

Pastoral Interviews
Report for Week of: October 9, 1997
Number of Calls: 10
Number of Conferences: 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Six of ten pastors spoke about “business contacts” when doing Ingathering. The most common response is, “We keep a list and have established connections with certain businesses.” Responses are mixed. Mostly, if a relationship has been established, the response is good. One pastor writes a letter and sends it out ahead of time, then sends a member to do follow-up. Another said, “When we switched to Campaign for Community, the interest on the part of my members shot up. They were much more willing to approach businesses.” One pastor has a millionaire businessmen who does a superb job and has many contacts in the community. This same pastor (former publishing director) gave a pile of advice on changing Ingathering. I sensed he tried to share this advice with the GC but feels they didn’t listen to him. One idea he suggested was a “payroll deduction”.

2. Most pastors drew a blank on effectively ministering to young adults with small children. Many said, “I need some ideas.” Almost half bemoaned the fact there were few (if any) young families in their churches. Those pastors whose churches were ministering to young families responded in basically two categories. The first is providing traditional programs for kids -- a fabulous Sabbath school, VBS, Pathfinders, and a church school. It is the second group that seems to move a notch deeper by providing -- children’s church, childcare for all church programs/events, parenting classes, a nursery (with staff), and regular platform involvement in worship services. One pastor just attended an elder’s meeting the night before where they discussed reaching young families. They decided that beginning a men’s ministry would make the greatest impact by calling men to accountability as husbands and fathers.

3. Seven out of ten pastors were involved in some sort of leadership training (outside of pastor’s meetings). Adventist training included: Andrews University extension classes, downlinking ACN program (Monte S. and New Generation of Families), classes on church growth conducted by the conference president for unordained pastors, Community Service and Disaster preparation at Silver Springs, David White and Divorce Recovery, Community services seminar at conference by Monte Sahlin, Seeds ‘97, and Ron Halvorsen training event at conference summer camp. Outside Adventism, pastors have attended: Injoy seminar, Carlson Learning Company (leadership style evaluation seminar), Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Catholic Family Services seminar. Pastors conducted training (mostly in visitation and Bible studies) for members or attended conference sponsored training with members. Many prefer a one on one approach to teaching. A few mentioned a mixture of lecture and discussion, especially over “test cases” or “problem situations.” And three mentioned using ACN for training.

4. Five of ten pastors have called PlusLine. Two of these pastors think their leaders may have called PlusLine. Reasons mentioned for calling: looking for demographic information, Sabbath school resources, Bible study information. Six of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource. And six of ten pastors say they think their church leaders may have called AdventSource. Reasons mentioned for calling: Sabbath school supplies, Pathfinders, evangelism, Adventurers Club, and training material.

Pastor: TM

Conference: Upper Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

No, don't do Ingathering. I have one or two do business solicitation. It hasn't been discussed.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

We're conducting a seminar during Sabbath school called "Growing Kid's God's Way." I haven't gone through it but a couple in my church are leading out. It just started, so I don't have a lot to say about this right now.

The other things we've done "accommodate them", for instance during satellite seminars, we provide childcare. We've also started a young adult marrieds class.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

Regular pastor's retreat in August. I have an extension course I took on Biblical Preaching through Andrews. Next month I'm attend an Injoy seminar in Seattle. I have a couple high powered leaders in my churches (former pastors), they are heavily involved in growth as part of their lifestyle. Our Personal Ministries leader went to a conference event.

If its visitation or Bible studies, I take them with me. When we had the spiritual gifts class, I gave them a book--Russell Burrill's book. Then I gave them a syllabus and did follow-up one on one. I haven't used any of the ACN Cross-training videos.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

I'm sure I have. No, I don't know.

Yes. Yes, probably so. Resources in the areas of evangelism or church supplies (Sabbath school).

Pastor: GT
Conference: Upper Columbia
Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

No. A few people do businesses. Most responses are "Its not in our budget. Come back next year." And when we do come back, we get a good response. If we got regular reports on what Ingathering moneys do, I think people would be more favorable -- like with ADRA. And maybe its because its a general fund.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

We have children's church once a month, during the service in a separate room. We also have a nursery where we parents can drop their kids off. We also have things that are children-friendly during services. We also try to have young people on the platform every Sabbath. Pathfinders, active school program, small groups going with childcare for those.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

I don't think I have. I did attend a pastor's retreat. I did downlink Monte Sahlin's program on the New Generation of churches and families. And I'm planning to share this at a church leaders retreat in December. I also have an evaluation of your leadership style. Carlson Learning Company. I'll be sharing it as well at the church leaders retreat.

