How to Work for the Church and Still Be Saved

By Rich DuBose
I have been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for most of my adult life. I have served as a pastoral intern, associate pastor, lead pastor, academy chaplain, Bible teacher, and as a developer of ministry resources. During this time I have seen the nitty gritty operations of the church at many levels, and have been awed by the reality that despite our failures and mistakes, God is still able to use us to further his mission.

I don't have any doubt that God is working in our midst, but sometimes, "it ain't pretty."
Why is it so hard to be a pastor's spouse? After thirteen years being married to a minister, I'd say it definitely has its challenges. But all marriages and occupations have their own unique issues. So why do many (48%) of pastors say that they feel like their ministry is hazardous to their family? Read More

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.

M.A. in Pastoral Ministry

If you've been thinking about deepening your walk with Jesus and better equipping yourself to fulfill the great commission and make disciples, this summer is just the right time for you to get started on earning your M.A. in Pastoral Ministry through the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Click here to view the 16 classes that comprise the 48-credit degree.

Click here to see which one-week intensive classes are being offered July 6-24.

Click here for the schedule at a glance.
If you are just joining the program you must take Biblical Spirituality (from Joe Kidder); and Worship, Word and Music (from David Williams) during your first years. This summer is a good time to get started.

Ideas, Events, Resources, Announcements

**Drama in the Church:** For many Adventist churches the question of using drama in church is a non-issue, and they use it on a regular basis. But there are others who really struggle with whether or not it is appropriate. And they wonder if it isn't just a liberal/conservative thing. But what's really at stake here is how we can best communicate God's hopeful message with a cynical, media-driven culture. And drama can powerfully convey what God wants them to hear. But what about Ellen White? Didn't she say...? Watch this video and discover how Adventist writer and story-teller, Jim Pappas, responds to those who believe that Ellen White was against the use of drama in church.

**Church Offers Free Neighborhood Wi-Fi:** The Fourth Street Friendship Church in Washington, D.C., is in the center of a fast-growing neighborhood where all the typical community outreach ministries have already been covered. So this innovative church decided to give their community the gift of technology. They installed a tower that gives their gentrifying community access to free Wi-Fi in exchange for viewing messages about events at the church.

**Previous resource links:**

- How to Kill Your Job Interview in Four Easy Ways
- How to Get a Wow (Not a Scowl) from Kids (Part 1)
- How to Get a Wow (Not a Scowl) from Kids (Part 2)
- inSpire's 2014 Facebook Photo Contest
- Leadership Conference
7 Tips for Introverted Pastors

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I have been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for most of my adult life. I have served as a pastoral intern, associate pastor, lead pastor, academy chaplain, Bible teacher, and as a developer of ministry resources. During this time I have seen the nitty gritty operations of the church at many levels, and have been awed by the reality that despite our failures and mistakes, God is still able to use us to further his mission.

I don't have any doubt that God is working in our midst, but sometimes, "it ain't pretty."

I have sat on local church and school boards that have been more like battle zones. I remember one board that ran into the wee hours of the morning because they had come to an impasse. Finally someone said, "I'm leaving because it's past the angel's curfew, and surely no good can come of this."

Once, as a pastor, I was asked to take over a district where the previous pastor had run off with the church secretary, and the church was split down the middle over what to do about it. I remember visiting the former pastor's wife, and her telling me that her husband had stopped having personal devotions years before. And I wondered, how can one stand in the pulpit week after week to supposedly share a word from God — without spending time with God?

On another occasion I had a local church leader flat out tell me that she had the right to take another woman's husband because he was not satisfied with his marriage, and she felt that she could better provide the companionship and comfort that he needed.

I've watched members and leaders scrap over church policies as if they were biblical, and argue about theological nuances — as their children and grandchildren streamed out the church doors, determined never to return.

I've watched some church policy makers usurp authority over a supposedly democratic process so that the outcome would go their way.

There have been times when I have wondered how anything good could come out of people who profess to be religious, including myself, because so many of us are flawed and broken. But I have stayed because even though I have seen carnage and evil within the church, I have seen God's hand at work. I am humbled that God is still able to use the church (as defective as it is) to accomplish his purposes. And I am humbled that God still allows me to have a small part in sharing his incredible message of hope.

If you think working for the church means that you automatically have greater access to God, or that it gives you some kind of inside advantage, then you are in for a rude awakening. In reality, if you work for the church you are probably more vulnerable to the attacks of the devil, and are subject to a host of temptations that the average person doesn't have.

But I don't want to dwell on the negative! There are many rewards that come with full-time ministry, and if I could live my life over I don't think I would change anything, except that I would try to pay more attention to God's leading, and be more bold about living out his kingdom principles.

**Five Things to Consider**

So, how can one work for the church and still be saved? This question needs to be tweaked a bit because it is built on a faulty premise.
1. **First of all, you may be employed by the church, but when you follow God's leading you don't really work for the church.** When God invites you to follow him and participate in his mission, you are called to work for, and with, him. You are not working for the church. Yes, you will have a boss and be given a specific job description, but these are not enough to release the level of passion and energy that's needed to be effective in ministry. You must hear and respond to a divine call!

