jesus and just plain telling folk that "God So Loved The World That He Gave His Only Begotten Son!"

He's Coming Soon! He Wants You To Live With Him – Get Ready and Stay Ready! Can you feel my excitement? I'm NOT the same! And I don't ever WANT to be the same again. That's what the Festival was all about.

Folk, Let's "Tell Our World" about Jesus, so we can get out of this old world! "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Heaven is our Home! YES!

I'm outta here!

CB



