

Pastoral Interviews
Report for Week of: November 24, 1997
Number of Calls: 10
Number of Conferences: 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. What type of response do businesses have toward Ingathering? In this last set of interviews on this question, let me point out that never has a “negative” been shared. Comments have focused more on “approaching” or “getting in” to businesses. Four of ten pastors do ADRA Appeal (all from Canada). The other six were from the states and only 1 pastor said their church is currently doing Ingathering. No other programs were mentioned by any of them. Besides the “no comment” from four pastors, the other six all emphasized the value of having a connection with businesses through relationships and consistency of coming back year after year. A few spoke of the difficulty of “getting in” to new businesses. Strategies for doing this mostly centered on taking a member along who does business with the owner and selectively choosing businesses based on relationships between members and business owners. A Canadian pastor spoke of the organized charity programs that make it almost impossible to break into new businesses. These charities are established and utilize automatic paycheck deductions from employees checks.
2. About half the pastors indicated that ministry to young adults with small children is limited because there are few if any young parents in their churches. By far the most often referred to way to involve children is during the worship service. Half the pastors have attempted or would like to attempt involving the children in the service itself (other than children's story, etc.). A variety of ministries for children were mentioned: VBS, Eager Beavers, Children's Church, etc. Ministry to children was mentioned (visit them in homes, provide quiet bags for them during worship, childcare while parents attend support/small groups). And ministry to the parents included a variety of programs (men's groups, women's groups, church socials, family life committee planning programs, young adult SS classes, etc.). The most unique ministry came from a pastor in Canada who has a “social committee for children.” Their most recent experiment was to provide a separate Sabbath (after church) meal for children combined with fun activities “in order to give the parents a break.”
3. Leadership training among pastors, as you might expect, included first of all pastor's meetings. Two pastors specifically mentioned that they enjoyed these events. Adventist training events included: Eastern Canada Ministerial meetings, A.C.N. events, an audio cassette series by the Rockey's, Birmingham meetings, and Disaster Response Training. Other seminars mentioned: Peter Wagner, a Worship Leadership seminar by a guy named Weber from Chicago, and a George Barna seminar. All these were highly recommended by the pastors who attended them. Also, one pastor is in a chaplaincy program, another just purchased a computer and has access to the web

(and feels it has opened a whole new world to him), and a third does a ton of reading for personal development (Burrill's books, Purpose-Driven Church, etc.).

Leadership training provided for members is typically something that is provided by the conference. NADEI has provided training in small groups and preaching for elders in a few conferences. The Quiet Hour provided a seminar in one area on how to give Bible studies. Two of ten pastors mentioned using A.C.N. Two pastors have or plan to send people to either Willow Creek or Saddle Back churches for training. It seemed only one pastor truly did "training" seriously (used A.C.N., did a seminar using a resource with "unchurched Charlie", did a seminar on worship services, etc.). Most pastors seem to do nothing, lean on the conference, or at most do a general introduction to certain church offices at the beginning of the officer's year.

Preferred methods of training focused on the professional "guest speaker" whether at the conference or the local church. The next most frequently mentioned method of teaching was the use of videos, then A.C.N., then handouts, then overheads, then books. Other miscellaneous comments include: "Sabbath morning is the chosen time in our church for training; budgets limit bringing in guests other than conference officers; we use Hart resources a lot; going through Burrill's book on 21st Century Churches with elders; we use A.C.N. very selectively and usually only show portions of a pre-recorded broadcast; I use an inductive approach to teaching." One pastor really likes what is done in his previous conference, Dan Knapp utilizing a traveling group comprised of laity who have mastered skills in certain areas.

4. Five of ten pastors say they have called PlusLine. One pastor indicated that he thought one of his members called PlusLine. Only one pastor indicated why he called and he wasn't sure if it in fact was PlusLine—and that was for Net '96 questions. Seven pastors say they have called AdventSource. Four pastors thought members had called. Reasons for calling: Family Life materials, Net '96 resources, Connections, Personal Ministries materials, and VBS.

