Meet Dan Martella, New Managing Editor for BP
On behalf of the North American Division I thank Loren Seibold for six years of service in helping produce the Best Practices for Adventist Ministry email newsletter. From those humble beginnings with a mailing list of less than 300 the number of subscribers has grown to over 7,000. From just one newsletter, an entire family of Best Practices has emerged including BP for Worship, BP for Evangelism, and BP for Ministerial Directors and Fresh Strength for Spouses. With the hundreds of issues, thousands have been inspired, affirmed, stimulated, and educated. Best Practices is a great example of vision eclipsed by reality. I thank Loren for the thousands of hours devoted to Best Practices. As I looked over the archives just now I am again struck by the consistent relevance and quality of writing and editing that he has given the NAD pastoral community over the years.

Starting with this issue Dan Martella is our new Managing Editor. Dan is the pastor of the Healdsburg and Cloverdale churches in Northern California. I have known Dan to be an avid reader and gleaner of resources. I’m sure we will be blessed with his creative aggregation. You can help as well. Send him your story ideas and resources. Share what’s happening in your church to the entire NAD pastorate.

--Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Director

A NEW SEASON

by Dan Martella

Last Christmas Linda and I flew to the Philippines to celebrate our son's wedding. On the day before the big event we moved into our downtown hotel. Our accommodations were spacious - downstairs there was a kitchen, dining room, living room, and large bathroom. In the upstairs loft there were two king-sized beds and a small bathroom.

On the morning of the wedding the photographers came to snap pictures of our son as he got dressed. Looking down from the loft above, I watched my youngest slip into his wedding barong. Suddenly a large dam of emotions broke loose. With great heaving sobs I fell into the arms of my wife and recently married daughter crying, "This is the end of life as we have known it. Today we begin a whole new season ..."

Every family, church, and ministry goes through seasons. And yes, even Best Practices for Adventist Ministry goes through its own sequence of seasons. In seasons past our writers and editors have inspired us with their stories of best practices in pastoral ministry. Their creative insights and encouragement have helped us to sharpen our ministry saw, and we are grateful.

Today we begin a new season together. What can you expect? Short, to the point articles showcasing and encouraging best practices in ministry from a wide variety of pastors and church leaders across the North American Division. Wise words you can quote in your sermons and newsletters. Links to ministry development resources and events. Practical encouragement to grow strong in the seasons of life and ministry.

In the next few issues of Best Practices we will introduce these new features:

- In Stories We Tell, pastors from across the division will share their favorite sermon illustrations. These power-packed stories will energize your preaching, and help connect vital Bible truths to the real life experience of your congregants.
- In Ask A Seasoned Pastor, we will provide you with a free consultation with some of our wisest and most experienced pastors. Through this advice column we will connect your ministry questions with answers that have been forged through the crucible of real life ministry experiences. Be sure to e-mail us your questions.
- In Let's Talk, we will share important conversations together, so be sure to speak up! After reading our articles, tell us what you think on our Best Practices Facebook page.
our contact link send us your best sermon illustrations, float an idea for an article you would like to write for us, or raise a question that you would like answered by a seasoned colleague. Hearing from you is essential to keeping our Best Practices conversation vibrant and relevant.

With a fresh mix of the old and the new, Best Practices is entering a new season. As we share our stories and gifts in ministry, we will synergistically develop mission-critical attitudes and skills that will help us get our job done with God-blessed success.

Dan Martella is the Managing Editor for Best Practices in Adventist Ministry, and Pastor of the Healdsburg and Cloverdale Churches in Northern California.

**TALKING WITH TEENS**

by Scott Ward

Teenagers are in a unique position in their identity formation and spiritual development. They are no longer attached to their parents in the way they were as children and it's important to recognize and acknowledge this independence by visiting them in their own world - which for most teens is on campus - at school.

During the teenage years a child spends far more waking hours at school than at home - it is the environment they identify the most closely with, in most cases, and the place where they are faced with the most decisions regarding who they are becoming as a person - especially whether or not they will embrace and actually put into practice the things they are learning in church. If teens don't learn how to "live" their faith at school - they may never learn how to live it at work as adults or anywhere else in their future lives either. Read More here for a few suggestions for making successful pastoral visits with teens at school.

[Join the discussion on Facebook.](#)

Scott Ward is the Youth Pastor for the Lodi English Oaks Church in Northern California, and the Public High School Ministries Coordinator for the North American Division.

