

Pastoral Interviews
Report for Week of: November 6, 1997
Number of Calls: 10
Number of Conferences: 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Six of ten pastors spoke of approaching businesses in their local churches for Ingathering or Campaign for Community purposes. Three or four pastors (all from Georgia-Cumberland) spoke of Campaign for Community, and two of them spoke of it highly. Specifically, the strategy of keeping funds local. Almost all business contacts are successful because of relationships built, members knowing business people, and keeping records from previous years. No pastor suggested strategies for breaking into new businesses. One pastor said he tried 20 new businesses without getting one contribution.
2. Most pastors seemed to struggle with concrete ways to minister to young adults with small children. After some hesitation, many refer to Sabbath school, children's story, and VBS. About half the pastors in this survey mentioned social activities (one mentioned a 20-40 Club). A few spoke of visiting young adults in their homes. Two pastors specifically mentioned "young adult small groups" that have been created. One pastor had a guest speaker (Chalmers) speak on the family. Another spoke of creating activities for kids, and then drawing parents to church and winning them to Jesus through simple friendship evangelism. Another church has a regular Sabbath Family Picnic time in the park. And one pastor spoke of starting in January a monthly young adult worship service and a children's church service at the same time. He also had a lot to say about helping kids fall in love with Jesus before giving them the "rules."
3. Pastors have been involved in a variety of leadership training inside and outside the denomination. Most all refer to pastor's meetings. Only two pastors couldn't think of any training they had been through in the last year. Samples of responses include: John Maxwell and Injoy seminars, Alban Institute seminar on multi-cultural ministry, Speed Leas seminar on conflict management, IDAK seminar out of Portland, OR, Jon Paulien at a pastor's meeting, George Barna, Florida Hospital seminars, etc. Two pastors are working on advanced degrees from Andrews University (M.A. in Pastoral Ministry and D. Min.). Interestingly, one is a Hispanic pastor and the other Korean. One pastor just finished seminary and was "trained out"... When asked about local church leaders receiving training the most common response was to Ron Halvorsen's lay pastor training. Since 9 of the 10 calls were in the same Union, five pastors mentioned this. Others referred to sharing their own personal resources, sending leaders to conference sponsored events (VBS, Personal Ministries, Pathfinders, Sabbath School, etc.), and doing teaching in committee meetings or while giving Bible studies. Pastors have a mix of preferred methods. Some like to "do it myself"

meaning pulling materials out of their own files or doing on the job training (usually speaking of giving Bible studies). Others like to send leaders to conference sponsored events. Still others like to have professionals speak (through video, coming to the church, A.C.N., etc.). A few try to take leaders through a vision and planning process to help them own the program and sense a need for their own training.

4. Four of ten pastors say they have called PlusLine. Two say members have called that they are aware of. Reasons mentioned were children's ministries and outreach. Seven of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource. Six say members have called that they are aware of. Reasons for calling: Pathfinders (3), VBS, Stewardship, Youth ministries, and Sabbath school.

Pastor: RP

Conference: Mountain View

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

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

We do businesses in all three communities. We don't get a real favorable response, primarily because we can't tell businesses that all the money stays in the community. I tried 20 last year in one town, but got nothing. Where we do, it's often an issue of a personal friendship between a member and the business.

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

That's a big jump from Ingathering to young adults! They are the hardest to get in the church. What I've tried is to offer more programs and activities for children and that pulls mom and dad in. Then, once you make friends with parents, friendship evangelism, then you can help them to come in. The older generation doesn't seem to see this as much.

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 Columbia Union ministerial meetings, John Maxwell came in and spoke to us. I get stuff from Leadership magazine and Maxwell's stuff.

I've encouraged them to read my stuff. Most of them think its heresy because its not printed by our denomination! I have one elder who listens to some John Maxwell stuff and that's about it. They're very conservative and leery of stuff.

I have no preference. The hardest thing for me to do is take my leaders somewhere else. So, doing it IN the church probably is best. Two of your churches I can do video presentations quite well. Stuff I bring in (sometimes A.C.N.).

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. No, I don't believe so. Normally they ask me to do it.

Pastor: JH

Conference: Georgia-Cumberland

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

We do Campaign for Community. Typical Ingathering strategy. Keep track last year's.

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

We have a 20-40 club and if they have kids, we provide activities for them as well as our regular Sabbath school classes.

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 an InJoy seminar.

VBS, pastoral, personal ministries – conference sponsored.

I see if they have a need and I try to train them. Right now I'm having a five-session training session. I pull from my file materials to present. Right now we have a pastoral staff of 10 and I take them through once a year.

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).

Many times. Yes. Children, activities, outreach, inreach, etc. I encourage them to use whatever resources they can get their hands on.

