

Pastoral Interviews  
Report for Week of: 2-24-98  
Number of Calls: 10  
Number of Conferences: 4

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. How do board members react to the new alternatives to Ingathering? None of them in this survey know about them. Five pastors of ten know nothing about alternatives. Two pastors have heard about alternatives but have little knowledge and have not talked with their boards. And two other pastors from Canada say that they do ADRA Appeal and the interest and response of members is about the same. One pastor unloaded his frustrations about the GC and NAD not caring about the local church. He obviously doesn't feel supported. He is genuinely interested in making a difference in the area of community services. I spoke with him about Monte's efforts at keeping in touch, creating resources based on survey's and assessments (not just out of someone's office), Ministries of Compassion book (he wants a copy). We ended on a good note.
2. All ten pastors in this survey conduct mid-week meetings. Five pastors say their focus is on nurture/spiritual growth. One pastor says his focus is on outreach. Four pastors say the focus is a mix of nurture and outreach. Eight pastors specifically use the Bible (though others probably do but didn't mention it), five pastors specifically use Ellen White (Steps to Christ was mentioned), and four pastors use other resources (Randy Maxwell's book on Prayer, Revelation Speaks, Keith Miller's book on the 12-steps Hunger for Healing, and Blackaby's "Experiencing God" book). One pastor says he tailor's his topics based on home visitation of members. He doesn't immediately present topics, but keeps them in a file (doesn't want members to feel like he's picking on them...).
3. Mobilization of members. That's the overall response to pastors who were asked, "If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it do?" And the most common area, mentioned by three pastors, relates to outreach. Other responses include: something to help create a positive atmosphere in the church, positively impact worship services, small groups, making Christianity real outside Sabbath morning, and helping members deal with personal issues (anger, addictions, pain, etc.). On this last issue, one pastor is using Keith Miller's "Hunger for Healing" book with good response. He says, "I think we have traditionally been good at creating "outreach" resources, but very little in the area of real, personal, nurture. We need more integration between nurture and relationship growth. There are isolated tools, but we need to develop an integrated and nurturing and commissioning of our members."
4. Four of ten pastors have satellite dishes in one or more of their churches. Of these four, only two have tapped into A.C.N. One says he is just getting started and

assigned one of his elders to this responsibility. Another records all programs and passes them out to officers who could use them. He specifically mentioned the ushers/greeters program and the elders program. A couple French-Canadian pastors spoke of the language barrier that lowers the value for their congregations. Interestingly, one pastor indicated he finds board meetings to be the “key” time to conduct training in his church. People come out for board, they expect to chew the fat. So, he dedicates 1 hour at the beginning to training, using a variety of materials, including A.C.N. tapes.

5. Three of ten pastors say they have called PlusLine. Two of ten pastors say their head elder has called. One pastor specifically mentioned the reason for called related to Youth Ministry resource ideas. Six of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource. Three of ten pastors say they know members have called. Two say they called for Pathfinder resources, one for a pre-marriage manual, another for youth ministry. One pastor from Quebec indicated that resources that are “translated straight across” can miss the cultural nuances of his congregation. He felt resources created from within his conference would be the best approach. Keep in mind that pastors who say they have “not” called AdventSource or PlusLine sometimes know about these places, but haven’t necessarily called themselves. Also, about half these pastors were offered to receive enough “Questions” brochures to place in their church bulletins. All of them were interested.

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Pastor: JB  
Conference: Idaho  
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?

I have Spanish churches, 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.

Nurture.

Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible.

Two in the sanctuary, one in homes.

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

The assistance of members to the church. Motivate them to come to services and participate.

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 are acquiring one.

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.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders mainly

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Pastor: CH

Conference: Minnesota

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches and 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?

Never 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.

Generally spiritual nurture.

Twelve step program. Keith Miller's, Hunger for Healing. Fairly well received. In my small church it probably makes the biggest impact.

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

Helping our members deal with the personal fears, addictions, and anger issues of their lives. I think the twelve steps do some of that.

I do feel that the materials that are out there on worship are very significant.

Worship and relationships.

I think we have traditionally been good at creating "outreach" resources, but very little in the area of real, personal, nurture. We need more integration between nurture and relationship growth. There are isolated tools, but we need to develop an integrated and nurturing and commissioning of our 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?

Yes. Yes, we do some. We're in the process right now ... one of my elders is assigned to that area. We're just starting to schedule more of the workshops. We video tape everything. Working to integrate it in.

We're slow at really developing in our church the people to promote it and make it known. We are looking at how we can develop our Sabbath morning hours.

I'm using my board meeting as a "workshop" time for half the time. Its one way to bring these seminars into the life of my church. People don't come out for seminars. We run the seminar videos and give handouts... If we have a survey of the board, we take it and solicit comments from members at large and then publish the results. Usually an hour of my board meeting on something constructive.

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. My elders have.

Yes. Yes. Pathfinders. Pre-marriage manuals. Youth ministry.

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Pastor: JG

Conference: Minnesota

Church(es)/Position: 3 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?