My leaders (elders retreat usually) now church board go on a retreat once a year. Mostly focused on Connections.

My preferred method. I'm trying to understand mentoring. I don't know if I've grasped it too well. I like to get people together away. Put our heads, our hearts, our dreams, our visions together. The "seminar away approach." I survey my leaders first. Out of that, something happens. As well as working with people one on one. We are getting more young people into leadership. Eighty percent of my focus is on leadership. I like to give them permission to "do" things. About 10 years ago, Bill Liversidge got me going on this equipper and trainer and spiritual gifts model of ministry. Its not something to me. And the more I am involved, the more I believe in it.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. No, I don't think so.

Yes. I don't think so. I don't know.

Pastor: SW

Conference: Upper Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

We don't do the business community, just residential ... and always a fairly positive response.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

We just had an elders meeting last night and discussed that very thing. We decided an effective men's ministry would positively affect the head's of homes ... and as a result minister to families. We'll need to get more specific at our next meeting.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

Pastor's meeting. I went to a Billy Graham School of Evangelism a few years ago. That was quite dynamic as far as leadership training. Local leaders, not that I know of.

Hands on method is my preferred method of teaching lay leaders. They accompany me when we go out.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. I don't think so. I called looking for some demographic information.

No. I have an Adventurer Club leader who has.

Pastor: SB

Conference: Upper Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, 1 company

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

Its not a yes or no thing, its more very positive or very negative responses. I've sent letters to businesses to cut down the negative, and then send a member to do follow up.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

I'm really at this point can't lend a lot of wisdom here. We are struggling with that. We don't have a large segment of those people in our church. So, we're in the experimental stage.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

I've been very bad about that. Outside of pastor's meetings. For my church leaders, I've had a general session or two on outreach.

My preferred style would probably be to watch something, like on ACN and then discuss it.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No. Not that I'm aware of.

Yes, couple of occasions. I think so. Pathfinders and Sabbath school.

Pastor: DS

Conference: Texico

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

They raise it out of their own pockets. They get a fairly decent response. The school kids go out. Some people from certain businesses give every year regularly. So, they try to go back to the same ones.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

A good Sabbath school department is very important. Other children's programs like VBS. Getting young people involved in the worship service helps minister to both parents and their children. Plus, emphasizing Christian education.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

Our conference president conducted a church growth class for those of us who are not ordained. Plus, we've been learning about strategic planning.

We've been training using the ACN events (communications, elders, Sabbath school training). We use ACN a lot.

Take them with you as well as having instruction, combining the two.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. Yes, I think so. They were looking for materials for Sabbath school, Bible study information.

Yes. Yes. Training material, Pathfinder.

Pastor: DV

Conference: Texico

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

Yes. Very good. I have a list that's been here and use it.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

We try to provide programs for them. Positive parenting seminar, VBS, try to get them involved in the church.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

I am the community service leader for the conference, so I went to Silver Springs for the Disaster Preparation training. Also, in the community if there are other churches conducting seminars, I try to get involved in that. Usually its in the area of dealing with young people, Catholic Family Services.

My church leaders went through training (Sabbath school, elders -- on ACN). We also have elders and deacons meetings every other month ... bouncing ideas and praying together.

When it comes to training, I use what ever I can find, I don't have a preference. We also send our leaders to the training events at the conference.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No. No. Gave it out, but don't think they ever have.
Yes. Yes. Sabbath school.

Pastor: FC
Conference: Kentucky-Tennessee
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

In one of my churches, principally the businesses ... and they haven't invited me to go with them. In the other two churches we have done Campaign for Community and the interest on the part of the members has gone way up. And the interest to approach businesses is greater.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

We haven't had a lot of them in our three churches. My wife has quite consistently done some Sabbath school program. In one church we've started that up. In one of my churches about 1/2 the time someone is in the children's division. And I have some ladies committed to do it.

We have had some come and seen some children grow.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

With this community service emphasis, I've gotten David White to come in and do a divorce seminar. The book has some holes. He's great, but the book needs better editing. I'll be doing it. Another member went through this with me.

Monte came in and gave us a 6-8 hour workshop, focused it on community services. Roles, responsibilities. A couple members went through this with me.

I have done the books. I'd say, the most significant thing is the one on one and going with them. I haven't been able to get people turned on by satellite training. I'm the only one who knows how to operate it. The personal contact is my preferred method. And it needs to be interactive. They have got to want to learn.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. I doubt it. Maybe some.

Yes. One of my members I think have. I have an elder who goes quite regularly to Ron Halvorsen's lay pastor training seminars and probably heard or saw AdventSource stuff there.

