

ADULT MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

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Volume 3

FROM THE ELDER

“Thinking Of Giving God Thanks”

Dear Ministry Partner Family,

That all of us have been brought by Our Lord to this almost Year End Season, is a reason to give The Godhead “Thanks”!

Psalm 118:1 encourages us, “O give thanks unto The Lord; for He is good; because His mercy endureth forever.”

One person has said that the process of giving God “Thanks” involves “Appreciation” expressed by the *unworthy* for benefits received from The Lord, in spite of one’s *unworthiness*.

From this perspective:

- I am “Thankful” that Our Lord has invited us, all of us, to join Him in the processing of The Gospel Commission. “*And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen*” (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV). That reality is “Marvelous in our eyes!”

- I am “Thankful” that Our Lord has provided “empowerment capacity” for Successful Ministry through His offer of The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost. “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth*” (Acts 1:8, KJV).
- I am “Thankful” that Our Lord has given us one another for the purpose of mutual encouragement and strengthening as we Minister with Him.

Our Prayer is that you, and your “Local Ministry Family” will be able to record 2019 as your most fruitful year, ever, in Ministry.

Blessings to you and yours!

J. Alfred Johnson II
Director Adult Ministries



IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL

Praise God in Song – Let The Music Begin!



Voice Choir. The Voice Choir operates on the same principle as a singing choir. Some parts are spoken in unison, others by part of the choir, or by solo voices. High voices are blended or contrasted with low voices. To be effective, the choir needs to practice together for several weeks so that it can speak as one voice. Responsive readings are a simplified type of voice choir.

Create Your Own.

Antiphonal Reading of Psalms. Many of the psalms were written for alternating choirs to sing. One verse is often a repetition of the same idea, but in different words. Try working out your favorite psalms for use with the audience. Half could say one verse and half the next verse. Some verses, especially those verses that repeat themselves like a refrain, could be for both sides together.

Let the Hymns Speak. Find a hymn that fits your theme but may be difficult to sing. Divide your audience into parts. Let them speak alternate lines of the poem and all speak the chorus in unison.

Thanksgiving Litany. Have several speakers talk for one minute each about one specific thing for which they are thankful, such as parents, Christian schools, angels, God's protection, health and strength, beauty of nature, and a job. As each one finishes, the audience speaks together as one choir a line or two of Thanksgiving that you have printed in the bulletin or projected onto a screen.

Ellen White writes: "When tempted, follow Christ's example – Sing a Song! When discouraged – Sing a Praise! Singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed, many a song is prayer."

Sabbath School Program Planner, Book One, Dorothy Eaton Watts

WHAT'S HOT???

MINISTRIES IN ACTION

“Christmas In July”

Each June since 2006, Linda Branch and a group of Mt. Calvary Church members in Huntsville, Alabama have brought Christmas joy to the Women's and Children's Department of Huntsville Hospital. This ministry was birthed out of Branch's childhood experience of numerous hospitalizations due to health challenges. Her parents, overwhelmed with the prognosis that she would not live to see her teenage years, felt that it was best to leave her in the care of the hospital. Even now, Branch vividly remembers her only visitor, "Ronald McDonald."

Through God's grace and mercy, Branch grew to adulthood and got married. But, she never forgot her experiences, which led her to ask the Lord what she could do to help sick, hospitalized children. She made this a matter of prayer. One night 13 years ago, God placed upon her mind to visit hospitalized children and make them smile. Her ministry began very small, with help from a few church members, to give gifts in the month of June to hospitalized children.

Today Branch's project has grown, and her group of volunteers continues ministering to children from the age of 1 month to 18 years. Through the generosity of church members, Branch is able to buy toys, school supplies, and even books. With the help of the hospital staff, toys are displayed where sick children and their parents can come and choose gifts that bring joy and the biggest smiles to suffering children and their families.

After giving away toys in the playroom, church members visit and distribute gifts to children who are confined to their rooms. The members also pray with the children and their families. While some members are spending time in the children's unit, others visit the labor and delivery unit to donate blankets. The children and their families share how much they appreciate the selflessness of this outreach ministry. Branch feels blessed to be able to impact the lives of these little ones.

God impressed upon her mind, she obeyed, and her ministry is going strong. She focuses on Jesus' words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 19:14.

By Lorna Knight, June 2019 / Southern Tidings

PERSONAL MINISTRIES
SABBATH SCHOOL'S PARTNER IN MINISTRY

The Little Church "THAT COULD"

Even pastors need to learn little lessons in faith and holy boldness every so often. Earlier this year, it was my turn. It happened in a little church in Lancaster, Tennessee.