Pastor: GD
Conference: Ontario
Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

ADRA Appeal. We don't approach businesses.

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

We have a men's group for young adult fathers. And we have a social committee that is solely dedicated to planning children's socials. So, when young adults come to the

church, the social committee takes the children (during Sabbath lunch) to give the parents a break. We have regular social nights like everyone else.

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 gone to a seminar on worship leadership. It was connected with a gentleman from Chicago. There were three Adventist pastors from my conference. It was on how to make the 11:00 service more dynamic. There is a high emphasis on the communion table weekly in some Sunday churches, but not in Adventist churches. It wasn't Willowcreek. A guy named Weber, wrote a book called "Worship is a Verb." I'd recommend it to other Adventist pastors. Especially it is applicable if you have young adults. Half my elders are below the age of 35.

I have a lady who has gone to Willow Creek who has training in small groups and she is training us in that area.

9:30 to 10:00 Sabbath morning. We just voted that was the "training time." No Sabbath afternoon. We are using a lot of Hart Research materials. Overheads, workbooks, and videos. We also use Multnomah Press. They have books that have "breakout" questions ... also "guides". Like "Gentle Persuasion" a book on sharing your faith (by Joe Aldrich) has a guidebook to go along with 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, but received infosheets and used them. Put some of those things in the bulletin. Maybe my Family Life Leader.

No. I don't think so.

Pastor: WS

Conference: Ontario

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, senior pastor

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

ADRA appeal. We get a favorable response. We work with businesses in our own area. The key is maintaining a rapport. There is an ongoing relationship we have.

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

We worked through our family life committee ... and the focus was on worship for reaching different age groups. We have a monthly seminar that incorporates different of the family. This last month was on worship for all age groups. We want to work with

young families by providing a variety of seminars. We also have an AY department with guest presenters.

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 in a chaplaincy program. So I'm writing papers. Meeting monthly. This program incorporates many leadership principles. I have a doctorate in the area of grief. So I want to keep the momentum up.

I'm new in the church here. Earlier in the year we had a couple sessions on leadership training for all officers in terms of job description, implementing, motivational, etc.

I use a variety of methods. I like handouts, overheads ... now I'm trying to use multi-media. We use a lot of dialogue and small group dynamics.

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, when I was doing Net '96. Not to my knowledge.

I don't think so. I may have for Net '96. I think so.

Pastor: AM
Conference: Ontario
Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

Yes. Some members approach businesses. I usually work in small towns. When my members do businesses, or kids from VBS parents own the business, or if they attended a 5 day plan, etc. The problem comes when we approach the business with a "new" member, they may decrease the amount. Establishing long ties with older owners is good, but younger owners tend to give less. Relationship with the business is key.

Smaller towns, its easier to have relationship connections. In bigger towns where there is no "in" they often say, "We give to the United Way, etc." And its hard to "get in" to these businesses.

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

In the churches I pastor, there is a lot of older people. I'd suggest with young adults ... a lot of them tend to have grown up in the church if they are still in the church. They tend to like to have a church that is like a "sanctuary" of peace from their chaotic lives. A truly "worshipful" experience. Perhaps prayer meetings in the home hits needs.

I'm a young adult with 3 children. The thing I would look for is not a place that complicates my life ... but simplify. Late board meetings or socials. My wife came from a church with a lot of young adults ... and the only requirements were to attend church on Sunday morning and then one other night (any night) for small group meeting. That seemed to appeal to her. We've had some divorces in our church and I believe one piece is related to burnout from overdoing it at 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 went to Oshawa for an Eastern Canada Ministerial meeting. I liked the preaching seminar by Ben Reeves. Leo Schreven had a good evangelism seminar. I also attended a small group seminar. My best one occurred in Winnipeg when I heard Peter Wagner on church growth.