**PASTOR AND TEACHER COLLABORATION**

By Pamela Consuegra, PhD

A pastor's role is important when it comes to connecting the church family to the school family. The pastor is seen by the congregation as being the spiritual leader in the church, therefore, it becomes very important for him/her to play a key role in bridging the two entities.

There is a need for the pastor to be an active participant in the process of connecting the church to the school. Pastors must have a relationship with the kids first before they can have a spiritual impact on them. This relationship is developed through a pastor's active involvement at the school. Read More

[Join the discussion on Facebook.](#)

Pamela Consuegra, PhD, is the Associate Director of Family Ministries for the North American Division.

**STORIES WE TELL**
By Ron Schultz

**Shoot Where You’re Standing**

Here is a story I like to tell to inject a bit of humor into a message that requires a straight shot from a caring friend:

An Amish man encountered a burglar in his home one night. Being a peace-loving man, he faced a dilemma. So as he raised his gun and pointed it at the intruder, he called out, “Friend, I mean thee no harm, but I’m about to shoot where you’re standing.”

Join the discussion on facebook.

Ron Schultz is the senior pastor of the Hinsdale Church in Illinois.

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**LET’S TALK**

Join our Best Practices conversation. Share your best sermon illustrations. Tell us the subjects you’d like us to talk about. Float an idea you would like to write about. Raise a question that you would like answered by a seasoned pastor. Contact us at danmartella.nadbestpractices@gmail.com

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**IDEAS, EVENTS, RESOURCES, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

When You Take Photos at Church or School Events, it can often be difficult to know if a photo release is necessary or not. Pacific Union Conference Communication Director Gerry Chudleigh and co-author Kermit Netteburg (lead pastor of the Beltsville church in Maryland) explore these issues in their article titled “News Photo Permissions not Usually Necessary,” which can be found at http://tinyurl.com/767m3la

The First Ninety Days in a New Ministry set the tone and direction for a new pastor’s success or failure. In this podcast and article, Thom Rainer identifies nine important steps for pastors to take in beginning a new pastorate. Podcast: http://thomrainer.com/2013/08/16/the-first-100-days-in-a-new-job-rainer-on-leadership-018/; Article: http://thomrainer.com/2013/07/10/nine-steps-for-a-pastors-first-90-days/

Previous resource links:
- Ordination Study Committee July 2013 Research Papers
- Ordination Study Committee January 2013 Research Papers
- The Work of the Associate Pastor
- CALLED digital magazine for pastors is now available for download.
- Pastors invited to this years Society of Adventist Communicators convention October 24-26
- New PlusLine at AdventSource
- NY13
- Pastor’s convention, NAD Ministerial Department
- The Seven Campaign to stop child abuse
- Andrews University Press, Homosexuality, Marriage, and the Church
- Jesus 101 Biblical Institute with speaker/director Elizabeth Talbot
- The ADVENTISTS - 2, by Journey Films
- The Great Controversy Project e-newsletter
- Real Family Talk

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Teenagers are in a unique position in their identity formation and spiritual development. They are no longer attached to their parents in the way they were as children and it’s important to recognize and acknowledge this independence by visiting them in their own world – which for most teens is on campus – at school.

During the teenage years a child spends far more waking hours at school than at home – it is the environment they identify the most closely with, in most cases, and the place where they are faced with the most decisions regarding who they are becoming as a person – especially whether or not they will embrace and actually put into practice the things they are learning in church. If teens don’t learn how to “live” their faith at school – they may never learn how to live it at work as adults or anywhere else in their future lives either. Here are a few suggestions for making successful pastoral visits with teens at school:

1. Start out by getting to know their names when you see them at church. Everyone wants to be known and teenagers are especially insecure as they are trying to figure out who they are. Showing a desire to know them is a great affirmation that church is a friendly place and you are also modeling the fact that God is interested in them as well.

2. Let them know that you trust them by asking them to read scripture or make the offering appeal. Try to find out their interests and let them know you would love to have them be full participants in the life of the church.

