



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

AUGUST 1, 2005

Volume 2, Number 2

*“Verily I say  
unto you,  
Inasmuch as  
ye have done  
it unto one of  
the least of  
these my  
brethren, ye  
have done it  
unto me.”*

- *Laughter is the  
best medicine.  
There is no co-  
payment.  
Joyful  
Newsletter*
- *When your  
words and  
actions match,  
people know  
they can trust  
you. John  
Maxwell*

## From Elder Johnson

“Preach The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment”

Many active Prison Volunteer Recruiters encounter hesitance and “flat out” turn downs when inviting people to participate in the Ministry. Many, though qualified in every other way, tend to have one paralyzing “hang-up.”

They tend to have an understandable concern about being LOCKED into a physical atmosphere (rooms, corridors, etc.) with convicted offenders. So they tend to “pass” on the privilege of serving with Our Lord in one of the most powerful ministries possible.

Would you like to increase your successful recruiting percentages? I suggest that you make “The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment” a part of your appeal process.

“The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment” is an unwritten behavioral injunction that tends to be practiced by inmates of Correctional Institutions. The “11<sup>th</sup> Commandment” states, “Thou Shalt Not Hurt A Free World Visitor.” Inmates are indoctrinated in the reality that harassment and intimidation are not to be a part of the culture of residents of the “Inside.” This “Commandment” tends to be taken very seriously. Note that victims of hostage situations tend to be employees or other officials.

The practice of “The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment” tends to make the Correctional Institution a place where dedicated Prison Volunteers can function in the Name of Our Lord with reduced fear and greatest focus on powerful ministry with Jesus. So, I encourage you to preach (share in your recruiting) the power of “The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment.” God bless you.

JAJ II

## Meet the Directors

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry Director.

He’s a man who’s dedicated to the work of the Lord and he’s fun to be with. Meet James White, the Director of Personal Ministries with the Central States Conference for 15 years. All Outreach Ministries come under his BIG umbrella – Prison Ministries, Community Service, Inner City, and Men’s Ministry, not to mention that Elder White is the Assistant to the President in Evangelism and he’s also a full-time church pastor. Whee!!

Prison Ministry is one ministry that Elder White loves. He says that when you think about prison ministry you know it’s a ‘special work’ ordained by Christ. Many times the prisoners are the ones left behind – the so called outcasts of society – people who have been trapped by the Devil, and who need to be visited, encouraged, and the love of Jesus shared with them.

Living by his own motto "You can lock a person in, but you can't lock them out from the Gospel", White 'goes to jail' and 'unlocks' the doors of the inmate's heart by encouraging and sharing the love of Jesus. He understands that everyone may not be able to go behind the walls, so he encourages those who are interested in prison ministry and want to become active prison ministers, to join prayer bands, start writing letters to someone in prison, you know the pen pal thing; work with families and children of the incarcerated. There's a lot that can be done and everyone can become involved.

You know the saying 'In unity there is strength', well, James White holds an annual Conference-wide United Federation where, listen to this, Community Services and Prison Ministries join hands, hook up, to train, equip and strengthen all who are involved in or those who want to get involved in prison ministry. Total involvement! This is true ministry! Keep up the good work, Elder James White, with your BIG umbrella.

**Editor's note on writing letters to inmates:** To be on the safe side, contact an already established Pen Pal Ministry for guidelines, such as Some One Cares Prison Ministry at [sdapm@somecares.org](mailto:sdapm@somecares.org).

Who will be next? Directors, look for your personal call from the editor, it's coming!



#### What's Hot!

That the Network will partner with NAD Community services in the 2006 "Coalition For Compassion" NAD United Community Service-Adventist Prison Volunteer Network Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, September 29 to October 2, 2006, at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Vancouver.

How many of you remember "Hands Across America" (a number of years ago) where people from every walk of life, housewives, doctors, lawyers, college students, little children, dentists, clerks, bellhops, you name it, stopped whatever they were doing that day and clasped/joined hands at a certain time, in every state, city, county, hamlet (I was in Mishawaka, Indiana at the time) for the "cause." I joined hands with people I had never seen before and have never seen since that time, but we joined hands for the "cause." What a feeling of togetherness. The "cause" brought us all together -- we were connected, we were a part of something special for those few minutes. (Today, I can't remember what the "cause" was for, but I still remember the wonderful feeling of being a part of "something unique.")

