

Pastoral Interviews
Report for Week of: 2-19-98
Number of Calls: 10
Number of Conferences: 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Have church boards heard of the two new alternatives to Ingathering? Two of ten pastors have talked to their boards about them. One church is involved as a pilot project for Campaign for Community. The other pastor said his “board is aware of ADRA”. Half the pastors specifically mentioned they are aware of ADRA but most haven’t heard of these programs. A few pastors said members are very positive toward ADRA.
2. All ten pastors conduct mid-week services in their churches. The focus and purpose of these meetings varies, so the results have overlap. Six pastors emphasize nurture (spiritual growth, fellowship, praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit), five pastors emphasize outreach, and two pastors emphasize training. Materials used by pastors for spiritual growth include: the Bible, Ellen White books (Great Controversy, Desire of Ages, Patriarchs and Prophets), videos (on the history of the Bible, on Israel), books (A. T. Jemison on Christian Beliefs), and personal resources from seminary and personal study. Materials used for outreach include Bible study guides (Amazing Facts), videos (Ken Cox, Doug Batchelor), and personal materials. Materials used for training include videos (Making Friends for God, Prayer Warriors, Permission to Worship/Permission to Change). One pastor used to work with Creation Illustrated magazine and has created a number of resources for nurture and outreach. One example is “The Gospel in a Snowflake.”
3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change? Five pastors comments focused on members’ personal walk with Jesus (Holy Spirit, true conversion, spiritual growth, primitive godliness, personal connection with Jesus). Four pastors spoke of evangelism/church growth (evangelistic resources, personal evangelism, missionary minded journals, church growth attendance). One pastor wished for resources that would help train the Gen. Xers in his congregation. Woven through many comments in both the above areas was an emphasis on “mobilization of members.”
4. Eight of ten pastors have dishes in all or some of their churches. Both pastors who did not were both from the same conference (Southeastern). Seven pastors use or have used A.C.N. training programs. The one pastor who doesn’t has broken equipment, but also commented unfavorably about the program. (Didn’t care for some program that had a “Celebration” emphasis with people raising hands—he thought Jim Cress was on it but couldn’t remember). All seven pastors record and show programs live. One of these pastors has moved to only recording programs. Most have a library. And about half give tapes to specific church officers. Programming comments were mostly

favorable. Most pastors spoke of low attendance and discouraging numbers coming out for training events. One pastor saw the Conflict program and was very favorable toward the content. He plans to use it in a sermon series since he has lots of conflict in one of his churches right now.

5. Three of ten pastors say they have called PlusLine (though more are “aware” of it). Four pastors say they know members have called. Reasons for calling that were mentioned include: Asking about resources, finding information about A.Y.S., and locating a telephone number. Eight of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource. Six of ten pastors say they know church members who have called. Reasons for calling include: Pathfinders, Adventurers, Sabbath school, Connections, Youth ministry, and Children’s ministries material. A few pastors mentioned that they referred members though they don’t know if a call was made to these places. One pastor said he called AdventSource and ordered catalogs which he combined with a ministry description and handed out at the conclusion of nominating committee to all the leaders.

Pastor: RS
Conference: Arkansas/Louisiana
Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Heard of ADRA concept, but not up to date. Church board not heard.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Sure.

Nurture, connects people with the church. We do introduce outreach things through there.

We have been using a lot of videos lately. The history of the Bible. Israel. Have gone through the Great Controversy (the book). I try to break it up to get good attendance.

Meet in sanctuary. Accommodate the old faithful who are most regular attendees.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

I’ve thought something along the evangelistic line. The Revelation series went great, so maybe along those lines.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If ‘yes’, how? If ‘no’, why not?

Both churches. Yes. Usually on Sabbath afternoon, we hold it. I generally record it. If someone wants to see it live, I'll be here. We're getting our Pathfinder club started again, so I'm looking forward to something on this. It's very helpful in our size churches. Technician help mostly hampers us.

5. 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've personally used it, but I've referred my members to it.

I don't think I have called, but I've used them, bought Connections. Yes, I've referred them to it.

