July 16, 2012

“We are not to make less prominent the special truths that have separated us from the world, and made us what we are; for they are fraught with eternal interests. God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world. But it is the life of Christ in the soul, it is the active principle of love imparted by the Holy Spirit, that alone will make our words fruitful. The love of Christ is the force and power of every message for God that ever fell from human lips.” Gospel Workers, p. 288

Editorial: In Behalf of Some of Us

Please indulge me for a moment as I plead with the churches of North America in behalf of men like me. We are a quiet but large group who live in your neighborhood. We are fathers, fishermen and football fanatics. (But not all of us are fond of alliteration.) We look forward to weekends, when we cast off our weekday shackles and reclaim a fraction of our boyhood. There is little to no tofu on our menu and no Oprah on our playlist. We like toys (whether motorized or electronic), we won’t back down from a dare, and you know, if we’re willing to go to the hospital, that something pretty bad has happened. (And then when we get there, we vacillate between being stoic and wanting
And many of us are intensely private.

We prefer to be strong, quiet trees with deep roots. We are guardians. Our bark is thick, and we feel satisfied when we provide shelter for those closest to us. We will shelter you, too, but be careful that you do not try to peel our bark.

It will take you a very long time to breach our rather wide privacy perimeter and gain access to the personal areas of our lives. We do not open up easily. We loathe situations when people are asked to bare their souls or share their feelings - not because we are incapable of doing so, or because we are emotionally stunted, but because we do not know you well enough. You have not earned the right to go there. We only have a few keys to our private lives, and we hand them out sparingly.

That's also why we will may not show up for your church’s social event or small group Bible study, and if we do, there's a good chance we’ve been dragged there by someone else. It is our business to prevent vulnerability and protect our families.

There are a lot of us, which is why you still need, with some regularity, to present your message in a public hall, or some other neutral environment where we can slip in and listen - without being asked to wear a name badge. (We'll register, because that makes sense - but we want our privacy after that.) If the meeting involves group exercises or discussions, we'll probably leave early, and feel less inclined to come a second time.

Don't get me wrong: we will to respond to the gospel. We don't mind people who talk forthrightly or who lay out our options in black and white. We might even participate in an altar call - after you've given us time to read your intent. But we're more likely to make a decision man-to-man in our homes after you've earned the right to ask. It's not going to happen in the first night or even the first week. You're going to have to work a little harder to win our confidence.

And - if I've read my audiences right over the last twenty years - I'm not just talking about men. There are many others who answer to the same description. Nor do all males look like this. But it is a large segment of the male population, and to a large extent, they are missing from your church. We will never lose the need to allow people to investigate our claims from a safe distance, without feeling as if they've got to commit before they can listen.

We will never lose the need for public proclamation, particularly with a generation raised as accomplished spectators.

By all means, keep up the small group Bible studies, because they are stunningly productive. And personal, one-on-one Bible study? Very effective with a lot of men - if they have a comfortable relationship with the person they're studying with. But don't shut down the evangelistic hall any time soon - even though you sense it's expensive and labor-intensive. And don't give up on the idea that you can preach through the internet, or television, or the radio. (You know we love our television.) These are the only ways you're going to reach a lot of us.

And there are a lot of us.

Everybody Wants to Hear from You!!!
Pastors in the North American Division are evangelistically busy - very busy, in fact. And that means that many of you have learned things on the front line that could make all of us better. Maybe you've discovered something that made it easier for a congregation to respond to an altar call. Maybe you've streamlined evangelistic visitation in ways that really let you get more done in less time. Or maybe you've been blessed by God to be able to address tough subjects in a winsome way.

We'd love to know, so that we can serve at a higher capacity, too.

Please consider writing a short article for Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism … someone out there really is waiting to hear from you.

Find out how to contribute to the discussion here.

NY13 Begins Health Outreach with Let’s Move Day

The very first health outreach event in New York City is a community event called Let's Move Day (September 23), tied into the major metropolitan-area-wide prayer rally scheduled for September 21-22. Church members across the greater New York area will mingle with the public, extending disinterested kindness - sharing a message of health, hope and wholeness.

Click here to read more about this exciting urban initiative, and to find out how your church can participate … wherever you happen to be.

You can listen to Katia Reinart describe AdventistsInStepForLife in a delightful video here.

