Strategic Friendship Evangelism

By Del Dunavant

God has done so much for us! Not only has He solved our sin problem, He fills us with great joy and peace. The natural desire of our hearts is to bring others to Him. But herein lies a problem. In our past, we've seen others try to manipulate people into becoming Christians and we don't want to do the same. Or, we're afraid that if we share our faith that we'll lose our friends. These, and
Other concerns, are real. So, let me share with you simple, yet effective ways I've learned to naturally lead people to Jesus. Read More

More Things To Stop Saying
By Roger Hernandez

This is part two of our series on things we should stop saying from the pulpit. The more time I spend in churches, the more these things seem to get said. I hope that this list of things that need to get modified, erased, or deleted brings a smile to your face, happiness to your week, and joy to your heart. Any similarity with the church you attend is simply coincidental. Read More

The Printed Prophets
A Book Review by Chris Buttery

In his book The Printed Prophets, Lemuel Olan Jimenez, makes the strong case for literature evangelism in all its forms as a vital means of disseminating God's last-day message to planet earth. Written by this director for publishing and stewardship ministries for the Baja California Conference in Mexico, his purpose is to convince Seventh-day Adventists that literature is presently playing an integral part in proclaiming the third angel's message and will assume an even larger role as we enter the closing events of earth's history. Read More
Stories We Tell: Listen to the Son
By Bill Warcholik

We were preparing the Wickford church for our 50th anniversary homecoming and for the rededication of our restored basement. Just days before the rededication, I noticed the upstairs water heater was leaking. It was threatening to cause a flood to damage our remodeled basement.

Getting a plumber on short notice is both difficult and expensive. Not having anyone in the church that is a plumber, it seemed like something I needed to tackle. Unfortunately, I have a bad attitude toward plumbing based on past attempts that resulted in calling a plumber to fix the mess I made. Read More

Pastors Kids Congress

NAD Youth Ministries office partners with the NAD Ministerial to host the Pastors Kids Congress as part of CALLED, a convention for pastors and their families June 28-July 1, 2015 in Austin. "We consider this first division-wide congress an opportunity to Inspire, Challenge and Encourage PKs for God's kingdom. This will not just be another event but an experience that each will cherish for eternity," says James Black, NAD Youth director. Read about some of the ingredients in this first ever PK Congress.
Let's Talk About Your Best Practices for Ministry

**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. Pitch us an idea. Send us an article. Be sure to include your picture and ministry title. Together we can make *Best Practices for Adventist Ministry* a go-to tool box for NAD pastors and church leaders.

---

**Ideas, Events, Resources, Announcements**

**Five Trends Among the Unchurched** - Since 1990, the percentage of unchurched adults in America has risen from 30% to 43% of the population. Even as this segment has grown, has their profile changed?

"**We Miss You**" **Greeting Cards** - Church Support services has developed a greeting card that can be personalized and mailed (or handed) to individuals who have stopped attending your church. Without getting into anything heavy, this is a card that says, "You've been missed at church." Free samples are available.

**Previous resource links:**

- Reach Out. Persist. Invite
- Asian Americans: Silent No More
- Enter the Deep
- Scientists Are Beginning to Figure Out Why Conservatives Are... Conservative
- Online Sermons: Church Internet Outreach?
- 6 Insights From the #IceBucketChallenge for Church Communications
God has done so much for us! Not only has He solved our sin problem, He fills us with great joy and peace. The natural desire of our hearts is to bring others to Him. But herein lies a problem. In our past, we’ve seen others try to manipulate people into becoming Christians and we don’t want to do the same. Or, we’re afraid that if we share our faith that we’ll lose our friends. These, and other concerns, are real. So, let me share with you simple, yet effective ways I’ve learned to naturally lead people to Jesus.

No human can convert another; this is the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, to begin sharing Christ with others, one must begin to pray that God will lead them to those ready to receive Him and for the right words to use. The ShareHim organization has a prayer booklet that greatly helps me to do this. (Or, go to iTunes and download the ShareHim app.) On each page I write the name of a friend. Daily in prayer, I claim 1 John 5:16 that God will give me “life” to give to each person in my booklet. Each time I have a significant encounter with this person I record it in this booklet. When I’ve had a number of these encounters I invite them to a social event (see below).