Pastor: CH

Conference: Arkansas/Louisiana

Church(es)/Position: 4 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Haven't heard of them.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Fellowship, spiritual growth, praying for Holy Spirit. We have a unified prayer meeting (17-member church) with a Sunday church (17 member), together we have about a dozen who meet. Goes well. Haven't gotten shot at. We plan to invite them to Net '98. If we don't go to their prayer meeting and associate with them, they are not going to be interested.

We use SOP (Patriarchs and Prophets).

Small group situation, meet in a circle at the church. I'd like more music.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

I think right now... I'm going through a series on the Holy Spirit and I think that's the only thing that will change everything. Will change unity, prayer life, outreach, etc.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Four churches, two have dishes. We record them all and use them. We announce at the church service what program is being recorded, come and share the experience. If they don't come, we record it anyway and let them view it at home.

5. 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).

Never called them. Don't know.

Yes. I'm sure they have. Sabbath school, children's ministries, etc.

Pastor: WM

Conference: Arkansas/Louisiana

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Yes, we are running a pilot program on Campaign for Community. Conference and Union signed on. Have permission to do it here. Haven't really started it yet. Those that know about it are pretty positive. We have a multi-church inter-conference program. We have good cooperation with the regional conference.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

At this time (our goal changes) we have an evangelistic meeting coming in the fall. I've been trying to get people interested in lay training and practics. People mostly want Bible study and nurture. I've even cancelled prayer meeting temporarily. We're mostly doing personal materials.

I'm using material I gathered at the seminary, other seminars. I like this topic. I have a hard time getting members interested. I've used Permission to Worship, Permission to Change. OK program, but a good topic. We told people if they come, they would be eligible to attend the worship committee.

There was a program I was disappointed in – big blue box with two videos in it. The Connections Training Kit. I thought ... very disappointed. Videos were basically useless. I wanted training all there and it wasn't it. I have a hard time getting people out. The more time it takes for me to prepare ... the more difficult.

Training, teaching.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Something that would inspire and train youth and young adults. Pretty broad swath. The under 30 group. Old enough to take responsibility. Resource material geared for younger people.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes.

Sometimes, yes. Right now we have to get our programming card fixed.

Some are very good. We record most of them. We have a hard time getting people out, the hours for live showing aren't convenient for us.

5. 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).

Not aware. No.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders and Adventurers.

Pastor: GT

Conference: Gulf States

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Very briefly. Church board hasn't heard.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Spiritual growth.

Bible. Do on occasion use other books.

Small group, discussion.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Personal evangelism. Not so much training, but mobilizing. Convincing them to go out. I do really believe Friendship Evangelism is the key.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Both.

Yes.

We've recorded and shown live. Done it as a class ... and some programs where we simply passed the video around to interested parties.

5. 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. Yes, my leaders have called. General information on resources.

Yes. I don't think so.

Pastor: DW

Conference: Gulf States

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

I've heard of ADRA appeal. Basically our conference is still doing the same old thing. We'll probably use the ADRA magazine with the old program. No response from the board. I have some definite problems with Ingathering ... its turning into an offering.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

We change up. Right now our focus... the last year we have done a nurture type studies on the life of Abraham. We are switching gears to training (Making Friends for God) and Prayer Warriors. Then we'll go to a totally different format. Would like to see Wednesday night go small groups and have options. Training, Bible study, support group.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

True conversion... resulting in positive change in stewardship, missionary outreach, etc.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Both.

Yes.

I usually try to target the group speaks to. We occasionally show it live, but most often tape it and give it to people its targeted toward. Sometimes its helpful and sometimes not.

5. 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 think one. Tracking down a telephone.

Yes. All the time. Brad Forbes, my good friend. He's been out in this conference several times. Yes. Pathfinders, Adventurers, Sabbath school.

Pastor: PC
Conference: Gulf States
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Have heard of ADRA. Not familiar with it.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Personal growth and outreach. Generally study the Scriptures. At times we'll have videos (like Ken Cox).