In January 2018 the Lancaster Church had about 20 members in attendance. The church's last big, successful evangelism endeavor had been in 1996. For the last 22 years, the attendance had plateaued.

Dissatisfied with the status quo, the church members decided to do something about it. First, they fervently prayed. Then, they contact It Is Written to arrange for a Bible study request card mailing in their area.

So Far So Good. Once they had arranged for the mailing, they connected with me to get some tips on how to follow up on the cards. I asked them how many cards they had mailed out, and their response floored me. Almost 10,000 cards were mailed.

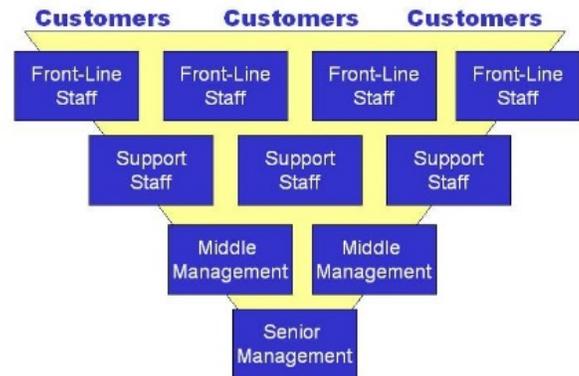
I was speechless as I quickly did the math in my mind. The average response rate for It Is Written Bible study request cards is 10 requests per 1,000 cards mailed. Thus, my friends in Lancaster could expect to receive about 100 cards. One hundred cards for 20 members to follow up! How on Earth could they do that, especially since those cards were scattered over four counties?

Amazing Fast Forward. Jane is one of the new people attending the Lancaster Church as a result of the mailing. She began weeping when a couple of the church members knocked on her door to deliver the Bible Lesson she'd requested. She explained to them that she had been waiting for a long time to really study the Bible. She now participates every week in a Bible study and is very happy to have a loving church that she can now call home.

Lesson Learned. Never underestimate the power of God working through church members who rely on Him. Indeed, the Lancaster Church is the Little Church "THAT COULD".

*Yves Monnier is the evangelism director for It Is Written Ministries
 April 2019 / Southern Tidings*

A Social Awareness Strategy



Inverted Pyramid Organizational Structure

Some Of The Best Companies today have turned themselves upside down. They've found that the old top-down pyramid style management chart doesn't work. So they've flipped the pyramid over, giving employees more say in what goes on. And it works, as evidenced in improved sales and earnings.

Interested in inverting the pyramid in your operation? Here are some tips:

CHALLENGE employees to come up with their own better ways to do their jobs. You may be surprised at how valuable some of their suggestions are.

SEEK out ideas from everyone, not just those who have a direct involvement with the job. Sometimes good ideas come from unlikely sources.

TREAT employees with honesty and respect. Don't dictate to them if they are not going to have their ideas enacted. Explain the reasons that underlie a decision or policy.

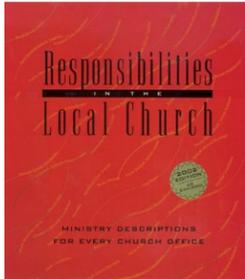
SPREAD authority around. If the largest part of the pyramid is to be at the top, the top people should have authority.

At one auto plant any worker who sees a problem can shut down the whole assembly line until the problem is resolved. By giving employees more control like that over their work environment and more involvement in running their jobs, you tap into a valuable source of ideas and productivity – and that pays off for everyone.

*Leadership ... with a human touch
 Leadershipmag.com*



Ministry Description #25 – Lay Pastor



Author: North American Division,
US\$29.95 – AdventSource

God asks the church to be a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. Paul describes the church

as “his body, the fullness of him who filleth everything in every way.” (Ephesians 1:22) The Holy Spirit covets, and convicts our minds, leads us to repentance, and plants us within the church. Thus, the church is a creation of the Spirit.

