7 Strategies for Church School Evangelism
by Dan Martella

One of the most fruitful sources for church growth can be found right in our local church schools. Our schools are filled with kids from Adventist families, seeker families, and families that just want to give their children the finest education on the planet. Our teachers are on the frontlines of Adventist education evangelism, and we pastors are important partners in the venture. Let me share with you a seven-fold church school evangelism strategy that really works. Read More
Connecting with Business Owners on the Island of Yap
by Sherwin Nobuo

Maitland DePinto of Home for Humanity in the NAD came through a while ago and shared a tool with me that has really helped me connect with local businesses. I pastor on Yap, a small island in the Pacific that is unique because many of the families are interconnected.

So if I treat one family well, the rest of the family will be open to me. This tool helped me into the family network. Read More
Sample Prayer and Blessing: Your First Visit

Introduction

"Hi! How are you doing? Let me introduce myself. My name is _______________. On behalf of my church, we want to let you know we're thinking about you and your business [identify by name]. We'd like to pray for you, and with you if you would like. We know how tough these times are, and as a church we realize how important our community is to us. You're part of our community, and we want share with you and other businesses here in your concerns. Our way of saying how important you are is to speak to God and to ask for a blessing on you and your business. This is not a gimmick; it's the way we believe we can share together and that we are truly a community.

Is there anything special that you would like us to think about and pray about?"

(Before praying make sure you
know the first name of the person you are praying for, and the name of their business.)

Read More

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**February Best Practices Webinar**
by Shawn Boonstra

![Shawn Boonstra](image)

**The Art of the Appeal**
On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, we will hold a NAD Ministerial Best Practices Webinar presentation by Shawn Boonstra entitled, *"The Art of the Appeal"*. 

**Description:** We'll be discussing the art of working with an audience over time to create the best possible environment for a positive response to the gospel.

Read More

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**Stories We Tell: Not as Good as You**
A pastor was cleaning out his desk, preparing to move to a new assignment. He felt someone staring at him and he looked up to see the cleaning lady standing in the doorway, leaning on her dust mop with a doleful expression on her face.

"Oh," said the pastor, "You startled me."

'Pastor," said the lady, "I sure hate to see you leave. You have been such a wonderful pastor; I just know the next fellow won't be anywhere near as good as you."

She continued to be very effusive in her praise of him to the point he felt he'd better say something about his coming replacement. "Well, thank you for your kind words, but the next pastor will be a fine person, you'll see. He'll have some qualities I didn't have..."
and he'll be a blessing to the congregation. Give him a chance, OK?"

"He WON'T be as good as you, and I know what I'm talking about."

"Oh?"

"I've been the cleaning lady through the last eight pastors and each one that came was worse than the one before. He won't be as good as you."

*John Glass recently retired and is now serving as the interim pastor of the Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church*

**Let's Talk**

**Best Practices** is looking for articles about what is working for you in ministry. Articles that are one-subject focused and tightly written - 300 to 700 words. We are also looking for top-flight sermon illustrations. Together we
can make Best Practices for Adventist Ministry a go-to tool box for NAD pastors and church leaders.

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**Ideas, Events, Resources, Announcements**

When your Deaconess team needs to coordinate a meal for those who are new moms, recovering from a surgery or injury, or preparing for a funeral - Meal Train is a great organizational resource. Simply fill out the in-take form with dates and special dietary needs, mail it to your team, and individuals can sign up for the meals they will cover. **Meal Train** will even e-mail reminders to your volunteers. Organizing a Meal Train is completely free!

Randi Zuckerberg, sister of Facebook's co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, believes that we need to take **A Digital Sabbath**, some time off from social media and electronic devices each week. "This is really in line with Facebook's message of sharing..."
with the people you want to share with and doing it mindfully and consciously," says Zuckerberg. "Unplugging and connecting to people in the real world ... just strengthens the relationships you have with them online as well."

Previous resource links:

- Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program
- 5 Reasons Millennials Stay Connected to Church
- The Absolute Best iPhone Apps for Pastors
- The Absolute Best iPad Apps for Pastors
- Hijacking Back Your Brain From Porn
- Adventist People Connected
7 Strategies for Church School Evangelism

by Dan Martella

One of the most fruitful sources for church growth can be found right in our local church schools. Our schools are filled with kids from Adventist families, seeker families, and families that just want to give their children the finest education on the planet. Our teachers are on the frontlines of Adventist education evangelism, and we pastors are important partners in the venture. Let me share with you a seven-fold church school evangelism strategy that really works —

1. School Worships – Every summer sit down with your teachers and map out a calendar for the coming year. Write into your schedule Back-to-School nights, Home and School meetings, science fairs, Christmas programs, Investitures, and school worships. Make your school worships an extended series of evangelistic meetings for kids. Simply cycle through the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church – all at a kid’s level. Engage your kids in the Christ-centered, life-transformational Bible truths of this church through stories, props, games, and interactives.

