

You're a Seventh-day Adventist:

# Welcome *to the Family*

*Come  
On In...*

How to Make  
**Sabbath**  
the **Best**  
Day of the Week

**Supercharge**  
Your Personal and  
Family Devotions

**Service:**  
Impact Your **Church**  
And Your Community

This special “Welcome to the Family” magazine is a team effort of the staff of the nine union magazines within the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. It is published with the hope that the information and inspiration inside will enrich your understanding of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church and enhance your quality of life as a member of the family of God.

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# You're Family Here!



## Welcome to the Seventh-day Adventist Church!

*Whether you've been part of this church for a few weeks or many years, you're family. Walk into any Adventist church, and you can feel like you belong.*

I learned this again just recently at my home church in Takoma Park, Maryland. After the service, I talked with someone who was a first-time visitor. We invited him for Sabbath dinner. We learned that he'd been an Adventist for only two weeks. He'd been baptized in Montana, spent the previous Sabbath in South Dakota, and had just arrived in Maryland. Then, as we talked further, I learned that he and I both work in communication. Then, as we talked even further, we learned that the person who helped lead him to become a member was the daughter of good friends of ours.

There's a commercial that says, "When you're here, you're family." That's the Adventist Church too. The connections in this family are great; you don't ever have to be without a home. Welcome to the Family!

So what is this family, the Adventist Church, like? What is the essence of being part of the Seventh-day Adventist family? That's easy. It's the message. The Adventist Church teaches a message from the Bible that touches every aspect of your life. This message enhances our quality of life on this earth and then offers eternal life in the earth made new.

The Adventist Church enhances quality of life for people in many ways. Our hospitals, schools, and community service outreach programs are obvious and visible examples.

It may be a little more difficult to see, but it's every bit as true, that Adventist doctrines improve quality of life as well. Of course, Adventist teachings on health improve quality of life; Adventists live healthier lives that average seven years longer than others. But it's other doctrines of the church as well. Take the Sabbath, for instance. The Sabbath is like a whole new day in your week, a day that most other people don't have. The Sabbath interrupts the business and the busy-ness of life and reminds us that people and relationships are important.

Do you know anyone who takes work too seriously? Of course you do. The Sabbath is a perfect antidote, reminding us that God will provide for our needs and that we should concentrate on building our relationship with God. Do you know anyone who doesn't take enough time with family and friends? Of course you do. The Sabbath is a perfect antidote,

giving us the chance to attend church together, and then share an unhurried meal afterwards.

Consider the doctrine of the Advent as well. Knowing the truth about Jesus' return means I don't worry about the future; I know what's going to happen. When there's a war in Afghanistan or a genocide in Rwanda, I put it in perspective: "Wars... will increase."

Do you know anyone who's nervous or afraid about the future? Of course you do. The recent terrorist attacks have set everyone on edge. The Adventist understanding of the future is so vital. We know that there's a cosmic conflict going on, a struggle between good in the person of Jesus Christ and evil in the person of Satan. And we know who has already won the war!

## **Adventist doctrines, rightly understood, are about enhancing quality of life... because we know Jesus.**

One more example: Tithing. Paying 10 percent of your income to the church, and then being generous with additional offerings that reflect how God has blessed you. Well, does *that* enhance the quality of your life?

Yes! You see, every time I write a check for tithe, it's a statement that I know I will have enough money. Do you know anyone who would like to be able to make that statement? Of course you do. Surveys tell us that people in North America believe that they would have enough money if they just had 20 percent more money. It doesn't matter how much they have; 20 percent more would be enough.

You're different. You know you have enough money. You know what the future holds. You know you have time to keep strong relationships with family, with friends, and with God. This special *Welcome to the Family* issue will introduce you to the Adventist Church and how the church can help you strengthen your quality of life in Jesus.

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## A WORLD ORGANIZATION. A WORLD CHURCH.

You are part of a local Seventh-day Adventist church. It may have 50 members, or it may have 1,500. Your church is part of a worldwide organization that coordinates work to preach the gospel to "every nation, tribe, language, and people." Rev. 14:6 (NIV). That makes you one of 12 million members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

How is this church organized? What is the role of the local church? What are the roles of other church entities?

### **THE LOCAL CHURCH**

The local church is the most important part of the denomination. There are about 5,000 churches in North America, and the number grows constantly. Your church is responsible for evangelism in your city. Each local church elects leaders for nurture and outreach. The local church makes decisions about individual membership issues as well as church discipline.

### **THE LOCAL CONFERENCE**

All local churches are part of a local conference. There are 58 conferences in North America. Some conferences are defined by the boundaries of a given state or province, like the Minnesota Conference or the Alberta Conference. Other conferences include parts of several states or provinces, such as the Potomac Conference or the Upper Columbia Conference.

The local conference employs the pastors of Seventh-day Adventist churches. It often operates summer camps and school systems. It plans camp meetings and coordinates evangelistic activity. At constituency meetings, representatives of the local churches elect conference leaders.

### **THE UNION CONFERENCE**

All local conferences are part of a union conference. There are nine union conferences in North America. The union conferences provide coordination and leadership, including operating col-

leges, providing financial stability, and publishing news magazines such as the Mid-America Union Outlook or the Lake Union Herald. Conference representatives elect the leaders for the unions during constituency meetings every five years.

### **THE DIVISION**

The nine unions in North America form the North American Division (NAD). There are 12 divisions throughout the world. The divisions produce resources for local churches to use in helping members grow in Christ and for helping to preach the gospel.

### **THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Twelve world divisions make up the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The General Conference is the world headquarters, responsible for leading the church throughout the world field.

Once every five years, a General Conference Session occurs. This 10-day meeting elects lead-

# What's in a Name?

Kermit Netteburg

What do you know about the name of your church? How was it chosen? How is it spelled? How is it pronounced?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church adopted its name in 1863. There were barely 3,500 believers then, and they debated about a lot of names. The believers chose a name that identified our central beliefs: the seventh day is the Sabbath and Jesus is coming back soon.

Today the name is still the same, because we still believe in the seventh-day Sabbath and we're still sure that Jesus is coming back to take us home and it won't be long. But people make some mistakes in using the name of the our church. Some people misspell the name. It's Seventh-day Adventist, with a hyphen between the two words "seventh" and "day" and a lower case "d" on the word "day."

Some people use an inappropriate abbreviation. The only appropriate abbreviation is the single word "Adventist." The initials "SDA" are not an appropriate abbreviation of the church's name, because they are easily misunderstood.

Some people mispronounce the word "Adventist." The correct pronunciation has the emphasis on the first syllable "AD-vent-ist."

In 1996, the Adventist Church adopted a graphic symbol and logo for the first time in its history. It has been adopted widely by local churches, Adventist institutions, and many church publications. The church logo has two parts. The first is a graphic symbol that includes the Bible, three angels, the world, and the cross of Christ in the center. The second is the name "Seventh-day Adventist Church." Both parts are needed in order to represent the church logo.

Some people thought the church had as a previous logo a symbol of a world or a symbol of three angels, or both. Those symbols had been quite common in use, but they were never adopted as a formal church logo.

Church entities that want to use the logo should get a copy of the Adventist Church Logo Kit, available from their conference office or from AdventSource in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind.

Ellen White,  
*The Faith I Live By*,  
page 304

KERMIT NETTEBURG IS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH. HE HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHURCH COMMUNICATION.

ers, debates changes in church policy and practice, and reviews the progress of the world church in sharing the good news that Jesus is coming soon with every person on the planet. The most recent GC Session occurred in Toronto, Ontario, in July 2000. More than 50,000 people attended.

## A GROWING CHURCH

This structure has served the church well, making it one of the fastest-growing Christian churches in the world. And growing more rapidly today than ever before.