I regularly visit my neighbors and friends and try to build a redemptive relationship with them. Often I bring something I’ve made; like a pen or baked goods. After chatting with them, I say, “If you are ever overwhelmed and you want someone to pray for you, would you please ask me?” Sooner or later, I’ve found, most will come to you for prayer. Before long, when they have spiritual concerns or needs, they’ll be talking with you about them.

Even though I’m naturally shy, whenever I see a person, I smile at them. If they smile back, I talk about anything. If they talk back, I drop a “God hint.” In other words, I bring God into the conversation. For example, “Hasn’t God given us a beautiful day?” If they ignore the God hint, I know they are not ready for Christ. However, so many times this opens the floodgates of their desire to talk with anybody about their spiritual needs.

Jesus went about doing good. We need to do the same. Do random acts of kindness for your neighbors and friends. If you know of someone taking a trip, offer to pick up their mail, take care of their animals, etc. Or, join a service organization in your community. Build relationships with all of these people so when they have spiritual concerns, they will know that you are a safe person to talk to.

You could also invite your neighbors and friends to social events in your home. Whenever you do outdoor activities, invite them to go with you. In other words, share your fun times with others. Once they get used to having fun with you, invite “safe” Adventist friends along too. In other words, I want my friends to have many Adventist friends. Because in today’s world, people have to “belong before they’ll believe.” As Adventists, we tend to do the reverse of this. When you believe what we believe, then you can get baptized and belong to this church. When my friends have many Adventist friends, they will begin to feel like they belong among us.

When you have won the trust of your neighbors and friends and they are developing friends with safe Adventists, invite them to your church’s felt-need seminars. Just make sure each Adventist present understands the primary reason for these seminars is to develop relationships with the attendees. When the people of our community find out that Adventists are loving people, people who are genuinely interested in them and their wellbeing, they will enjoy being part of our fellowship.

Whenever your church holds special events, like Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc., invite them to attend. If you have been doing the above, they will feel comfortable joining you for these special occasions.
Inviting friends to special events is one of the most effective ways to bring people into our churches.

When you’ve been praying daily for your friends, when you’ve been building redemptive relationships with them, praying for them, at some point they will ask about your faith. Have a simple, concise, explanation of the gospel well thought out and ready to give (see 1 Peter 3:15). It helps me to remember three letters when sharing the gospel, which are P. S. A.  P.S.A. stands for problem, solution, and acceptance. First explain our problem. We’ve rebelled against God, separating ourselves from Him, and so we experience the problems of life and eventually death. If they have a Christian background, I share Romans 6:23 (the wages of sin is death). Then I give them God’s solution, “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” If I have time, I’ll read Ephesians 2:8-9, telling how this gift comes through faith. We must act as if this is true by asking God for His gift of eternal life through prayer. Then I lead them through the “sinner’s prayer” which includes the following. (1) I realize I’m a sinner and deserve death. (2) I accept your gift of eternal life. (3) I want You to be my Savior and Lord. (4) Thank you for giving me Your gift.

As soon as they are through praying this prayer, I ask them if they now have His gift. If they aren’t sure, I read 1 John 5:11-13. I conclude with sharing a Bible promise with them because Paul said, “it is the goodness of God that leads to repentance” (Rom. 2:4). Then I secure an appointment with them to help them become consistent with a devotional life. In their devotionals I keep them focused on the Gospels, slowly reliving each scene. Weekly, I hold them accountable and encourage whatever progress they make.

Once they developed some consistency in their devotional life, I’ll ask, “Have you understood everything you’ve read in the Gospels?” They almost always say, “No”. Then I ask, “Could I share with you the major themes of the Bible, so you could get more out of it?” Almost always, they plead for me to do this. Simply put, I’m asking if they want Bible studies.

Remember bringing people to Jesus is something only God can make successful. Unite with Him in prayer; serve as His hands and lips to reveal His love to them. Many, throughout eternity, will thank you!

Del Dunavant is the director of Church Growth/Evangelism for the Northern California Conference
This is part two of our series on things we should stop saying from the pulpit. The more time I spend in churches, the more these things seem to get said. I hope that this list of things that need to get modified, erased, or deleted brings a smile to your face, happiness to your week, and joy to your heart. Any similarity with the church you attend is simply coincidental.

This Will be Short: Whether an announcement or a devotional thought, this is hardly ever the case. “Short announcement” is an oxymoron. When someone shows up to your event/program/worship service asking if they “can make a short announcement” look at them, tell them to hold on for a minute and run away. You can always ask for forgiveness later.