This is what's getting ready to take place with the *Network* and Community Services. We are joining/clasping hands – coming together for the good of the "cause." There will be exciting Seminar Tracks, Plenary Sessions, Dynamic Speakers, Meeting/Greeting, Networking and more! You'll hear more about the "Cause." Stay tuned.

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## Q & A

### Can a Department of Corrections function without religious volunteers?

Absolutely, NOT! The Department of Corrections does not have the staff or the funds to hire staff to provide the individualized attention that inmates need.

Without volunteers, the Department of Corrections would be a dark, gloomy hole with no exit signs, nor any intimation of hope for the disenfranchised.

### Volunteers

This is a new addition to Network News. Each month a Volunteer and a Ministry will be profiled. With this new beginning, Network News salutes the great number of Volunteers who go inside prisons and jails every day, every week, every month, every year. Our thanks and deep appreciation to you for your dedicated ministry to the incarcerated.

Volunteers are people who ultimately have something to give, or who have talents and abilities that may be useful to individuals or groups both within the prison and society. A great deal of good can be accomplished in prisons and volunteers will find that much can be taught and learned as they become accustomed to their roles. However, a great deal of damage can be done as well. Here are 5 points for volunteers, taken from the *Prison Ministry Handbook*, of the Adult Ministries Department of the North American Division:

1. Be sure of what you say
2. Be friendly without being overly friendly
3. Be honest
4. Be willing to confront manipulative behavior
5. Do not be influenced by rumors

### "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 30-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:** Spiritual Gifts: Keys to Ministry. This module explores and assists the student in finding and developing the various gifts and abilities that God has instilled within their personhood.

The Lord calls every Christian to a ministry of ministries. God has equipped every one of us with one or more gifts which will be an intricate part of our being. This module seeks to assist Christians to discover and utilize those inherent gifts that God has instilled within us. Once God reveals to us our spiritual gifts, He expects us to use these gifts to advance His kingdom. Knowledge of your gifts developed and guided by the Holy Spirit, will lead us to a proper use of these gifts in the church and cause us to promote unity in the church.

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

### Resource Recommendations

**Prison Ministry Handbook**, prepared by the Adult Ministries Department of the North American Division, is a complete guide for Prison Ministry Coordinators and Directors. Helpful information on How to Work with Security, How to Work with Inmates, How to Communication with Inmates, How to Organize Your Prison Ministry, and so much more. Contact AdventSource, 800-328-0525. **Helping Hands: A Handbook for Volunteers in Prisons and Jails** – Daniel J. Bayse. *Helping Hands* is a practical guide for volunteers in correctional settings. Bayse discusses the criminal justice system, security issues, inmate slang and reasons for crime. He offers suggestions on how to understand the criminal personality, communicate with inmates, and prevent manipulation. (1993, 78 pages, #497-SF5 - \$12.50, order online [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org). **Women Behind Bars** – Raymond G. Wojda & Judy Rowse. A balanced account of life inside a prison for women, it includes the personal stories of the incarcerated women, along with the observations and reflections of the correctional staff. Women from all walks of life, who are serving time for everything from theft to premeditated murder, talk openly about drugs, sex, discipline and rehabilitation behind bars. (1997, 95 pages, #592-SF5). Order by phone 1-800-222-5646, ext. 1860. **Christ's Way of Reaching People**, Philip G. Samaan. Dr. Samaan focuses on six progressive steps Christ used in witnessing and shows how we can follow this pattern to bring God's love to those around us. Discover listening skills that enable you to detect people's needs and desires. 160 pages, available at Adventist Book Stores at 1-800-765-6955, and at other Christian bookstores.



### Happenings

American Correctional Association 135<sup>th</sup> Congress of Correction, August 6-11, 2005 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Opening Session Keynote Speaker: Baseball great Cal Ripken Jr., who broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played – Cal Ripkin ended his own streak with 2,632 games played. The NAD Adventist Prison Volunteer Network will be exhibiting at ACA. Come visit us, Booth 734, and see our unique display!

International Prison Chaplain's Association (IPCA) Worldwide Conference, August 19-24, 2005, Cornwall, Ontario Canada., with prison chaplains from nearly 70 countries in attendance. For more information contact. Dr. Pierre Allard at [allard@ipcaworldwide.org](mailto:allard@ipcaworldwide.org), or Chaplain Oliver Johnson at [johnsonoo@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:johnsonoo@csc-scc.gc.ca).