A Lay Pastor is a ministering servant of God, and, like every Christian, is called to ministry, gifted by the Holy Spirit, and in baptism ordained for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Duties of the Lay Pastor

Although the program may be different in your conference, the ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes a Lay Pastor can best be described in the following ways:

1. **Teamwork:** Lay Pastors work under the supervision of a senior pastor or district leader, and they must work closely with the local church board and officers. It is important to keep in mind that a “lone ranger” style of leadership will only create problems and not build up the congregation. You must arrange to meet weekly, or at least every second week, with your supervisor for good one-on-one communication. Only in this way will you ensure that you are supporting one another and working together.
2. **Preaching and Worship Leadership.** A primary responsibility of the Lay Pastor is to fill the pulpit, perhaps three out of four Sabbaths. This includes attention to the entire worship service, not just the sermon.
3. **Visitation.** You cannot do an adequate job of preaching unless you have regular contact with the congregation in their homes and places of work.

(For more information: *Responsibilities in the Local Church*.)

PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

‘There’s Hope For You’- Part 1 of 2

Jon remembers the day he was arrested. It was a Friday, March 15, 2002, and he had just turned 19 two months before. He was arrested for his role in the murder and brought to jail, but it was overcrowded from the city’s violent crime. The place with a room for Jon was in isolation, or solitary confinement.

A couple of the corrections officers would talk to Jon from time to time. That first week in jail, Jon was so bored he asked if either of the men could bring him something to read. The officers handed him a New Testament. On the cover were the words, “*There’s Hope For You. Jesus Cares.*”

“I read God’s Word for the first time,” Jon says, “and I haven’t been the same since.”

Jon had not yet gone to court when he became a Christian. His lawyer didn’t believe he was serious about his newfound faith, dismissing it as “jailhouse religion.” Even so, Jon knew what he had to do.

“Part of being a Christian is repenting and taking ownership of your sins,” Jon told his lawyer. “I would like to plead guilty. And whatever the judge wants to do to me, he can do.”

In the end, Jon pled guilty to third-degree murder, a crime that usually carries a sentence of 20-40 years in prison. Standing in the court before the victim’s family, Jon asked for forgiveness. He apologized to the judge as well for wasting the court’s time and taxpayers’ money. He didn’t ask for mercy or blame someone else. Instead, Jon told the judge that he would respect his sentence, no matter what it was.

“It didn’t matter that [the victim] was supposedly a drug dealer,” Jon explains. “At the end of the day, he was a young man who didn’t deserve to die.”

Miraculously, the judge sentenced Jon to 6-15 years in prison, with 5 years of probation for robbery.

By Emily Greene, April 18, 2018

This article originally appeared on Prison Fellowship’s website
Prisonfellowship.org/arthur/greene/

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 35-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 credits in the future.

Inmate Communication VCHP.244

DESCRIPTION

This Module describes basic communication practices with inmates and surveys communicative guidelines for promoting proper and effective communication with inmates.

OVERVIEW

This Module introduces fundamental guidelines for volunteers to effectively communicate with inmates. It suggests how to communicate and methods of communication.

This Module briefly describes the kind of people that volunteers will encounter, as well as acquainting them with volunteer expectation in dealing with inmates.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

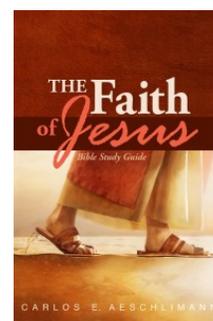
1. To acquaint the student with the fundamentals of communicating with inmates.
2. To introduce the student to guidelines for communication with inmates.
3. To introduce volunteers to the kind of inmates that they will be communicating with.

EXCELLENT RESOURCES

Visit – www.adventsource.org – 800.328.0525
www.adventistbookcenter.com – 800.765.6955

Dale Galusha, president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, is excited to announce *La Fe de Jesus (The Faith of Jesus)*, a series of Bible Lessons in the Spanish language that has brought more people to a saving relationship with Christ, and to become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, than any other set of Lessons in the Spanish churches.

NOW, for the first time these Lessons are available in English!



The Faith of Jesus lessons are in one booklet – concise, full-color, attractive, and powerful in content. There are 31 studies. These are now available at your Adventist Book Center – 800.765.6955.

Price \$1.29 each. Quantity Discounts: 10 for \$1.19 each; 500 for \$1.09 each

editor's p.s.

Don't Spend Your Life Standing at the Complaint Counter

The person who's always finding fault seldom finds anything else. So live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation. Any complainer will tell you success is nothing but luck. Children are born optimists. They laugh more than a hundred times a day, adults less than five.

Look for the best. The more you complain, the less you'll obtain. A life of complaining is the ultimate rut. The only difference between a rut and a grave is their timing. A complaining spirit is first a caller, then a guest, and finally a master.

Be Yourself, by John Mason

I'm outta here – cb