In Conclusion: Preaching a sermon is like flying a plane. The conclusion of the sermon is like landing a plane. You know what happens when you fly a plane in circles and do not land? It crashes and burns. Hence the smoke smell you perceive in your clothes after you preach. You know who you are. Land the plane!

As Far as Possible, Kneel: This one I heard this week from a colleague at the Union, it’s one of his pet peeves with worship. He says: “I did not know you could go past the floor. What do you mean as far as possible?”

To Make a Long Story Short: Too late. Usually by the time that statement is made, the story is already long. This is especially disturbing when it’s the fifth time you have heard that story. Spouses, I feel your pain.

Will the Visitors Please Stand? You Are the Flowers of our Church: This phrase contains three crucial mistakes –

- Visitors. A better word is guest.
- Stand. No one likes that. Proven by data, surveys, science. No one.
- Flowers: Imagine a church with members from Mexico (or any other country). This one guy shows up as a guest with the belt, the hat and the boots. A man’s man. A macho man. He was a recognized from the front. He was called a flower. He never returned.

This is the Part of the Service We Can all Participate: This is usually done when tithe and offering time comes. My question is this – what are we doing exactly in the other part of the service? Are we invisible people? Does all the singing, praying and pretending we are paying attention to announcements not considered “participating?” Worship is a verb. Not a spectator sport. This phrase sends the wrong message.

One more announcement: This one is usually done after the service is over. The appeal has been done. The last song has been sung. The 3 hours for a Hispanic church (5 if you are an African American Church, 1 if you are Anglo congregation) are over. Your stomach is growling. Your kids are restless and your spouse is in a hurry. But, alas, it’s not over. It’s not over because you, dear ministry director have to take another 10 minutes in a short announcement that is already in the bulletin, has been announced already and it’s for an event I am not even going to go to. Please, no more. Its takes away from my worship experience. Let me go home inspired not wishing I expired.

Start the Track Over, Please: This is how this one goes down. It starts by the singer hitting the mic to see if it’s on. Followed by the track not starting. Followed by a dirty look. Followed by the track starting in the middle of the song. Followed by the singer asking the sound system operator to start the track. Followed by a rendition of a song that should not have been sung in the first place. Followed by “amens” that make you say, “huh?”
Let Me Tell You a Story Before I Sing: I don’t mind a short introduction. I do mind a sermon. If you want to preach, preach. But we are here to hear you sing. So, please sing.

And That Person Was Me: This usually happens with spectacular testimonies that wait to the end to reveal that the person telling the testimony was the centerpiece of the story. My aversion to this practice has more to do with my personal distaste of testimonies that glorify the past sinful lifestyle and minimize the time now spent with Jesus. The real heroes of the church are not the ones that left, played around and came back, but the ones who never left. Those are my role models.

Roger Hernandez is ministerial director for the Southern Union Conference. You can follow his blog at Lead Southern Union Ministerial
In his book *The Printed Prophets*, Lemuel Olan Jimenez, makes the strong case for literature evangelism in all its forms as a vital means of disseminating God’s last-day message to planet earth. Written by this director for publishing and stewardship ministries for the Baja California Conference in Mexico, his purpose is to convince Seventh-day Adventists that literature is presently playing an integral part in proclaiming the third angel’s message and will assume an even larger role as we enter the closing events of earth’s history.

Jimenez’ doesn’t assume literature evangelism to be superior or the only means of communicating the third angel’s message today. Instead he proposes that while the various broadcast methods of sharing the gospel are fulfilling their important role in a free society through mass media today, the predicted “repressive environment” that is coming will set the stage for the “printed page [to] play a key role in delivering our message” during the closing scenes of earth’s history.

Using the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, Jimenez begins his book by painting a very real picture of the crisis ahead for planet earth and the challenges that await God’s remnant. He then eloquently appeals that while we are now living in the “eye of the storm” the church must take up the work of sowing the gospel seed like never before. He also calls for the remnant to be encouraged in knowing that distributed printed truth will quietly, almost imperceptibly do its work even if “fruit” is not immediately realized. A time is coming when “more than a thousand will...be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.” (Colporteur Ministry, p. 151)

Jimenez continues to build his case for the deliberate sharing of literature by revealing its prophetic role in delivering the sealing message of Revelation 7. He correctly asserts that while the Holy Spirit is the active agent in sealing God’s people, the church must also cooperate. After all, Revelation does record that both the Spirit and the bride [the church] say, “Come.” (Revelation 22:17) It is in this sense that the following words are to be understood: “In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory.” (Christian Service, p. 148)

Jimenez employs a number of familiar Bible stories and passages to show the permanency and power of distributed truth-filled literature, and concludes by showing that literature will be a vital means of saving a large number of people right up to the close of probation.

