Hello, Ministry Family!

I realize that I talked about it in our last issue. As the Ordering and Printing deadlines are approaching, I became so excited that I have to talk about it again!

The North American Division is joining the World Church in the largest united, single focused, Literature Distribution Initiative we have attempted to date! Imagine 170 million copies various forms of the book, Ellen G. White desired for widest circulation (CM 127), and we are a part of that!

The book is *The Great Hope*, an abridged adaptation of *The Great Controversy*. It is a ninety-six page, eleven chapter presentation designed to present an appeal to us, and our friends to get ready for the coming of our “Soon Coming Savior”!

Best of all, thanks to our partners at the Pacific Press and the Review and Herald Publishing Associations, the price of the Book is just $0.39 (plus Shipping). This is a pricing structure that is within the reach of both Conferences and individuals.

We hope you have already begun to read the full volume to gain the context of the message, and are Praying that Our Lord will impress you with a long list of Family, other Friends and Acquaintances with whom to share this blessed Book!

Oh! How do you acquire *The Great Hope*? So glad you asked. Just call the Adventist Book Center that serves your area at 800.765.6955. Full details can be found at our website, [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com). Order by May 15, 2012. Delivery starts on June 15, 2012. Then Let The Sharing Begin!

Share your questions and comments with us at [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com).

Blessings!

JAJ II
**Sabbath School Offerings and Mission Promotion**

**World Mission Funds**
The Sabbath School in all its divisions has historically been recognized as the church organization which gives weekly emphasis to the worldwide mission program. Funds received through the Sabbath School mission offerings constitute a significant portion of the world mission funds.

**General Conference Funds**
Sabbath School mission offerings are General Conference funds, and are to be passed on in their entirety by the church treasurer to the conference/mission for transfer to the General Conference. These mission offerings include the regular Weekly Offering, Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, Sabbath School Investment, and the Birthday-Thank Offering. Each of these mission offerings is to be identified as a separate fund in the regular system of records from the local church to the General Conference.

**Sabbath School Expense**
If the expenses of the Sabbath School are not provided for in the regular church budget, a Sabbath School expense offering may be received. This offering is retained in the local church to meet the recurring expenses of the Sabbath School as voted by the Sabbath School Committee.

**Regular Weekly Mission Offering**
Mission offerings given through the Sabbath School, other than those for the Thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter, Investment, and the Birthday-Thank Offering, constitute the regular Weekly Mission Offering.

**Thirteenth Sabbath Offering**
The offering received on, or designated for the Thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter, a portion of which is devoted to designated projects in world divisions according to a schedule voted by the Annual Council.

**Sabbath School Investment**
In order to encourage further giving to the mission program and to raise mission funds through various individual or family projects, the plan known as Sabbath School Investment was developed. This plan is not particularly tied to a regular time period or weekly or quarterly appeal for offering. It is a continuing program to promote and increase mission gifts beyond normal regular giving. Individual members or groups choose a project and return a percentage of the financial returns to Sabbath School Investment. Such proceeds or offerings are received at any time, but periodically a special promotional appeal is presented in the Sabbath School.

**Birthday and Thank Offerings**
Periodically, an appeal is presented in the Sabbath School for a special mission gift in recognition of God’s blessing on the occasion of a birthday or other significant events. Such offerings have added a significant amount to the available mission funds, and are included with other Sabbath School Offerings to expand the cause of missions around the world.
WANTED

YOUR BEST SERMON: STEWARDSHIP SERMON CONTEST

Calling all ministers, active and retired, and graduate ministerial students in North America to submit your best sermon on Stewardship.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – August 9, 2012

Topics

- Tithe
- Offerings
- The Theology of Money
- Tithe and Offerings in the Bible
- Money and Eschatology
- Theology of Heart and Treasure
- The “Storehouse”

Prizes

- Up to 10 winners will receive $1,000 each.
- The contest panel will determine if all prizes will be awarded. All decisions are final.
- All submissions become the property of the sponsors.

Submission Requirements

- Submission must be a full-text sermon (outlines not accepted).
- Bibliographic information must be provided for any material quoted or referenced.
- Page one of the manuscript must include the following: your name, address, email address, telephone number, and current or previous position that qualifies you for this contest. The sermons should start on page two. Do not include your name on any pages except the first page.
- Submit your manuscript in Microsoft Word to lori.bryan@nad.adventist.org.
- Only one submission per person is allowed.
- The maximum length of the manuscript is 3,500 words.