Mark Your Calendars: NY13 City-wide Prayer Rally

On the September 21-23 weekend (2012), the greater New York metropolitan area will come together for a remarkable weekend involving two unions and five conferences - a weekend dedicated to prayer for the city of New York, and focused on kicking off one of the most ambitious urban evangelistic projects in the history of the church. If you're in the area, you'll want to attend one of the many participating churches to be part of this initiative. And even if you're not in the area, you can still catch all the action as it's broadcast across the country. You'll find more details posted here.

Mark Your Calendars: NY13 City-wide Prayer Rally

Claiming New Jersey by Faith: Mission Caleb

Remarkable things are happening in the New Jersey Conference - with bold plans to plant churches in 80 cities that do not currently have a Seventh-day Adventist presence. This remarkable short video is well worth your time … it highlights an incredible visionary initiative that is firing up pastors and church members alike.

Is it impossible to claim modern America for God? Is the God of Caleb still rewarding those who fearlessly follow His promise? Take a few moments to watch - you don't want to miss this!!!
Outreach Idea: Just a Little off the Top, Please

Need a fall idea to meet people who live near your church? One evangelical church in Pittsburg has found a creative way to engage the local community and meet a real need: free back-to-school haircuts. Pittsburgh media noticed what they were doing: you can read the recent news feature here.

Tools of the Trade

Pimsleur Language Courses

If you know you'll be traveling overseas or working with an immigrant community, it really pays to invest in learning a few conversational basics in their language - even if many people in the community happen to speak English. (It'll help you bond.) No gift for learning languages? I completely understand; I took nearly ten years of conversational French and still can't really speak it. It wasn't until I spent a little time learning rudimentary Greek and Latin in college that foreign languages started making sense to me.

But who's got time to go back to college? Besides, I'm not looking to become fluent in every language I brush up against; there are too many languages and not enough time for that to be realistic. I do want to pick up enough to get a sense for what people are saying, however, and enough to demonstrate a willingness to cross bridges into other cultures. If I'm using a translator for preaching, I'm also keen to know if the translation is following the sermon accurately, and I like to be able to detect potential translational difficulties in a Bible text before I get up to speak (such as the use of “Sunday” in place of “the Lord's Day” in Revelation 1:10, or similar issues.)

I tried Rosetta Stone with fairly good results, but nothing has been quite as effective as the Pimsleur courses readily available through iTunes. It's remarkably fast. Pimsleur lives up to its promise that you'll be speaking the language (although clearly not fluently) in ten days. It requires only 30 minutes a day of wearing a pair of headphones - in fact, the system discourages studying any longer than that each day. They promise that you will retain most of what you've learned, and they're right. I was astonished on the second day - and each succeeding day - at how effortlessly I could recall and use the material I'd learned the day before. (In fact, if I were a conspiracy buff, I'd be tempted to say I'd been exposed to some sort of CIA mind control. Really, the recall was that uncanny.)

Now for full disclosure: so far, I've only studied one language with Pimsleur (I've used other methods for other languages), and that was a language to which I'd had some previous exposure. To be sure my assessment was accurate, I slapped a pair of headphones on each of my kids, and sure enough, they had the same experience. They picked it up in days.

The course is fairly inexpensive; you can achieve your purposes for well under $100 - in fact, you can buy sets of five lessons for $23.95 each, which will provide you with an inexpensive way to determine whether or not it's a worthwhile investment for your evangelistic program.

Send your evangelistic ideas and descriptions of your best ministry tools to bpevangelism@gmail.com.

Please be descriptive in your submission and follow the guidelines posted in this article.
How To Participate in Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism

Not only is this the maiden voyage of *Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism*, it’s also my inaugural attempt at serving as an editor - so I thank you kindly, in advance, for your patience as I grow into my new role.

Here’s what I’m thinking: each month, we’ll include editorials and articles that share or illustrate a key evangelistic principle. We’ll bring you news about evangelistic projects and initiatives from across the Division. We’ll hear from pastors who are actually in the trenches and finding solutions, and we’ll take time to share our best outreach ideas with each other.

Recently, I sent word to the field that I was looking for ideas from pastors active in outreach, and I was overwhelmed - nay, swamped - with responses. You’ll see a few of them included in this edition of the newsletter, and I would absolutely love to hear from more of you. Simply send your ideas to bpevangelism@gmail.com.

