PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD part II

"Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer" (Mark 1:35, NET).

Our Savior's example of spending time with His Father in prayer is the essential witness to us in these modern busy times. Jesus made spending time with His Father priority. Peering through the window of His relationship with the Father gives us a real witness and insight as to what is necessary for our spiritual lives today. It was life-blood for Jesus. When we spend personal time with God it will have a monumental effect on our lives.

We will begin to notice many positive changes taking place. It won't happen all at once, but as we spend time with God, we will receive a spiritual connection that will outweigh the things of the flesh.

Here are some HUGE benefits that will become very evident in our lives as we spend time with God on a regular basis:

* You will grow in your faith. Read Romans 10:17.
* You will receive power. Read Acts 1:8.
* You will have victory in your life. Read 1 Corinthians 15:47.
* You will have clear direction. Read John 16:7.
* You will become more like Jesus. Read Ephesians 4:13.

Finally, spending personal time with God will heighten your desire to remain in His presence. You will grow stronger, and your praise and worship experiences will become richer.

Peering through the story pane of Mary and Martha, we see Jesus placed the greatest value on spending time with Him, (meaning today in prayer and His Word), rather than the stressful busyness or the overbearing preparation for service. "Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto
Best Practices for Ministerial Directors June 3, 2013

her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:38-42, KJV).

What works for you? Does the busyness in ministry keep you from spending time with the Source of ministry? Discuss your personal time habits with the Lord on our facebook page.

BEST PRACTICES WEBINARS

JUNE WEBINAR

WANTED: A FEW GOOD SERMONS
Have you lost your passion to preach the gospel? Do you desire to sharpen your preaching skills? Would you like to know some keys for better sermonic preparation?

THIS WEBIBAR IS FOR YOU!
Dr. Hyveth Williams, Professor of Homiletics at the Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, will address, "Prophetic Preaching."

What makes a sermon connect with the listener? What are the essentials for making a sermon so clear children remember?

Find out how to preach with contemporary relevance and how to maintain your passion for preaching. Join us with your preaching interests.

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Time: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

REGISTER NOW.
After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

JULY WEBINAR

There will be no WEBINAR in the month of JULY due to the campmeeting schedule for pastors.

Giving Made Easy

The Great Controversy Project

“The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and future... I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books.” Colporteur Ministry, p. 127

"Instruction has been given me that the important books containing the light that God has given regarding Satan's apostasy in heaven should be given a wide circulation just now; for through them the truth will reach many minds.”

Colporteur Ministry, p. 123

Revival & Reformation

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
**AdventistGiving**

AdventistGiving is a program created by the North American Division to provide a way for church members to be able to return tithe and give offerings electronically. AdventistGiving allows church members to return tithes and give offerings online while they do their online banking, are on a long business trip, are on vacation, or even when they are unable to attend church due to an illness.

The AdventistGiving program is written and supported by employees of the North American Division. Church members in the US may give using credit cards, debit cards, and electronic checks. Credit card donations are the only method of payments accepted from Canada. The AdventistGiving program was made available for churches to enroll in 2006. Enrollment increases every month and there are already well over a thousand churches actively using the program. Also, more than 10,000 members give online each month.

Information about AdventistGiving can be found on the following links:

[https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/About.aspx](https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/About.aspx)
[https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/FAQ.aspx](https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/FAQ.aspx)

**Leadership Team Transitions for NAD Ministerial**

**Shawn Boonstra**, NAD Ministerial associate and veteran of Seventh-day Adventist media outreach and evangelism, has accepted a call to be the new speaker/director of one of radio's longest-running religious programs, The Voice of Prophecy.

Boonstra says, "Working with the NAD Ministerial team has been a phenomenal experience."

**Esther Knott**, part time NAD Ministerial associate and associate pastor of the Pioneer Memorial SDA Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan has accepted the invitation to serve full time as NAD Ministerial Division.

**A Point to Make**

"Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You."

Dr. Seuss

**Calendar**

**June 3, 4**
NAD Ordination Committee Meeting

**June 18**
Best Practices Webinar
"Prophetic Preaching" with Hyveth Williams, Professor of Homiletics at the Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan
1:30 p.m. e.s.t.