For additional information visit: www.iGiveSDA.org/contest or Contact:

john.mathews@nad.adventist.org
ivan.williams@nad.adventist.org
nsatelmajer@gmail.com
ATTITUDE FATALITIES:
NEGATIVISM – Part 1 of 2

Internal problems are not the only things that endanger our perspective. Our attitude sometimes crashes when the storms around us begin to take their toll.

The Night of Negativism

Our thoughts govern our actions. In Matthew 15:19, the Lord said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slander." The question is, Are we governed by negative or positive thoughts? As negative thoughts produce negative actions, so positive thoughts produce positive actions. Today we are where we are and what we are because of the thoughts that dominated our minds. Our challenge is to think right in a negative world.

Negative thinking creates clouds at critical decision times.

We become tense instead of relaxing. Taking a test is an example of this. An often-heard comment while cramming is, "I hope they don’t ask me that question. I’m sure I’ll miss it." We start the test and sure enough, there is the question, followed by the predicted outcome. Accident? No. It’s a prophecy fulfilled. You felt negative about the question, declared your fear and responded accordingly. Next time you’re studying for an exam, say to yourself, “If there ever will be a time when I remember the answer to this question, it will be when I take the test.”

Negative talking is contagious.

A man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs was hard of hearing, so he had no radio. He had trouble with his eyes, so he read no newspapers. But he sold good hot dogs. He put up signs on the highway advertising them. He stood on the side of the road and cried, "Buy a hot dog, mister?" and people bought his hot dogs. He increased his meat and bun orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He finally got his son to come home from college to help out. But then something happened. "Father, haven’t you been reading the newspaper? There’s a big recession on. The European situation is terrible. The domestic situation is worse."

Whereupon the father thought, "Well, my son’s been to college, he reads the papers and he listens to the radio, and he ought to know." So the father cut down his meat and bun orders, took down his signs and no longer bothered to stand out on the highway to sell hot dogs. His sales fell overnight.

"You’re right, son," the father said to the boy. "We certainly are in the middle of a big recession."

Has someone else’s negative attitude ever changed your actions?

The Winning Attitude: Your Pathway to Personal Success by John C. Maxwell
“The Christian home is, in fact, by far the most powerful evangelizing agency in the world. It is evangelism, however, is not aggressive; it is persuasive. It proclaims its message not by words, but by deeds. It does not tell others what they should be; it shows them what they could be. By their gracious influence, Christian homes win more converts than all the preachers put together. Give us enough of them, and the world would soon be a Christian world; for the world’s life rises to the higher level only as its homes do so.” (David and Vera Mace, In the Presence of God)

Families who connect with unchurched families and invite them to church activities is the most widely used church growth technique today among the well-known, fast-growing Evangelical congregations. If your congregation can help member families see their social activities as evangelistic opportunities, there is no reason why your congregation cannot use this same strategy. Very few North Americans are prejudice against the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its message; most simply know little or nothing about it. Relationships are a powerful avenue for connecting with potential converts, and if families work together in relational outreach it is even more effective. Befriending a new family on the block, taking them out for pizza and miniature golf, is just as surely evangelism as is giving a Bible study!

“Ours is a world that desperately needs hospitality. It is a world where people everywhere experience broken relationships, mistrust, hostility, anxiety, and hopelessness. Technological advances bring their benefits, but often at the expense of family togetherness and stability, trusting relationships, and enduring friendships, “points out Ron and Karen Flowers in Families Reaching Families, presenting the challenge of true hospitality. “At the same time that people everywhere are searching for the gold of true affection and caring, hungering for relationships that will last, Christians find themselves so spent they can scarcely respond. Christians are no different from those around them in these respects. Yet, we desperately need each other, and the world needs our love. In truth, many will never hear what we say about God’s love until they have experienced it in our midst.”