2. **A second factor to keep in mind is that the denominational structure that we call the church is only a means to an end.** The end is Jesus. As incredible as our organization may be, it was never meant to be a permanent fixture, but rather a temporary God-appointed means for sharing heaven's promise with a dying world. The significance and usefulness of organized religion is directly proportional to its recognition that it is a temporary apparatus that solely exists to direct men and women to Jesus Christ.

When we are employed by the church, it's tempting to believe that everything should revolve around the church--to the point that we become denominational-centric. And, we can become so addicted to the "holy bustle" that if we aren't constantly doing something that is church-related we feel spiritually inferior or tainted.

Ask Jesus to help you celebrate the beauty of the church without turning it into an idol.

3. **A third thing to consider is that church employment, or for that matter, church membership, does not equal salvation.** It has always been and forever will be the grace of Jesus Christ alone that saves us. We are not saved in families, groups, or by denominations, but as individuals. The church can play a large role in our spiritual development, and we can praise God for the many godly members and leaders who dedicate significant portions of their time to evangelism and Christian nurture. But the church can only do so much, because ultimately, it is only Jesus who can deliver us from ourselves and the power of the devil!

4. **Don't take yourself too seriously.** If you are employed by the church, especially as a pastor or administrative leader, be careful that you don't fall into the trap of thinking that your position of authority places you somewhere toward the infallible end of the knowledge spectrum. You are not God, nor likely a prophet. So, like everyone else, you need to pray that you don't miss what God is trying to say to you through his Word, through circumstances, and through other people.

5. **Stop fighting sin.** When we're employed by the church it's tempting to believe that our job is to fight evil. Some Christians are bent on fighting the culture wars and have dedicated their energies to eliminating what they believe are some of the more obvious manifestations of wickedness (i.e. abortion, atheism, evolution, gay marriage, and secular humanism). But fighting these does little to address the heart of our problem. And it's interesting that even though some of these issues were prevalent during Jesus' earthly ministry, he never asked his disciples to address any of them. His focus was always on the heart and on the deliverance from sin that can be experienced through his power!

Instead of trying to eradicate evil we are called to manifest grace and compassion in the midst of corruption and evil. "Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:16, NLT).

I've never won a battle with the devil, even though I've tried on numerous occasions. The truth is, I can only win when Jesus fights the devil on my behalf. Being a Christian is not about beating the devil and terminating sin as much as it is about learning how to follow Jesus and letting him fight our battles for us!

Jesus invites us to be salt and light in a bland, darkened world that is short on God-flavors.

When Nicodemus secretly visited Jesus in the dead of night he didn't expect to hear what he heard. As a seasoned "church" leader and worker, Nicodemus wanted to draw Jesus into a theological debate, or maybe challenge him on some of his ministry methods. Instead, Jesus confronted Nicodemus directly with the fundamental truth that he needed to be re-made (born again) by the Spirit. Nicodemus needed a new set of eyes so he could see himself as Jesus did; as a sinner...
in need of God's healing grace.

The good news is that God is eager to connect with us in a personal, intimate way! And he specializes in personal renewal!

If you are employed by the church and still recognize your need to be saved, praise God that you have that awareness! It's a good thing to be hungry for God, especially if you're supposed to be feeding others. Ask God to satisfy your hunger, and spend time each day contemplating his words. Practice what you preach. In other words, if you have told others that Jesus is able to save the most wretched, vile sinner alive, then take it personal!

"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" Luke 11:13, NLT

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life." John 3:16, The Message

...even if you work for the church!

Rich DuBose is director of Church Support Services for the Pacific Union Conference.
A few years ago my wife and I were invited to attend our niece’s wedding in Vancouver, British Columbia. A vacation in Canada was definitely on our life bucket list, so we packed our bags and made plans for the wedding and quiet time together the week after. Into our suitcases went our passports, ID cards, cash, clothes, glasses, toiletries, cell phones, and all the rest.

Two days before our departure, I discovered that my wife’s passport had expired. I frantically called anyone and everyone I thought could help, but it was no use. No one could turn Esther’s passport around in two days. A deep sense of despair settled into my spirit as I realized that I would have to make this trip alone. That I would have to leave my wife behind. That a non-refundable ticket purchased on sale would be wasted. That our dream vacation together was shattered.

As I left for the San Francisco airport the thought struck me: What will it be like if I make the journey to Heaven alone? What will it be like if my loved ones are not with me? It was then I resolved to live in daily readiness for Jesus’ return, and do all I can to help my family and friends to live in daily readiness for the ultimate journey ahead.