Once a quarter we usually have someone come in with a training emphasis ... or a weekend seminar ... The Quiet Hour did a seminar on how to give video Bible studies. My head elder attends a Maranatha meeting in Oshawa or Toronto on how to run Bible studies.

Usually we help people attend workshops in a larger location ... because of finances. It gives them a global perspective on the church since many of my new leaders are first generation Adventists. And we have people come up here once a quarter. There's also a once a year Northern Ontario Elder's Workshop.

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. I've heard of it and photocopied things and passed them out.

No, heard about it. No. When we have problems and we need help, we approach our conference departments. They have a video library we check things out of.

Pastor: EJ

Conference: Ontario

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

ADRA appeal. Some businesses. There is organized programs by charities in Ontario who collect ... a collecting agency. They have a mark-up of percentage and its divided into various charities. They have been accepted by the public and businesses as the way to go ... like the Salvation Army, etc. So, most businesses contribute through their office to these charities. It is difficult for us to break into businesses and ask for donations. So, everyone is organized with this organized charity. But, you can get in their

if you are able to make appropriate contacts with management, especially if you are perceived as a good charity, etc. The idea of paycheck deductions ... we are very late ... haven't got on this nor do we have the PR as others do (TV and radio, newspaper, etc.).

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

I believe, and this is something lacking in North American pastors ... the new breed ... do very little visiting. You cannot expect to make good contact with children only on the Sabbath day. You need to get into their homes and get to know them. Assisting the parents through conflict, etc. you must visit them in the homes. There is no substitute for visiting.

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 a retired pastor, I've been retired for 11 years. Since I am retired and living in the area, they have asked me to pastor until they find one. I do attend seminars, out of my own choice when I'm invited to attend.

I encourage my leaders to attend the programs at the conference.

I use videos, printed materials from resource centers, personal experiences, and I always get people from the conference or union to help me.

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 know.

Yes. I am sure they have because they have all their materials and information.

Pastor: JB

Conference: Illinois

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

I've only been here 3 months. They haven't been doing it. Usually just collect it. But we are planning to do it. No suggestions for approaching businesses.

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

If the church is moving toward small groups, that it becomes incumbent upon the group itself to feel responsible that the children are cared for while the parents are involved in the small group—perhaps take a collection or provide some type of childcare.

Children's church is another great way to reach kids and parents. Our culture has changed and I think it is important to provide for unchurched people something for kids since they are not used to watching kids in church. Our church needs to keep in mind the purpose for existence (five: worship, ministry, discipleship, evangelism, and fellowship). Our mission is to go the world. We become very member-friendly, but we need to become more seeker-friendly.

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.

In the last year, I don't think so, except our pastor's meetings. I've been doing a lot of reading: Purpose-Driven Church, The Church of the 21st Century (Russell Burrill), The Cellular Church (?), Revolution in the Church (Burrill).

I sent 10 leaders to Ottawa to a small group seminar by a guy from Andrews. But they will be before the end of the year. I'll probably take a group out to Saddleback or Willowcreek. I really like Rick Warren's stuff.

I believe our people need a new vision. Once they have those purposes down, then it becomes a much easier focus as to what's important and what isn't. I know they've been hollering at churches to get "vision and purpose" statements, but they don't make any sense unless they truly become a compass for direction. I worked at a church that worked hard to develop a purpose statement, but when I asked around, nobody knew what it was. It needs to become as common to them as easily as John 3:16.

Right now I'm new to a church (most of my ministry has been in evangelism). I'm working closely with my elders. I'm taking them through a Bible study on the purposes of the church. We are going through the Revolutionized Church of the 21st Century. I have a number of tapes and have them listen to along with note sheets. Also, using videos. We plan to bring in some experts on church planting and small groups. I'm simply trying to read ahead and giving them my vision. I'm trying to get as much of Rick Warren's stuff.

It seems like we get a "piece" of the concept in Adventist leadership development, but don't get the "whole." We've got to go through a dying process.