Pastor: DH
Conference: Kentucky-Tennessee
Church(es)/Position: 4 churches (2 pastors)

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

This pastor didn't have time for the questions. He was on his way out the door. But we did get into a little conversation about why I conduct these calls. He then said, "What we really need is a resource to help Adventist be good neighbors and know how to witness to people who live next door! This is extremely important and we need more stuff in this area!" I'm sending him catalogs with some items circled, and am putting him on the mailing list for Friendship Evangelism Newsletter, but agreed that we could do more in this area. He then told a couple stories of ministering to his neighbors. I asked him to write me an article for Friendship Evangelism Newsletter.

After this conversation I asked him if he'd allow me to conduct the interview and he said he really didn't have much to offer since his mind was already "out the door."

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Pastor: JB
Conference: Kentucky-Tennessee
Church(es)/Position: 1 church, retired

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

Our church presently has one or two business contacts. We don't have any now. Nearly all of it comes from the church members themselves.

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

No, don't have any ideas. Most of my members are older members. We don't have any young families. In times past we had social programs that appealed to the young couples.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

Nothing besides pastor's meetings. Our conference have seminars at the youth camp for the laymen. I haven't had a laymen want to do that.

Mostly I have gone visiting with the elders and taken them with me. To be truthful, not many wanted to do this.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

I have heard of it, but I don't think I've ever called. I suspect my leaders have never called.

I think I might have filled out a questionnaire once and offered me a free gift if I did it, but that's the only time. No, don't know if my leaders have called.

Pastor: CK

Conference: Kentucky-Tennessee

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. What types of responses do you get from business owners or civic leaders about Ingathering?

One of my churches has a millionaire businessman who does Ingathering with his contacts. He's very conscientious about doing this. Otherwise the goals are raised by the members themselves. I have had a 25 year publishing background, but I have to admit, we don't push it at all. I'm not anti-Ingathering, but when I was in the Far Eastern division, I discovered that 75% of the money went to mercenaries being sent to Andrews, who never came back to their country. It was a problem. Whether they've tapered off, I don't know. I've been upset that its not specific enough. I know how to do door-to-door work, but when you send children out, but we all don't know exactly what happens with the money. I would put more money on it like the United Way, giving material, specific lists you can choose from, if you like... I approached the GC on this when Bascom was on it, but didn't feel it took place back then. We raise our goal, but I don't put 5 minutes into it. I could double the amount we raise if I were put in charge of this. When I worked at the Review, I discovered Adventist employees give more to the United Way ... I found

this out through payroll deduction strategy. This is something I think we should do! I've mentioned it but no body thinks that's a good idea...

2. What works well in your church to effectively minister to young adults with small children?

I'm weak in this area. I've got churches that are like the average church, 50-100 members, and our young people have moved off, and we have older people that younger, we don't have any youth ministries, I don't have church schools, so when we have children, they go to public schools. I can't get anywhere. So, I'm not too helpful in this area.

I think if we can get our own church members to be more inclusive of their children, bringing them to their homes, that would help. I do have some teens going to nonAdventist colleges. I'll go visit them in their rooms or lobbies, encouraging them and they seem to enjoy.

3. What type of leadership training have you participated in during the last year? Your church leaders? What is your preferred method of training lay leaders in your church? Attend an event? Pass out books? Watch or participate in a video workshop? Use ACN satellite training? Coaching? etc.

I went to Seeds '97. Pastor's meetings and campmeetings. I have speakers that help me, lay speakers, and I'm trying to get ... Ron Halvorsen and lay pastoral training going well, and I'm trying to get them to go to the once a quarter seminar at the summer camp.

I happen to have some laymen who are financially able and excited about evangelism, and we haven't done much outside of that. Bible study classes, evangelism, and visitation our main focus. I enter into my computer the media interests sent me, though don't seem to get much response. So we are doing the Discover Bible School. I've found that all the media center's name are about the same. But I've found that when I go to a door and introduce myself as from It Is Written, and show a picture of Mark Finley... etc. Never been turned down. Always leave a lesson... about 50% get it done, the other 50% will do it with you. My problem is not finding interests, but getting them all done. In my little churches, I have a certain number that can do it.

I need to back off after this next series, and training some of my leaders. I've had 5 crusades in the last year. We've had over 100 baptisms in the last year, but only 50% are still with us. Social life of many of my members is church, difficult to entertain them. Nurture them.

4. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No, but heard of it. I think my head elder tried it.

I've gotten two of their bulletins. I don't think they have. Contemporary Advent Resources, took over work of Mark Haisely? North Carolina.