**Timothy Jo Judson is pastor of the Sebastopol and Petaluma, California churches**
A Spouse’s Perspective on Pastoring Ministry in the First Family

By Rej Dixit

Why is it so hard to be a pastor’s spouse? After thirteen years being married to a minister, I’d say it definitely has its challenges. But all marriages and occupations have their own unique issues. So why do many (48%) of pastors say that they feel like their ministry is hazardous to their family? Ninety-four percent of clergy families feel the pressure of pastoral ministry. Are the challenges of pastoral families so unique that they can’t be foreseen or overcome? I don’t think so. Pastors, their spouses and churches need to work together to figure out how men and women can enjoy full time ministry without totally abandoning or alienating their families. So here are some ideas for pastoral families on how to balance their ministries and their lives.

**Family first**
The Bible is very clear on this. 1 Timothy 3:4-5 says that pastors must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. The best way to “manage” your family is through love and respect. Does your family know that you love and respect them? Do they come first in your life? As a pastor you could be working seven days a week, 24 hours a day, or you can be strategically planning and delegating. This is within your control. Pastors should prioritize their own Sabbath rest, time alone with their spouses and time with their children. When there is balance, your family will know they are loved. You may often be gone in the evenings to minister to others. Missing bedtimes with your kids can be detrimental, but not if you have scheduled another regular time to present (maybe at breakfast or after school.) The needs of your family as well as the needs of your ministry will change. Check in with you families regularly, so you can prioritize for different seasons. If you just assume that your spouse will play the part of single parent, while you play “super pastor” your family and your ministry will suffer.

**Let them be real**
Some people married their spouses for their ability to be the perfect piano playing, children’s story telling, casserole baking, “first lady” of the church. Others pastors came into ministry after getting married and having kids, and their spouses are not sure where they belong. Every relationship is different and your personalities and seasons of life may play into your ministry. Some ministers partner with their spouses, by sharing preaching responsibilities, counseling and votes at board meetings. Others spouses are committed, active church members, participating or taking leadership in the ministries that interest them. And some like to be neither seen nor heard. They may be busy with small children or aging parents, or may just need a time of rest. Learn to accept who your spouse is. God gave them their own talents to use as they have the time and energy to do so. Forcing them into ministries that have “openings” may not be the best for them or your church. Your support with the role that they have chosen will also help the church also accept your family as they are. We all want to be accepted and loved, not for what we can give, but for who we are.

**Consider their time in the spotlight**
Some pastors love to tell stories about their families. Right now many contemporary pastors are trying to “be real” at church. Occasionally sharing funny moments can make your sermons more personable, but the more you talk about your family, the more people look at and to them. Think carefully twice about what you share and how often you share stories about your family. Each person in the family has a different threshold for strangers accosting them in the hallway laughing or questioning what they just heard from the pulpit. If you share stories despite your family members’ apprehension about being talked about, you are telling them that your sermon is more important than their experience. That’s detrimental to your relationship with them as husband or father.
Get a life outside of church
This applies to the pastor himself as well as his/her family. Even though you are called from God to preach the gospel, you are more than your job. Your family’s life should revolve around God, but that does not mean spending seven days a week at church. Living life in a church bubble puts unneeded pressure on your family to “perform”. Pastors often have difficulties separating their friends from their parishioners. According to a 2006 Barna research study in Ministry Today, 61% percent of pastors say they have no close personal friends. This is not healthy. Jesus meant for us to work together in ministry. He worked with his twelve disciples. He was often misunderstood and felt their jostling for position, but he continued to work beside them. He continued to share with them, pray with them and cry with them. No human can be EVERYTHING to you. But each of these people can offer advice, prayers and Bible counsel on different issues. Make friends outside of your church bubble and encourage your spouse to do the same. You may find them at the gym, in the neighborhood or at your kids’ sporting events. These people will get to know you and your family out of your glass castle, and may give you a different perspective on your community. You’ll probably be surprised how much you have in common and you can enjoy a meal or an evening together without discussing church issues. Doesn’t that sound relaxing? Everyone needs a life outside of church.

Balance positive and negative
Clergy often help people at some of the worst times of their lives. Many pastors feel stress called compassion fatigue. This form of burnout is a problem for helping professionals. When people are a sounding board for those who are suffering, they often absorb the suffering and the accompanying stress. This can lead to stress, sleeplessness and general negatively. To combat your experience with the negative, pastors should also make an effort to be a part of the happy events. Some of these come naturally – weddings, births, etc. If there aren’t many of these events at your church, schedule time with church members doing fun things. Make time to watch a basketball game, or go to a fair or concert. This can be fun for your whole family and establish positive connections with your church members as well.

Armor yourself with the good
When conflict and stress comes, and it will come, think on the good things. Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.” Every organization goes through times of conflict. It may be a heated board meeting or mean spirited comment about the sermon or your wife’s hair. Those things should not shake your faith in the church or belief in God. If your family is strong as a unit, they have a support system of family and friends and their interactions with church have been mostly positive, those jabs won’t hurt so much. The conflict will pass, and because your family is in order, you will have much more happiness to dwell on.

Rej Dixit is a Speech Pathologist from Vancouver Washington. She is also a mother of three and married to a pastor.


[2] The Fuller Institute, George Barna, and Pastoral Care Inc. 2009
The MA in Pastoral Ministry degree requires students take a total of 48 credits. For Students admitted to the program before March 2014, please use the 2013 Curriculum which will satisfy degree requirements.