[Talked about Connections, SafetyZone, and small group materials.]

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. Haven't heard of it.

No. No. Haven't heard of it.

Pastor: LC

Conference: Illinois

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

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

When I first came here two years ago, no. We've (in the larger church) done Christmas carol singing. Most of the feeling has been "ho-hum." So, we still do "personal goals", but we also focused on the immediate community around the church, gave out fruit baskets, with Christmas carols. Last year did the same, but the Happiness Digest (people not hep on the food idea). There has been some interest among a few.

No businesses. In previous churches I have. I've learned it always helps if there has been an ongoing contact. I've almost always tagged along with a lay person. I think I've seen material in the past (some type of prospectus) for businesses.

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

I have ideas of what I'd like to do. Couple of couples with young children have asked me ... a support group. I've scratched my head to think of any materials on this topic. Bible study connected with raising children. I don't know. We've used Kurt Johnson's book on prayer. But wanted something for parents.

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.

Not really.

NADEI had a preaching seminar down in our area that my elders attended. Also a small group one from NADEI by Don James.

I would like to use more video to assist (compliment) my teaching.

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'm not sure. I've passed out pamphlets.

Yes. Probably not.

Pastor: DB

Conference: Kansas-Nebraska

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

No comments. Once you start business Ingathering, never stop it. If you miss a year, many businesses will move on to some other charity.

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

What we've done as far as church ... we have "quiet bags", toys and gadgets to play with during church services. We have a great program for Eager Beavers. We provide a lot of social events. We also have two young adult Sabbath school classes and a women's ministries, men's ministries, etc. that ministers to young adults.

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 just went to a George Barna seminar last week in Kansas City. The focus was on Ministry in the Late '90's. I think an Adventist pastor is even close, he should go. You can't take notes fast enough.

We held a few A.C.N. events. I did some stuff with Unchurched Charlie. New Worship services, etc. I've done some myself.

If I can bring in a guest, that's good though finances are tight. The A.C.N. events were a little long and tedious. Like sermon preparation for elders was a waste of time. I could have said what he did in 30 minutes. You look at the unchurched people, our people aren't really different. Yet, we put on a 2 hour thing... I did show part of it, fine. Maybe we should shift to a one hour broadcast.

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).

Can't remember it. Heard of it. Don't know, relatively sure they haven't.

Yes. Yes.

By the way, please tell whoever that when I get brochures to order stuff for A.C.N. event and they say they'll mail them one week before the seminar... its absolutely ridiculous. It's a waste of NAD money. Please encourage whoever to get their act together.

Pastor: DJ

Conference: Kansas-Nebraska

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

It really helps if you have a person who has done it before and has contacts. Your effectiveness as a pastor is in direct proportion to their connections (lay members). Developing a relationship really helps. Broadening the base is the challenge. You have businesses that close, or new owners, etc. Getting new contacts is most often connected a

church member who has a relationship. I have tried to focus on those businesses that members use. I had a lady in my last district that had worked businesses for 30 years. She was good. Primarily a relationship issue. It really helps to have a brochure just for businesses. I've been weak on follow-up, but if you can give them something (calendars) later on, that helps. Our conference created something, a page a day, philanthropic.

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

We've been doing some interesting things during our worship service with young people and I think it has a spin off on the children. Our youth have been giving Scripture reading, prayer, a couple times a year they've done the whole service. When I first came here, I have been used to elders on the platform and deacons taking up the offering. But they had ladies taking up the offering and young people involved on the platform. And it's been going well. It really turns the adults on and seems to get the whole family involved. There hasn't been anything negative said about it. Involving young people in the service helps it give it the "family oriented church" feel that we want.

