



# Festival <sup>of</sup> the Laity On-Line News

Communiqué of the North American Division Adult Ministries Network

July/August 2016

Volume 4

## *From the Elder*

### **“WE THANK GOD FOR SHARING CHARLES DECATUR BROOKS”**

Greetings Family,

On June 5, 2016, the world and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, were separated from one of the most Balanced, Principle-Centered, Holy-Ghost-Anointed, and Humble Soul-Winners (20,000 and counting) that Our Lord has ever Graced to communicate with human beings.

Family, please abide with a few of my admittedly disorganized ramblings of appreciation to Our Lord for lending us this “Giant” who left “Footprints” that were large enough for us, by the Grace and Power of God, to “Stumble” into.

- He was a fearless, bold, uncompromising “Preacher of Righteousness” who lived what he preached.
- He was Morally Upright. There is not one *hint* of scandal in his Legacy.
- That he loved and totally respected his Wife of 64 years, his Children, and

Grandchildren, is a matter of undeniable fact!

- That he imbibed a “Jealous Love” for his beloved Seventh-day Adventist Church is without question.
- He managed to “Walk with Kings without losing the Common Touch”. He was “Real” and “Approachable”.
- He knew God and was undeniably Anointed with The Holy Ghost. That “Relationship” gave his Ministry impact.

“Lives of Great Men Do Remind Us. . . .”

Elder Brooks is now “Resting from his labors”. May all of our “Labors” be under the inspiration of The Holy Ghost who filled him!

We look forward to Resurrection Day, and we pray for Mrs. Brooks and Family.

J. Alfred Johnson II  
NAD Adult Ministries Director

**IT'S ALL ABOUT SABBATH SCHOOL**



**OH, HAPPY DAY!**

A little girl jumped out of bed singing a popular gospel song, “Oh, Happy Day.” Her mother said knowingly, “My, aren’t you happy today. I wonder why?” The little girl began singing her own little impromptu song. “We’re going to a fun day. I’m going to play jump rope and swing and get on the merry-go-round. I’m going to eat everything.”

Will all of our guests please stand? On behalf of our pastor, Elder (pastor’s name), and the members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank each of you for coming to worship with us.

*We thank you so for coming to be with us today.  
It makes us feel so good that we just have to say,  
The joy we feel inside, from seeing your lovely face,  
Makes our day much better, as we run this Christian race.*

You may be seated. Your presence here is so very special to us. Please keep us in mind as you consider worshipping in the future.

It is so good to have somewhere to go and have fun, and somewhere to feast and enjoy yourself. Let us have fun praising the Lord and feasting upon His Holy Word. Again,



52 Sabbath Welcomes by J. Calvin Alberty, Ph.D.

**EXCELLENT RESOURCES**

Visit – [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) – 800.328.0525  
[www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) – 800.765.6955

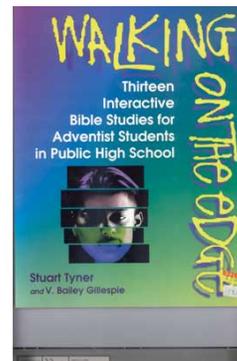
*Stewardville Daily Times - Spanish*



US\$49.95 (discounts)

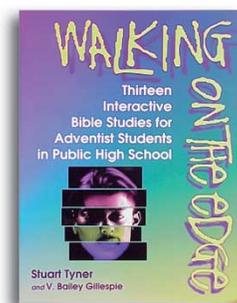
NAD Stewardship Department  
AdventSource – 800.328.0525

*Walking On The Edge – Participant’s Book*



US\$9.95 (discounts)

*Walking On The Edge – (Leader’s Guide)*



US\$0.39 – each

Authors: Stuart Tyner and V. Bailey Gillespie  
AdventSource – 800.328.0525

## WHAT'S HOT MINISTRIES IN ACTION

*Members Serve In Flint, Michigan*



Eleven student missionaries from Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., spent their spring break in Flint, Michigan, where they distributed 560 cases of water and assisted a local warehouse in organizing water donations. The students also prayed with residents and conducted a Week of Prayer for the children at the Fairhaven Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School.