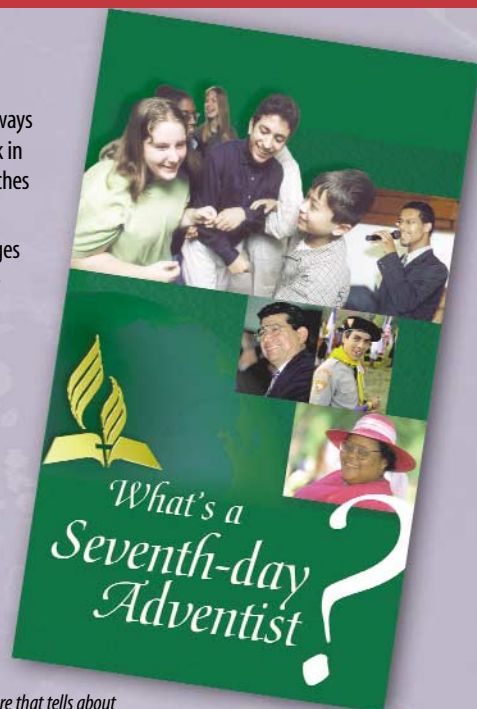
In the early 1980s, the Adventist Church launched a program called the Thousand Days of Reaping. The goal was to baptize 1,000 people a day for 1,000 days. It was an ambitious project, and it was successful. Now the Adventist Church is baptizing almost 3,000 people every day or about one person every 20 seconds. That means three or four people have been baptized since you started reading this article!

The Adventist Church is growing in other ways as well. The Church reached the \$1 billion mark in tithes in 1999. The Church reached 50,000 churches in 2001.

In North America, the Church has 14 colleges and 54 hospitals. Its two north American publishing houses produce a broad range of books, magazines, and inspirational literature. The Adventist Media Center in California produces radio and television programming. The NAD also operates a satellite network with more than 2,000 downlink stations.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a big church. But it's also a small church, because it's made up of people just like you, one person at a time, in love with Jesus and sharing the gospel.

*The General Conference has just produced a new brochure that tells about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Your local church should have copies to give to new members and to share with non-members interested in the church.*



by Dick Duerksen

# Come Walk With Me.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A  
DAILY ADVENTURE  
WITH GOD.

Morning by morning,  
O Lord, you hear my  
voice; morning by  
morning I lay my  
requests before you  
and wait in  
expectation.  
Psalm 5:3 NIV

Very early in the  
morning, while it  
was still dark, Jesus  
got up, left the house  
and went off to a  
solitary place, where  
he prayed.  
Mark 1:35 NIV

**I**magine the excitement and wonder Adam and Eve felt on the first Sabbath morning in the Garden of Eden. According to the Genesis stories, they accepted His invitation and spent the day wandering through the garden with The Creator, looking at trees, smelling flowers, asking questions, playing with animals, and basking in the warmth of the sun.

“Adam, here come the lions you named yesterday. Looks like they’re ready for another of your good back rubs!”

“Creator, where did you find so many colors for bird’s feathers? They shimmer like jewels in the light.”

“Come over here quick! You’ve got to taste these red berries. They’ll make your taste buds dance with joy!”

That entire day was an adventure in discovery, laughter, learning, and pleasure—a time of joyful friendship.

It was an experience of devotion and worship between God and His favorite children. It is also an experience you can share today in much the same way they experienced it as they walked through the garden. You—and your family—can choose to have a regular devotional adventure with God.

Most Christians describe this as a time of *worship* or *devotion*. However, it may be best described as an *attitude* of worship, a personal choice to celebrate today as an adventure with your best friend, God your Creator. For the adventure to be meaningful for Him and for each member of your family, it must begin with commitment and include these three elements:

**Time.**  
**Sharing.**  
**Growing.**

# Family worship is the window through which children can see God most clearly.

## Time.

Personal and family devotions are most meaningful when you set aside a specific time to share with God each day. Mornings are best, because the experience sets the tone of your life for the day. However, the issue is not *when* you worship, but that you *choose* a special time and dedicate it to the Lord.

For families, the devotional time often happens along with a morning or evening meal, providing extra opportunities for conversation, prayer, and (even!) singing.

Turn off the TV, stop working at the computer, push the homework aside, and concentrate on “loving being loved by God.” A Christian’s personal devotions are like fuel in a new car.

## Sharing.

- ▶ Consider this a time of family conversation, as if your family were walking with God through the garden.
- ▶ Begin with a simple prayer inviting God to share the time with you.
- ▶ Read a Bible verse or passage in more than one translation.
- ▶ Talk about the text. Explore how these ancient words can have special meaning for you today.
- ▶ Praise God for something special that has happened in your family within the last 24 hours.
- ▶ Share a song that has special meaning for you, or perhaps have a family member share one of their favorite CDs.
- ▶ Add to your list of special prayer requests—and of answered prayers.
- ▶ Pray together for the names and issues on the list. Thank God for the answers you’ve already seen, and for those you know are coming.

▶ Talk about everyone’s plans for the day.

▶ Celebrate your friendship with hugs, high-fives, and “I love you.”

## Growing.

- ▶ Whenever you read a Bible verse, say a prayer, admire a flower, listen for God’s voice, and celebrate His love, you are *growing*—developing a deeper friendship with your Creator.
- ▶ Make your devotional time a personal, planned growth event for you and each member of your family.
- ▶ Memorize a Bible verse each week.
- ▶ Learn a new Bible story.
- ▶ Check out the location of Bethlehem on a map.
- ▶ Look up five times when donkeys are mentioned in the Bible.
- ▶ Care for someone who is hurting, helpless, or hungry—as Jesus would care for them.
- ▶ Read a page from a book by someone who loves God.
- ▶ Walk in a park and ask God questions (out loud) about His creation.
- ▶ Share your growing love for God with a friend.
- ▶ Smile more. His friendship does that for you!

Times of personal and family devotions are the lifeblood of a relationship with God. Decide to accept His invitation for “a walk in the garden,” and then celebrate your growing friendship with The Creator!

## Fun Family Worship Tips

Dedicate a family “altar” where you keep a Bible, a prayer journal, photos of the family, and copies of the texts you’re memorizing.

Go for a family walk and have worship along the way.

Allow for flexibility (don’t have a rushed, forced worship just because it’s in the schedule and must be done).

Tell lots of stories... from family history... from your friends... about Bible heroes... about historical Christians.

Have fun!

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By Noelene Johnsson

## Raising Little Christians

When we humans strike it rich or stumble onto something great, our first impulse is to tell someone. And so when we discover Jesus, we want our family to know Him too. Jesus endorsed this urge, advising the newly converted Gadarene, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you” (Mk. 5:19, NIV).

**B**ut how do you raise children to understand and choose a lasting relationship with God? A possible answer comes via the biology lab. Remember your first experience with growing bacteria in a petri dish? You started by preparing a culture for the bacteria to grow in.

Developing a culture is a great place to start when growing little Christians too. Homes have the primary responsibility for spiritual development. So the culture begins there with a loving, safe haven where the child’s basic needs are met. The most important ingredient of the culture is unconditional love, essential for the development of trust. In fact, spiritual and emotional growth can be seriously stunted without the undergirding of trust, developed in infancy and childhood.

But the best culture for Christian growth

also includes a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When parents are living and loving and growing in Jesus, anyone exposed to this environment is going to be strongly influenced toward Jesus.

Researcher George Barna tells us that a majority (61%) of those who attended church as children still attend regularly today, while a large majority of those who were not churchgoers as children are still absent from churches today (78%).

But just being there at church is not enough. For the church to have a lasting, positive effect, children need to feel noticed by adult members. Researcher Gary Hopkins, of Andrews University, warns that all the children we see in church today, after they reach an age to choose, will leave unless adults show enough interest to learn their names now.



## Churches also need to:

1. Provide child-friendly, multi-generational worship experiences that attract children and their families.
2. Support homes in their responsibility for the child's spiritual development by offering training and support groups for parents.
3. Provide goal-oriented Sabbath Schools that teach grace, Scripture memorization, a personal Christ, and the brotherhood of all believers.
4. Involve children and their families in service projects.
5. Accept all people, regardless of age, race, culture, gender, or any other distinguishing feature.
6. Mentor adolescents in ministry positions at church.

Adventist schools also play a vital part of the home-church-school triad, and have contributed significantly to the efforts of raising our children. Adventist education focuses on developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It fosters the desire to share that relationship with others. Adventist education nurtures the growth of the whole person, and prepares our children

for citizenship on this earth and in the New Earth to come.

The Adventist culture in which we raise little Christians not only needs to invade our homes, schools, and our churches, but also the growing child's social settings. Children benefit enormously from Christian friendships formed in church school, Pathfinder Club, Vacation Bible School, and/or church socials. Many an unchurched child has found Jesus and joined the Church because of friendships formed in these settings.