A few guidelines: I am looking for submissions that share specific ideas and give details on how those ideas are being implemented. There were many responses in the initial wave that were too general to be useful to the broader audience, such as “we use Christ’s method alone,” or “I like to get out into the community to meet people.” *Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism* - rightly or wrongly - will assume that pastors know and understand these basics, and will favor ideas that:

- **give specifics.** “Get people used to appeals and altar calls,” is not specific. “I like to have people pick up their free books and handouts at the front of the auditorium so they become comfortable coming to meet me well in advance of an altar call,” is much more specific.

- **share tangible results.** “This approach has resulted in the response to altar calls increasing by as much as 10%.”

- **report something that has actually been tried/implemented.** As opposed to ideas that you wish someone would try, or ideas that you want the conference/union/division to implement. We’re looking for a community classroom rather than a suggestion box.

Given the limits of an electronic newsletter, submissions should also be short(ish) - say four paragraphs or so. I realize that I violate this principle with some frequency myself, but hey, I’m the editor.

By God’s grace, this edition of *Best Practices* will blossom into a tool that helps us all stretch and grow as outreach leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist community.
The best evangelists and ministers know that the most successful way to reach souls for Christ is not only to preach to them but rather to follow what has become known as “Christ’s Method”, delineated in the book Ministry of Healing, p. 143: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” [emphasis added].

Following His method means that before any preaching we must sincerely meet the needs of the people who are hurting and thirsty to find answers for their physical, mental, social and emotional problems. This is what Jesus did as inspiration tells us He spent more time healing than preaching.

In light of that, for NY13 the leadership has decided to take hold of Christ’s method and truly “mingle” with the community, find their needs and provide hope for common health problems. One health need seen as a priority by New York City (NYC) health officials is the epidemic of obesity. Policies to make healthy eating and physical activity become easy choices for kids and families in NYC have been a primary focus of the Mayor and his health officials.

In response to this major need, the very first health outreach event in NYC is a community event called Let’s Move Day (September 23), which will take place after the NY13 prayer rally that will be held on September 21-22.

Let’s Move Day is a Division wide event, part of the Adventist InStep for Life initiative, where churches, schools, and healthcare institutions are encouraged to host 5K run/walks or other active events for kids, youth and families on that day, while inviting the community to participate. In NYC, the event will bring together many city health officials, as well as White House representatives who will show support for Adventists health outreach in the urban cities.

The NY13 Let’s Move Day will take place at the Flushing Meadows Park, in Queens, NY from 8-12 noon. General Conference, North American Division, and local Union and Conference administrators will participate, along with officials from the NYC Department of Health of Human Services and Department of Health. A new special issue of the Vibrant Life magazine focusing on Childhood Obesity and the Let’s Move Initiative will be handed out to all community participants in the park in a massive outreach.

A press release has been sent out and a press briefing will give opportunity for the local media to bring exposure to the health outreach of the SDA church in NYC. Additionally, booths with health information and health screenings will be conducted. During registration, people will be asked if they would like to be contacted for other health programs and receive more educational materials.

Additionally, Let’s Move Week (Sept 23-29) will follow Let’s Move Day, where churches and schools will plan for a week long health emphasis inviting the community to attend cooking classes, health expos and a final
health program on Sabbath, at the end of Let’s Move week. For example, Pr Todd Stout and his team at the Advent Hope SDA Church in Manhattan will be launching the Go Veggie Week campaign during Let’s Move Week, encouraging New Yorkers to try going vegetarian for 7 days. Cooking classes will be available for those interested. Under Pr Tony Romeo, the Manhattan SDA Church has already established a weekly cooking class with dozens of people attending on a regular basis. They will take the opportunity to make these classes known to others attending Let’s Move Day. Many other churches in the region will also be hosting Let’s Move Day in their own community, says Pr Leroy Daley, Personal Ministries and Health Ministries director for the Northeastern Conference.

The ultimate goal of Let’s Move Day in NYC around the NAD? To mingle with people, extending to them “disinterested kindness” as we make friends and share a message of health, hope, and wholeness. As inspiration says, many people, including New Yorkers, “can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness… As they see the evidence of your unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ” {COL 387.1}

Please pray for this very first NY13 community health outreach. We ask for God’s guidance so that we may be able to reach many in the community through personal contact on Let’s Move Day and through the media coverage, so God’s name may be honored and His love may be felt through each smile and handshake of the people involved. May this open the way for further opportunities to share the gospel inviting people to “Follow” Him.