Christian Ministry (12)

CHMN 505 Biblical Preaching (3) CHMN 523 Worship: Word and Music (3) *Offered only during the summer on Andrews campus*
CHMN 543 Christian Leadership in a Changing World (3)

*Choose one of the following courses:*
CHMN 539 Church Growth and the Equipping Pastor (3)
CHMN 566 Mobilizing Laity for the Ministry of Evangelism (3)
CHMN 623 Innovative Evangelism (3)

Church History (6)

CHIS 505 Survey of Church History (3) CHIS 674 Development of Seventh-day Adventist Theology (3)

Discipleship and Religious Education (9)

DSRE 503 Marriage, Family, and Interpersonal Relationships (3) DSRE 534 Ministry to Youth and Young Adults (3)
DSRE 541 Foundations of Biblical Spirituality (3) *Offered only during the summer on Andrews campus*

New Testament (6)


Old Testament (6)

OTST 570 Readings in the Old Testament (English) (3)

*Choose one of the following courses:*
OTST 520 Introduction to Old Testament Theology (3)
ANE 510 Archeology and the Bible (3)

Theology and Christian Philosophy (6)

THST 695 Doctrine of the Sanctuary (3) *One course in Systematic Theology (3)*
*One Course in Historical Theology (3)*

World Mission (3)

*Choose one of the following courses:*
MSSN 505 Christian Responses to Human Needs (3)
MSSN 546 Mission in Cultural and Religious Context (3)
MSSN 561 Christian Witness and World Religions (3)
M.A. in Pastoral Ministry Course Schedule

The following Schedule is grouped by semesters of classes and by the North American Division Union in which they occur. Click on the course title to go to the class web page. These course title links are activated once all information has been received from the professors. To sign up for a class, please fill out the Reservation form found on each class web page.

MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY, AS IT ONLY SLOWS OUR WORK PROGRESS. THANK YOU!

Summer 2014 M.A. in Pastoral Ministry Courses At-a-Glance

Fall 2014 Semester Dates

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**North Pacific Union**

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| Nov 9-13  | CHIS 505 | Survey of Church History | TBA |

**Pacific Union**

| Nov 2-6   | NTST 567 | Theology of the English New Testament: | TBA |
| Nov 9-13  | MSSN 546 | Ministry in Cultural and Religious Context | TBA |

**Southern Union**

| Nov 2-6   | THST 695 | Doctrine of the Sanctuary | TBA |
| Nov 9-13  | CHMN 543 | Christian Leadership in a Changing World | Stan Patterson |

**Southwestern Union**

| Nov 2-6   | GSEM 534 | Issues in Ellen White Studies | TBA |
| Nov 9-13  | ANEA 510 | Archaeology and the Bible | TBA |

**Summer Semester: July 6-24, 2014**

**Lake Union (Andrews University)**

| July 6-10 | CHMN 526 | Conflict Management | Stan Patterson |

July 6-10

**DSRE 541**  
Biblical Spirituality  
(Joffered only in the Summer at Andrews University*; meets residency requirement for students in the program after March 2014 and also open to all students). *Offered in Canadian Union once every four years.

Joseph Kidder

July 14-17

**OTST 520**  
Intro to Old Testament Theology  
(Previously offered only in the Summer at Andrews University; meets residency requirements for students in the program prior to March 2014 and open to all students).

Jiri Moskala

July 13-17

**CHMN 523**  
Worship, Word and Music  
(Offered only in the Summer at Andrews University*; meets residency requirement for students in the program after March 2014 and also open to all students). *Offered in Canadian Union once every four years.

David Williams

July 20-24

**THST 550**  
Principles of Christian Ethics  
(Previously offered only in the Summer at Andrews University; meets residency requirement for students in the program prior to March 2014 and open to all students).

JoAnn Davidson

**Spring Semester: Jan 13-23 and March 16 - April 3, 2014**

**Field-based Classes**  
**Lake Union (Andrews University)**

**Jan 13-16**  
CHMN 623  
Innovative Evangelism  
Joseph Kidder

**Jan 19-23**  
DSRE 534  
Ministry to Youth and Young Adults  
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**Atlantic Union**

**March 16-20**  
CHMN 539  
Church Growth and The Equipping Pastor  
Russell Burrill
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<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>CHMN543</td>
<td><em>Christian Leadership in a Changing World</em></td>
<td>John Grys</td>
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<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>MSSN546B</td>
<td>Ministry in Cultural and Religious Context</td>
<td>Gorden Doss</td>
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<td><strong>Columbia Union</strong></td>
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<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>NTST550</td>
<td>Exegesis of the NT (English): James</td>
<td>Teresa Reeve</td>
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<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>CHMN523</td>
<td>Worship: Word and Music</td>
<td>David Williams</td>
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<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>DSRE503</td>
<td>Marriage, Family and Interpersonal Relationships</td>
<td>Peter Swanson</td>
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<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>CHIS600</td>
<td>Early Church History to 604AD</td>
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<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>THST626</td>
<td>Modern Christian Theology</td>
<td>Darius Jankiewicz</td>
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<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>NTST567</td>
<td>Theology of the NT (English): Matthew</td>
<td>Ranko Stefanovic</td>
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<td>Nov 4-7 (Note Date)</td>
<td>CHIS674</td>
<td>Development of SDA Theology</td>
<td>Jerry Moon</td>
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<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>DSRE534</td>
<td>Ministry to Youth and Young Adults</td>
<td>Allan Walshe</td>
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<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>OTST570A</td>
<td>Readings in the OT (English): Daniel</td>
<td>Paul Gregor</td>
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### Southwestern Union