But what if your church seems not to be putting forth the effort? If we each earnestly "Seek first the kingdom of God," he will add to our efforts and make our desires a reality.

You can take Luke 12:31 to the bank: If you look out for God's children, He will look out for yours. Ask Him today how you can help the church raise our children in the faith.

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# Here we Grow <sup>By Bill Wood</sup>

## Faith, Fun, and Fellowship for Young Adventists

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”

*(E. G. White, Education, p. 271)*

The Seventh-day Adventist church has taken this well-known quote by Ellen G. White to give direction and focus to children, junior youth, senior youth, and young adult ministries. These age group ministries have a two-fold purpose: salvation and service. It is the mission of every local church, conference, and union to introduce young people to Jesus Christ so they will choose a saving relationship with Him for themselves. The second part of this work, equally important, is to then train them to bring His message of hope to others.

To accomplish these goals there are a variety of ministries available to meet the needs of the various age groups.

One of the newest ministries of the church is the Adventurer Club. Available to children in Grades 1-4, the Adventurer program is designed to support parents in the challenging task of helping their children develop fully as followers of Christ in today's world.

Adventurer Clubs are full of creativity and imagination! Children learn about the Bible, health and fitness, nature, and people skills through club meetings, field trips, nature activities, crafts and games and conference functions such as Adventurer Fun Days. The children progress through four class levels: Busy Bee, Sunbeam, Builder, and Helping Hand.

When the Adventurer reaches fifth grade or the age of 10 they can join the Pathfinder Club, which just recently celebrated 50 years of oper-

ation. The Pathfinder program is one of the largest youth-related programs in the church. In the world of Pathfinding, youth can:

**Learn Christian values,  
Develop self-discipline,  
Enjoy safe and exciting adventures,  
Prepare for church and community responsibilities,  
Acquire hobbies and skills, and  
Discover their world and themselves.**

Pathfinders go on overnight campouts, do service activities, participate in Pathfinder Fun Days, and attend conference events such as Camporees and Pathfinder Fairs. A very popular service project completed each year in the fall is the annual “Can Collecting” where Pathfinders, instead of participating in Halloween, go door-to-door asking their neighbors to contribute food which will eventually be made up into food baskets. These baskets will then be taken to needy families in the community during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Leaders provide instruction in nearly 250 areas of arts and crafts, aquatics, nature, household arts, recreation, and vocational witnessing. Pathfinders receive a certificate and “AY Honor Badge” upon completion of each course. Such study often helps Pathfinders discover a life-long hobby or career.

Pathfinders also offers a special Teen Leadership Training (TLT) which trains older Pathfinders in Pathfinder leadership by providing hands-on leadership opportunities.

For those ages 16-35 there are many and varied activities available to youth and young adults in the local church and conference. Many churches offer a balanced youth ministry program that consists of outreach, inreach, social, and recreational activities. Some churches offer a weekly youth meeting either on Friday night or Sabbath afternoon. These meetings supplement what happens in the local youth Sabbath schools which meet Sabbath morning.

Some conferences sponsor church athletic leagues in basketball and volleyball. These are well-supervised and regulated events that bring youth together from many different churches for fellowship and recreation.

Summer camp is a very important tool to reach young people. Summer camp provides opportunities for young people to

attend camp and learn new outdoor skills, while they meet other Seventh-day Adventist Christian young people. Most conferences offer a summer camp program for youth. These camps also offer summer employment opportunities for dedicated Adventist young adults. More information on available programs can be obtained by contacting the youth department in your local conference.

Ellen White tells us this: "A greater work than has ever been done must be done for the young. They must be won with sympathy and love; all barriers must be broken down between them and those who would help them" (Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, September 17, 1914).

Youth ministry is all about achieving the goals of salvation and service and breaking down barriers that keep our children from Christ.

BILL WOOD IS THE YOUTH AND PATHFINDER DIRECTOR OF THE ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE IN SOUTH LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS.



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# SABBATH: PALACE IN TIME

BY JO ANN DAVIDSON

I am a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist. I remember my mother telling me that she was sure that “the blessings of being a Seventh-day Adventist had seeped into my genes and chromosomes by now.” Of course, the Sabbath is one of the profound blessings of our faith that I have always appreciated. In fact, I thought I had a rather complete grasp of all there was to know about the Sabbath. I knew the biblical Sabbath started at sundown Friday evening, that the seventh day was God-ordained and blessed, and that it was important to guard the edges of the Sabbath.

So when my husband Richard came home describing a chance to study the Hebrew language in Israel, I was happy for him, but not very interested in accompanying him there. Since he is a professor of Old Testament studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, I knew this opportunity was a dream come true for him. However, it had never been a dream of mine to travel to Israel; and besides, we had just spent our life savings for his graduate studies. I secretly hoped to reserve the last few hundred dollars to buy us a new couch. Ever since we have been married, we have decorated in “Early Relative” and thus I had been

dreaming of finally having a new couch in a color I liked—minus the threadbare effects.

You can imagine the inner struggle I had when Richard told me about his chance to study Hebrew in Israel. Yes, I was thrilled for him, but quickly calculated that if I went I would have to purchase my own airfare. I then suggested what I thought was the perfect solution, “Of course you should go, Honey! I’ll just stay with my folks while you’re gone.” Richard looked me right in the eye and responded, “If you don’t think it is financially possible for us to go right now, let’s wait till another time, because I won’t go without you.”

My conscience started a major crescendo of conviction, and I finally realized it was God's will that we go. That week we made arrangements to fly to Israel. I knew I was doing the right thing, but I was still upset that it was God's will for our lives. I had no idea of the surprises God had in store for me.

After living in Israel for several months and becoming acquainted with the Jewish people, I realized that not only was God fulfilling Dick's life-long dream for intensive Hebrew language training and equipping him to be a better Old Testament professor, He was opening my heart to a deepened appreciation for the Sabbath!

The two center commandments are even formulated differently than the other eight, which links them dramatically. Accordingly, over the millennia that the Jewish people have celebrated the 7th-day Sabbath (After all, we Seventh-day Adventists are relative newcomers to Sabbath keeping!), they reflect this close tie of Sabbath and family that is found in the very center of the Ten Commandments by reaffirming their family ties each Friday night at sunset.

The mother blesses her family as she lights the Sabbath candles. The husband reaffirms his affection for his wife by reading to her either from the Song of Songs which extols romantic

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## THOUGH I KNEW THAT I LIKED THE SABBATH, I DISCOVERED THAT I REALLY DIDN'T LOVE THE SABBATH AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE DO.

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Though I knew that I liked the Sabbath, I discovered that I really didn't LOVE the Sabbath as the Jewish people do. Moreover, guarding the edges of the Sabbath was not a guilt-ridden burden to the Jewish people, but rather a joyful insurance to prevent ordinary work from encroaching upon such a royal occasion.

Furthermore, in being able to read the Old Testament in its original language, the Jewish people had seen some nuances in those Sabbath passages that are lost in English translation, such as Isaiah 58:13. When previously focusing on this verse, I had completely overlooked God's bidding to call the Sabbath a "delight." In the Hebrew language, this "delight" in Isaiah 58:13 is no mere ordinary run-of-the-mill delight that our English word conveys, but rather a "royal" delight of the exquisite nature which royalty might share in an elegant palace. Instead, I had only been worried about not "doing my own pleasure" —not even knowing what THAT really meant!

Our Jewish brothers and sisters have also noticed the close coupling, in the very heart of the decalogue, of the Sabbath commandment with the commandment honoring family ties.

married love, or else the passage from Proverbs 31 which describes the "woman of strength." He then also blesses his children, placing his hands on their heads or around their shoulders and prays for each one of them individually, that God will help them to become noble, wise, and true in the ways of God.

This heart-warming family time each Friday at sunset is followed by an elegant meal served on "Sabbath dishes" with sterling silver, crystal and all. Many Jewish families in Israel will spend much of their life savings for such regal Sabbath dishes for they have noted that God expressly desires that we enjoy the Sabbath as a "royal delight."

The other end of the Sabbath is also marked with special traditions, such as each person sniffing a "spice box" filled with a fragrant pot-pourri. One Jewish brother explained it as the "guarantee that all the senses would be blessed, even the sense of smell" before the Sabbath ended. That triggered my imagination! In sharing the Sabbath with our children especially, I tried calculating different ways to make sure that all their senses were blessed each Sabbath day.