Finally Jimenez invites every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be involved in the various ways of disseminating the printed third angel’s message – either by making literature evangelism a vocation or a way of life. According to the author, “Literature evangelism is taking the third angel’s message in written form to those not of our faith, and to those unfamiliar with the gospel message. It can be through books, magabooks, magazines, or tracts, whether lent, sold, or given away.”

*The Printed Page* will both appeal to those who are keen to employ a successful and effective method in reaching the masses with God’s last day message of mercy, and stir others to consider their role in God’s final effort to get people ready for His soon return. Every reader will be blessed.
Chris Buttery is senior pastor of the Sacramento Central Church in California
Stories We Tell: Listen to the Son

By Bill Warcholik

We were preparing the Wickford church for our 50th anniversary homecoming and for the rededication of our restored basement. Just days before the rededication, I noticed the upstairs water heater was leaking. It was threatening to cause a flood to damage our remodeled basement.

Getting a plumber on short notice is both difficult and expensive. Not having anyone in the church that is a plumber, it seemed like something I needed to tackle. Unfortunately, I have a bad attitude toward plumbing based on past attempts that resulted in calling a plumber to fix the mess I made.

But I remained reluctant to hire someone for plumbing since I once paid a plumber $1,000 for two hours of work to fix a cracked sewer line. I watched and realized (after the fact) that I could have done the job myself in 3 hours and saved the $1,000. So I attacked the water heater problem.

Putting it in the context of Martha being distracted from spending time with Jesus, here was my distraction – my mental conversation was “you know you shouldn’t be doing this, you will end up with leaks, and you’ll have to call a plumber, and the Sabbath is about to begin, and the program due to start in just a few hours will be ruined by flooding the whole church.” I actually surprised myself at how negative my thoughts had become. Does that ever happen to you?

In cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) terms, my internal conversation and my thinking was awfulizing, catastrophic, all or nothing, always or never, stinkin’ thinkin’. “I can never get plumbing right, I will always have leaks, I will have to hire a plumber because the whole sink will have to be removed and re-plumbed because of what I did, and I’m out of time!”

I was baffled because water was not only leaking, but flowing both ways through the pipes! How could the hot water line be back-flushing water through the cold water line? Desperate I remembered my son the builder and called him. As I described the problem, the thought came to my mind – it’s the faucet spout aerator, and at the same moment my son asked, “Did you check the faucet spout aerator?”

Instantly I realized that stopping to look and listen to the son had solved the problem. In 20 minutes everything was done and I was singing with joy. Distracted from much busyness, I had forgotten that the Son had the solution. All I had to do was follow what He said. Does that happen to you? How much we suffer with a bad attitude because we forget to stop, look and listen to the Son.

Bill Warcholik is a ministry representative and planned giving consultant for It Is Written
Registration Now Open. Click Here.

WELCOME
REGISTRATION
HOTELS
PROGRAMMING
EXHIBITOR
AUSTIN
APP
NEWS

INSPIRING

2015 NAD Pastoral Family Convention
Austin, Texas
June 28 – July 1, 2015

Austin Convention Center
500 E Cesar Chavez St
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 404-4000
Imagine...

...recreating the best of your college and seminary classes, mixing it up with the passion of a massive convocation, connecting it with a class reunion, and thoroughly bathing it with the flavor of Adventism and you've got my vision for the first ever NAD Ministerial convention.

As shepherds we walk a unique and sometimes lonely road leading and caring for sheep. At times we are so busy loving and leading others that we neglect our own spiritual, emotional, and academic needs.

For a few days during the summer of 2015, we're going take a break from shepherding and engage in a long overdue pastoral feast; inspired by a variety of leaders, resources, music, prayer, and fellowship.

It is my dream that the inspiration that we receive in those few days will return us to our pastures more fit to lead than ever before.