I've only read about it. Nothing official from the 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.

Spiritual nurture with an eye to outreach. We have a Baptist minister coming to one of our groups. Another group is more traditional, meets at noon, eat together. They want to get into Romans.

Scripture. It's a praise/study format. Steering them into the word. I tend to pick some heavy Bible situations (Uzzah, etc.) and it really opens them up.

Small group.

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

Two things. It seems like we don't know have (the guy in the field) ... any conference offices anymore. It feels like I'm out here doing it all by myself. Seems like some conference officers see pastors as persons to carry out their program.

A program, if its helpful, needs to interact with members. Maybe direct marketing to the members themselves. Lead time is very important to me as well.

If they could believe it ... members believing they can get involved. Friendship evangelism materials seem to move in this direction. Christian neighborliness. John Duge preached at PMC on this topic. It was excellent. Sometime last year.

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

Three of them. Haven't.

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. Not that I know of.

No. I don't know.

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Pastor: DR

Conference: Minnesota

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?

No.

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

Yes.

Meet at church.

Bible. Steps to Christ. Revelation speaks.

Sanctuary.

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

The whole environment and atmosphere, enthusiasm.

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

One church. Looked at it. Haven't had any lay leaders with me the times it was on. Seemed to be during a busy time for the farmers up here.

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. Can't answer.

Yes. I think the treasurer, head elder.

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Pastor: GA  
Conference: Allegheny East  
Church(es)/Position: 2 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?

Heard of them. Not familiar.

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, SOP.

Fellowship hall.

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

Something that would positively impact worship services.

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).

No. Never heard of it. No.

Yes. Not that I know of.

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Pastor: GB  
Conference: Allegheny East  
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. I've never 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.

Nurture.

Bible, SOP, other books. Using book by Blackby, Experience God.

Meet in sanctuary. Informal but not small groups.

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

I would look for something that would help the people to understand that ministry is a process that is ongoing. I agree with Russell Burrill's philosophy in Revolution in the Church.

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, we've recorded but plan to pass them out to elders, ushers and greeters.

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).

Don't know what that is.

Yes. No.

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Pastor: PB

Conference: Allegheny East

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, part-time at conference as graphic arts director

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, board doesn't know.

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

Yes.

Nurture.

Based on my visitation of members, I tailor the prayer meeting to resolving issues (conflict, financial, sibling rivalry, etc.). Bible and SOP.

Meet in sanctuary.

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

Very much concerned about motivational concepts as to outreach. This particular church is right downtown. So, we are challenged to have some kind of meaningful outreach.

In my church, the members (especially youth) are pushing me to serve. We're doing a rough demographic overview of our church (where are the Catholics, Jews, Muslim), etc. There can be a lot of resistance since our members come from South America and the islands.

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. We'd like to.

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. Don't know anything about it.

No. No.

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Pastor: CH

Conference: Allegheny

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?

Tell Monte to come out here and try to pastor my church.

He needs to get down to some of these churches ... and not just dream up programs without knowing what issues we are dealing with ... inner city needs like mine ... is he really aware of them? I'm tired of programs being dumped on us... we are struggling to meet the demands of just having church. We'd like to implement community programs, more like other churches, to community servicing ... its going to take a lot more than answering surveys. We need a study...

[Seems bitter...]

There is very little that comes from the GC directly to the pastor. Maybe this work will go faster, if conferences are given more funds, and the local church gets more funds. One of the things we need is support personnel. I do a lot of community work... meeting with a president of one of our hospitals, sharing some of our resources, working with the board of Emergency Management...

I'd like to talk to Monte.

You cannot arbitrarily create resources across the board because of unique needs. So it's up to the local to know how to assess needs.

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

Yes.



I have baptized people from prayer meeting. Its outreach and nurture. We spend about 50 minutes in serious prayer.

Strictly the Bible.

Meet in sanctuary.

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

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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. Our church is located between two apartment buildings.

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. Don't know, but posted.

Yes. Don't know, but posted.

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Pastor: WM

Conference: Quebec

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, and supervisor of another one

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?

Canada. Adra appeal. Response is about the same.

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

Yes.

National Sunday Laws. Randy Maxwell's book on prayer. Mostly nurture.

Homes and at church.

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

Right now we are working with small groups, so it would be related to that area. Especially soul winning.

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. And my first elder, good information on youth.

Know of it, but haven't used it. No.

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Pastor: PZ

Conference: Quebec

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

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?

Canada. ADRA appeal. Only about 4 people are involved in Ingathering, most simply give money. Our church is 29 members.

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

Yes.

It is more outreach oriented.

I use the Bible and SOP.

Meet at church, used to meet at homes.

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

How to make Christianity real. The Sabbath school class is good and well attended, but I would like religion to be something in the every day life of the member, not just talked about.

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. This is a French church, so there are speaking barriers.

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. No.

No. Heard of it. No, natural barriers, leaders don't know much about it. There are problems of not only translation, but also "cultural" differences.

Most of my members know a little English, but only 5 can read English.