Hospitality, as understood in Scripture, is another word for evangelism. “Somewhere along the way a counterfeit to hospitality has arisen, a false hospitality we will call entertainment. Entertainment mimics hospitality, but really has little to do with real biblical hospitality.”
“INMATE SPIRITUAL COUNSELING” CURRICULUM SEGMENTS

“Inmate Spiritual Counseling” with an emphasis on Volunteer Prison Chaplaincy, is the new training curriculum for those who are very serious about updating their Prison Ministry skills. The 46-hour course is offered by the North American Division Academy of Continuing Education, and will be conducted in association with the International Institute of Christian Ministry of the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department, which has a direct relationship with Griggs University. Continuing Education Credit is a possibility for college credit in the future.

Curriculum Segment Highlights: Introduction to Spiritual Counseling VCHP.245

Description

This Module introduces the student to counseling situations germane to correctional settings. It summarizes Christian counseling concerns apropos to the behavior and feelings of inmates and the work of correctional Chaplains, Inmate and Spiritual Counselors.

Overview

This course exposes the student to the fundamentals of communicating with inmates, as well as how to know them and to gain their confidence and respect. It delineates acceptable and non-acceptable approaches to conversing with inmates. The student will become familiar with Christian counseling techniques and the role of Christian Counselors to the incarcerated. Students will gain insights in the work of a Chaplain/Inmate Spiritual Counselor inside the fence.

Learning Outcomes

1. The student will learn how to know inmates.
2. The student will learn how to talk to inmates.
3. The student will be exposed to Christian counseling techniques.
4. The student will be exposed to some of the hurting situations that inmates are exposed to.
5. The student will learn what Christian Counselors/Chaplains are exposed to in the Department of Corrections.
6. The Inmate Spiritual Counselor will learn the Counselor’s responsibility to inmates.

Each issue of Network News will feature a segment from this 17 Module Curriculum. We, at the North American Division Adult Ministries Academy of Continuing Education, encourage our readers to enroll. Call Carol at 301.680.6430 or log on www.adventsource.org for registration information.
Avenal State Prison Donates Cell Phones to Soldiers

In recognition of the 10-year anniversary of September 11th, Avenal State Prison (ASP) donated 515 cell phones to the Cell Phones for Soldiers program, reported CDCR Today. The phones came from staff donations as well as those recovered during contraband searches. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has recently seen a rise in the use of contraband cell phones as more than 9,000 cell phones have been discovered in CDCR’s prisons and conservation camps. Cell Phones for Soldiers collects cell phones, recycles them and uses the profits to purchase prepaid calling cards for the soldiers so that they can call their loved ones. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad for each donated phone. Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded in 2004 and has since collected 7.5 million cell phones, which have been turned into 90 million prepaid calling card minutes distributed to soldiers. “The job of our troops is never-ending,” ASP Warden James Hartley said. “They remain in foreign lands as peacekeepers, guarding those who wish to realize the liberties of freedom. As such, ASP wants to support the troops by giving them the opportunity to hear that precious and familiar voice when they call home.”

California to Free Thousands of Female Inmates With Children

California prison officials plan to release thousands of female inmates with children in an effort to meet a court-imposed deadline to make space in overcrowded prisons, the Los Angeles Times reported. Mothers who were convicted of nonserious, nonsexual crimes and have two years or less remaining on their sentences will qualify for release, making more than 4,000 of the state’s 9,500 female inmates eligible, prison spokeswoman Dana Toyama said. The policy, written by Legislative Director for State Senator Carol Liu, will allow the released inmates to serve the rest of their sentences at home on the condition that the women wear GPS-enabled ankle bracelets and report to parole officers regularly. Some women would go to halfway houses or drug treatment centers, and all would be permitted to get jobs or go to school. According to state prisons Secretary Matthew Cate, the program is "a step in breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration," and "family involvement is one of the biggest indicators of an inmate’s rehabilitation.” If the plan proves effective in improving prison overcrowding problems while reducing the likelihood of recidivism, the policy could be extended to male inmates in the near future.

EDITOR’S P.S

There are a lot of happenings taking place with prison ministry, and with you, Prison Ministers. The Elder and I want to know what you’re doing, how you’re doing, where you’re doing your ministry, and what’s being done for the families of the incarcerated. We’re interested! Plus, we want to share your experience to encourage others who are already in prison ministry, and to encourage more people to enter into this exciting ministry. We’re “all ears”. Email us at jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org; and carol.barron@nad.adventist.org.

I’m outta here!

cb