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<tr>
<td>Nov 3-7</td>
<td>MSSN561</td>
<td>Christian Witness and World religions</td>
<td>Bruce Bauer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10-14</td>
<td>OTST570</td>
<td>Readings in the OT (English): Isaiah</td>
<td>Jiri Moskala</td>
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### Summer Semester: July 7-25, 2013

(Note: All summer classes begin Sunday night, 7pm)

#### Campus-based Classes

**MAPMin Classes**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 7-11</td>
<td>OTST520</td>
<td>Introduction to OT Theology</td>
<td>Eriks Galenieks</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14-18</td>
<td>THST550</td>
<td>Principles of Christian Ethics</td>
<td>Jo Ann Davidson</td>
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**2012 MDiv Cohort**

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<tr>
<td>July 14-18</td>
<td>MSSN546</td>
<td>Ministry in Cultural &amp; Religious Context</td>
<td>Gorden Doss</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21-25</td>
<td>CHMN503</td>
<td>Marriage, Family, and Interpersonal Relationships</td>
<td>Peter Swanson</td>
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**2011 MDiv Cohort**

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Archive of classes
M.A. in Pastoral Ministry Intensive Classes
Lake Union—Summer 2014
Andrews University —Berrien Springs, Michigan
Dates: July 6—10 2014

July 6-10  
**CHMN 526 Conflict Management**

**Course Description:** This course provides biblical resources and contemporary research regarding the creative management of differences in the church. It explores how change may be introduced in the church, and seeks to equip students with the skills required for effective, creative conflict ministry, including mediation and arbitration.

July 6-10  
**DSRE 541 Foundations of Biblical Spirituality**

**Course Description:** The study and practice of biblical spirituality designed to lead students to experience and communicate the practices of personal faith and discipleship.

**Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:**
- Reflect on their relationship with God
- Identify their present devotional needs—based on their temperament and interests, the nature of learning, and areas of their life where growth is needed;
- Skillfully practice basic Christian spiritual disciplines
- Effectively participate in spiritual retreats and small groups for spiritual growth and accountability.

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*The M.A. in Pastoral Ministry* is a field-based 48-credit degree program from the Seventh-day Adventist Theology Seminary at Andrews University. This program was created at the request of Union Presidents so that pastors in the field could earn a master's degree or meet their continuing education requirements (CEU) via field-based intensives delivered at designated locations within each Union.

**Cost:** Classes are currently fully subsidized by the Unions and the Seminary, however students are responsible for travel, accommodations, food, books and other related expenses. Many conferences reimburse pastors for these expenses.

**For more information contact:** InMinistry Center at 269-471-3514; email: inministry@andrews.edu.

’esther R. Knott, Director: eknott@andrews.edu 269-471-3353. You may also visit www.andrews.edu/inministry .

*To apply to the M.A. in pastoral ministry program use the following link to get started: Pastoral Ministry Andrews University.*
July 14-17

OTST 520 Intro to Old Testament Theology

Course Description: Distinctive theological concepts of selected books and major theological themes of the whole Old Testament from the perspective of Christian faith. Normally offered off-campus for the MA in Pastoral Ministry students and others who have not taken Hebrew.

July 13-17

CHMN 523 Worship Word and Music

Course Description: An introduction to the theological principles and practices of Christian worship and worship music. It establishes a biblical foundation for a theology of worship and liturgy, and the relationship between God’s Word and music in the worship experience. The history of Christian worship and music provides the student with a broad perspective when planning worship and dealing with conflict when it arises. The course focuses on pastoral leadership in worship ministry and the central issues involved in effective worship leading and planning. Within the broader context of worship ministry, special emphasis is placed on music’s role in diverse worship contexts.

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*To apply to the M.A. in pastoral ministry program use the following link to get started: Pastoral Ministry Andrews University.
M.A. in Pastoral Ministry Intensive Classes

Lake Union—Summer 2014

Andrews University — Berrien Springs, Michigan

Dates: July 20—24, 2014

July 20-24

THST 550 Principles of Christian Ethics

Course Description:

Study of the basic moral guidelines and ethical principles contained in the Bible. Application of these guidelines and principles to contemporary moral issues of special interest for Seventh-day Adventists.