A busload of Central Crusaders Pathfinders from Allegheny West Conference's Central church in Columbus, Ohio, also traveled to Flint. The club's Drum Corps performed through the neighborhoods. This drew attention to an event sponsored by The Breath of Life Broadcast Ministry at a local school, where the club distributed 2.8 tons of bottled water and supplies to residents.



"The residents of Flint were grateful for the care and support. Central believes that the world should know Christians by their love, and this was a one-day mission trip to show their love for the people of Flint," says John T. Boston, II, Central's pastor.

*By V. Michelle Bernard  
First printed in Visitor May 2016*

## REFLECTIONS Go on a 15-Minute Tour



Didn't someone say that life is a journey, not the destination? To become socially aware, we need to remember to enjoy the journey and notice people along the way. When you are focused only on getting to the next meeting, starting your next class period, seeing the next patient, making it to all your client sites, or hurrying to send an email, you're missing all of the people between Points A and B.

To commit some time to the journey, take some time to walk around where you work and notice your surroundings. Going on a short tour will help you get in tune with other people and their emotions, and refocus your attention on some of the smaller yet critical social clues that exist right under your nose.

During any workday, take just 15 minutes to observe things you've never noticed before. Things to look for include the look and feel of people's workspaces, the timing of when different people move around the office, and which people seek interaction versus those who stay at their desks all day.

After your first observation tour, select a different day to tour your workspace for moods. Other people's moods can provide you with critical hints about how things are going both individually and collectively. Notice what people may be feeling or how they make you feel when you drop by to talk briefly. Also observe the overall mood in the office or the school, patient care area, manufacturing floor—whatever your work area looks like. Focus intently on what you see, hear, and pick up on in other people.

Schedule 15 minutes to tour your workplace twice a week for a month. On the days you tour, be sure to avoid making too many assumptions or conclusions – just simply observe. You'll be amazed at what you see along the way.

*Emotional Intelligence 2.0, Travis Bradberry & Jean Greaves*

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES – SABBATH SCHOOL'S  
PARTNER IN MINISTRY**

**The Example of Christ**

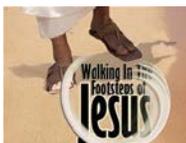
*“The New Testament process is always one of working the networks of relationships with careful attention to the social currents which will most quickly carry the gospel message.” In outlining principles for church growth, Ellen White begins with Christ’s example.*

**First** our Lord “mingled” with worldly men and women. He listened and observed. He became acquainted with their customs, habits, and culture. He gleaned knowledge about their inner thoughts and feelings from the music, art and literature they produced. Our personal ministry will be much more Christlike if we take the time to know more about the person we are seeking to win—job, family, needs, interests, problems and background.

**Second** our Lord helped people in practical ways. He demonstrated the doctrine of love as vigorously as He preached the coming Kingdom. Ellen White observes that He spent more time healing than preaching. He ministered to people’s needs. We need to balance our use of words with practical action. A dedicated compassionate Adventist grandmother gives two mornings a week helping in a day care center. She meets and becomes friendly with a young single mother who leaves her three-year-old at the center. Soon the young mother is taking Bible studies.

**Third** Jesus won the trust of individuals. He did not simply participate in faceless programs. His service was “disinterested” – without thought of gain. But His love for those He served was unyielding. We must learn to build individual relationships as we “do good” in our vocations and in ministries of compassion.

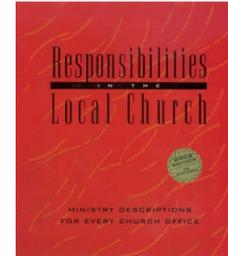
**Fourth** “Then, He bade them, ‘Follow me.’” After He had demonstrated the doctrine of love, and they had accepted it and shown that they understood it by responding with their trust, He asked them to admit they were sinners and accept His saving grace, and keep His commandments. He did not impatiently, selfishly rush on to those important doctrines that relate the person directly to God as Lord; He selflessly waited, until they had on their own, come to the right moment when speaking of these doctrines would be best appreciated.