After having my eyes and heart opened to new levels of Sabbath appreciation, I was con-



victed to ask God to forgive me for my initial resentment of having to forgo a new couch and travel to Israel. Now I tell my husband, “If you ever have the chance to go to Israel again, I just need an hour to find someone to feed the animals and water the plants!” For it was there that I finally came to understand that God intended the Sabbath to be one of the greatest blessings He could give His children.

We have incorporated the Jewish family Sabbath traditions in our Friday night sundown worship with our family. After a profoundly busy week, it is truly a precious time to bond again as a family as we enter into the sacred Sabbath hours with our Creator.

At a recent past Christmas, my parents invited all of their four children along with spouses and grandchildren for a gala holiday at their home. That Friday night, my father spoke to all of us after supper, telling us that he had seen my husband Richard bless his children each Friday night and wished he had known to do so when we children were growing up, and thus that Friday night he wanted to give each of us his fatherly blessing. He then proceeded to go around the family circle, place his hands on the shoulders of each of us, and pray for every one of us individually. It took almost an hour and was such a sacred time I could hardly breathe.

I’m a grown woman now, but I found it a wonderful thing to be blessed by my father. And that experience affirmed for me again the exquisite nature of the Sabbath, where our heavenly Father bends low each Friday sunset to bless each one of us personally on the day He set apart to remind us of all the love enclosed in His creative powers. Now I rejoice that the Sabbath is much more than knowing the right day, though that, of course, is of key importance. Even more, it is a day of royal fellowship with the Creator, in His “palace in time.”

JO ANN DAVIDSON IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AT THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN.

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By Reggie Johnson



# What's the Deal with Church?

**M**an, I'm not going to be able to make it to church with you this morning," he said groggily after I had rudely awakened him with a telephone call at 11:00 a.m. "I was up late talking to my girlfriend so I'm just going to crash today."

My friend Claude\* was demonstrating freedom of choice for me. When we were kids we went to church because we were told to. But now that we were seniors at Andrews University, we were free to decide our Sabbath morning activities. And one by one I watched as my closest friends began choosing sleep, video games, television, homework, day trips—anything!—over going to church at 11:20.

Why was this going on? I mean, come on, it's not like our service was boring. We attended Pioneer Memorial Church where the world-famous Dwight K. Nelson was sure to deliver an "A+" sermon week after week. And six different music teams worked to ensure that we always got an interesting and energizing variety of praise music.

In fact, this could very well be the most entertaining Adventist church service anywhere!

Uh oh. Maybe that's the problem. If all that my friends were looking for at church was entertainment, it wouldn't take them long to figure out that even the best service will always fail in comparison to the enticement of TV, the Internet, and games, strictly in terms of entertainment value.

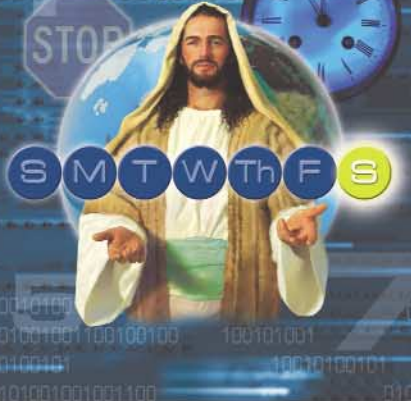
So why bother going to church; it's the relationship with God that matters, right? So couldn't I worship God on my own time and spend Sabbath mornings resting? That might make sense to us, but is that what God wants?

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day

*\*not his real name*

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*rest*  
Awhile”



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NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF THE  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

approaching!” (Hebrews 10:25 NIV).

I think that God has three things at church that we should look for instead of entertainment. The first, as indicated in the above text, is human contact. “Let us not give up meeting together.” (Also see Matthew 18:20 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

What else? God has a message for us. There’s a reason that pastors get up and deliver sermons and scripture readings. Romans 10:17 says that “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12 seems to suggest that God wants us to know our pastors and elders and maybe even listen to their counsel. And remember Jesus’ example: He got up in front of the synagogue and read from the Scriptures (Luke 4:16-21). I wouldn’t want to have overslept on that Sabbath morning!

The final thing that God has waiting for us at church is an opportunity. It’s an opportunity to give back to God through praise (see Psalms 22:22) and through tithes and offerings (see Lev. 27:30, Num. 18:26, and Mal 3:8,10).

There’s also an opportunity to give back to God by sharing and being a friend to someone else. Psalms 22:22 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 say: “I will declare your name to my brethren, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you,” and, “Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another.” Just as much as you need other people to share their experience with you, they need you to do the same. (see 1John 2:9-10, 3:14, 4:21, Mark 12:33) You are a key part of your church congregation, and the fellowship isn’t complete without you (see Eph. 5:30)!

God’s relationship with the church is compared to a husband and his bride (Eph. 5:25, 30-32). If you seek a deeper more intimate relationship with God, the best way is to be a part of His bride!

And that’s the deal with church. If any one of these three things—the message, the fellowship, or the opportunity—is missing one week, it’s not because it wasn’t there. It’s because we missed it. All three of these components are there every week, and God has promised to enhance our church experience through them, but we must approach it with the right attitude.

Lord, please humble our hearts and open our eyes so that we can see the wonderful relationship-building experience you have planned for us at church each Sabbath.

REGGIE JOHNSON IS THE EDITORIAL ASSISTANT FOR THE LAKE UNION HERALD  
IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN.



## What does hope look like?

To the one you help, hope looks just like you.

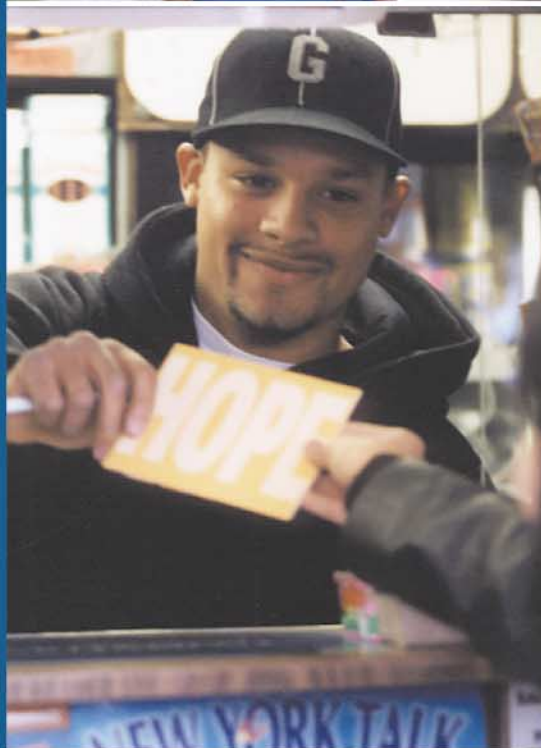
For nearly 100 years, Seventh-day Adventists have taken the message of hope to their neighbors and friends through the program known as *Ingathering: Hope for Humanity*.

Our goal is to be at the frontline of meeting human needs. In every corner of the globe, the Adventist Church is working to relieve suffering, to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, and to comfort the distressed. Funds raised by *Ingathering: Hope for Humanity* help to fund this humanitarian outreach.

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Ingathering: Hope for Humanity is an official ministry of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists for the United States and Bermuda, and does not include Canada.

# Community Services

B Y J O E W A T T S

There was a farmer who raised seed corn. His seed corn won the blue ribbon every year. It was the best. It seemed unusual that each year he shared with his neighbors seed from his blue ribbon corn for them to plant in their fields.

A newspaper reporter interviewing the farmer asked, "If you want to have the best corn anywhere, why do you share with your neighbors the seed from your best corn? Shouldn't you keep the best seed for yourself?"

The farmer replied that the reporter must not understand how to raise corn. He went on to explain that when the breezes blow, the pollen from the corn is carried on the wind. Therefore the corn is cross-pollinated from corn growing around it. The farmer said that for him to have the best seed corn, his neighbors must also have the best. If they had inferior corn, that would lower the quality of his corn crop.

Seventh-day Adventists have learned that to make our world a better place we must help our neighborhood to be a better place to live. Many times this is accomplished by helping one person at a time. An area in the church where we consistently assist our friends and neighbors is in our community service program called Adventist Community Services (ACS).

The pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist church worked diligently to start this movement. They made sure that assisting those who were in need was a cornerstone in their ministry and the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Community Services have been an integral part

of the church ever since. From early years we have raised Ingathering funds from our friends and neighbors as well as by reaching deep into our own pockets. The humanitarian work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is funded in part by the Ingathering program.

In 1874 the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially began to respond to disasters by giving emergency relief to those affected by disasters. We presently have memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross (ARC). ACS is a charter member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). This is a group of national agencies that work together to aid the victims of disaster. Most of our local conferences are members of their local state Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

We read in the gospels about the ministry of Jesus. As we look at the way in which our Savior ministered to the people that he came into contact with, it is very clear that community service was central to his ministry. In Luke 4:18-19, we find Jesus reading a passage from Isaiah 61. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners



and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Many scholars feel that Jesus uses this passage as his own personal statement of mission.

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus shows us our duty to our fellow man and answers the question "Who is my neighbor?" Our neighbor is the person nearby who is in need. The Good Samaritan ministered to the injured man because he had compassion on him. We really do not have to go far to find people who have needs. Those are the ones Jesus is asking us to help.

If we want success in our life and in our ministries we must follow Christ's method. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with men as One who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then he bade them 'Follow Me.'" (*Ministry of Healing*, by Ellen G. White, pg.143).

There are literally hundreds of things that we can do in our communities to make a difference. Probably the hardest thing we face is to narrow our choices and focus on one or two

needs that a local congregation can address. You or your church might decide that you want to assist people with clothing. You could set up a food pantry or food distribution program if there are hungry people in your neighborhood. Another area is health education: from cooking schools, to stop smoking clinics, to stress management classes. Tutoring and mentoring are programs through which we can assist younger generations. There is really no limit to what you can do to make a difference in your community and be the hands of Christ to those who are hurting. For a list of the many ways you can minister in your community, contact your local conference community services director.

All members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should be looking for ways in which they can be a blessing to their community. Seventh-day Adventists are known as people who care—people who make a difference in their community.

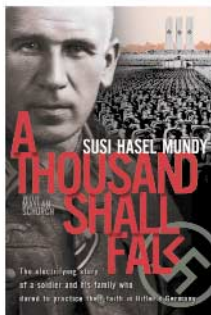
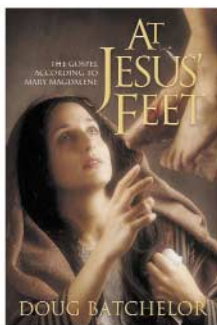
There are literally hundreds of things that we can do in our communities to make a difference.

JOE WAITS WRITES FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION RECORD FROM BURLESON, TEXAS.

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# all that we have *Belongs to Him*

g.edward reid

As Christians we cheerfully serve our Creator God. The awesomeness of God becomes apparent when we recognize that He is not just our Creator, but He is also our Sustainer, Provider, Protector, and the One who offers us eternal life. As Creator, God is also the

for all His benefits toward me” (Psalms 116:12)? Fortunately, the Bible clearly outlines what God expects of those who follow Him.

Regarding “down time,” He says, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh



Owner. “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness. The world and those who dwell therein” (Psalms 24:1). Therefore in relation to God we don’t own anything. God simply gives us management responsibility.

Those without a Christian world-view think in terms of *my* money, *my* talents, and *my* time. We, however, recognize these things to be gifts from God to be managed as stewards of God. We eagerly ask, “What shall I render to the Lord

day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work...” (Exodus 20:8-11). Accordingly, we happily set aside the seventh day of each week as holy time with the Lord. We find this time to be very special—blessed of God. Since God is the Creator of time we have a responsibility to manage it well and to use portions of what has been allotted to us to help others and to advance His cause.

Regarding our talents and abilities, God

says, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). Our bottom line purpose in life is not to accumulate possessions or serve ourselves. We have been asked to bring glory to God. Therefore as an honor to God, we use the gifts He has given us in harmony with His commands. It is the dedication of these talents and abilities to God that moves the work of God forward in response to the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8).

When it comes to the management of our possessions—our money—again, there is much good counsel. It is interesting to note that—like the Sabbath, a holy time that we celebrate with God—the tithe, which is the first tenth of our income (see Prov. 3:9,10; Gen. 28:22) is also holy and belongs to God. “All the tithe of the land, ...is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord”

will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes...” (Mal. 3:10,11).

Through His Word, God outlines the Christian approach to money management. He counsels us to live within our means, avoid debt, save for emergencies, help others less fortunate than ourselves, and make contributions to advance God’s cause. These contributions—our offerings—are based on how God has blessed us, and should be given cheerfully and with a free will. As we help others and contribute to advance God’s cause, we thereby store up treasures in Heaven!

In the Adventist church we have learned to work together in a systematic way, and have thereby been able to undertake and complete by the grace of God many awesome projects. We take the gospel commission seriously and plan to take the gospel not just next door and

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*Those without a Christian world-view think in terms of my money, my talents, and my time. We, however, recognize these things to be gifts from God to be managed as stewards of God.*

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(Lev. 27:30). So, again, God allows us to handle the holy. With regard to our tithe, God does not appeal to our gratitude or our generosity. It is a matter of simple honesty. But along with our integrity in this management come some awesome blessings. God says that in response to our faithfulness in this area of tithe (and offerings) that He will “Open the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there

across the street but to the end of the earth! Our suggested personal giving plan encourages members to contribute offerings to support the local church maintenance and outreach, the local conference initiatives, the world church, and special projects as God’s providence provides. Hundreds of testimonies confirm, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him” (Psalm 34:8).

G. EDWARD REID IS THE STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS.

By Milton Adams

# Small Groups

Where Church Family Grows Deeper



Last summer I began landscaping our yard with railroad ties. Having never considered myself sedentary, I was painfully surprised to identify muscles I had long neglected. I was equally surprised at how quickly the pain subsided with continued work.

I've had a similar experience with my spiritual musculature. Each weekend I spend time studying and worshiping with like believers,

exercising one group of spiritual muscles. Each day I spend alone time with God, exercising another set of muscles. I do not consider myself spiritually sedentary. However, I've discovered yet another set of muscles that easily atrophies from disuse. These are spiritual muscles, optimally exercised in close, ongoing relationship with fellow Christians. There are Christian skills we do not learn alone nor refine in a crowd.

It was in a weekly small group that I found the exercise my muscles needed. You can be sure that there was discomfort at first, but in time, a steady strengthening. In my current pastorate, small groups exist for one reason—to “go and make disciples.” We believe that every Christian is a minister who has been given the



privilege of making disciples. We assume that every group participant is a potential leader. Therefore, leadership development is a high priority. And we assume that small groups are a way of life, not an additional church program.

One could summarize our small groups in two words: relationships and evangelism. You might say they are two sides of the same coin, but each plays an important role in making dis-



ciples. One strong evidence (not the only evidence) of a maturing disciple is that he or she co-leads a group. The fruit of an apple tree is not just an apple, but also a new apple tree. In fact, we've called our groups "Growth Groups." We want people to know right up front that spiritual fruit (apples) and numerical fruit (new apple trees) are the norm for Christian community.

Small groups provide valuable encouragement and resources. Imagine being part of a small group where you belong—a place where you are encouraged and can be an encouragement to others, where Christians who desire your eternal good will press God's Word into your life and seek the same accountability from

you, and where fellow believers will ask you what your next step is in a life of obedience and will stand by you as you take it. Imagine giving and receiving the awesome gift of intercessory prayer, where you can frequently share your testimony of God's work in your life and hear the same from others, where your spiritual gifts are validated, and where you can invite friends to meet your friend Jesus.

The book of Acts describes this kind of Christian relationship as the muscle and sinew of the New Testament Church. We can have the same sense of Christian unity and togetherness as the church described in Acts, if we're willing to make it a way of life!



MILTON ADAMS IS A PASTOR IN OREGON AND IS AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING SEMINARS. CONTACT: [miltonadams@actionnet.net](mailto:miltonadams@actionnet.net)



# INTO ALL THE WORLD

BY RICK KAJIURA



here's a bowl in my office. At first glance it looks like something you'd pour cereal into for breakfast. But just a few weeks ago, that bowl was in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, filled with a mixture of dog and chicken blood. (Believe me, I won't be eating out of it any time soon.)