We call ours a Bible Study and start off with a season of prayer, long service, and we study a topic. Around tables in the fellowship room.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

We are swamped with literature ... books are all over the place. We need more things to help strengthen our members to do outreach. We need more missionary minded journals. For a few years I wouldn't use the Signs. And the Review seems to liberal for me. Its better than it used to be. I can read it without getting disgusted. I've been in the ministry 30 years. I think the Review for the last 10-12 early on devastated the church. So, what I'm saying is we need something like earlier versions of Signs that has the Adventist message in it. Literature that ... Missionary books like Mark Finley's. I really like the Bible Readings type books that lay out our message very clearly. I would like to see something like 27 Fundamental Beliefs in a more concise form. Or about the Sabbath with documentation. The Puzzle of the Sabbath pamphlet if it were expanded would really be great.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

We have one church, but not hooked up. Used it for Net '97. I haven't used the A.C.N. training. My satellite hasn't picked up all the stations. I have used some a couple years ago. I didn't like it. But lately my dish hasn't picked it up. One of the problems they have with A.C.N. is on Sabbath afternoon and its not the best time for me with several churches. Need stuff during the week. One was put out by Jim Cress and showed something that did not impress me one iota.

5. 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).

Seems like I have a time or two. I don't know.

Yes. Not sure.

Pastor: JM

Conference: Southeastern

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Haven't promoted either one.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Both churches, there's a different type of audience. Outreach in one and inreach in another.

I use Christian Beliefs in the inreach (A.T. Jemison), and in the outreach I use Amazing Facts. I also use the Bible study workbook I created with the E.E. Cleveland evangelistic series that I redesigned for him. Most Adventist outreach programs have 20-25 different study lines or subject, using my 31 Bible studies and his 88 sermons, it gives me 119 different subjects, so I can go over an entire 2 years before I repeat.

Meet in sanctuary, worship/preaching approach. At end there is opportunity for inquiry.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

The attendance. With two small congregations, our emphasis is on growth.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

No.

5. 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, AYS question.

Yes. Yes, Youth ministries.

Pastor: MO

Conference: Southeastern

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

No, never heard of. I might have seen material.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Spiritual growth.

Going through the Desire of Ages.

We rent a church, so we meet in the community center (small group, circle).

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Spiritual growth and commitment of members.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

No.

5. 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. Resources.

Yes. Several times. Yes. Youth, Pathfinders. I ordered catalogs for my members along with ministry descriptions after nominating committee met. I think it works very well.

Pastor: JR

Conference: Wisconsin

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches, 1 company

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Have heard of ADRA. Church board knows about it. I think they are very positive toward it.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Its outreach oriented.

Follow up on some seminars from Doug Batchelor videos.
Meet in sanctuary, classroom/worship.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Greatest lack in the church today (pew, pulpit, etc.) is a vital primitive godliness. And the church is Laodicea. What would it accomplish? I think it would an awakening among the members. Eighty percent of the church is done by twenty percent of the members. Need more and more people trained to do personal work. That's the way growth is going to happen.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Both.

Yes.

Tried it both ways. Don't get a lot of people out. Unfortunately, you preach to the choir. Even tried a prayer breakfast. The church has grown here, but that's not real good growth. 145 to 215.

5. 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 don't know for sure, they are aware of it.

Yes, all the time (I'm using Connections). Yes.

Pastor: TM

Conference: Wisconsin

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches, 1 group (3 families)

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Can't say I've heard of them. Just moved from Canada where I was an editor with Creation Illustrated. Published outside of Weimar...

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

At the moment I'm using my own material on nature ... and its illustrating things like the gospel according to a snowflake. So, its evangelistic.

Meet in sanctuary, use overhead projector, handouts I've prepared.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

It would change the priorities of my individual members on a daily personal, intimate divine connection with Jesus Christ.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes.

Yes, just last week on the conflict management.

I was doing another program at the same time, so I recorded it. The materials they shared on the PeaceMaker ministry from my previous church. So, as I listened I was listening for my own benefit. Will be incorporating in my sermon series.

5. 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. In my work with Creation Illustrated I was constantly calling conference presidents, so they got addresses for me. Not that I know of.

Yes, in that I was making known to them some of the blessings of Creation Illustrated, using it as a fundraiser for Pathfinders. Not that I know.