--Ivan Williams, D. Min. NAD Ministerial Director
pastoral colleagues old and new abound
latest social ministry networks help convene
Imagine...

...connecting with classmates from college, seminary, or a previous conference. Bring them up to speed on your pastoral journey and listen as they share their stories with you.

Connect with other pastors who you’ve read about but never had a chance to meet. Sit down with new friends and talk about the unique challenges and opportunities of ministry.

Watch as your spouses and kids connect with others who share the joys and challenges of living in the pastoral family.

The schedule and the design of the event is built for connections. There is plenty of informal time in the schedule to connect at a restaurant, or hundreds of small gathering places throughout the convention premises.

We make it easy for you to pick your friends out of a crowd of thousands and set up meeting times and places with our CALLED Convention App. Download it now to your smartphone or tablet device.

--Dave Gemmell, D. Min. Associate Director, NAD Ministerial
ministry specialists teach in break out seminars
fresh resources for ministry delivered continuing education credit received
Imagine...

...rediscovering your unique mix of spiritual gifts and skills. We provide opportunities for you to both develop your core competencies as well as raise some of your skills into the rarefied air of mastery.

Learn from the best in plenary sessions or break-out groups that bring expertise to the core competencies of evangelism, leadership, worship, management, scholarship, people skills, all built on the foundation of character.

Yet the convention is just the beginning as we roll our new continuing education stream for pastors. We share our dream for regular engagement in a variety of ways that meet your need whether through reinvigorated worker's meetings, conferences, or the exciting new virtual Adventist Learning Community. Return to your church with a completed certificate of continuing education for the year 2015.

--Esther R. Knott, M.A.
Associate Director, NAD Ministerial
Director, InMinistry Center
Director, MA in Pastoral Ministry
calling from God for pastoral ministry is validated

Imagine...

...a bush burning in the desert that never goes out.

Do you remember when God first called you to ministry? Maybe it seems recent or maybe it feels like a lifetime ago. At the convention we will walk together through the desert and remember how God first set that burning bush before us. We will recall the words that He spoke, the burning in our hearts, the affirmations from others that first started us on this pastoral journey.

Collectively we will open our hearts again to the reigniting of His call to ministry. Affirmation of our unique calling in ministry will flow over us again.

Yet this is not just about the past. We will be attentive as we believe that God will give us a new calling, for a new place, and new time, in our pastoral journey.

As you plan for the convention, I invite you to reread the passages of scripture that were so meaningful to you in your initial calling. Take a moment everyday to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this unprecedented event. May this be more than just a convention. May we return with a
renewed sense of calling.

--Brenda Blingy, Associate Director, NAD Ministerial
The Youth will have their own agenda during this convention.

NAD Pastors Kids Congress Description of Activities

The NAD Youth Ministries office is honored to partner with the NAD Ministerial office to host the Pastors Kids Congress next year in Austin, TX. We consider this first division-wide congress an opportunity to Inspire, Challenge and Encourage PKs for God’s kingdom. This will not
just be another event but an experience that each will cherish for eternity. In order to meet this goal the congress will include the following components:

- **A Committed Staff** – We have assembled a staff that is very familiar with meeting the needs of pastors’ kids. They are spiritual, creative, focused and love having fun.
- **Worship Leaders** – A team of young adults who are experienced in leading young people to Jesus. They are very sensitive in creating a worship experience that everyone will appreciate.
- **Dynamic Speakers** – PKs will hear from their own peers. These are selected individuals who have had varied experiences as pks and are looking forward to sharing their journey.
- **Biblical Drama Presentations** – This will be the highlight of each evening. Presented by a creative team of Young Adults who have been performing for several years at youth events throughout the Southwestern Union. The youth will see the bible revealed in a way that will lead to decisions for Christ or strengthens one’s relationship with Christ.
- **Element of Surprise Ice-breaker Activities** – Led by Steve Case of Involved Youth, there is no time for a dull moment. The young people will definitely be moving around and tossing something.
- **Community Mission Outreach** – Youth will impact the Austin Community by participating in a mission project that will encourage and sustain those in need.
- **Fun Day Excursion** – Come have a splash with us at the Water Park. This will be a special time for recreation and fellowship PK-style.
- **Building a Support Network** – We will use this event as an opportunity to keep pks encouraged and connected to each other. This network will be created and maintained by pks.