2. Eat and Play – Once or twice a month brown bag it with your school kids. Eating together provides an opportunity for easy one-on-one and small group conversations. Playing together on the field provides an opportunity for the kids to have fun with you playing ball, building forts, and crawling over the playground equipment. Eating and playing with your school kids will put jumper cables on everything else you do with them. They will more readily embrace you, your worship talks, and opportunities to be in your baptismal classes.

3. Signs of the Times – At the beginning of each year, gift each non-Adventist family in your school with a Signs of the Times subscription. Write each family to let them know that the monthly magazine is on its way and that you are glad to have their kids in your school. The monthly Signs will introduce your families to vital Bible truths and equip them with important tools for effective family living.

4. Prayer Partners – Take the names of every school family to your church and enlist volunteers to pray for these families each day. Their prayers will leverage God’s blessings on these families in a powerful way.

5. Baptismal Classes – Provide a baptismal class during the second semester of each school year. Identify students most interested in baptism through an appeal made during one of your regular school worship times. Follow up with a call to each of the parents to secure their approval. Never leave parents feeling that you are proselytizing their kids behind their backs. Let them know that you will explore the major teachings of the Bible, encourage a growing relationship with Jesus, and in the end let each child, in consultation with their parents, make a decision whether or not this is the time to be baptized.

6. Attend School Events – School events – PTA Meetings, dinners, fairs, track and field days, etc. – not only give you additional opportunities to interact with your kids, they even more importantly give you opportunities to meet and engage in conversation with their parents. Developing trust-filled relationships is essential to effective church school evangelism.

7. Special Worship Services – Periodically, offer special Sabbath worship services to which you can invite your school families. Invite the kids and their parents to read the Scripture lesson, offer the congregational prayer, perform a skit, or sing together for the special music. Share a Christ-centered message filled with hope and practical encouragement. Keep your guests around by serving them a delicious fellowship dinner.

This is the game-plan that fuels our local church school evangelism. I encourage you to try it in your own church school.
With this well-integrated evangelistic strategy you will consistently see students and parents making decisions for Christ, joining the church through baptism, and finding their place in God’s service.
Connecting with Business Owners on the Island of Yap

Bless and Be Blessed
By Pastor Sherwin Nobuo

I pastor on Yap, a small island in the Pacific that is unique because many of the families are interconnected.

So if I treat one family well, the rest of the family will be open to me. This tool helped me into the family network.

Here’s how the tool works.
I approach a business owner and introduce myself as a pastor and ask if they would mind if I had a prayer of blessing on their business. They always open the door and let me in.

Then I tell them how much we appreciate their business on the island. I pray the prayer of blessing from the book of Genesis that you can find in the Hope for Humanity Community Prayer & Blessing tool.

So far every business has been thankful for my visit and it has deepened my relationship with them. One business owner has put his children in our school. We’ve also been able to provide some resources for him as he fights the disease of obesity. But not only have we blessed him, he’s blessed us. He’s provided tarps for our graduation services, ice cubes for the youth camp, and bread. This simple tool has made it easy for me to connect with my local business leaders.

Editor’s note. Since 2012 Guam-Micronesia Mission became an attached mission of the North American Division.
Your First Visit

**Introduction**

"Hi! How are you doing? Let me introduce myself. My name is _______________. On behalf of my church, we want to let you know we’re thinking about you and your business [identify by name]. We’d like to pray for you, and with you if you would like. We know how tough these times are, and as a church we realize how important our community is to us. You’re part of our community, and we want share with you and other businesses here in your concerns. Our way of saying how important you are is to speak to God and to ask for a blessing on you and your business. This is not a gimmick; it’s the way we believe we can share together and that we are truly a community.

Is there anything special that you would like us to think about and pray about?"

*(Before praying make sure you know the first name of the person you are praying for, and the name of their business.)*

_Do not feel discouraged if the person is not willing to pray with you. Keep a friendly attitude and indicate that you will be praying for him/her and his/her business.*

**Prayer**

Dear Lord,

I am praying especially for ______ and his/her business ________. You know how things are for them right now, and we are asking for your special blessing on them as part of our community here in _________. We look to you as our Lord and our God, and know you make a difference in all our lives. We want to invite you into every aspect of the way we live, and so we simply pray you will be with ________, and bless their business ________ in every way you can. We ask this to honor your name and in accordance with your will. Amen.

It’s been a pleasure to visit with you and I want to leave a little reminder of our visit today as an assurance that we will continue praying for your business and for you individually. I’m not the only one praying for you; our entire congregation is interested in your well being and will be praying for you and your business.”

**Resources**

Hope for Humanity has the complete Community Prayer and Blessing Kit available for you at no charge through **AdventSource**.
On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, we held a NAD Ministerial Best Practices Webinar presentation by Shawn Boonstra entitled, "The Art of the Appeal".

**Description:** Shawn discussed the art of working with an audience over time to create the best possible environment for a positive response to the gospel. He briefly touched on the history of the modern altar call, and discussed an important understanding how appeals work in the minds and hearts of hearers. He also discussed the difference between persuasion and appeal, as well as gave practical suggestions that help create a positive environment for response.