**July 16**
NO Best Practices Webinar

**June 19-22**
Annual Leadership Council

**June 25, 26**
NAD Ordination Committee Meeting

**July 21-22**
3rd Annual Leadership Conference at Andrews University
"Leadership and Diversity"

**August 7-10**
ASI International Convention
Orlando, FL
associate director and the new InMinistry Center director and with focus on continuing education through graduate studies and training, and professional growth for pastors. Read more.

Defending Orphans

“do good, seek justice, defend orphans” (Isaiah 1:17, NLT).

While studying the Scriptures recently, I was reminded of God's specific instructions for His people to care and provide for the orphans. Spirit of Prophecy counsel in Testimonies to the Church, vol. 6, pages 280-288 clearly supports this passage in God's Word and shows that care for the orphans is a charge assigned to us Christians in trust for God.

There is a movement within our body of believers to accomplish this orphan care as outlined in Isaiah 1, 58, and many other passages woven throughout the Bible. This movement is an integral part of the movement we must join to finish God's work and hasten Christ's Second Coming. The movement is called the do (defend orphans) Movement. This is a movement that can stir our hearts to greater passion for God's unreached and unrestored souls. It is a free membership movement for young people and the young at heart. We would encourage all who carry Christ's name to join this movement.

NAD Ministerial, NAD Education, and NAD Youth Departments have issued press releases in NAD NewsPoints about our partnership with Restore a Child in its newest initiative, the do Movement's do fast. Restore a Child is a non-profit 501 (c)(3), a ministry for orphans that was birthed 14 years ago while Norma Nashed, founder and president, was battling cancer and working at the General Conference.

The four entities are joining together to launch a fast that introduces our students and young people in our churches to the Biblical mandate and Seventh-day Adventist world view about the true fast described in Isaiah 58.

For more information go to http://restoreachild.org/do/
North American Division Ministerial Association - Adventist Giving

nadministerial.org/article/655/ministerial-directors/adventist-giving

Home Ministerial Directors

Adventist Giving
AdventistGiving is a program created by the North American Division to provide a way for church members to be able to return tithe and give offerings electronically. AdventistGiving allows church members to return tithes and give offerings online while they do their online banking, are on a long business trip, are on vacation, or even when they are unable to attend church due to an illness.

The AdventistGiving program is written and supported by employees of the North American Division. Church members in the US may give using credit cards, debit cards, and electronic checks. Credit card donations are the only method of payments accepted from Canada. The AdventistGiving program was made available for churches to enroll in 2006. Enrollment increases every month and there are already well over a thousand churches actively using the program. Also, more than 10,000 members give online each month.

Information about AdventistGiving can be found on the following links:
https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/About.aspx
https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/FAQ.aspx

The North American Division collects member donations then twice each month creates a report for each church. This report contains information about all member donations itemized by date and type of offering or tithe given since the last report. A deposit is sent to each church bank account equal to the total on the report. Reports are posted to the individual church treasurer’s AdventistGiving account, and treasurers can sign into their accounts to view and download them at their convenience.

Enrollment in AdventistGiving is easy. All that is needed is the name and email address of the church treasurer. The AdventistGiving support desk then provides assistance with the enrollment process. The four basic items needed to enroll a church are:

1. Completed enrollment form with signatures of the church pastor, church treasurer, and conference treasurer
2. Copy of a voided check from the church’s bank account
3. A link on the church website for Online Giving
4. Local offerings entered for the member’s to see on the electronic tithe envelope

Members create their own member accounts by going to an enrolled church’s website and clicking on the link for ‘Online Giving.’ Members have one account and can use this account to give to one or more churches. Each time a member wishes to give they must go to the church website they wish to give to and log into their member account through that church’s ‘Online Giving’ link. Members may select to give in the following categories:

- Tithe
- Conference Offerings – these offerings are designated by each conference for the churches in their territories
- Local Offerings – these offerings are designated by each local church when they enroll in AdventistGiving
- World Offerings – there are several hundred offerings to choose from, these offerings are designated by the North American Division

Members can save one or more payment types (credit/debit card and/or electronic checking information) into an ewallet so they don’t need to type this information each time they want to give. Privacy and security are top priorities in the AdventistGiving program and state-of-the-art security measures are in place so members can be assured that the information they save is always secure.