The villagers believed that if they put chicken blood (good blood) and dog blood (bad blood) in the bowl, it would appease both good and evil spirits and keep their households safe. When two Global Mission pioneers, a husband and wife team, arrived in the village a year ago, there was a bowl in front of every house.

When the pioneers became Adventists, the wife's father, a witch doctor, threw them out of his home. So they moved to this village where they've established a group of 85 members, with 150 people worshipping every Sabbath. And the bowls are down to three.

## *Facing the Challenge*

By 1990, the Adventist Church had grown to six million members, but leaders recognized there were still many areas with few, if any, Adventists. So the office of Global Mission was established to find strategies to reach these places with the love of Jesus. Since then churches have been started in thousands of new areas.

Global Mission pioneers are leading the way. They volunteer to work within their own country or cultural group, and currently more than 30,000 are passionately sharing the gospel in unreached

parts of the world. These pioneers are culturally attuned, need no language training or visas, and cost just a fraction of workers from overseas. Of the more than 16,000 new churches organized in the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1990, more than 11,000 of them have been established by Global Missions pioneers—and that doesn't include thousands not yet organized as churches.

Since 1990, the church has nearly doubled to 12 million members. Each day nearly 3,000 people are baptized, and approximately five new churches are organized. The Adventist Church is now one of the fastest-growing denominations in the world. And the church is growing fastest where lay people are sharing the gospel and planting churches.

Two large challenges remain. First, the 10/40 Window—stretching from West Africa, through the Middle East, and into Asia. This is where the majority of the world's population lives, and the fewest Christians. Second, the secular west—particularly urban areas—where God is largely ignored.

## *A Combined Effort*

There are too many Adventist mission organizations to list here. Some are church departments and agencies, while others are lay organizations and members of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries. (To see a list of some of the mission organizations working to reach the unreached, visit [www.global-mission.org](http://www.global-mission.org).)

Every church member is called to mission. What are you and I doing to share God's love?

RICK KAJIURA WORKS FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND.



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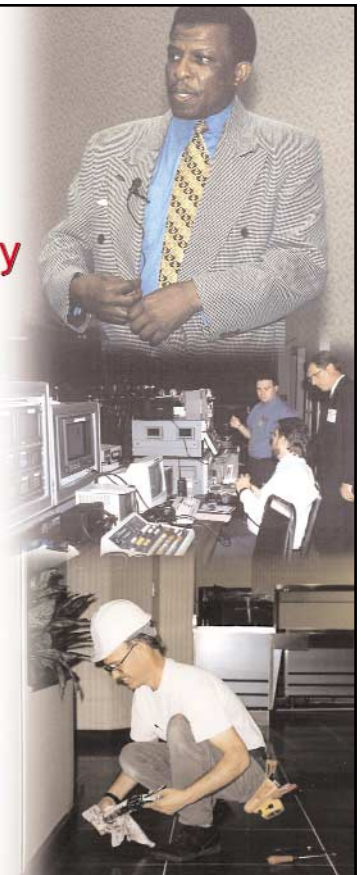
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## *Reaching the Unreached with Hope*

### Accept the Challenge

Global Mission has set a goal of establishing 25,000 new groups of Adventist believers by the year 2005.



Many will be in villages or areas of the world where there are no Adventists or even Christians. Some will be in unentered communities right here in North America. Many will be started by Global Mission pioneers, dedicated lay volunteers who work within their own country or culture to share the gospel. Accept the Global Mission challenge and give your support through prayers, financial contributions, and your time and talents.

Global Mission, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD

1-800-648-5824

[www.global-mission.org](http://www.global-mission.org)

# Let's Charter a Plane!

## Reaching the world through a wide range of outreach ministries

### “Pastor, let's charter a plane to spread the gospel,”

urged the eager nine-year-old boy one Sabbath after church. “You told us today in the sermon that we could buy thousands of inexpensive booklets about how Jesus will soon come back in the clouds of heaven.



“Well, let's charter a plane and dump millions of these booklets over our city. Coming from the sky like that, people would know it surely came from God....”

“You've really been thinking about this, haven't you, Johnny,” chuckled the pastor. “You're really enthusiastic about sharing God's word.

“Let's think about this. Let's say we do this, and millions of pieces of literature are dumped over the skies of New York. Would people who had just had thousands of pieces of paper dropped in their front yards be in real good moods to read the brochures? Or do you think they might be upset at us?”

“Hmm,” thought Johnny, before his eyes brightened with sudden inspiration, “But you know, pastor, who cares if they read them! The point is, we shared the truth! And if they don't read it, that's their problem, not ours. We got the word out, and that's all Jesus needs us to do.”

### A Charter to Disciple

Many faiths seem content to “charter” mass-production methods of faith-sharing (however ineffective and transitory their results) to “fulfill” the Great Commission and “proclaim” the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14.

They, like Johnny, seem to have missed a part of the sermon of Matthew 28, the second ingredient of the Great Commission—the charter of faith.

Jesus indeed told His followers to “Go” and share the full gospel. But He quickly added that the purpose of sharing was to “make disciples of all nations.”

In other words, outreach and nurture go hand in hand. To simply share information is to miss the point. Any church true to the Great Commission not only proclaims the gospel, but coaches and trains its new members as well. And it offers them a smorgasbord of ways to use their talents to serve the kingdom of God.

### A World of Nurture

Seventh-day Adventism embraces all people, of all races, and of all educational and economic levels. It's rare to find an Adventist congregation where most members are related to a single industry or trade. It's the message—not family traditions or pocketbook heft—that unites a remnant of Sabbath-keeping, advent-believing people who have “come out” from every class and race of people on earth.

### ADVENTIST RESOURCES

- ▶ **SDAXA - Regeneration:** Christ-centered 12-step Recovery Network: Raye Scott, East Coast Coordinator, email [sdaxachriststep@yahoo.com](mailto:sdaxachriststep@yahoo.com).; West Coast coordinator, Hal Gates, email [sdaxahal@hotmail.com](mailto:sdaxahal@hotmail.com).
- ▶ **Young Professionals:** This young-adult ministry is comprised primarily of single young adults (18-35 yrs.) in college and postgrad who are interested in building new friendships and a stronger connection with God. Web site: [www.y4him.org](http://www.y4him.org).
- ▶ **Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC):** A North American Division-wide organization for the socialization, continuing education, recognition, and nurture of Seventh-day Adventists whose careers are in fields of communication. Web site: [www.nadadventist.org/sac](http://www.nadadventist.org/sac).
- ▶ **Adventist Home Educator:** Provides Adventist parents with information, resources, and support for educating their children at home, birth through college. An electronic newsletter is available, and Judy Shewmake is available for consultation by phone or email. Web site: [www.AdventistHomeEducator.org](http://www.AdventistHomeEducator.org).
- ▶ **Hispanic Youth Ministry:** This ministry is centered on the Atlantic coast and can be contacted on the following Web site: [www.sabadojooven.com](http://www.sabadojooven.com).
- ▶ **Seventh-day Adventist Single Parents:** A Web site for Adventist single parents is provided at [www.tagnet.org/singleparents](http://www.tagnet.org/singleparents).
- ▶ **The Federation of Jewish Adventist Society** has chapters in Oregon and California. Its Web site is [www.tfjas.org](http://www.tfjas.org).
- ▶ **Jewish Heritage and Beth-El-Shalom Congregations:** These ministries help their members share and enjoy the love of God together, with a Jewish flavor. The Web site is [www.Jewishheritage.net](http://www.Jewishheritage.net).
- ▶ **The Jewish Adventist Network:** Adventists with Jewish ancestry and those interested in learning more about the connection between Judaism and Adventism can find more information at Web site [www.jewishadventists.org](http://www.jewishadventists.org).
- ▶ **CIRCLE - Curriculum & Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators:** CIRCLE provides a clearinghouse of curriculum and other resources for Seventh-day Adventist educators. Web site: <http://circle.adventist.org>.
- ▶ **Adventist Volunteer Ministries Network/YouthNet:** This organization helps youth make service a way of life. It provides links to service organizations, leadership training, and youth service leadership for local congregations. Web site: [www.tagnet.org/youthonline/workupasweat/index.html](http://www.tagnet.org/youthonline/workupasweat/index.html).
- ▶ **Revival Time Ministries, Inc.:** The “pedaling pastor,” Tony Mavrakos, pedals patriotism from coast to coast on a yearly cross-country bike ride. Web site: <http://www.rtm.org>.
- ▶ **Singles Info:** Those interested in information about events and gatherings sponsored by Adventist single adult members are invited to visit the Web site: [www.plusline.org/localchurch/singles/singles.htm](http://www.plusline.org/localchurch/singles/singles.htm).