Course Content

♦ Introduction: The Study of Human Behavior
♦ Definition of Christian Ethics
♦ Nature and Function of Moral Values
♦ Teleological Theories of Ethics
♦ Deontology and Ethics
♦ The role and authority of Scripture in Christian Ethics: the Genesis of Ethics
♦ Ethical decision-making: Morality of the Heart

The M.A. in Pastoral Ministry is a field-based 48-credit degree program from the Seventh-day Adventist Theology Seminary at Andrews University. This program was created at the request of Union Presidents so that pastors in the field could earn a *master’s degree or meet their continuing education requirements (CEU) via field-based intensives delivered at designated locations within each Union.

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Story-telling is one of the most effective ways to convey truths about God. This is evidenced by the fact that Jesus used parables and stories as his primary means to illustrate what He wanted to share. But some question if using drama in the church is appropriate. Jim Pappas, Adventist writer and story-teller, talks about the legitimate use of drama in ministry.
Washington, D.C., Church Provides Wi-Fi to Neighborhood

Located some seven blocks from the nation's capitol building, Allegheny East Conference's Fourth Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., is in the center of a fast-growing neighborhood. Realizing that the gentrifying community around them didn't need some of the outreach services that they traditionally offered, like a soup kitchen, they decided to focus on technology. So they installed a tower that gives their gentrifying community access to free Wi-Fi in exchange for viewing messages about events at the church.

Already some 1,500 neighbors have logged on and become aware of the church, causing Andrew Harewood, former senior pastor, to conclude, "We have to think in terms of unique relevance. It used to be about soup and sandwiches; now it's about technology."

Harewood noted that with a church located every three or four blocks in the neighborhood, members needed to offer something that the other churches were not offering. "Now we can go into their homes," he said, adding that he has gained many followers on his personal Twitter account because of this service.

The church continues to operate a meal service for those who need it. How is your church meeting a need in your community?
How to Kill Your Job Interview in Four Easy Ways

As a church employee who served in personnel committees and has conducted hundreds of interviews I have seen pretty much everything. If you are a student/pastor and will interview for a position I want to give you some friendly advice I wish someone had given me:

Here are four things NOT to do:

1. Act cocky.

Listen, you might be from Cleveland, but you are not E.E. Neither are you the second coming of H.M. S. Richards or Alejandro Bullon. Be confident, not cocky. No one likes a cocky preacher. Frankly, all it does is reveal some deep seated insecurities. Be yourself. Don’t overdo, you. I once had a interviewee talk non-stop about himself. I couldn’t get a word in.

2. Name dropping.

This is another common one. I hear it all the time. They say, for example: “I know Dr. Carlton Byrd…” My question to that statement is this: “Is Buddy Byrd coming to pastor that 23 member church I am interviewing you for? No? Then why name drop?” Some mention presidents in denominational levels. Why? Name dropping is a dangerous exercise, because it associates you with another’s track record and neglects your own identity. I am hiring for what you can bring to the team. Not ____________________ (fill in blank).

3. Irrelevant statistics.

I don’t need to know you taught, as an assistant, Cradle Roll on a Sabbath 5 years ago. Some go to great lengths to list every ministry act that was ever done. Tell me who you are, some of what your gifts in action are. Categories with a couple of specific occurrences are great. (see #4)

4. Extensive/unimpressive resume*

I have had a resume with cooking grease on it handed to me. Some have showed up without a resume, with an excuse. Several times, I have had a resume of at least 10 pages, single space, put in my hands. This complicates matters. It does not impress the committee, in fact, can work against you (see #3). A picture is always nice. Color is a plus. Go for functional and readability. Don’t overthink it or overdo it.

*Here is a great resume: http://www.slideshare.net/RogerHernandez6/published-resume-33050987

What other ways do potential pastors kill (or at least diminish) their chances? Let me know in the comment section.
I received this question from a listener recently:

“I am a motivational speaker. However, I am delivering my first speech to children ages 4-13. What are some suggestions to help me grab their attention and make my speech effective for this younger school-age audience?”

I was delighted to receive this question!

One of my favorite scenes in the movie Mrs. Doubtfire is when Robin Williams’ character is pitching his ideas to the head of a local TV station. He advises when speaking to youngsters that you shouldn’t play down to them; just play to them. This is sage advice!

Sponsor: Get started with a free 30-day trial of eVoice®.

Here are 10 ways to dazzle the smaller set; and next week, I’ll have 10 more tips for how you can engage children:

**Tip #1: Get the Kids Involved**

Your goal is to engage your audience, but unlike adults, kids feel left out if they are not included. So, involve as many kids as possible and as often as possible. This might mean that you are going to cover much less material than you would with an adult audience.

**Tip #2: Absolutely No Slide Presentations!**

Kids think formal presentations are "stupid and boring." To keep it interesting, help the kids experience your ideas first hand using props, skits, and other fun activities. (More on that shortly).

**Tip #3: Make it Messy, Silly, Crazy, Funny, and Unexpected**

Look online for interesting ways to present your topic. For example, use simple science experiments to demonstrate your points. Put an egg in water and let it sink, or put the egg in salty water and watch it float.