There are no fees charged by the North American Division for this service. The only fees are those charged by the payment vendors. AdventistGiving negotiates the lowest possible fees for online giving. The costs are shared by the local conference (70%), union conference (10%), North American Division (10%) and General Conference (10%). Electronic checks cost about 16 cents. Credit and debit cards have higher costs at about 1.4% of the amount given. It is preferred that members use electronic checks whenever possible to keep fees at a minimum for the organizations that bear the costs. AdventistSchoolPay

AdventistSchoolPay provides an opportunity to pay school tuition and expenses online using a credit/debit card or a checking account. It also provides an opportunity to give a donation to the school. For more information about AdventistSchoolPay, please click on the following link:
http://www.adventistschoolpay.org/about/FAQ.aspx

AdventistSchoolPay is a program created by the North American Division to provide a way for church members to be able to return tithe and give offerings electronically. AdventistSchoolPay allows church members to return tithes and give offerings online while they do their online banking, are on a long business trip, are on vacation, or even when they are unable to attend church due to an illness.

The AdventistSchoolPay program is written and supported by employees of the North American Division. Tuition and donations are collected at the North American Division. Twice monthly a report is created for each school. This report itemizes the tuition and/or expenses paid by student name. It also identifies donations by name. Deposits are sent to each school bank account equal to the total on the reports. Reports are posted to the individual school treasurer’s AdventistSchoolPay account, and treasurers can sign into their accounts.
to view and download them at their convenience. Enrollment in AdventistSchoolPay is easy. All that is needed is the name and email address of the school treasurer or business manager. The AdventistSchoolPay support desk then provides assistance with the enrollment process. The four basic items needed to enroll a school are:

1. Completed enrollment form with signatures of the school principal, school treasurer/business manager, and conference treasurer
2. Copy of a voided check from the school’s bank account
3. A link on the school website for AdventistSchoolPay
4. School Tuition, fees, and donations list set up and reviewed by school treasurer/business manager

Parents and donors create their own member accounts by going to an enrolled school’s website and clicking on the link set up by the school to access the program. Parents and donors have one member account and can use this account to pay tuition or give to one or more schools.

The cost for AdventistSchoolPay is on average about 1.8% of amount paid. If payment is made by electronic check, the cost is only 20 cents, regardless of the amount paid. Fees are deducted from the money that we send to the school bank account. Those who make their payments online will pay the exact amount that they give. AdventistSchoolPay cannot pass the cost to the users when they make their payments online according to the credit card company policy.
Shawn Boonstra, NAD Ministerial associate and veteran of Seventh-day Adventist media outreach and evangelism, has accepted a call to be the new speaker/director of one of radio’s longest-running religious programs, The Voice of Prophecy. Boonstra says, "Working with the NAD Ministerial team has been a phenomenal experience."
It's not often that you see a team so dedicated to the support and success of pastors, and it's been rewarding to be part of that. My primary area of focus is evangelism, and I'm happy to report that it's alive and well throughout the Division. Our pastors have a heart, not just for winning their communities, but for seeing their church members enjoy the outreach potential that God has in store for them. They have a vision worth supporting, and Ivan's ministerial team is clear evidence of the Division's commitment to being that support. Even though I'm now moving on to new responsibilities, I will always be a part of this in some way.

Ivan Williams, the NAD Ministerial director says, “It has been an awesome experience having Shawn Boonstra serve with us on the NAD Ministerial team. His gifts and talents have been an essential part of the relevant ministerial work. Although Shawn’s responsibilities will take him elsewhere, we will continue collaborating on winning souls for God’s kingdom in the North American Division.”

Dan Jackson, president of the Voice of Prophecy Board and of the North American Division, said in a statement, “Shawn has clearly demonstrated that he has a heart for evangelism and for reaching those who need to hear the messages of Christ’s love and redemptive power.”

Boonstra was from 2004 to 2011 speaker/director of It Is Written, the church’s pioneering television outreach. He had earlier spent six years at the Canadian It Is Written program, including five as speaker/director there. Earlier, he pastored a number of Adventist congregations in British Columbia.