Teachers and professors mingle with farmers and tradesmen, physicians and nurses, musicians and artists.

And scores of strong, nationwide organizations of Adventist members have sprung up to nurture the special talents and interests of one of the most diversified denominations on earth.

And the number of organizations grows yearly, all dedicated to helping Adventist congregations nurture and polish the talents of their members to the glory of God.

### Adventist Alcoholics?

Many Adventists are former practicing addicts, alcoholics, and substance abusers who have found deliverance through submission to the power of their exalted Lord.

An outstanding, Christ-centered organization, Seventh-day Adventists for the Extinction of Addictions (SDAXA), was established nearly 20 years ago to minister in a highly spiritual way through local chapters and its national organization to those in need of mutual support in resisting the allure of mind-altering chemicals.

### Professional Organizations

Professional organizations abound, for communication/public relations professionals, attorneys, teachers, physicians, and a host of others. These associations not only share ideas and provide professional networking opportunities, they encourage and motivate their members to get involved in a broad range of outreach ministries.

For instance, the fast-growing Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) organization has set as its goal to "represent Jesus in the marketplace," and its annual national conventions are universally acknowledged as some

of the most inspiring gatherings known to Adventism. You can visit their Web site at <http://www.tagnet.org/asi/>.

### Women, Men, and Youth

Men's ministries, women's ministries, family ministries, singles' ministries, and youth ministries are growing rapidly, often with local-church chapters.

In a society where the roles of men and women, singles and youth, are constantly changing (as the nuclear family is battered by secularism and individualism), these support ministries are helping Adventist members resist the temptation to capitulate to the morés of secular society, and instead change and stay focused on their God.

### In Summary

The broad umbrella of Adventism is every known society and subgroup on earth, discipling them and drawing them closer and closer to the Master, Jesus.

As you browse through the following list of nurturing organizations active in the Adventist church, you will undoubtedly discover several that directly intersect your fields of interest.

While chartering a plane to inundate a city with fliers printed with end-time warnings may occasionally be appropriate, nowhere is the charter of the Church to keep discipling the Lord's flock until He comes taken as seriously as it is among Adventists.

Below are just a few of the hundreds of Adventist organizations dedicated to enhancing your experience at every phase of life and vocation in the Adventist Church.

### Happy browsing!

ED SCHWISOW IS THE EDITOR OF THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION GLEANER IN PORTLAND, OREGON.

- ▶ **Adventist Amateur Radio Association:** Adventist amateur radio operations operate the following Web site: [www.southern.edu/~tmturk/aara/aara.html](http://www.southern.edu/~tmturk/aara/aara.html).
- ▶ **Adventist Professionals' Network (APN):** This is a global registry of Adventist professionals who hold the minimum of a master's degree or its equivalent (five years of post-secondary studies) in any field. APN helps locate candidates for positions, consultants with expertise, and volunteers for short mission assignments. It also fosters international networking among Adventists in various professions. Web site: <http://apn.adventist.org>.
- ▶ **Adventist Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP):** This non-profit, grass-roots, volunteer-driven organization provides materials, leadership training, and on-going support for the good of the local community. Web site: [www.sdachip.org](http://www.sdachip.org).
- ▶ **Adventist Broadcasters Association (ABA):** Those interested in establishing, purchasing, and operating Christian radio stations should contact Donna Webb at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif. <http://www.sdamedia.org/>
- ▶ **Ultimate Workout—Maranatha Volunteers International:** Provides short-term, workout mission trips for high school and academy young people. Web sites: [www.ultimateworkout.org](http://www.ultimateworkout.org) and [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org).
- ▶ **Association of Adventist Parents (AAP)/Celebration of Family Recovery:** This Web site is a valuable resource for families in recovery: [http://health20-20.org/aap\\_newsletter.htm](http://health20-20.org/aap_newsletter.htm)
- ▶ **International Adventist Musicians' Association:** Adventist musicians or members interested in concerts and programs by Adventist musicians may turn to Web site [www.iamaonline.com](http://www.iamaonline.com).
- ▶ **Adventist Child Care Network:** Sponsored by North American Division Children's Ministries, those interested in learning more about the organization should email [kidpro760@aol.com](mailto:kidpro760@aol.com).
- ▶ **Adventist Radio Network (ARN):** This is a professional organization for broadcasters. Its Web site is [www.adventistradio.net](http://www.adventistradio.net).
- ▶ **AdventSource:** A wealth of resources for witnessing or help with the duties of various church offices. [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).
- ▶ **Association of Adventist Women—(AAW):** This national organization to serve Adventist women and their friends publishes a fine journal and can be reached by email at [GLyonFos@aol.com](mailto:GLyonFos@aol.com)

# Ready to Serve When You Are

The best way to stay alive spiritually is to share your influence and faith with your church and community. **AdventSource** and **PlusLine** are ready to supply North American Seventh-day Adventist church members with **fresh ideas** and **resources** in **every area of ministry**.

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- ▶ **Adventist Children's Ministries Association (ACMA):** This ministry serves as a support network for the encouragement and growth of those whom God has called to minister to children within the Adventist Church. Web site: <http://acma-online.org>.
- ▶ **Association of Adventist Forums (AAF):** AAF publishes "Spectrum" magazine, as an outlet for thought and study among Adventists concerned with intellectual consideration of current trends and practices in the church and society at large. Web site: [www.spectrummagazine.org](http://www.spectrummagazine.org)
- ▶ **Association of Adventist Family Life Professionals (AAFLP):** Members include church employees with skill in family ministries, church volunteers who wish to increase their effectiveness in family ministries, pastors, teachers, social workers, counselors, therapists, and other affiliated professionals. Web site: [family.nadadventist.org/aaflp.html](http://family.nadadventist.org/aaflp.html).
- ▶ **The Christian Business Network:** Sponsors "Internet Directory of Adventist Business Owners" for those who prefer to do business with reliable, fellow-Adventist business owners. Web site: [www.lockinbar.com/sda.htm](http://www.lockinbar.com/sda.htm).
- ▶ **Seventh-day Adventist Philatelic Society International (SDAPSI):** This group is made up of committed members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who wish to take part in the Gospel Commission by means of exhibiting and trading stamps and other philatelic material that deals with the history and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Web site: [www.tagnet.org/stamps](http://www.tagnet.org/stamps).
- ▶ **Adventist Pen-Pals:** Seventh-day Adventists from around the world are encouraged to develop pen-pal relationships with others their own age. Participants can give their testimonies, chat, and check out other SDA resources on the Web site: [www.tagnet.org/penpals](http://www.tagnet.org/penpals).
- ▶ **NAPS/National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS):** This is a fully volunteer relief Christian organization. More than 90 percent of NAPS volunteers are college students. Assistance is offered to all in need, without regard to religion, ethnicity, race, or nationality. NAPS operates by a need-based system. Web site: [www.napsoc.org](http://www.napsoc.org).
- ▶ **Adventist Christian Conciliation Ministries (ACCM):** This ministry is committed to helping churches, schools, organizations, and individuals of all persuasions to address conflict in ways that are true to biblical principles. Web site: [www.adventistccm.org](http://www.adventistccm.org).
- ▶ **CONNECT Network:** CONNECT is a network for young adults who are seeking other young-adult visionaries around the world, talking to them and co-venturing with them as they make God's ministry dreams happen. The Web site offers a fully searchable index of ministry resources: [www.saltyfish.net](http://www.saltyfish.net)
- ▶ **Seniors in Action for God with Excellence (SAGE):** This ministry organizes and provides meaningful opportunities for Adventists 55 years and older to associate and participate in valuable volunteerism in North America and abroad. The email address is [joanl@npuc.org](mailto:joanl@npuc.org).
- ▶ **YouthNet eXtreme:** With a target age of young people 10-23 years of age, YouthNet eXtreme specializes in Generation X evangelism, academy and college weeks of spiritual emphasis, weekend youth rallies, and Pathfinder events. Web site: [www.andrews.edu/CYE/extreme](http://www.andrews.edu/CYE/extreme).
- ▶ **Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization:** This is a home-based, grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging fathers to become involved in the lives of their children in a loving, compassionate, and nurturing way. The program began 16 years ago in Cleveland, Ohio, and to date has served more than 4,000 fathers. Web site: [www.responsiblefatherhood.org](http://www.responsiblefatherhood.org).