We also have children's story. It helps to have a good strong leadership in the young people's division. I was in Nevada Utah before coming here, and I appreciated the personal ministries leader took teams around and did training. These teams were made up of effective leadership people who were lay people, not paid professionals. Dan Knapp did a superb job. I wish they would do that in this conference. I have thought of giving my teachers a Sabbath or two off and letting them watch other teachers. Another that would really be helpful is if they could downlink a program like Dan Knapp is doing... they have done it for VBS, why not for SS teachers? They need encouragement and nurture, ideas that are practical. Dan focused his teaching to the quarter's lesson. Then there were good Q & A time. Shoptalk. He offered a menu. Plenary session, then three groups (Cradle Roll, Kindergarten; Primary, Juniors, Youth; then Adults...).

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.

We have two pastors meetings every year. I've recently purchased a computer and it has really opened a tremendous wealth to me. I'm on the web.

That's been a little frustrating. The conference had a Sabbath school workshop 180 miles away. It's been challenging to get my folks to attend. Even campmeeting.

I think a variety is helpful. I can get to be old hat. But if you can have a combination of things (downlink, video, books, etc.) it all helps. When I first started in pastoring, we had a calendar year the conference would have breakout groups and present to them. That wasn't such a bad idea. They'd have one for elders, clerks and treasurers, youth, Sabbath school, etc. It was a chance for the local conference to augment the local church.

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 had a problem accessing it because of the 913 area code change. But it was a glitch, but its straightened out now. MCI had a problem. I use my bulletin as a means of communicating. I have to depend on it to get my announcements out. I really don't know if my leaders do, but I have put it in there.

Yes. Was looking for PlusLine number. I also called for information on Connections. VBS. Church leaders? Probably not. My hunch is that between AdventSource and PlusLine they haven't really gotten into it.

Pastor: JO

Conference: Montana

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

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

Been here 3 years. Did it just the first year. Feeble attempt. Montana Conference half-heartedly have done it. Most I don't think are doing it.

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

That's probably one of our weaker areas. We have a bare children's program. In one newly planted church we have good participation. But I'm not sure they are doing any special programming. The little kids seem to be a part of the whole church program. Not as much as the services, but just everything. Its an atmosphere thing. A consciousness. In one of our church we are working on things to help them in worship services be more friendly to children. We have traditional children's story, but for the morning prayer, the offering, etc. We did that one Sabbath and it was well accepted.

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 have with my Church Ministries hat since I do that in this conference. Disaster Response Training, still need to finish up step five ... sponsoring them here for our people. I attended Birmingham last January.

We haven't been doing anything by satellite. Probably their main training has been concentrated on disaster response. No structured type training.

Training members, I prefer someone to come in, especially if its an area I'm not familiar with. An expert. Videos are OK. I haven't been that successful with using videos. Not able to involve people. I've been more successful in my annual weekend training events around 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).

I think I have, its been a long time. I don't know if leaders have. As a departmental person, I tend to do what a pastor does ... whatever happens to be at hand at the time ... we have a pretty decent library of videos here at the conference ... they get used some. When we were in St. Louis, I brought Carl George's 9 Facets back, but not being used.

Yes. I don't know.

Pastor: CG

Conference: Montana

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

I used to.

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

Interactive church service. Using questions and probing for answers from the congregation. Having parents with small children do the service, involve them in the process of actually doing the service.

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.

The only thing I've done is catching some of A.C.N. training. Church Growth. I think what I have appreciated most was some stuff I picked up ... audio cassettes and a set of ten sessions from the Rockey's seminars on family relationships, building intimacy, building up trust, etc.

Personal ministries leader and several others attended training on small group ministries that came over A.C.N. The conference also put on a few seminars on small group ministries.

I like doing the inductive study seminar approach, plus inviting laymen and conference people to come in and do training sessions. Sometimes Union and Division people are so far removed from the local church ... they have some really sharp ideas, but hands on can be weak. They get people really excited about doing things but pause when asked specific application.

[Shared stories of attempting to mobilize lay members. Partly through telling them, "Things around here will not happen unless you choose to be involved."]

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.

Yes. Yes, personal ministries.