One great example came from my kids’ guidance counselor, Mr. Harrington. He was explaining that the more you struggle or force a relationship, the more it’s going to run into trouble, but if you work through conflict gently you are more likely to have success. He showed this principle by using a metal puzzle that had two items stuck together. If you tried to untangle them with force, it didn’t come apart, but if you gently aligned it a certain way, the two pieces easily came apart.
Tip #4: Use Food in Your Examples

In my daughter's class, a financial services specialist came in and used candy in his presentation. He displayed a bag of Hershey's Kisses as an example of a corporation. He then told the kids that people can buy a part of the company, so he separated a few candies out and showed that someone could own a few or a lot of pieces of a company. His demonstration effectively explained an abstract idea, and best of all, the kids got to eat the company in the end!

Tip #5: Begin with an Attention-Grabber

Start with a story, a demonstration, a magic trick, or a question.

For example, a woman came in for Parents Day in my kids' school. She worked at a nursing home, so she had the kids look through dirty glasses and put cotton in their ears. She had the children use wheelchairs and walk with a cane. Anther activity had the children wearing gloves and trying to open a packet of sugar. The kids had a blast and yet at the same time were somewhat able to experience what it's like to be in a nursing home. It made the message very clear and real, and it was fun to feel and see it first-hand.

Tip #6: Make it a Game

Ring buzzers, score points, or give small prizes for participation. Even a simple Q & A session can be fun!

Tip #7: Create a Play or Act Out a Skit

Have the kids perform parts or simply be people from history. My kids saw a presentation of the history of our local cranberry bog. Important folks were named, and kids stood up with the name around their necks and small props to indicate something about them. Each participant stayed in front as the history progressed. It was comical and cute because some of the kids got "married" to or had a "child" with their classmates.

Tip #8: Simplify if Necessary

Ask a teacher ahead of time to get a feel for what the kids would and would not understand. It's always important to know your audience. Use analogies they can relate to in order to explain complex ideas.

Tip #9: Tell Stories...Lots of Them

Make sure they are stories that the age group can relate to. Personal, funny stories are always a good illustration and help to keep the attention of the listeners.

Tip #10: Use Examples from Popular Culture

Kids are aware of the world and what is going on around them far more than we give them credit for. Mentioning a popular singer or actor if it relates to your speech keeps your audience interested and gives you some “street cred” in convincing them you are on their level. Speaking to children can be a rewarding experience. If you know how to relate to them, they'll pay attention and remember what you have to say. Next week, I'll share 10 more tips for speaking to children. This is Lisa B. Marshall, Helping you maximize sales, manage perceptions, and enhance leadership through keynotes, workshops, books, and online courses. Passionate about communication; your success is my business.

I'm very excited because this week on my Smart Talk podcast you'll get to hear from Dr. Lois Frankel talking about the 10-year anniversary edition of Nice Girls Still Don't Get the Corner Office. Also, you'll want to check on Smart Talk on Monday, when I interview our very own, Mignon Fogarty (aka Grammar Girl). We had a great conversation that included her giving advice on how to handle criticism as well as talking about her newest endeavor, Peeve Wars, a card game she invented.
School children image courtesy of Shutterstock.
How to Get a Wow (Not a Scowl) From Kids (Part 2)

When I was a young student, I loved it when we had a break from the normal class schedule to hear a guest speaker. It was especially fun when we could ask questions and be involved in the discussion. Yes, I'll admit, I was one of those kids who always had her hand up hoping to be called on or chosen to participate!

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Yesterday, my kids came home very excited because they have two assemblies in one day. They were most interested to tell me about the woman who came in to deliver a talk in celebration of Black History Month. The woman was a child about their age during the time of segregation and she told personal stories of how she and her family were treated. I am sure these stories will stick with my girls for many years to come.

Talking to kids is a big challenge.

In Part 1 of this series, I gave you 10 tips on engaging a young audience so that your message is heard and remembered. This week, I'll give you 10 more tips to help you get a wow, not a scowl, from a group of children:

**Tip #1: Ask Questions**

Ask many questions along the way to gauge if the children understand and are following you. By asking questions, you are getting them to contribute ideas to the discussion. You may be surprised by an idea they come up with that you hadn’t thought of. For older children, it might be a fun exercise to have them write down questions anonymously and drop them in a pile for you to pick and read out loud.

**Tip #2: Leave Plenty of Time for Discussion**

Be prepared to get crazy questions as well. Just remember to keep your composure. Don’t embarrass anyone who asks a question or offers you an idea. Treat every member of your audience with respect and take each question as seriously as possible, even the ones you that almost make you laugh. That’s not to say you can’t be humorous and silly. Just like adults, children enjoy a lively discussion.

**Tip #3: Set Ground Rules for Participation at the Beginning**

However, make it clear when you will accept questions and when they have to wait. Do you want your audience to share their stories and experiences? If so, when? If you don’t have time for stories, let them know you would love to hear their stories afterwards. Enlist the teacher to help you enforce the participation rules.
Tip #4: Use Simple Sentences

As with adults, you don’t want to lose your listeners with complicated language. Be as direct as possible. Keep to one topic at a time so the kids can easily follow you.