Boonstra’s selection to head the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) ministry was voted April 30, 2013, by the organization’s board of directors, meeting in Simi Valley, California.

Boonstra has also authored more than 15 outreach-oriented books. He and his wife Jean, social media coordinator for Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines, have two daughters. Boonstra replaces pastor Fred Kinsey who served the Voice of Prophecy for five years.
North American Division Ministerial Association - Esther Knott Transition

Esther R. Knott, part time NAD Ministerial associate and associate pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan has accepted the invitation to serve full time as NAD Ministerial associate director and the new InMinistry Center director, and will focus on continuing education through graduate studies and training, and professional growth for pastors.

Dan Jackson, NAD President, said the division Administrative Committee voted on May 8 to ask Esther R. Knott, associate pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, to join the Ministerial department full time. According to Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Director, Knott is already a well-known part of the Ministerial department team, having served part-time as associate director since 2009. Her focus has been on initiating division-wide special projects and providing support and professional development to more than 100 Adventist women clergy employed in various capacities across the Division.

Williams said that in the new full-time position, Knott will transition into different responsibilities. She will direct the division’s efforts to support local conferences in building a comprehensive, sustainable continuing education system for pastors, with similar standing and expectations that are required of professionals in other fields.

Williams said Knott will also direct the Division’s InMinistry Center, a joint program with the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews that provides field-based master’s level programs to practicing pastors. In this latter position, she replaces Walton Williams, who has held this position since 2001 and is retiring this summer. As an employee of the Division, Knott, like her predecessor, will be based at the Seminary and serve as the Division liaison with the Seminary in developing and running these programs.

“Esther Knott is a connector,” Ivan Williams said. “She is a change agent. She has proven that she has a special administrative talent as a pastor to bring people together to develop new ideas and new ways of doing things. She also has a passion for continuing training and education. All of these skills are exactly what we need for the portfolio of responsibility we have for this position in NAD Ministerial. Her talents will be an especially important part of our team as we look forward to the first ever division-wide ministerial convention that will be held in Austin, Texas in 2015.”

Williams said that Knott has been developing a broad perspective of the needs of pastoral development for many years. Among other responsibilities beyond her congregation, she has been a very active member of the Michigan Conference Executive for 15 years. She serves on the re-organized NAD Board of Ministerial and Theological Education and is a member of the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee.

Knott has been a pastor for more than 28 years. She has served as campus chaplain at Broadview Academy and Andrews University. From 1987 to 1990 she was the director of the NAD Education department’s Harvest 90 Education Project, where she developed a curriculum for teachers to use in educating Adventist K-12 students about early Adventist leaders and the history of Adventism. From 1990 to 1997 she was associate pastor at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md.

In 1997 Knott joined the staff at Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, where for the last 16 years she has focused on congregational nurture, discipleship, small groups, personal evangelism and community engagement. This year, she and Dwight Nelson, senior pastor, along with the staff, launched a major initiative to move Pioneer into a strong small group model for intentional discipleship. In the first semester of the program, more than 800 members were involved weekly in small groups. “We as a university congregation have
been especially blessed with Esther’s creative leadership,” Nelson said. “Her passion for ministry and soul-winning and her devotion to God have kept her on the cutting edge of pastoring, and I know she will significantly impact the new team she is joining. We will miss her!” Working with a team from Pioneer and AdventSource, Knott was a lead developer of Contagious Adventist, a new seminar that helps Adventists learn to recognize and create contagious Adventist moments where they can naturally introduce specific Adventist teachings to other Christians. Knott has also been very active in developing strong relationships with various organizations and agencies and leaders in the surrounding community through her involvement with Rotary, Big Brothers/Sisters, and Christian Worlds Services’ CROP Hunger Walk.

Knott holds a BA in religion and a MA in religious education from Andrews University. She is married to Ronald Alan Knott, who is director of Andrews University Press, the Adventist Church’s only regularly established academic publishing house, and the publisher of the Andrews Study Bible. The Knotts have one daughter, Olivia, a junior religion and communication major at Andrews University.

Knott will begin her new responsibilities with the North American Division on July 21.