*Practical Guide to Personal Ministries, North American Edition*



*Ministry Description #10– Communication Representative*



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

*Christ commissioned the Church to communicate the Gospel message to the world. This responsibility has been given to every member of the church. The Church has organized various ministries and the communication department is on the cutting edge of these ministries. An essential activity of the department is to make the world community aware that there is a church dedicated to fulfilling Christ’s commission.*

**Duties of the Communication Representative**

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes a communication specialist for a local church can best be described as follows:

1. *A Spokesperson to the Media.* This includes reporting church activities to the press, radio and television through both news releases and public service announcements, arranging for radio and TV interviews.
2. *Public Relations.* The communication specialist will insure that the church is identified by an exterior sign appropriate to the building’s architecture, and check the church’s appearance regularly for problems needing attention.
3. *Church Newsletter.* The communication specialist will prepare a church newsletter or work with someone to do so. This is a powerful tool to keep the church family informed.
4. *Advertising and Promotion.* One of the most important responsibilities of the communication specialist is to work with the church evangelism or outreach council, health education committee, family ministry committee, and Adventist Community Services Center to promote attendance at programs.

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Consultant: Cleveland Houser - [cleve.houser@yahoo.com](mailto:cleve.houser@yahoo.com) ♦ Published bimonthly by the North American Division Adult Ministries Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Personal Ministries, and Sabbath School Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

## ***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.*

### ***Introduction to Inmate Spiritual Counseling VCHP.245***

*A survey of basic communication practices with inmates and precautionary communicative guidelines for proper and effective communication with inmates.*

#### ***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 communicating with inmates.*
3. *To introduce volunteers to the kind of inmates that they will be communicating with.*

#### ***Required Resources***

- *Handout: Learning to Know Inmates and How to Talk to Them*
- *Handout: Florida Prison Ministries Pen Pal Program Manual*
- *Handout: How to Communicate with Inmates*

## ***PRISON MINISTRY HAPPENINGS***

### ***5 Best Items to Send to Your Loved One in Prison***

As most prisoners' families already know, there aren't many comforts from home that you can send to an incarcerated loved one. While many items are prohibited in American jails and prisons, some are still allowed. And it is these items that can make a stay in the slammer that much more bearable and less toxic.

**1. Personal Correspondence.** One of the great pains of prison is that of being cut off from friends and family alike. In order to combat this, prisoners' families and friends can send letters, notes, cards and photos to help their incarcerated loved ones keep in touch with not only the world outside of prison, but who they are, too.

**2. Commissary Money.** If you can afford it, sending \$20 to \$40 a month to an incarcerated loved one can very significantly improve their quality of life and ensure that they always have a Ramen Noodle Soup in their locker when the inevitable hunger hits.

**3. Books.** Since most jails and prisons have restrictions on the type (hardcover or soft cover) and vendor/sender (publisher, distributor or family) of the books, it's usually best to limit individual book orders to five books or less per package, for the books to all be soft cover and for them to come from a vendor such as Amazon, whom most prisons allow books to be sent through.

**4. Magazines.** Provide images which help transport their minds out of the confines of prison and even create built-in positive social situations as they pass the magazines along to friends.

**5. Newspapers.** It provides a tangible connection to the outside world.

*Huffingtonpost.com*

*editor's p.s.*

*Emerson said:*

*“Every man I meet is my superior in some way. In that, I learn of him.”*

*If that is true of Emerson, isn't it likely to be a thousand times more true of you and me?*

*Let's cease thinking of our accomplishments, our wants.*

*Let's try to figure out the other person's good points.*

*Then forget flattery. Give honest, sincere appreciation.*

*Be “hearty in your approbation and lavish in your praise,” and people will cherish your words and treasure them and repeat them over a lifetime – repeat them years after you have forgotten them.*

*How To Win Friends & Influence People, by Dale Carnegie*

*I'm outta here – cb*