### Meet Your Neighbor

Want to know about some exciting and happening prison ministries? Surfing the Web, I stumbled across Preachers' Kids Prison Ministry. A powerful and needed ministry which offers a variety of re-entry services for newly released prisoners and their families – *Welcome Home!* Package, a Self Help Support Group.

I talked with Patricia Holt, Founder/CEO – so, so exciting, this ministry – contact Pat at Preachers' Kids Prison Ministry, P O Box 1763, Desoto TX 75123-1763 or [admin@preacherskids.org](mailto:admin@preacherskids.org).

Straight Answers Correspondence School, operated by Doris Smith,

cofounder/CEO in Avon Park, FL - 863-452-6590. For some exciting reading go NOW to the Ministry Blessing/Success Story section.

Writing to the incarcerated is so important, but don't forget the families of the incarcerated – they are equally important. Don and Yvonne McClure at **Someone Cares Prison Ministry** will gladly help get you started in this ministry. [sdapm@someonecares.org](mailto:sdapm@someonecares.org).

Auturo Talamante is leading the exciting **JAJ Spanish Prison Ministries** based in Moreno Valley, CA.; [jahMinistry@aol.com](mailto:jahMinistry@aol.com), web: [www.JahPrison.com](http://www.JahPrison.com).

### **Ministry Blessing/Success Story**

Charlotte Airport, it happened there, as it has happened in other places, and will continue to happen. Doris Smith met a woman who wanted to get her "hands on some lessons" to give to the women she was studying with in prison. Arna and James got their "hands on some lessons" -- they were baptized, they let 15 other people "get their hands on some lessons" – they were baptized and a new church was born. Belinda, a high school public school gym teacher, got her "hands on some lessons" became convinced of the Sabbath truth and was baptized. Still walking strong with Jesus. James and Angenetta were baptized after they "got their hands on some lessons". Later they went to Oakwood College. What are these lessons? Read on!

It all started in 1973, by her late husband, Pastor Robert L. Smith, who wrote and produced a series of lessons for the purpose to "meet the needs of people in the community, to prepare them for Christ's soon coming, and to involve the church members in soul winning by working on an individual basis", stated Doris Smith, cofounder and now the head of Straight Answers Correspondence School. Straight Answers are the lessons – 10 easy lessons in Multiple Choice formats using the Bible and the Bible only as the text book. The topics range from Walking With Jesus to God's Blessed Family: Are You A Member?

Enrollment cards are given out – randomly, mailed, or by word of mouth. Once enrolled, the lessons are mailed to the student (Doris provides the stamps, envelopes, certificates), the student returns the completed lesson, which is graded by Doris (she IS the Correspondence School) and returned to the student along with the new lesson. This continues until all ten lessons have been completed and the student receives a Certificate of Completion. The student then has the option to continue with further doctrinal studies with The Bible Says, Discovery or Amazing Facts, which many do.

**Straight Answers has gone to prison.** Many inmates have come to Christ through the study of Straight Answers. Get this, the inmate enrolls other inmates, and other inmates enroll other inmates- it's a continuous enrollment process with a large enrollment. Doris says she receives many, many lessons from prisoners across the United States, thanking her and writing, "I am now a baptized Seventh-day Adventist as a result of taking Straight Answers."

I don't think Doris Smith will ever know the full effect the Straight Answers Correspondence School has had, is having, and will continue to have, on the lives of people who "got their hands on some lessons." Heaven keeps an accurate record though; she'll know "by and by." Oh, did I mention, the lessons are FREE? Get your "hands on some lessons" and start someone on the road that leads to Jesus. Exciting!

## Best Practice Tips

- In a Pen Pal Ministry have your letters mailed to the church or a post office box number.
- Be careful in your communication. You don't want to give the wrong perception to the inmate.
- Point the person to Christ and other positive ideas and values.
- Be kind, courteous and cordial in your correspondence.
- Don't give your last name.
- Don't send literature without consulting the Chaplain.

Taken from *Prison Ministries Handbook*, North American Division.

P.S. from the Editor -

This was a fun issue to put together. I learned so much! Had so much fun talking with people. Hope you enjoy Network News as much as we do. It's a cool way to stay in touch. You know the today's language, "touching bases" – "networking" - "my people meeting your people" – or something on that order. Don't forget to check us out on the web: [www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org).

Thanks for taking your time to read Network News. Until next month!