3. Now that you know their names and have shown a desire to have them involved in the life of the church the next step in discipling them is to enter their world. Having lunch with teens is a powerful first step into their world – this is teen visitation – meeting them on their turf. Here are the basic steps for setting up the visit:

   a. Check with their parents first and let them know that you are planning to have lunch with their child. Have the parents call ahead and let the school office know that you will be stopping by. Sometimes it is easier to pick the student up and take them out to fast food for your first lunch-time visit together and then when you drop them off back at school stop in at the school office to see what is required to meet students and their friends on-campus for lunch. This is especially important if the student attends a public school. In fact it would be a good idea to stop by the public high school office to see what all is involved in visiting students on campus before you plan to meet. When you do meet for lunch on campus, pizza is easy to take and always a hit!

   b. Once you have decided to have lunch on or off campus make sure you have the right people present. You never want to take a student off campus by yourself. Always take your spouse or another youth leader with you. If you are meeting on campus make sure the student knows that they can bring a friend or two – for teens having a friend...
along adds a lot of security and more comfort to your time together.

c. Be prepared for the conversation by having some topics in mind to discuss. I like to start out my first visit by asking the student what it is like to be a Christian in a public school or for an academy student if it is considered acceptable to be open about your faith and love for God. In public schools teens tend to be either on fire for Jesus or completely struggling with the temptation to engage the party scene – and in most academies the struggle is very laodicean in nature – it’s often considered very un-cool to be serious about your faith in academy. No matter what the situation, always be encouraging and take prayer requests and pray together before you leave.

The bottom line for teen visitation is to show that you care just by showing up in the middle of their lives and by trying to help them to apply their faith to the real world in which they live. This is especially true for the 70% of Adventist teens that attend public high schools and are therefore not benefiting from the spiritual nurture and care offered by our academies.

After meeting students at school your sermons will tend to become more practical and real and the students will tend to listen more because they know that you are more familiar with their struggles and that you care about them and their journey of faith.

For more tips and resources on public high school and academy campus ministry visit: www.livingiths.org

Scott Ward is the Youth Pastor for the Lodi English Oaks Church in Northern California, and the Public High School Ministries Coordinator for the North American Division
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Students are the benefactors from the positive messages that collaboration between pastor and teacher send to them personally. It lets them know that everyone in their lives is pulling together in the same direction for them. When students see someone who loves them at home, someone who loves them at school, and someone who loves them at church, this creates a strong safety net for them. Collaboration creates the sense for students that they are cared for by a team of committed people. It makes kids secure to know so many people are pulling for them. So many of the students enrolled in our schools are from broken homes and never have the opportunity to interact with positive role models that represent a “family.” Thus, having the pastor involved and visible around the school provides this important element and allows the students to experience a true “family” atmosphere.

When questioned, Adventist pastors and teachers view their ministry to be one in purpose (Himmelman, 1992; Wagner & Muller, 2011a). Each is an equal partner striving to reach the missional goal—the salvation of young people (Baker, 1997; Patterson, 2007; Sahlin, 1985). Introducing young people to Jesus is a mission that the pastor and teacher identify as being shared. Wagner and Muller (2011b) discussed the importance of possessing a common mission by explaining that it was at the core of the development of collaborative partnerships. Others, such as Gajda and Koliba (2007), have written about the importance of having a shared purpose. Close examination of the goals of the Adventist church and the Adventist school reveals that they are both redemptive in nature (Rasmussen, 1950; Sahlin, 1985b; White, 1952). The point is that when pastors and teachers maximize the use of collaborative practices, they are in essence creating a thread that ties the common goals of the pastoral ministry and the educational ministry together.

Adventist pastors and teachers who are in a positive collaborative relationship report that one of the greatest benefits of working as a team includes an increased probability that young people will make a decision for Jesus Christ. This means that the work of true education becomes a practical and moral activity of living out collaborative practices in a way that students will benefit.

Recommendations for Pastors

1. Closely align the goals of the church and the school so that a common missional goal is clear.
2. Identify your strengths and your weaknesses. Discuss ways with the school staff that you may maximize the use of your strengths in order to attain your ministry goals.
3. Make the school a priority in your calendar.
4. Be visible and active on the school campus on a regular basis.
5. Schedule special Sabbaths in the church calendar to focus on Adventist education.
6. Schedule regular times with your teaching ministry team to discuss goals and dreams.
7. Discuss any differences with the teacher and deal with conflicts in private according to scriptural principles.
8. Be a cheerleader for the school, staff, and students from the pulpit.
9. Be intentional about creating opportunities to get to know your educational partner in ministry outside the school environment.
10. Pray daily for your teacher as a partner in ministry.
11. Don’t expect perfection in your educational partner in ministry.
12. Make full use of that “relational oil” of collaboration as you build relationships with those you serve in the church and school family. In so doing, your ministry will be blessed.

Pamela Consuegra, PhD, is the Associate Director of Family Ministries for the North American Division

References


Wagner, R., & Muller, G. (2011b). The power of two: You are built for collaborating, but chances are, you aren’t forming enough good partnerships in your workplace. New York, NY: Gallup Press.