Tip #5: Use More Vocal Variety than You Do with Adults

Keep your voice lively and clear, and keep their attention by emphasizing certain words with a louder or softer voice. In short, make your discussion almost as if you are telling a story from children’s book. Your goal is to use your voice as a way to get attention in the right spots.

Tip #6: Use More Facial Expressions than You Do with Adults

Try to make eye contact with members of the audience and be more animated with your hands. Smile, laugh, look surprised, and move your head. Stay relaxed and don’t be statue-like. Since you most likely won’t be using slides you’ll need to keep their attention by using your body, arms, and face.

Tip #7: Use a Mantra

Repeat key catchphrases and main ideas several times throughout the presentation. Much like you would present to an adult audience, review the important items that you would like for the kids to remember and then create a short memorable phrase that captures the main point. If you can use figurative language to make it more memorable, all the better.

Tip #8: Give them Something to Share at Home

Parents will probably ask their kids what they learned that day. Always leave your listeners with something to share with their families and something to get them to learn more about your topic. For example, if you are speaking to them about natural resources, give them an interesting fact about water and ask them to research where their water comes from in their town. Think of creative ways of providing incentives for them to learn more about you or your topic. For example, maybe you could create bookmarks and give one to each student.

Tip #9: Use the Names of as Many Children as You Can

Find out the names of students from teachers ahead of time, or have the students wear nametags so that you can use their names in your discussion. A personal touch like calling them by name goes a long way in impressing them and making them feel special. If they are at ease, you will be too, and your audience will be even more engaged.

Tip #10: Don’t Sell Your Product

This final piece of advice comes directly from my daughter Daniela. She remembered a really bad presentation from a parent who explained car options available on the latest model of car he was selling. It’s so funny that even as young as age 8 kids don't want to hear a sales pitch! I think that’s good advice for all of us to follow.

My final, and perhaps most important, piece of advice is to have fun sharing your knowledge. You may be surprised and learn something new about your topic or yourself! Everyone likes to be heard and to feel important, and if you remember to use a few of my 20 tips, I’m confident you'll get a wow and not a scowl! As always, if you implement any of these ideas, be sure to let me know either in the comments portion of this episode or by sending me an email at publicspeaker@quickanddirtytips.com.

This is Lisa B. Marshall, Helping you maximize sales, manage perceptions, and enhance leadership through keynotes, workshops, books, and online courses. Passionate about communication; your success is my business.
Seven Tips for Introverted Pastors

I have made no secret of my introversion. In fact, being open and honest about it has been a great relief to me. I think a number of people understand me better.

One gift I wish I had been given when I served as a pastor in four different churches was a mentor who would share with me how to function as an introverted pastor. I made a ton of mistakes! I hope my experiences, both bad and good, will prove to be meaningful to pastors today. I have written them in the form of seven tips.

1. **You just have to mingle sometimes.** I really don’t like small talk. When you mingle before or after a worship service or some other church event, you hear a lot of small talk. My temptation was always to avoid mingling so I could avoid such conversations. Unfortunately, pastors are perceived to be unfriendly and uncaring if they don’t mingle. Force yourself to get out among the members frequently for short periods of time.

2. **You just have to counsel people sometimes.** I avoided counseling for more than one reason. First, I never felt like I was equipped or trained to counsel. Second, I am task oriented with the temptation to advise someone on three easy steps to get their lives in order. Third, my introversion pushes me away from conversations with people I don’t know well. But pastors can’t avoid all counseling. My counseling load tended to diminish over time because people left our sessions feeling worse than when they arrived.

3. **You just have to attend a few social events.** I’m probably wearing out the introverted pastor with these first three tips. But pastors who avoid all mingling, all counseling, and all social events tend to be viewed as impersonal and uncaring. While an introvert should never plan too much interaction, that pastor must be involved to some level.

4. **Be transparent about your introversion.** Church members will understand you better. Many will be more forgiving about some of the introvert’s more annoying traits. Some will identify with you and be glad you were willing to address your introversion publicly.

5. **Use the power of social media to be your voice.** Introverts don’t like small talk conversation, but they typically don’t mind writing. The more people can “see” you on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, or a blog, the more they will feel like they know you, even though you don’t have one-on-one interaction with them.

6. **Be accountable to an extrovert.** I still am today, even though I no longer serve as a pastor. He reminds me of when I am sinking into extreme introversion. He sees me when I don’t see myself. He tells me how my actions or lack of actions may be perceived.

7. **Book time on your calendar to recover.** If you have been expending lots of energy mingling, counseling, or socializing, you need some down time to recover. Put it on your calendar so you can be intentional about it. And for an hour or so, go to a place by yourself. Read, relax, or do nothing. No one is there to talk to you for those minutes. Enjoy your blessed aloneness for a brief season.

Are you an introverted pastor? How do you handle your introversion in an extroverted world? How have other introverted pastors dealt with their situations?