Yes. I have no idea.

Pastor: DP
Conference: Georgia-Cumberland
Church(es)/Position: 1 church, Senior pastor

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

In my previous churches we were on Campaign for Community. My current church (been here 2 months), they've said it's a dead issue. A few members go out, but they've told me not to worry about it.

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

Personally, I think starting Sabbath school in your main worship service a little later ... I feel if you go from 10 to 11:30 for Sabbath school gives them a little more time. In my new church, this church is in a growth mode, a lot of transferring in, lots of children. So we have a large bunch of kids, so we're trying to develop ministries right now. We have children's story. I have thought ... if a way could be developed where parents would feel comfortable with a deacon or deaconess every once in awhile to give mom and dad a break, that might be a ministry...

I have heard of churches that have a "Mom's Morning Out." The church gives them a whole morning of free childcare so she can shop, etc. We could also use this same idea with adults who have parents living with them who may be disabled or crippled or Alzheimer's.

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 June we went to Chicago to an Alban Institute program on ministering in a multi-cultural setting. The presenter was from Fuller and it was excellent. Nine of us went.

Two years ago we had Speed Leas come and do a seminar on conflict management for our pastors retreat. A year ago we had a Christian corporation called "IDAK" come out. They are out of Portland, Oregon. They help you assess your personality, gifts, etc.

I'm conducting a Connections seminar for my prayer meeting group right now. The result of a men's group retreat formed some bonding that is helping men in their leadership in the church and home.

I use a mixture of methods. We attend seminars. A lot of it happens informally while sitting around talking. I pick up ideas reading and will share concepts and get the group talking about it.

I'm reading a book right now called "Getting to 'YES'". Its on negotiating conflict. Authors are Ury and Fisher. Publisher: Penguin Books, 1991.

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 did once a long time ago, can't remember. I don't think so. If people usually want materials they call the ABC or the conference office.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders.

Pastor: BT

Conference: Georgia-Cumberland

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

We are doing Campaign for Community. Its going very well. I like the local emphasis. We approach some businesses, not a lot. Its Ingathering contacts that have been around for years.

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

I don't know anything specifically, except our social activities that are family oriented.

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.

Workers meeting. They have special guests that come in. We had a conflict management seminar, Jon Paulien came in once.

We have a lay pastor program in our conference. Three of our elders are involved in this. Its great. Ron Halvorsen conducts it.

Sending them to a conference-sponsored event and the video training are my preferred ways.

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 don't think I have. Some of my people have.

No. I called Andrews about a special gifts seminar. My VBS leaders have called.

Pastor: ES

Conference: Georgia-Cumberland

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches, Disaster Coordinator for the Conference

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

My two churches are not on Campaign for Community. We are not doing businesses. We have a handful of members that do it. As far as the structured approach, we're not into that.

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

I think the single most important factor is for parents to be aware of certain atmosphere in which the child should grow up. The climate is so significant. Parents need to be sensitized to that more fully. Aside from emphasizing "family" in sermons, etc. I haven't led the church through a seminar on it. I guess I have, we had Dr. Chalmers come in for a few weekends for a focus on the family relationships. He taught at Andrews and then retired and works with our conference.

The home is the most important thing. The parents cannot relegate the training of their children to the church. They can't expect the Sabbath school program to shoulder their responsibility...

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.

Pastors meetings. I know some of my Pathfinders have received training. Sabbath school teachers and communications. Preliminary training on the Net programs and Doug Batchelor stuff.

My preferred method, I try to work with priorities. In other words, when the new officers have been voted, prior to them taking office, I try to set up a priority time for training. In that the approach is this – I invite the leaders of the various departments to determine as much as possible from various resources, what their expected role is. What does the church expect from them. The manual. Secondly, I try to have them determine what the local church expects of them. Third, I endeavor to have them meet for these last two expectations, when they meet together with their team, after assembling literature on these expectations, I encourage them to determine what the local church expects. Finally, as they project for the new year, what do they expect of themselves. First expectation is overwhelming, the second is sometimes its not very large. But, the third should be "do-able." Not setting something beyond them they cannot reach. Then at the end of the year they can thank the Lord for what they've reached. Its an attempt to build an ownership base.

Sometimes I have met with leaders and shared what I have (Responsibilities in the Local Church). I do like to meet with the single leader offices (like the clerk) and I sit down and dialogue.

I have done, but not every year, we look forward to a business meeting, where every department head gives an oral and written report. The written report is then collated

and put into a booklet passed out to all the members. The oral report is based on the written report... its concise and too the point.

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. I've shared it with them.

Not personally. I believe they have.

Pastor: LN

Conference: Georgia-Cumberland

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

Good results. Just friendly to them. We keep track.

