PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD part I

So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Exodus 33:11

It takes prayerful and persevering intentionality to spend time with God on a daily basis because the enemy of our soul wars against this. Read Ephesians 6:11-12 and 1 Peter 5:8. We are told, “Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind” (Great Controversy, p.519). I believe Satan specializes in working through the tyranny of the urgent and what I call the 3-D’s. He works through the distractions, disruptions and detours of life.

The doing of daily ministry, however, cannot substitute for personally being or spending time with God, because spending personal time with the Lord is the life-blood to the doing or practice of pastoral ministry. Through Moses’ relationship with God, we are given insight about our communication with God as to our pastoral leadership and God’s promising presence. Leading in this cynical age filled with modern ideologies, and
leading generational builders, boomers, busters/gen-Xers, gen-Yers, and millenials all at the same time requires a yearning like Moses. “...Show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight...” Exodus 33:13.

Andrew R. Irvine, author of “Living Between Two Worlds,” surveyed pastors and found that over 50 percent of them “felt that to some degree people in the church wanted someone to run the show, not leaving time for personal spiritual nurture, and some 65 percent indicated that to some degree they were often expected to give to others what they themselves lacked.” Irvine went on to suggest that the development of the spiritual is difficult for the clergy. He found they were often so busy doing, that concern with being - the more devotional activity - seemed impossible. He found, alarmingly, business in the schedule of the clergyperson allows time only for prayer with others as part of the job and for scripture study in a search during the sermon process. Irvine is correct. Our need is not for more activity, even activity in ministry. Rather, the need is to shift the doing, to allow time and space for the being with God. Irvine says, “The clamor of activism in the outer physical world, prompted by the clutter of unresolved issues in the inner world, prevents the development and nurture of the spiritual which must transcend both worlds.

There is a need to remove the clutter so that in the midst of all of life the transcendent Spirit can be experienced.” Busyness in ministry is often the veneer used to cover the empty place in the life of the pastor. Church work - attending meetings, setting up tables, and setting up office computers-may be good, but often it crowds out being with God through prayer, meditation and Bible study. My prayer is we all slow down to pray another prayer of Moses to God, “please show me Your glory”! Discuss ways you tenaciously spend time with God on our Facebook page.

NAD Ministerial Best Practices Webinar Schedule for Pastors

APRIL
This third Tuesday's webinar presentation will take place on April 16, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. e.s.t. Arthur Blinci, Vice President -Chief Risk Management Officer for Adventist Risk Management, will present "Managing the Risks Between Pulpit and Pew."
In this litigious age, pastors deal with many challenges surrounding people, places, and things. Being aware of relational landmines and legal pitfalls is half the battle as you lead your congregations. Each year the Seventh day Adventist Church spends millions of dollars on employee issues. Arthur Blinci will provide pastors with a better understanding of the risks they face on a daily basis and provide them with resources that will assist in their ministry.

Dave Gemmell at SONscreen Film Festival 2013 in Simi Valley, Calif
Follow our new "Best Practices Newsletter" on our own Ministerial Directors facebook page.
The latest on Facebook
Please share with us what's happening in your conference or union. We would love to share what you doing with other Ministerial Directors in our Division.

A Point to Make
It should be a serious cause for concern in the Advent movement when we find ourselves, unwittingly, more fascinated with with “worship and music” than with “Message and Mission.”
by Ron Knott

Calendar

April 16
Best Practices Webinar "Managing the Risks
MAY
Next month's webinar presentation will be presented on the third Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. e.s.t. Sung Kwon, Director of Adventist Community Services for the North American Division and Co-founder of the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, will present "Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century."

Because community outreach is the essence of our mission, Dr. Kwon will address why we have dualistic piety in our approach to community and church. He will focus on the essentials of community connectedness and share examples of church growth addressing these essentials. He also will share a better understanding of serving God and His people in Isaiah 58. Join us as we discuss the real essence of reaching communities around our churches.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTERIAL DIRECTORS AND PASTORS

April 17
Advent Source Grand Opening

April 21-24
Columbia Union Pastors Convention- iAbide
Baltimore, MD

May 7
NAD Ministries Directors Council

May 21
Best Practices Webinar "Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century" with Sung Kwon, NAD Adventist Community Services Director and Co-founder of the Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program 1:30 p.m. e.s.t.

June 3, 4
NAD Ordination Committee Meeting
**GROWING FRUITFUL DISCIPLES**

Together Growing Fruitful Disciples is a collaborative initiative by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Andrews University. It is designed as a whole-church endeavor, based on the biblical view that the person who accepts Christ as Savior is called to a Christ-like life of spiritual, mental, physical, and relational growth. Growing Fruitful Disciples will help church ministry leaders at every level of church organization to better undertake the complex, multi-faceted process of discipling - that of enabling people to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ within the fellowship of the church, His body.

**Engage Your Community**

The Nonprofit Leadership Certification program sponsored by Adventist Community Services trains church leaders to play a vital role in their local community. The wide range of seminars will provide participants with a road map for effective, meaningful community change. Session I and Session II will be hosted by the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. For more details and registration.
Beyond Blessings

This book is the result of twelve individuals from throughout North America who won the Stewardship Sermon Contest. The contest was open to active or retired ministers and graduate ministerial students. Some 100 sermons were submitted. Judges selected the 12 winning sermons without knowing the names of the contestants.

Eight of the winners are currently or recently retired congregational pastors. Three of the winners are conference or union conference departmental directors and one is a graduate student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. The contest and book was sponsored by NAD Stewardship, NAD Ministerial and Ministry magazine.

What Every Pastor Should Know

by Gary McIntosh and Charles Arn

Pastors and church leaders are constantly faced with strategic questions. How much staff does the church need? How many workers are needed in the nursery this month? When is the right time to start a second worship service? How many people should we train for evangelism this year? How does seating and parking impact worship attendance? When church leaders have questions about planning, running, or growing their churches, they'll get all the answers need in one place fast! Look Before You Lead
Pastoral ministry is challenging work, especially when a pastor ignores the church's "congregational culture" when seeking to minister to church members or implement changes. Just as a pastor studies to interpret the Scriptures in order to understand and preach the Bible, he or she must interpret the local church culture to better understand and move it toward accomplishing its mission and vision.

In Look Before You Lead, trusted church leadership expert Aubrey Malphurs shows pastors how to read their church's unique local culture, how to change or revitalize it, and even how to combine two cultures when one church adopts another. This unique resource approaches leadership and discernment from a solid, biblical perspective and includes a number of helpful appendices, such as a behavior, belief, and a values audit, that are key to reading and understanding the culture.

Worship House Media provides resources for the creative church!