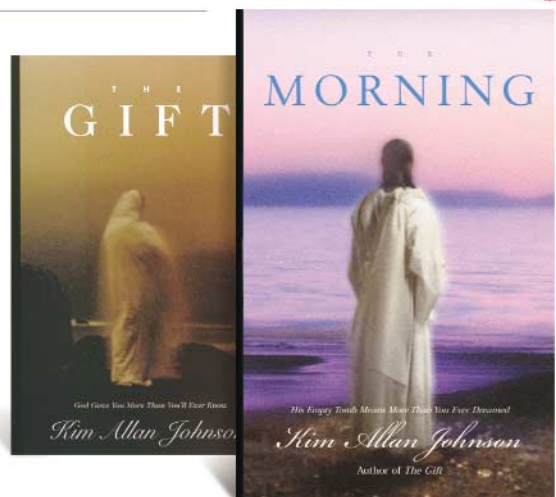
- ▶ **Adventist Rodders Club (ARC):** This is an affiliation of Christians who love the Lord and who are car buffs. Anyone who owns a special interest car (driver or unfinished project) is welcome to "Get on the ARC." Web site: [www.adventistroddersclub.com](http://www.adventistroddersclub.com).
- ▶ **Ask-A-Doc, Inc.:** The goal of 1-800-ASK-A-DOC is to provide immediate and direct telephone access to Board-certified physicians, 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. Physicians provide complete tele-medicine services. Email: [drmayer@1800askadoc.com](mailto:drmayer@1800askadoc.com).
- ▶ **1000 Missionary Movement - North America:** Sponsored by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, this organization is committed to train, send, and support Adventist youth who want to serve in the mission field. Web site: [www.1000MM.org](http://www.1000MM.org).
- ▶ **AMiCUS - Adventist Ministry to College and University Students:** All students on all college and university campuses may wish to place themselves on the mailing list by emailing: [stenri@nadadventist.org](mailto:stenri@nadadventist.org).
- ▶ **Canadian Adventist Deaf Ministry:** This ministry provides tools and inspiration for adults and children with hearing problems. Web site: [www.tagnet.org/deafministry](http://www.tagnet.org/deafministry).
- ▶ **Someone Cares Prison Ministry International:** Pen friends, one-to-one visitation, this is the only Seventh-day Adventist ministry in North America that has access to almost every prison on the continent. Those who wish for a specific inmate to be visited may share that request by contacting Web site [www.someonecares.org](http://www.someonecares.org).
- ▶ **General Conference Adventist Volunteer Center:** This organization is dedicated to assisting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the proclamation of the gospel to all peoples through the ministry of Adventist volunteers, matching talents, gifts, resources and professional expertise with defined needs. Web site: [volunteers.gc.adventist.org/avs/avsdatabase](http://volunteers.gc.adventist.org/avs/avsdatabase).
- ▶ **Adventist ProAviation Association:** A Web site is available at: [www.communityzero.com/apa](http://www.communityzero.com/apa).
- ▶ **Adventist World Aviation (AWA):** Adventist World Aviation is a nonprofit, independent, Adventist-supporting ministry organized to provide aviation transportation, communications, and logistical support for front-line missions. Web site: [www.tagnet.org/awa](http://www.tagnet.org/awa).
- ▶ **Seventh-day Adventist Dietetic Association (SDADA):** This organization provides a resource for professionals, lay people, and anyone else interested in learning more about the principles of healthful nutrition, in general, and the Seventh-day Adventist Dietetic Association in particular. Web site: <http://www.sdada.org/>.
- ▶ **Project: C.A.R.E. (Christians Achieving Restoration through Empowerment):** This is a caring ministry sponsored in part by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Andrews University Department of Social Work, and the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Caring. It provides resources for care and nurture of members by church leadership and pastors and provides counseling assistance. Web site: [www.project-care.org](http://www.project-care.org).
- ▶ **Christian Record Services International, Inc. (CRS):** This ministry for the blind publishes material in both large print and Braille and operates annual summer camps for blind youth in many areas of North America. Web site: [www.ChristianRecord.org](http://www.ChristianRecord.org) or e-mail to [74617.236@compuserve.com](mailto:74617.236@compuserve.com)
- ▶ **BibleBay** has a website that's specifically for Seventh-day Adventists involved in outreach ministries. Web site: <http://www.biblebay.org>

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# 55 Ways PlusLine Can Help You and Your Church

By C. Elwyn Platner

Adventist PlusLine is a clearing house for ministry ideas and information. Thousands of church members, pastors, and church workers have accessed this free service to find what they need. PlusLine can help with:

## Ministry

1. Resources for small group ministry.
2. Organizations for Adventist singles.
3. Youth ministry resources and organizations.
4. How to start a Women's Ministry.
5. How to start a Men's Ministry.
6. Tips on how to tell a children's story at church.
7. Ideas on how to conduct a children's church.
8. Ideas on how to plan a seminar talk.
9. Program ideas for vespers and other church events.
10. Suggestions on starting a church-based counseling center.
11. Resources to help with conflict resolution.
12. List of resources for nurturing new members.
13. Ideas for stewardship ministry.
14. Starting a resource center in your local church.
15. Worship renewal resources.
16. Prayer ministry ideas and resource people.
17. Community Service ideas and resources.

## Outreach

18. Ideas for conducting a health ministry in your community.
19. Finding where to purchase NET evangelism video tapes.
20. Resources needed to start a secular campus ministry.
21. Suggestions on how to effectively share your testimony.
22. Creative evangelism ideas.
23. The best resources available for conducting home Bible studies.
24. Where to find the best Adventist outreach resources.
25. Ideas on how to start a church interest file.

## Christian family life

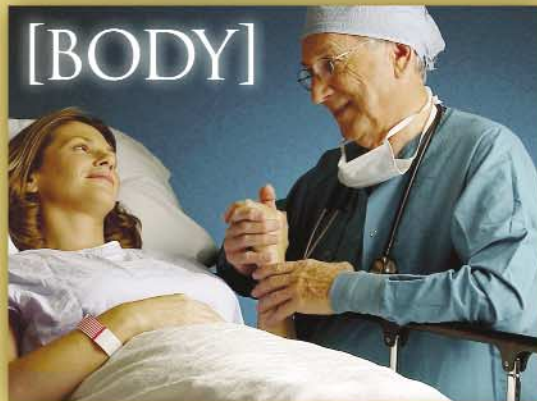
26. Organizations that can help you home-school your child.
27. Books on how to teach your child about sex.
28. A preliminary list of clean and unclean foods.
29. Family Life information.
30. Organizations that help troubled youth.
31. Help with Sabbath employment problems.
32. Help in finding a Christian counselor
33. Locate an Adventist hospital or physician in your area.
34. Locate an Adventist adoption agency.
35. Locate Adventist retirement centers and/or nursing homes.

## Church resources

36. Addresses of pastors and churches.
37. A list of Adventist churches school in your area.
38. Address and phone numbers of a specific church institution.
39. Adventist satellite information.
40. Locating the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast in your area.
41. Seminars utilizing PlusLine's registration services.
42. A list of what SDA FaxPlus offers.
43. Help in finding an Adventist-related web site.
44. Toll-free numbers for Adventist colleges and universities.
45. Organizations that manufacture and sell marketing materials.
46. Organizations that manufacture and sell church furniture.
47. Other Adventist resource organizations.
48. Seventh-day Adventist mission work.
49. How to get in touch with ADRA..
50. Demographic and research information.
51. Speaker referrals and recommendations.
52. Assistance in finding Spirit of Prophecy quotations.
53. Verification of denominational news.
54. How to subscribe to Adventist publications.
55. Suggestions for advertising PlusLine in your area.

C. ELWYN PLATNER IS THE EDITOR OF THE PACIFIC UNION RECORDER IN WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA.

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