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

I believe in getting in the home and visiting people and finding out their needs that way. I don't have a lot of young families in my church anyway.

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 in the last year. Pastors meetings, yes.

Some have gone through a lay pastor training. We have deacons and elders meetings every year. We have had some things on the TV. We've also used some of the A.C.N. programs.

I have a new convert and I take him right with me to go give Bible studies. He's getting pretty close to getting set loose on his own. Sometimes I can't make a study. On the job is most effective.

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.

I believe I have. I don't know.

Pastor: GS

Conference: Florida
Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

We don't do businesses or door to door.

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

We involve them in church leadership. We have small groups program – 8-10 groups, and one is a young adult group. We have had a Sabbath Family Picnic time at our church. Cradle Roll.

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 live in Orlando. The hospital has things I've been involved with. I attended a George Barna seminar. He summarized current information.

We've had our own small group leadership training. Also, some of the elders have gone through the lay pastors program with the conference.

To me it's a need-based thing. I have a visioning process for my church. Will take a couple years. As we develop, the leaders get involved and then look for sharpening their skills. I have used breakout sessions. Last week at our elders meeting, we talked about what we needed to do... training springs out of this, at least a desire for training. I spend time trying to get people to take ownership, then they seem ready to learn more.

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).

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

Seems like I have. My office probably has for them. We do order Pathfinder supplies.

Pastor: DA
Conference: Florida
Church(es)/Position: 2 churches (Hispanic)

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

Yes, not much. Some businesses where members have friends. Not much of a response from businesses.

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

In our Hispanic church we have a Friday evening youth meeting. And a lot of young adults with children are involved in this. We have the youth do Sabbath school once a month.

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.

Pastors meeting. I haven't done anything else. I'm working toward a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry through Andrews.

Not this year.

I think having a leadership-training seminar with a professional coming in. The only training my people have done is a yearly training through 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. Not that I'm aware of.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders. Youth. Stewardship.

Pastor: RO

Conference: Florida

Church(es)/Position: 1 church (Korean)

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

Yes. Yes. We approach businesses where we have a yearlong relationship with customers. They expect us to come back every year. We stick with the same list each year. We probably could reach more if we tried.

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

That is our church's challenge. About 60-70% of our church is comprised of young adults with young children. I visit them outside of Sabbath morning. I would like to "get them together". I try to create an activity for them to do together, socials on Saturday night (tennis games), ball games, etc. Our focus is small groups. I would like encourage them to bring their friends. I try to hold them together through our sports night. I've pastored this church four years. In the last two years I've tried to get them together more often.

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 working on my D. Min. I also attend ministerial meetings. They seem too short to me. I go to Southern University, but its through Andrews University. It's very good and I'm very satisfied with it. I think this could help more pastors.

Unfortunately, our church is Korean. The language and cultural barriers prevent most of our leaders from going to any training event. I am the one who does the training.

I try to get this more computerized... I try to use this for training. I am trying to put everything in the computer, and use PowerPoint. Trying to make it very interesting.

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. No.

No. No.

Pastor: PC

Conference: Florida

Church(es)/Position: Associate Pastor, 1 church

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

Not sure. I worked at a church in Michigan while I went through seminary. I went with a member who was known in the community. And we got a donation. He knew the business. It was a yearly thing... around the holidays.

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

We are just starting a young adult worship service in the community building during the regular adult church, including a children's church at the same time. That will give them a chance to enjoy worship service for them. Gives parents a break from kids, will be once a month.

I really believe our Adventist institutions ... I haven't been raised in the church ... its seems like our kids "hear all the stuff" and they think they know everything. But they don't know Jesus. For me, it was a blinding revelation to come to Adventism. But growing up Adventist ... if children's church focused on helping them fall in love with Jesus. Teaching "do this, don't do that" before knowing Jesus makes the rules and regulations meaningless. The problem we have here, we don't have that many young adults in the church, they leave.

We spend all this money on our school system, but it doesn't leave the local church much money for a strong program at the local church. Looking at the results, do

the majority of these kids stay in the church? Maybe send them to public school but have a strong local children/youth program.

We need to define the non-negotiable stuff. We want to stress love and acceptance in these young adult worship services. Authenticity. Sometimes things aren't great but we wear masks 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 was trained out after just finishing seminary. My budget for continuing education is dry.

We do that on a small basis in different areas. Specific to the purpose. We have an active Discover Bible School, so we do basic training there

For me, it's a little hard to ... I am the associate ... I haven't been asked to... there hasn't been opportunity. When I'm on my own, I'd like to do more. Sit down with the elders, divide up the church into smaller units, 10 families.

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. Yes, Sabbath school material.