For more information on how your church can participate on Let’s Move Day wherever you are please go to www.AdventistsInStepforLife.org and register to attend our free Let’s Move Day webinar on August 27th at 8pm EDT.

Katia Reinert

NAD HM Director
Join us in your Local Church on September 21 and 22 for our Evangelism and Prayer Rally. Invite your friends and family.

**Friday, Sept 21, 7:30 - 9PM**
Host: Allegheny East Conference  
Speaker: Carlton Byrd

**Sabbath, Sept 22, Sabbath School 10-11 AM, Divine worship 11AM -1 PM**  
Host: Greater New York and Northeastern Conferences  

**Sabbath Afternoon, Sept 22, Hispanic Service 3:30-5 PM**  
Host: New Jersey Conference  
Speaker: Robert Costa.

**Sabbath Evening, Sept 22, Evening Prayer Service 6-7:30 PM**  
Host: Southern New England  
Speaker: Abraham Jules.

The weekend will be broadcast live on **Hope Channel, Hope Church Channel, Esperanza TV, www.auam.tv** and **www.praizevision.com**
Share your thoughts about this article:

daniel barreto
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2 days ago

muy bueno..felicidades

Anonymous

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Church hosts back to school haircuts

By NIKKI PATRICK
The Morning Sun
Posted Aug 14, 2012 @ 08:15 AM

PITTSBURG — Officials at Pittsburg’s Victory Life Church and local hair stylists gathered at the church Monday evening to send area kids back to school looking sharp, free of charge.

For each of the past five years, pastor Donnie Talent and volunteers from his church have taken names and recruited area stylists for the event, and each year it’s grown. Last year’s event was attended by 150 kids. This year more than 200 kids signed up, prompting Talent to host it at the church for the first time to accommodate the volume. The kids come from a wide variety of homes, including some who can’t afford a haircut after purchasing school supplies and clothes, and some who simply come from large families.

“This is a great opportunity to take care of that need,” Talent said.

This year, Talent and church members took the event to the next level. Jumpin’ Jake’s Bouncers brought an inflatable slide, the Yates family cooked free hot-dogs for everyone, and the Pittsburg Police Department brought one of its D.A.R.E. cars to show the kids. American Lawn sponsored a Tropical Snow stand, and Pittsburg Pepsi handed out free cans of soda. Inside, the stylists’ booths were each sponsored by a local business.

“We wanted to make it more of a community event,” Talent said.

Talent said the church also took some of the sponsor money to provide shoes and clothing.

“We wanted to help get them back to school,” he said.

Church volunteers start about two weeks in advance of the event, buying ad space on the radio and sending fliers to schools. This year 12 stylists from four different salons volunteered their clipping talents.

“We’re always looking beauticians that will help out,” Talent said. “We can co-ordinate and schedule all this, but not without the beauticians giving of their time. They’re the lifeblood.”

Chelsea Richardson, a stylist at Frontenac’s Tanning and Hair Salon, has been participating in the event since it began in 2007. She said she likes giving her time for a good cause.

“For a lot of them it’s their first haircut of the school year,” she said. “And for a lot of them it’s their only haircut of the school year.”

Jennifer Maslen brought her daughters, Sidney Maslen, 10, who is beginning fifth grade at Northeast Elementary School, and Chelsea Keeler, 12, who will be a seventh grader at Northeast Junior High School, to get their hair cut. She said haircuts were near the bottom of the priority list after adding up the cost of buying new clothes and school supplies.

“If it wasn’t for this we wouldn’t be able to get it done,” she said. “It’s awesome that they’re doing this.”

Maslen said it was their first time attending the event, and that she was impressed with the operation.

“We came right in and they put us straight into a haircut,” she said. “There’s been no wait time whatsoever.”

Maslen said she appreciated the effort the stylists put into the event.

“They’re kind-hearted and good people,” she said. “They’re taking their time and wages. The kids are going to go to school knowing they have a great haircut. I’m greatly appreciative that they’re doing this.”

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http://www.morningsun.net/news/x769537341/Church-hosts-back-to-sch...